Parent Guide to Your Child's Seventh Grade Program

Christian Learner/Social Emotional Learner

Christian Learners/Social and Emotional Learners possess skills and attitudes that are the foundation of learning. Our thinking, approach and actions should show everyone we are Christians. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) assists students to gain and apply knowledge, attitudes and skills to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions. The tenets of Christian living and SEL competencies support the individual throughout life. Acting as Jesus would want us to act is the goal of everyone in our Catholic school community- teachers, parents, students, staff, principals and pastors. The skills learned through understanding, adopting and practicing social and emotional competencies and the values of our Christian faith will help ensure your children have a fulfilling life. So, welcome to our Catholic school. We are pleased to partner with you in the education of your children. We promise our prayer and support, and we ask for yours. We trust Jesus to bless the education we offer in His name.

Religion

Your seventh-grade child is sensitive to the "gap" between the principles and behavior of adults. He or she needs concrete experiences which afford the opportunity to incorporate Christian values into his or her life. Religion classes are centered around the pillars of the Catholic faith: Creed, Sacraments, Christian Life, and Prayer.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 7th Grade

- The New Testament
- The Blessed Trinity with emphasis on Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah and Lord
- Jesus the Savior, Healer, and Servant, Sacraments of Initiation, Compassion, and Service
- The message of Jesus; choose life
- Jesus and the Church guides us through the ten commandments, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and the beatitudes
- Prayer experiences in the tradition of Jesus: guided meditation, contemplation, Benediction, Liturgy of the Hours, formal prayer

English Language Arts & Literacy

In seventh grade, your child will analyze, define, compare, and evaluate ideas when reading, writing, speaking, and listening. He or she will continue to analyze how themes in fiction and nonfiction develop over the course of a book or article. Readings will include classic and contemporary pieces that represent diverse perspectives. In particular, seventh grade students' ability to cite specific evidence when offering an interpretation of a text matures. They use relevant evidence when supporting their own points in writing and speaking, making their reasoning clear to readers or listeners or constructively evaluating others' use of evidence. This ability will help your child in every facet of his or her studies.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 7th Grade

- Citing several sources of specific evidence from a piece when offering an oral or written analysis of a book, essay, article, or play

- Analyzing works of fiction to see how events advance the plot and how setting shapes the characters
- Determining an author's point of view or purpose in a nonfiction work and analyzing how the author takes a position different from other authors
- Organizing and focusing his or her own writing, including supporting statements and conclusions with evidence and showing that the evidence is accurate and reliable
- Conducting research in response to a specific question by drawing on evidence from several credible literary or informational sources to support an analysis or reflection
- Avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citations (e.g., footnotes, bibliography)
- Evaluating a speaker's key points and reasoning, asking questions, and stating his or her own well supported ideas in discussions
- Presenting claims and findings to others emphasizing main points, making eye contact, speaking loudly enough, pronouncing words clearly, and using formal English when the situation calls for it
- Using common, grade appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to defining the meaning of a word (e.g., semi, semiannual, semicircle)

Mathematics

In seventh grade, your child will grow in skill and understanding as he or she continues the previous grade's work in proportional relationships, equations, and positive and negative numbers. These topics will remain a major emphasis throughout the middle school years and into high school. A good command of rates and proportional relationships, including percentages, is also an important life skill.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 7th Grade

- Analyzing proportional relationships (e.g., by graphing in the coordinate plane), and distinguishing proportional relationships from other kinds of mathematical relationships (e.g., buying 10 times as many items will cost you 10 times as much, but taking 10 times as many aspirin will not lower your fever 10 times as much)
- Solving percent problems (e.g., tax, tips, markups and markdowns)
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive and negative numbers, and solving related word problems
- Solving word problems that have a combination of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals (e.g., a woman making $25 per hour receives a 10% raise; she will make an additional 1⁄10 of her salary an hour, or $2.50, for a new salary of $27.50)
- Solving equations such as 1⁄2 (x - 3) = 3⁄4 quickly and accurately and writing equations of this kind to solve word problems (e.g., "I knocked over a carton of milk, and 3 cups were spilled before I set the carton upright again. When I poured out the remaining milk equally into two measuring cups, there was 3⁄4 of a cup of milk in each one. How much milk was originally in the carton?")
- Solving problems involving scale drawings
- Using statistics to draw inferences and make comparisons (e.g., deciding which candidate is likely to win an election based on a survey

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Science

In seventh grade, New York State Next Generation Science Standards groups your child with the Middle School Standards. However, in a grade 6-8 configuration, the topics studied may vary from grade to grade as the State simply lists a series of content topics and skill processes that must be completed by the end of middle school. Below are topics and processes you may find in grade seven.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 7th Grade

- Apply Newton 3 Laws of Motion to activities involving the motion of objects
- Investigate the types of interactions such as electrical, magnetic and gravitational
- Relate the varying position of an object and the resulting force(s)
- Investigate electromagnetic radiation and the wave model as it pertains to the quality, quantity and color of light
- Conduct and use scientific equipment to give evidence that living things are made of a cell or many different kinds of cells
- Identify how the body is a multicellular system made up of subsystems comprising the commonly known systems of the body
- Growth and reproduction of organisms
- Identify how the motions and complex interactions of air masses result in weather changes
- Discuss local, national and global climate change and the human impact

Social Studies

In seventh grade, your child will be engaged in the first part of a two-year study of our nation and state from its inception until current day. In grade seven, the program will begin with our Native American ancestors and trace the develop through the colonial and settlement periods of our nation and state up through the end of the Civil War. Students will become intimately involved using the perspective of history to investigate the geography of the land, the emerging and diverging cultures as well as the formation of the political and economic systems.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 7th Grade

- Recognize that boundaries and definitions of locations are historically constructed
- Explore how economic decisions affect well-being of individuals, businesses and societies
- Explain how government policies affected the economies of colonial North America and the early United States
- Identify and explain different types of political systems and ideologies used at various times in colonial and early America and how they formed the beginnings of the country
- Identify a region of Colonial America or early United States by describing the multiple characteristic common to places within it and then compare to other regions
- Trace the human experience in the United States from Columbian times to the Civil War with a focus on people, places and events in the U.S. and in the state

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Physical Education

Your seventh-grade child is experiencing an awkward stage. He or she is very concerned with physical appearance and group acceptance ("being in") and is at the age of "just fooling around." In physical education class he or she will be involved in further development of motor and movement skills as well as the relationship between physical activity and good health. Participation includes showing respect for himself or herself and others.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 7th Grade

- Practices offensive and defensive skills in invasion games
- Demonstrates forehand and backhand strokes in net games such as badminton or tennis
- Analyzes the situation and adjust ensure the safety of self and others
- Practices strategies for dealing with stress, such as deep breathing, guided visualization and aerobic exercise
- Exhibits responsible social behaviors by cooperating with classmates, demonstrating inclusive behaviors and supporting classmates
- Identifies positive mental and emotional aspects of participating in a variety of physical activities

Music

Seventh grade music will offer your child many opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of music and their performance skills and audience etiquette. Students perform individually and /or in performance groups. Technical skills such as interpretation and accuracy are used in authentic situations such as concerts and music competitions.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 7th Grade

- Choosing contrasting music to listen to and compare connections to specific purposes or experiences
- Identify how cultural and historical context informs performances and interpretations of music
- Performing music with technical accuracy and stylistic expression

Art

In seventh grade art your child will continue to refine his or her abilities to analyze artwork, create artwork and work cooperatively with peers. Constructive criticism, an awareness of the world as reflected in art and instilling a persistence to accomplish art projects is developed throughout the year.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 7th Grade

- Applying visual organization strategies to design and produce art that clearly communicates information and ideas
- Analyzing multiple ways that images influence specific audiences (ex. print ads)
- Analyzing how response to art is influenced by time and place when it was created
- Demonstrating persistence in developing skills to create artwork when using a variety of materials, approaches, and methods