

PROGRAM OF STUDIES



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mount Greylock Regional School

THE CORE PHILOSOPHY

Our 7th grade core curriculum addresses the academic and social skills necessary for adolescents transitioning into the middle school. Our teachers are dedicated to preparing each individual student to enter secondary school by developing the skills necessary to analyze problems, research and synthesize information, write thoughtfully and think critically about the world that surrounds them.

To accomplish these goals, teachers meet regularly to prepare integrated lessons and discuss individual student progress. This team approach helps to ensure that our students are provided with a socially appropriate, rigorous and relevant academic program that meets each student's individual needs.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

ENGLISH 7

MATH 7

ACCELERATED MATH 7

SCIENCE 7

SOCIAL STUDIES

THE ELECTIVES

WORLD LANGUAGE

WELLNESS

CHORUS/BAND/
ORCHESTRA

ENRICHMENT

ENGLISH 7

English 7 is a fun, busy year designed to help students improve their reading, writing, critical thinking and public speaking skills. During the first quarter students attempt to answer the essential questions “Who am I?” and “Who are we?” through autobiographical poems, stories and essays. Students will write nearly every day for English class, and will learn the value of careful editing and revision through highly specific and individual feedback from their teacher. Students are required to write in a variety of forms (analytical, narrative, expository, creative, and persuasive) and are taught to always consider AUDIENCE and PURPOSE. Every seventh grader will read a minimum of eight books, including at least four whole-class reads and several student-selected outside reading titles. Established traditions in 7th grade English include Monday morning quote of the week, monthly “platinum” word contests, student book talks, an “MCAS Madness” competition to help students prepare for state testing in the spring, and Friday raffles. In addition, a primary goal of 7th grade English is to hear every voice, every day. To this end, our “ticket for talking” reward system keeps track of who has participated each day and helps meet this important goal.

MATH 7

Math 7 is an engaging and rigorous course designed to cover 7th grade standards in great detail. Students will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Students will find themselves completing projects that are both interesting and require higher-order thinking as well as classwork that fully aligns with the Massachusetts Common Core standards for mathematics. Similarly, engaging with technology and learning 21st century math strategies will prepare students for current and future mathematical endeavors. Upon completion of this course, students will be well equipped with the math knowledge to enter Math 8.

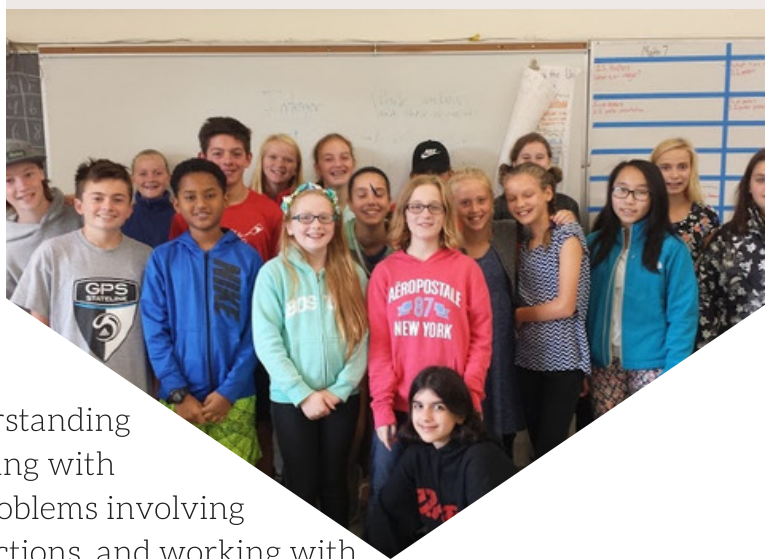
2018-2019

THE SEVENTH GRADE AT MOUNT GREYLOCK

ACCELERATED MATH 7

Accelerated Math 7 is a fast-paced, rigorous course designed to cover 7th and 8th grade math standards that will set students up for success in Algebra I. Students first focus on four critical areas of 7th grade math:

(1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. In addition, students will learn 8th grade standards that focuses on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, as well as understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will find themselves completing projects that are both interesting and require higher-order thinking as well as classwork that fully aligns with the Massachusetts Common Core standards for mathematics. Similarly, engaging with technology and learning 21st century math strategies will prepare students for current and future mathematical endeavors.



SCIENCE 7

Science 7 provides a general introduction into the life sciences. Investigation through experimentation and research are emphasized throughout the year, and students learn the inquiry model through the investigation of Kinetic and Potential energy. As part of the 7th grade core curriculum, students investigate two guiding questions: "Who Am I" and "How do we know what we know." To investigate these questions in Science 7, students will study the evidence that is used to support our understanding of Evolution and how organisms are related. They investigate cellular structure and processes. They also learn about the role genetics plays in the relationships among all living organisms. Students are introduced to how organisms are classified based on DNA relationships and shared characteristics. 7th graders learn to use a compound microscope and view cells, tissues, organs, and microscopic organisms. Students can also expect to complete projects in which they investigate the evolution of an organism, create a model of a cell, and research a genetic disease.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The 7th grade social studies curriculum introduces students to citizenship and begins by exploring student roles as digital citizens. The program is designed to introduce students to the roots of western civilization. Their journey begins with the study of the rise of human civilization from Mesopotamia through Medieval times. Students will learn to research, write summaries, work in teams, and deliver formal presentations.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Students have the option to take Latin or Spanish. Latin 7 (1A) and Spanish 7 (1A) offer middle school students the opportunity to begin language studies in a formal but slow-paced manner. Successful completion of two years of language at the middle school level



will qualify students for level II beginning in 9th grade and enable them to continue their studies through to the Advanced Placement level. Students will learn to speak, read, write, and understand in their chosen language. The curriculum is investigated through books, stories, culture exploration, videos, CDs, and a myriad of projects.

WELLNESS

The Physical Education curriculum is designed to provide a strong fitness and movement foundation for students as they transition from elementary school. The goal is to facilitate the development of a physically educated person who:

- Has learned skills necessary to perform a variety of activities
- Is physically fit
- Participates regularly in physical activity
- Knows the implications of and the benefits from involvement in physical activities and healthy decision-making
- Values physical activity and its contributions to a healthy lifestyle

Toward this end, students will participate in units covering fitness, team sports, team building and challenge activities. The Wellness 7 curriculum is also designed with the intention of creating and developing a sense of community and class identity. Grading is based on rubrics containing elements of student effort, content knowledge, class performance, and fitness progression.

2018-2019

THE SEVENTH GRADE AT MOUNT GREYLOCK

CHORUS/BAND/ORCHESTRA

One period of the middle school day provides an option for students to participate in performing music. Students interested in performing arts can take band, chorus and orchestra. There are options for learning a new instrument as well as continuing an instrument from elementary school. Students can participate in one of the classes and possibly alternate between two.

ENRICHMENT

Students who do not participate in a performing music class will be assigned to the Enrichment Program. Here students will spend each quarter investigating a different discipline. Courses in this program vary each year and have included Technology, Mythology, Visual Arts and Music Appreciation.

THE EIGHTH GRADE AT MOUNT GREYLOCK

THE CORE PHILOSOPHY

The 8th grade core curriculum at Mount Greylock addresses the academic and social skills necessary for adolescents transitioning into the high school. As a team, the eighth grade teachers are dedicated to preparing each individual student to enter high school by teaching them how to develop the skills necessary to analyze problems, research and synthesize information, write

thoughtfully and think critically about the world that surrounds them. To accomplish these goals, teachers meet regularly to prepare integrated lessons and discuss individual student progress. This team approach helps to ensure that our students are provided with a socially appropriate, rigorous and relevant academic program that meets each student's individual needs.



THE CORE CURRICULUM

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ENGLISH 8

Building on the skills and concepts taught in Grade 7, Grade 8 students further develop their skills as they continue to write complex paragraphs and essays. They conduct research, write informative, argumentative and narrative essays, and deliver speeches as part of an integrated approach to content with social studies. To that end, students read historical fiction such as Johnny Tremain, The Red Badge of Courage, as well as The Pearl. In addition to studying novels, students gain exposure to varied and complex texts as they read and examine poetry, short stories, nonfiction essays, and primary documents. Vocabulary and grammar lessons grow from the content and are part of regular instruction. Project-based learning is widely utilized, providing students an opportunity to explore a wide array of media and to be creative in demonstrating their understanding.

MATH 8

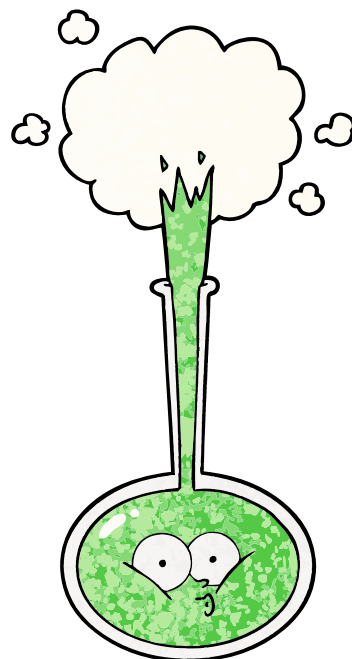
In Grade 8, mathematical study focuses on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, as well as understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Successful completion of 8th grade mathematics prepares students for advancement to Algebra 1. The Massachusetts Common Core State Standards for Mathematics are addressed comprehensively.

SCIENCE 8

The 8th grade science program provides a general introduction into physical and earth science. Throughout the year, students investigate the world around them through the application of inquiry-based activities.

Students examine states of matter and learn how energy affects phase changes through observations and experimentation. They also study elements and their atomic structure, and they learn how to read the periodic table. Students further their investigation of the world around them through a study of the Earth, looking at changes to the Earth's surface and atmosphere, change in climate, weather patterns and how changes affect plant and animal life. Students explore ecosystems on the school campus. In addition they consider the health of

Earth and research renewable sources of energy. 8th grade science students can also expect to complete projects in which they create a media presentation on an element from the periodic table, create a children's book or field guide on astronomy, journey through a biome, and investigate the pros and cons of various energy sources.



SOCIAL STUDIES 8

This course explores early American history beginning with a review of the roots of Anglo-American culture and western democracy. Detailed units include explorations of the American Revolution, the Constitution, politics from Washington to Jackson, the early Industrial Revolution, American slavery, early westward expansion, and an in-depth, summative unit on the American Civil War. Attention is paid to key political, social and economic themes, and when possible current events are referenced to extend student understanding. Basic citizenship and historical literacy skills are heavily emphasized.

WORLD LANGUAGE

We offer Latin or Spanish. Latin 8 (1B) and Spanish 8 (1B) offer middle school students the opportunity to extend language studies in a formal but slow-paced manner. Successful completion of two years of language at the middle school level will qualify students for level II beginning in 9th grade and enable them to continue their studies through to the Advanced Placement level.

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Toward this end, students will participate in units covering fitness, team sports, team building and challenge activities. The Wellness 8 curriculum is also designed expand the school's commitment to creating and developing a sense of community and class identity. Grading is based on rubrics containing elements of student effort, content knowledge, class performance, and fitness progression.

CHORUS/BAND/ORCHESTRA

One period of the middle school day provides an option for students to participate in performing music or take some enrichment classes. Students interested in performing arts can take band, chorus and orchestra. There are options for learning a new instrument as well as continuing an instrument from elementary school. Students can participate in one of the classes and possibly alternate between two.



ENRICHMENT

Students who do not participate in a performing music class will be assigned to the Enrichment Program. Here students will spend each quarter investigating a different discipline. Courses in this program vary each year and have included Technology, Mythology, Visual Arts and Music Appreciation.