

7th Grade Curriculum Overview

The middle school years represent the biggest growth period in a child's life, other than birth to two. It is a period of many "firsts", including having more than one teacher, changing classes, and assuming more responsibility for learning and additional homework.

In order to provide for a smooth transition from grade to grade during this time, teachers, administrators, and support personnel are invested in providing a safe and healthy school environment which is imperative for the growth and development of each child. Our middle schools are staffed with teachers who are experts at teaching young adolescents. They use instructional methods that prepare all students to achieve high standards and a variety of assessment methods for students to demonstrate what they know and understand. By working in partnership with each student and his/her parents, every child is involved in rich and successful learning experiences that support student learning, healthy development and the mission and vision of the Sanborn Regional School District.

The following information about the middle school curriculum describes the student's journey through the middle school years, grades 6 through 8. Based on State and National Standards, the middle school curriculum provides a comprehensive, diverse and challenging curriculum to meet the learning needs of all students.

This curriculum overview articulates "Topic Highlights" for the core content areas so families know the big ideas learners will be studying in class. As you view this middle school curriculum brochure, read it "looking through the eyes of the learner" to frame a picture of the blend of high expectations and exciting learning experiences.

This section of the overview provides a broad summary of the instructional areas focused in each quarter for Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

English Language Arts (ELA)

Trimester 1	Realistic Fiction: Reading and analysis of realistic fiction through use of short story collection and novels (Maniac Magee, Walk Two Moons, Hatchet, Nothing But the Truth, Restart, Heat, Taking Sides, Wonder), culminating in a realistic fiction narrative.
Trimester 2	Science Fiction: Reading and analysis of science fiction through use of short story collection; comparisons and contrasts made between genres (science fiction, fantasy, realistic, non-fiction). Non-fiction: Reading and analysis of science non-fiction texts; research of a related science topic, culminating in an argumentative research essay.
Trimester 3	Dystopian Fiction: Reading and analysis of a dystopian novel (Divergent, Hunger Games, Maze Runner, Unwind, Matched), culminating in creation of a utopian/dystopian society slide show.

Math

Trimester 1	Proportional Relationships (for example, increasing and decreasing recipes, comparing phone plans, and growth over time) Integers (applying the operations of whole numbers to their opposites which are negative whole numbers and zero)
Trimester 2	Rational Number Systems & Algebra (for example, applying all operational algorithms, rational vs. irrational numbers, representing situations with symbols, operations, and numbers)
Trimester 3	Geometry (for example, area, surface area and volume formulas and connections to proportionality) Probability & Statistics (for example, mean, median, mode and range of a data set and sample populations)

Science

Trimester 1	Students explore the Earth's natural resources and the reasons for their uneven distribution around the world. They then learn how we use these natural resources to develop synthetic materials.
Trimester 2	Students investigate the impact synthetic materials have on society and the planet, then they look back in time to investigate how geologic processes change the Earth. Students discover how the cycling of Earth's materials creates volcanoes and how we can predict eruptions. Students then explore how geologic processes create fossils and what fossils, continent shapes, and seafloor structures can reveal about the Earth's history.
Trimester 3	Students explore chemical reactions and then engage with three social and environmental challenges: how to feed a growing population, how to protect rainforest ecosystems, and how to prevent algal blooms. They consider the roles of plants and animals within different food chains, and explore the physical and chemical processes that support or disrupt ecosystems.

Social Studies

Trimester 1	Thinking like a Historian: Fall of Rome Byzantine Empire SW Asia 400s-1500s
Trimester 2	Early Western African Civilizations China: 400s-1550s Japan 400s – 1500s Early American Civilizations: Maya, Aztec, Inca
Trimester 3	Middle Ages in Europe 500s-1500s Exploration and Colonization Democratic Philosophies and American Revolution