



Ellington Public Schools Curriculum Guide

Grade 7

The Ellington Public Schools elementary curriculum is designed to enhance children's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development, while supporting students in acquiring the skills needed to become collaborative and independent learners.

This document provides you with an overview of the skills, topics, and concepts that form the core curriculum at this grade level. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and other state and national standards in each content area.



Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and pace of growth. Different approaches to learning and skill levels are expected, accepted, and used to design curriculum and instruction.

MATHEMATICS

Students apply their knowledge of basic skills and concepts while working on meaningful and challenging tasks. The goal of mathematics instruction is to understand and apply mathematical concepts and develop reasoning and problem solving skills. The Illustrative Mathematics 6-8 math program, by Open Up Resources, is used for instruction and provides differentiation of challenge problems as part of the coursework.



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KEY SEVENTH GRADE MATH SKILLS

- Develop understanding of proportionality to solve single- and multi-step problems;
- Extend understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to all rational numbers;
- Solve problems involving the area and circumference of a circle and surface area of 3-dimensional objects;
- Compare two data distributions and address questions about differences between populations.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Our language arts curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and continues to spiral the skills students need in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We approach the teaching of literacy through a balanced instructional approach that supports students through both reading workshop and writing workshop. Through this model students have opportunities to apply learned strategies independently. Our reading and writing units of study are closely intertwined to allow our reading work to support our writing work.

READING

Students apply strategies to analyze, compare, and evaluate ideas when reading fiction and nonfiction texts. Students are supported through instruction, mentor texts, and book clubs, as they work to comprehend longer, more challenging books. As readers they will be expected to read closely and cite evidence from both fiction and nonfiction in order to support an analysis of the text.

WRITING

Our seventh graders use a writing process to improve their writing skills in narrative, argumentative, and informational writing. Students will learn to use relevant evidence and clear reasoning when supporting their own points in both speaking and writing. Students will learn and apply the rules of grammar in their own writing.



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KEY SEVENTH GRADE LITERACY SKILLS

- Cite several sources of specific evidence in a written analysis of a text;
- Analyze how themes develop within a text;
- Determine and analyze an author's point of view in a text;
- Write arguments that support claims with clear reasons;
- Prepare and participate in collaborative discussions about texts.

SCIENCE

In Grade 7, students work toward formulating explanations to phenomena such as, "Why do some eggs become chicks and some don't?", "How does a blind person see using sound?", "How does the man skim on water?" And "How do you make the perfect, frosted cupcake?" Emphasis is placed on students developing questions and investigations around presented phenomena. Students will engage in science and engineering practices in order to construct explanations for complex science ideas and develop solutions to problems.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Seventh grade students will explore the geography, history, and economics of three world regions (Latin America, Africa, and The Middle East) in an effort to better understand current world issues and their implications for the future. Through this exploration, students will develop and strengthen essential skills such as developing an informed historical opinion, analyzing and critiquing the ideas of others, and communicating their views in a variety of formats.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The technology education program provides hands on learning that allows students to learn problem solving techniques and become more technologically literate. Seventh grade projects integrate math, science, and technology and include the following: Air Rockets, Mouse Trap Cars, Video Production.



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COMPUTERS

In computers students will learn proper keyboarding skills. Additionally, they will learn how to use Microsoft Office Suite, along with a variety of pertinent websites and software, by completing a variety of projects.

WORLD LANGUAGE

In middle school students are introduced to the study of world languages in either French or Spanish. The world language program provides students the opportunity to learn how to communicate effectively (through speaking, listening, writing, and reading) in a language other than English. Students will develop an understanding of the multicultural aspects of that language. Students who take both levels 1A and 1B at the middle school over two years can earn high school credit for the course.

ART

The art program develops an appreciation of art, introduces design elements, and gives opportunities to create art in a variety of media. Content is based on art appreciation, art history, art criticism, and art creation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program engages students in carefully planned and sequenced activities. Students develop a variety of motor skills and learn aspects of anatomy and physiology.

MUSIC

The general music program gives your child an opportunity to create, perform, and respond. Seventh graders will create a melody, learn to decode and sing simple melodies, and respond to listening examples of Programmatic Music.



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Chorus

This program engages students in singing songs in a variety of musical styles and encourages proper vocal techniques. The ensemble meets twice per cycle and performs at least two concerts per year.

Beginning Band

This program continues the evolution of the instrumental student's skills. Intermediate band meets twice a week with rotating instrumental lessons given twice a month. Continued home practice is encouraged. At least two concerts are held each year.

HOMEWORK

Ellington Public Schools defines "homework" as independent practice and learning that happens outside the classroom. Reading continues to be a priority in the middle school. Ideally, students should read outside of school on a daily basis, in addition to any other homework assigned. In seventh grade the expected length of time for independent reading at home is 30 minutes each day, or 150 minutes or more across a week. Families are encouraged to support this goal by setting aside time for reading.

Students in seventh grade may also be expected to complete other independent practice assignments and long-term projects in addition to daily reading. Other independent practice assignments and work on long-term projects should not exceed an average of 15-20 minutes daily across courses. Some students may require less or more time than that which is indicated for a grade level. Teachers are not expected to assign homework every day. Teachers are not expected to assign homework every day.

TESTING

Students participate in standardized testing as required by state and federal guidelines. In seventh grade this would include Smarter Balanced Assessments for Literacy and Mathematics.