



You and Your Seventh Grade Child

Introduction

Seventh grade is a transitional time when your child will begin leaving childhood behind and start looking ahead to becoming a teenager. Everything is changing around and within him/her. Frequently, students at this age face significant challenges in organization and motivation. They're asserting their uniqueness and facing new challenges. Middle school students may also spend a lot of time and energy trying to convince their parents/guardians that they don't need to "be in their faces" all the time. But in truth, children at this age need clear limits, meaningful consequences, and parental support.

At Home:

- Let your child be in control of his/her education, but remain on standby to step in if needed to help him/her get organized and stay on task.
- Students may begin to discover that there are subjects they're good at and ones that don't come so easily. Help your child learn to persevere when the going gets tough and to reach beyond the status quo in any area they excel in.
- Do not expect your child to tell you what's going on at school. You'll need to look for that information from other sources: mainly, your child's teachers. A seventh grade parent/guardian's best friends are progress reports, classroom Web pages, and teacher conferences.
- The Rush-Henrietta School District offers a valuable resource called Parent Connect. This free online tool is available to all parents of students in grades 6-12. Parent Connect provides students and parents with more timely access to assignments, grades, and attendance reports.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

The Seventh grade curriculum builds on the previous year, with higher expectations in reading comprehension and vocabulary. Passages will be longer, and students will be expected to infer from the passage, interpret the author's ideas, and draw from additional sources to reach conclusions.

Here is a glimpse of the expectations for your child in Seventh grade ELA:

Literature: Students will understand that works of literature provide profound insights into the human condition and can serve as models for students' own thinking and writing. Through wide and deep reading, students will gain a reservoir of literary and cultural knowledge and evaluate intricate arguments.

Informational Text: Students will read nonfiction text closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it. They will also cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Speaking and Listening: Students will understand that being a competent listener will allow them to participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners. Students will also understand that being an effective listener will allow them to evaluate information presented orally or in a variety of media formats.

Word Study: Students will understand how language affects their comprehension in all areas of literacy while engaging in familiar and complex text. Students will also understand that language has multiple levels of meaning (concrete and abstract) and will understand that academic and content-specific vocabulary aids comprehension.

Writing: Students will discover that writing is a key means of asserting and defending claims, showing what they know about a subject, and conveying what they have experienced, imagined, thought, and felt.

Mathematics



In seventh grade, students will continue to build upon the mathematical skills they have gained in previous years. *Digits is the primary resource used in the classroom and can also be accessed from home.* While it is an online program, print materials are readily available to students.

In addition to gaining mathematical understanding, students need to perform calculations and solve problems quickly and accurately. This is called fluency. Seventh graders will learn to become fluent in transforming equations:

$px + q = r$, and $p(x + q) = r$ where p , q , and r are specific rational numbers.

The units of study for seventh grade and what students will learn in each are:

- **Number System: (7.NS)** Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- **Expressions & Equations: (7.EE)** Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.

Social Studies

The curriculum for seventh grade social studies focuses on the history of the United States and New York state from ancient times through 1865, including, the social history, political and economic trends, and the democratic system of government.

The skills of historical analysis include the ability to: explain the significance of historical evidence; weigh the importance, reliability, and validity of evidence; understand the concept of multiple causation; understand the importance of changing and competing interpretations of different historical developments.

7th Grade Units of Study:

Unit 1: Early American Cultures

Unit 2: Colonial America

Unit 3: The American Revolution and Independence

Unit 4: Historical Development of the Constitution

Unit 5: New Government in Action

Unit 6: Westward Expansion—Moving West

Unit 7: Reform Movements

Unit 8: A Nation Divided—The Civil War

At Home:

- There are many ways that parents can integrate social studies into their children's lives outside of the classroom. Taking trips to museums (real or virtual), discussing current events, encouraging curiosity about the world, exploring your city and state—these can all benefit your child's development.

- **Ratios & Proportional Relationships: (7.RP)** Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- **Geometry: (7.G)** Draw, construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them.
- **Statistics & Probability: (7.SP)** Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population. Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations. Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

At Home:

- As a general rule, by the end of seventh grade, students will have a very solid working knowledge of all four “operations”—addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division—along with fractions, simple percentages, decimals, and basic graphing. At a minimum, they should also know about basic formulas for perimeter, area, and geometrical shapes. Continuing to work with your child to improve his/her fluency in these areas is key to his/her success. You can use flash cards, computer software games, board games, and everyday tasks such as cooking, carpentry, sewing, and balancing the family budget to reinforce these skills with your child.
- Ask your child to teach you what s/he learned in class. If your child knows you will expect a lesson at home, your child will pay close attention in class and may do better.

Throughout their units of study in seventh grade students will need to:

- Consider the sources of historic documents, narratives, or artifacts and evaluate their reliability.
- Understand how different experiences, beliefs, values, traditions, and motives cause individuals and groups to interpret historic events and issues from different perspectives.
- Describe historic events through the eyes and experiences of those who were there.



Science



In the study of science, students learn most effectively when they have a central role in the discovery process.

To that end, The NYS Science Standards incorporate a student centered, problem-solving approach to intermediate science.

The units of study for seventh grade and a brief description of the learning outcomes are listed below:

- **Inheritance:** Students will gain a basic understanding of how organisms pass on traits and inherit traits.
- **Natural Selection:** Students will learn the role that genetics plays in the survival of a species.
- **The Chemistry of Life:** Students will study basic chemistry and examine the chemical reactions that occur in living organisms.

- **Forces and Motion:** Students will deepen their knowledge of the various forces around them and see how they are affected by different forms of energy.
- **Ecology:** Students will learn about ecosystems and discover how human activities and interactions impact the environment. Students will learn how to use reference material and real life data to solve problems.

At Home:

- Show interest in what your child is studying. Review homework assignments and unit exams. Ask him/her questions about what is happening in the science classroom.
- Help your child persist and aim higher by giving praise and encouragement. Your recognition helps your child develop a sense of competency and self-worth, a willingness to try new tasks, and a feeling of satisfaction in doing a job well.

Music

The general music curriculum for seventh grade explores beat, rhythm, melody, tone, musical expression, and creativity.



Students will be introduced to keyboarding, American Musical Theater and will learn about the advancement of technology in music. Students will also be composing music using the proper notations and musical symbols as well as listening to,

analyzing, and responding to a variety of musical compositions.

Seventh grade students may also participate in Chorus, Band, or Orchestra. Students in Band and Orchestra will attend a weekly lesson in addition to their regularly scheduled ensemble rehearsals. Students in performing ensembles will learn how to apply the music elements to increasingly difficult levels of music and will be required to participate in at least two concerts.

Art

Seventh grade art education helps students develop an understanding of elements and principals, movement, color, and light. Students will use a variety of tools and media to develop a greater appreciation of art.

Students will create art which meets established criteria, make aesthetic judgments about works of art, and develop skills to visually convey personal thoughts, feelings, and ideas.



During the unit on weaving, students will have the opportunity to participate in creating a group weaving on a table loom with a professional weaver (an artist-in-residence).

Physical Education

During Middle School, the physical education curriculum is designed to offer students positive experiences through participation in a variety of activities. Good sportsmanship is a priority in all activities

The Physical Education Learning Outcomes for the Middle School are the same for grades 6, 7, and 8. Through all units of study, students will:

- Demonstrate competency in a variety of physical activities (games, sports, and exercise) that provide conditioning for each fitness area.
- Understand the relationship between physical activity and the prevention of illness, disease, and premature death.
- Develop and implement a personal fitness plan based on self-assessment and goal setting, understand physiological changes that result from training, and understand the health benefits of regular participation in activity.
- Understand the physical and environmental dangers associated with particular activities and demonstrate proper procedures for

Encore Classes



- Language Other Than English (LOTE 7):** In seventh grade, students will have a full-year to study the foreign language of their choice. At Rush-Henrietta, students will choose from: French, German, Spanish, or American Sign Language (ASL).
- Naviance Family Connection:** In seventh grade, students will continue to use NAVIANCE with the assistance of school counselors who will visit students during their Family & Consumer Science classes to talk about career development and college planning. This web-based program will also be available to parents and students on their personal home computers. Parents will be mailed a registration code in September.
- Health 7:** The health curriculum will examine relationships, the importance of being a role model, healthy behaviors, and Internet safety.
- Family & Consumer Science 7:** Students will learn basic home and career skills related to career development, clothing management, and food and nutrition.
- Technology 7:** The technology curriculum will introduce students to Engineering Design through units on Structures, Energy and Electricity, CAD, and Design and Manufacturing. Students will be using acquired skills in science, technology, and mathematics to complete the coursework.



Standards Based Assessing, Grading and Reporting

Why has NYS adopted the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS)?

Standards provide a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. By having clearly defined goals families and teachers can work together to ensure that students succeed. Standards help parents and teachers know when students need extra assistance or when they need to be challenged even more. Standards also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

What's a Rubric?

A rubric is a scoring tool that teachers use when assessing student's work. A teacher creates a rubric by listing the elements that s/he expects to see in a piece of work and defining how the quality of the work will be assessed. An effective rubric helps teachers and students get a clear picture of the value of the work.

What is a Performance Standard?

A performance standard is a description of what students should know or be able to do at a certain grade level. Standards help teachers and parents understand what teachers target in instruction, and what students will be working towards. All states in the U. S. have standards that describe the framework for the curriculum.

The Rush-Henrietta Office of Instruction

Dina M. Wilson, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

For further information about your child's learning, please talk with your child's teacher, school principal, or contact one of the Program Directors.

English Language Arts: Jeanette Cannioto (jcannioto@rhnet.org, 585-359-5052)

Mathematics: Jody Hoch (jhoch@rhnet.org, 585-359-5050)

Social Studies: Mark MacMillan (mmaacmillan@rhnet.org, 585-359-5056)

Science & Health: Donna Horn (dmhorn@rhnet.org, 585-359-5054)

Physical Education: Tom Stewart (tstewart@rhnet.org, 585-359-7809)

Music & Visual Arts: Donna Watts (dwatts@rhnet.org, 585-359-5058)



**Guiding Student Success
One Student at a Time**

RUSH-HENRIETTA Central School District

2034 Lehigh Station Road
Henrietta, New York 14467

Phone: (585) 359-5000

Fax: (585) 359-5045

www.rhnet.org

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