



# 7th Grade Team

## GENERAL INFORMATION

As your student is moving through middle school, the content moves quicker and expectations become higher.

### Homework and Grading:

Students should expect regular homework in all classes. On average, it should take 15-20 minutes to complete homework for each class. If a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to collect the late work from the teacher. According to the handbook, students have the same number of days as they are absent to complete absent work.

Grades are categorized as homework, formative, or summative assessments. Homework completion is not included of the grade, formatives are 20% and summatives are 80%.

### Teacher Contact:

The most important thing we can do to make class successful for your student is to communicate. Please feel free to e-mail or call any teacher as we meet daily and concerns can be easily shared. Teacher emails are on the back of the page (email is typically best, if appropriate). The 7th grade content teachers are available from 7:45 to 9:07 everyday and Fine Arts and Physical Education teachers are available from 11:04-12:24. Many teachers are also available before and after school and during lunch on select days.

Encourage your students to talk to their teachers. Help is always available.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**MR. GOSS, MS. KONIDARIS,  
MRS. KOHOUT, MRS. PRIEBE  
& MRS. RODRIGUEZ**

Our course will feature eight units of study, which will center around themes shared with students' other content area classes. These units are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

In the thematic units, students will read a variety of short and extended literary and informational texts in each unit, and these texts will link to the unit's theme. Students will also

### ELA & History Units of Study:

- *What on Earth? (ELA) Colonial America (SS)*
- *The Quest for Freedom*
- *Decisions, Decisions*
- *The Blessings of Liberty*
- *Moving Forward*
- *Survival*
- *Courage in Life & Literature/Growing Divide*

participate in literature circles where they will meet with peers to discuss the texts they study. We will integrate writing and language usage strategies into daily lessons. Students will publish many different styles of writing including explanatory, argumentative, and narrative pieces. The 80-minute block will be structured as a reading and writing workshop, which is a research-based model of literary instruction.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**MRS. LAPOINTE, MS. RADKE, &  
MR. WILLIAMS**

7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies will be focusing on early American history as well as the US Constitution. Students will be reading, writing, and connecting early American history with current events in the US and abroad. They will also be reading historical fiction and nonfiction novels that connect to the themes in both SS and ELA. We will be using the textbook and the online version of *History Alive!* Please feel free to reach out to me if you ever have any questions or concerns.

**Textbook:** *History Alive: Through the Present*, TCI (<http://www.teachtci.com/>)

## Westview IMC - Ms. Flaherty

The Westview Hills IMC has a wide variety of books, reference materials, magazines, and electronic books. To browse our online catalog, go to <https://maercker.follettdestiny.com> and click on "Westview Hills." To learn more about our electronic book library, please see Ms. Flaherty. Westview Hills also subscribes to *Encyclopedia Britannica School*, a reputable and valuable place for your students to research. To access, go to [school.eb.com/](http://school.eb.com/) and enter username and password **MaerckerSD**. I look forward to a great year of reading, research, and technology with your child!

## SCIENCE

**MRS. LATHROP, MS. RADKE,  
& MR. WILLIAMS**

7th grade science, along with NGSS, is designed to build an understanding of science and its connections to life through

scientific and engineering practices such as using models, collecting evidence, and constructing explanations. We will work on improving those skills as we work with the content in the units. We will also emphasize universal concepts, such as patterns and systems, to discover more about the processes and phenomena in our world.

### Units of Study:

- *Changes & Conservation of Matter*
- *Transformation & Conservation of Energy*
- *Changes in Weather & Climate*
- *Cellular Processes*

## TEACHER EMAILS

JBattaglia@	MHuff@	EOrrico@
SBowers @	TKohout@	NRadke@
ABurnett @	SKonadaris@	SRodriguez@
KConstantine@	SLaPointe@	JVance@
MFlaherty@	ALathrop@	SWaters@
RGoss@	KMoffett@	SWilliams@
EHopkins@	JOgrodnik@	JWolfGolbach@

All emails are @[maercker.org](mailto:maercker.org)

## CHECKING IN

Check up on your student's progress or have them check and report to you.

### To check grades:

1. Go to [www.maercker.org](http://www.maercker.org)
2. Click on **Parent Resources**.
3. Click on **Family Access**.

It should bring up another window for you to enter your username and password.

Your students have their own username and password as well.

### To check homework:

1. Go to [www.maercker.org](http://www.maercker.org)
2. Click on **Schools**
3. Click on **Classrooms**
4. Click on **Homework**

Homework is posted by weeks with all homework for all classes in one table.

## FORMATIVE RETAKES

Encourage your student to re-take any formative they can. It helps promote mastery.

Although each department has their own retake policy, there are some commonalities:

- Retakes are encouraged for all students that score under 80% on any formative.
- Students need to see their teacher to schedule a retake.
- Retakes need to be completed by the end of the unit.
- Only 1 retake per formative.

## HELPING HINTS

- Read along with your student. Students are more likely to read if they see their parents reading.
- Students this age, tend to struggle with study strategies. Study with them over time and help them find strategies that work for them. Avoid memorizing definitions & work towards making connections with the material.
- Encourage your student to advocate for themselves. If they are nervous about approaching their teacher, practice the conversation.

## MATH

**MRS. BURNETT, MS. CONSTANTINE,  
MRS. OGDONIK, MRS. RODRIGUEZ,  
& MS. WATERS**

Welcome to the start of a new school year! This year, students will be studying mathematics that follows

the Common Core State Standards. This means that the students will be investigating mathematical ideas within the context of realistic problems, as opposed to only looking at numbers. Some problems involve real-world applications or unusual situations, while others are purely mathematical. A problem's context provides a vehicle for understanding and remembering the mathematical concepts. We are excited about our curriculum and its continued potential for helping students develop strong mathematical knowledge and skills. We are looking forward to a successful school year for all of our students!

### MATH 7 UNITS OF STUDY:

- Integers
- Rational Numbers
- Expressions, Equations, & Inequalities
- Ratios & Proportionality
- Applications of Percent
- Geometry
- Area, Surface Area, & Volume
- Data Distribution
- Probability

### MATH 8:

See Mrs. Ogdonik

### ALGEBRA 1:

See Ms. Constantine

## TASTE OF FACS

**MRS. HOPKINS**

This course is designed to give students a taste of two areas of family and consumer science: cooking and financial literacy. In the cooking unit, we will learn ways to incorporate the various food groups while preparing a variety of foods from each. We will study about nutrition and the effect it has on our bodies. We will also learn how to become educated consumers.

## STEM

**MRS. WOLF-GOLBACH**

The STEM curriculum is adapted from Project Lead the Way's program for middle schools. **App Creators** introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution and work to develop it. **Design & Modeling** introduces students to sketching methods used by engineers to design products, and then how to create solutions using CAD software. Original student designs to solve authentic, everyday problems are created in CAD and prototyped using 3D printing.

## STUDIO ART

**MR. VANCE**

Students will explore projects in clay, drawing, painting, design, and sculpture. These projects will build upon the skills learned in 6th grade and provide students more opportunities to express their creativity. Students will have more time to perfect their techniques and challenge themselves, while experiencing new media.

## PE & HEALTH

**MR. BATTAGLIA &  
MRS. BOWERS**

Physical Education classes will emphasize lifelong fitness by participating in a lifelong fitness activity each day. Students will also participate in some of popular team sports and games as well. As always, good sportsmanship and respect will be emphasized. Students will participate in 6 weeks of health covering substance abuse, body image and physical fitness.

## SPANISH

**SRA. ORRICO**

This class is designed for the students to utilize language in order to communicate effectively in Spanish in a variety of "real life" situations. It emphasizes what students can do with language in oral and written form, interpret oral and written messages, show cultural understanding when they communicate, and present oral and written information to various audiences for a variety of purposes. 7th & 8th grade (combined) is equivalent to Spanish 1 in high school.

**Textbook:** *Realidades*, Pearson

## BAND

**MR. HUFF (BLUE BAND) &  
MRS. MOFFETT (GOLD BAND)**

All 7th and 8th grade students have their large ensemble band every day, and students will come for small-group lessons once per-week from other periods on a rotating schedule. Students will be split up into two bands. Assignment to the two bands will be determined by student needs, instrumentation needs, curricular goals, and a placement performance quiz. Gold Band's repertoire will require more advanced skills than the Blue Band's repertoire. The two bands rehearse at the same time and throughout the school year there will be opportunities for all 7th & 8th graders to perform together as one unit, such as the DGN football game. Please contact one of the band teachers if you have a seventh grade student who has not been in band in the past, but would like to join. (This is rare, but it can be done!)

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

9/14 — DGN Football Game Halftime Performance

10/12 — Bandamonium Performance at Hinsdale Central