

7th Grade Academics

The Academy provides a venue in which all students can be educated and assessed in both traditional and non-traditional ways, thereby helping children to thrive in all learning environments and technology. The middle school curriculum is challenging, differentiated, project driven and real-world connected both in and through the arts. At WMAAA, your child will become a confident and excited learner.



Language Arts:

Our seventh grade English Language Arts program continues to develop strength in reading, writing, speaking, listening and responding skills. Your child will increase his/her ability to analyze and synthesize information and thoughts, and become a self-aware, confident reader, writer and speaker that uses various communicating skills and mediums to gain or share knowledge for learning. The seventh grade English Language Arts Student will do the following:

- Use more sophisticated word decoding skills and strategies to increase reading fluency and comprehension
- Continue to analyze elements and style of an expanding list of narrative genres and study how authors use various tools to develop themes, characters, and issues
- Increase knowledge of style and elements of information genre and use this knowledge to improve comprehension strategies
- Refine and strengthen strategies and knowledge organization tools to self monitor comprehension and to take initiative to recognize and correct comprehension challenges
- Continue to strengthen use and knowledge of literary devices, prewriting skills and writing strategies across an increasing number of writing genre
- Strengthen process writing skills while focusing on the development of personal style, grammar usage and spelling skills
- Respond thoughtfully, both orally and in writing, to a speaker's point of view and bias, while separating fact from opinion
- Identify techniques used to deliver a message through various mediums or writing genre.

Science:

Seventh grade students combine open-ended project learning and informational learning skills to study specific units within the earth, and physical science fields. Science processes of inquiry, reflection, and constructing new knowledge that have been initiated in previous grades are strengthened and broadened. Specific units of study are as follows:

- Metric measurement and working with data
- Rocks, minerals, fossils, geologic and hydrologic process, topology, dynamics of earth's features
- Atmosphere: components, processes and functions
- Forces and motion
- Foundations of chemistry

Mathematics:

The algebra concept of linear relationships including proportional relationships becomes the focus of seventh grade math. Students explore the relationship of equations to their graphs, as well as to tables and contextual situations for linear functions. In addition, work in algebra extends into simplifying and solving simple expressions and equations. The main concept from geometry in grade seven is similarity of polygons which also draws on ideas about proportion. Students apply their understanding of ratio in data based situations. Students continue to develop skills in the following areas:

- Rates, ratios, and proportions
- Proportional and linear relationships
- Rational and irrational numbers
- Linear functions
- Inversely proportional relationship
- Real numbers in algebraic contexts
- Writing algebraic expressions and solving algebraic equations
- Geometric concepts including similarity and congruence
- Data representation, interpretation and analysis.

*Opportunities for accelerated math growth exist for identified students in sixth grade through eighth grade.

Social Studies:

Seventh Grade Social studies is a continuation of the geography emphasis started in sixth grade. The eastern hemisphere is studied from the perspective of cultural and social issues including human rights, history and development of the region, political systems and issues, physical features, regional economic issues including contributions to world trade, life style issues, relations with the United States, and the impact that international policy may have on the region. The regions studied include the following:

- Europe
- Middle East
- Africa
- Central and Northern Asia
- South East Asia.



Every Child Successful, Everyday !

Middle School Arts

Great schools require the arts! Our arts programs engage all students in the acts of creating, performing, analyzing, and responding. The arts provide unique avenues for communicating ideas, stimulating creativity and enriching the academic curriculum. By providing arts opportunities to a child, that child is exposed to a variety of new ways to view and experience the world. It is our belief that the powerful combination of academics and arts addresses the needs for multiple learning styles and provides the foundation for students to transition successfully to tomorrow's world of opportunities.

Our middle school program supports our integration structure, while adding a locally unique arts focus requirement similar to a college major. Beginning in sixth grade, students must commit nine out of twenty-four of their middle school electives to a specific arts focus area. This provides students with a more thorough knowledge base of a particular art discipline while allowing them to continue exploration in other arts and other enrichment areas. Listed below are the opportunities available to our middle school students in their three years at the Academy.

Art Focus Areas:

- Band
- Piano
- Vocal music
- Tap dance
- Ballet/jazz dance
- Theatre
- Musical theatre
- Visual art

Theatre:

- Voice and Movement for Actors
- Improvisation
- Theatre History I & II
- Drama and Social Issues
- Musical Theatre

Visual Arts:

- Multi-Media Art
- Sculpture and Advanced Sculpture
- Art History I & II
- Drawing
- Painting
- Human Connections through art

Instrumental Music:

- Piano
- Intermediate and Advanced Band
- Percussion Team



Vocal Music:

- Cantilena Choral (fifth and sixth grade choir)
- Bel Canto Singers (seventh and eighth grade choir)
- Musical Theatre



Technology:

- Technology Tools
- World Cultures and Languages (Rosetta Stone)
- CAD Drawing

Other Elective Opportunities:

- Creative Writing I & II
- Rocket Science
- Bridges and More
- Hollywood Films: Fact or Fiction
- Intro to Film/Documentary
- STAR (Student Tutoring Academic Resources)



* Specific course descriptions available upon request