

Welcome to 7th Grade Parent Orientation Night



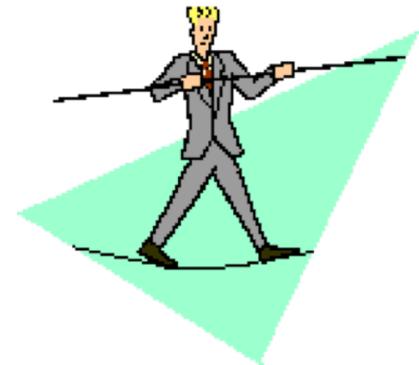
“Perhaps that's what I feel, an outside and an inside and me in the middle, perhaps that's what I am, the thing that divides the world in two, on the one side the outside, on the other the inside, that can be as thin as foil, I'm neither one side nor the other, I'm in the middle. . .”

May 17, 2018

-Samuel Beckett

7th graders are...

- The middle child of Middle School
- In a state of constant flux
- Trying new things on for size
- Trying to figure out who they are
- Testing the limits and boundaries
- Experimenting with their independence
- Trying to keep it all in balance
- Socially aware and active
- Going through many changes



7th Grade and the Social Scene

- Greater emphasis on peers
- Stronger need to fit into a group
- Some realigning of social groups
- Entering the teen years
 - Testing the waters
 - Celebrations
 - The Souvenir Sweatshirt Syndrome
 - Social media
 - Social drama



Goals and Initiatives

Continue to build our Learner Active Technology Infused Classrooms (LATIC)

- *Student Choice and Student Voice*
- *Increased Student Responsibility*
- *Increased Independence*
- *1:1 laptops*

Similar Schedules

Period 1	English Language Arts
Period 2	Call Back <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Split between ELA and Math every other day• Instrument lessons, support classes, advisory, SSR
Period 3	Math
Period 4	Lunch
Period 5	Related Arts: Health, Art, Technology
Period 6	Social Studies
Period 7	World Language or Resource Center
Period 8	Science
Period 9	Music/PE

7th Grade Courses

Core

- ELA
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- World Language or Resource Room

Related Arts

- Music (3 year strand)
- Physical Education
- Art or Computer Art
- Health
- Technology

Music

- Performance Groups
 - Orchestra
 - Band
 - Chorus
- Exploring Music



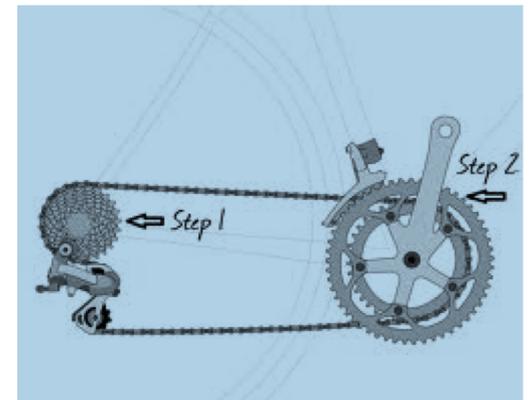
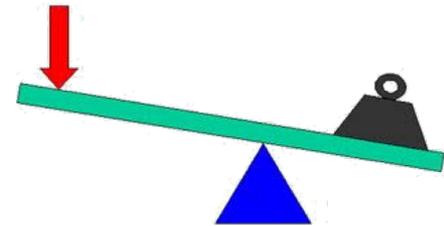
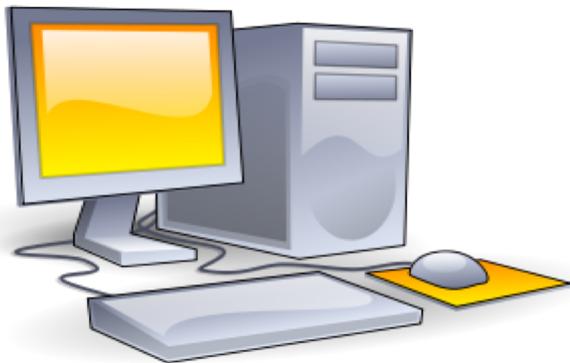


Middle School

Technology Education



- Applying math, science and other knowledge to solve practical problems.
- Utilizing tools, machines, computers and materials, students will be able to design, create and engineer solutions to the problems presented.





Health Education



- Understanding Health and Wellness
- Achieving Mental and Emotional Health
- Resolving Conflict
- Decision Making
- Substance Use and Abuse
- Body Systems
- Puberty and Changing Bodies



7th Grade Art and Computer Art

- Build upon 6th grade skill base
- Learn new techniques
- Practice using a variety of tools
- Expand understanding of art as it relates to society and culture
- Reflect on process and content
- Work in a variety of media

Projects:

Art: Ceramics; Printmaking (block prints)

Cut Paper Collage; Drawing from Observation

Computer Art: Animation; Drawing using texture;
Sequencing a visual narrative; Multimedia presentations





World Languages

French & Spanish



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Continue learning a new language with an emphasis on the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Curriculum supports and expands the Common Core Standards as well as the New York State and National World Language Learning Standards with an emphasis on student-centered learning in a LATIC setting.

At the end of 8th grade, students who pass grade 7 and grade 8 language and pass the final exam at the end of grade 8 will be awarded one High School credit and will continue on to Level 2 language instruction in High School.

Briarcliff Manor has a strong history of language success. Many students continue to learn their language of choice in the High School and choose to study a second and even sometimes a third language! Choices currently are: French, Spanish, Latin, Mandarin.

Social Studies 7



Content Curriculum

- Curriculum will begin with the Colonial period and end with Reconstruction.

Skills Curriculum

Skill-building is a continuation of the work begun in the 6th grade Social Studies program.

- **Writing:** recognizing historical themes and using documents as evidence
- **Research:** finding appropriate sources; synthesis of research; completing multi-step projects
- **Presentation:** making clear and engaging presentations to an audience; being able to respond to audience feedback

Social Studies 7



Historical Thinking Skills Grades 6-8

- **EVIDENCE:** Gathering, analyzing (sourcing), and interpreting evidence
- **PERIODIZATION:** Chronological reasoning, identifying cause and effect, identifying characteristics of specific eras
- **CONTEXTUALIZATION:** Comparing/contrasting; recognizing patterns
- **GEOGRAPHIC REASONING:** understanding how environment & people interact
- **ECONOMICS:** production and distribution of goods and services
- **CIVIC PARTICIPATION:** taking informed action, becoming a global citizen

Social Studies 7



HISTORICAL INQUIRY FOCUS

Creating **compelling questions** and opportunities for students to **engage with the content**, providing **interdisciplinary connections** and **connections to real life**.

American Revolution: Why Independence?

- Through text, multi-media and primary documents, students explore the series of events that led to the Declaration of Independence. Students assess whether there were alternatives to independence, and whether or not the Declaration of Independence left anything out.

Interdisciplinary

- Students read *Chains* in ELA, a novel about the Revolutionary War era

Authentic Assessment

- Students research an emerging nation, South Sudan, and make recommendations for their declaration of independence



English 7

Continue to build skills for a strong foundation in reading and writing

- Reading:
 - Contemporary and classic fiction blended with informational texts support units of instruction
- Writing:
 - Short- and extended-responses
 - Essays - prove, explain, persuade by citing the text
- On-line text book
- ALUs: Student choices and responsibility for learning

Science 7



General Science:

- Scientific Method, Measurement, Graphing, Microscope, Engineering Practices

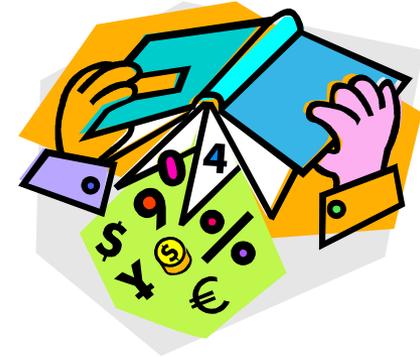
Life Science:

- Cell Structure & Function, Photosynthesis/Respiration, Classification of Organisms, Genetics, Human Body Systems

Underlying Curriculum:

- Responsibility of Learning
- Critical Thinking
- Working Interdependently
- Application of Knowledge
- Technology as a Tool

Math Courses in Grade 7



- **Math 7**

- Common Core State Standards based curriculum
- Students prepare for Math 8
- Classes may be collaborative or supported (two teachers)

- **Accelerated Math 7/8 and Math 7/8 Honors**

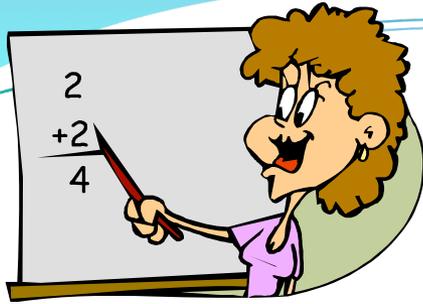
- Compressed curriculum covers 3 years of material in 2 years time
- Students take HS level Algebra I in grade 8

Mathematics – Grade 7

Common Core Curriculum Strands:

- Ratios and Proportional Relationships
- The Number System
- Expressions and Equations
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability



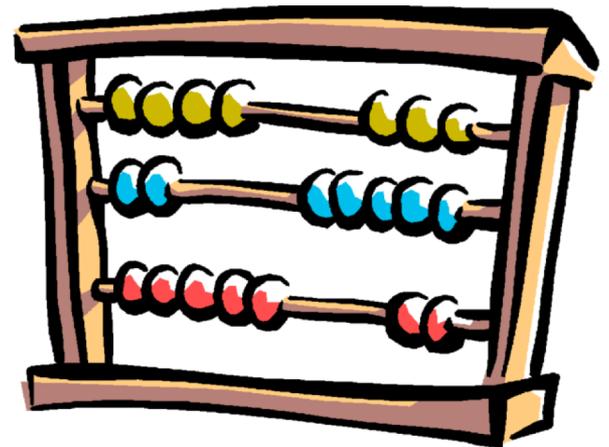


Accelerated Math Sequence

- **In 7th grade**, students complete all of Math 7 plus half of Math 8 curriculum.
- **In 8th grade**, students complete the second half of Math 8 curriculum plus the Integrated Algebra course.
- **Algebra I**
 - High School level course
 - Final report card grade appears on HS transcript
 - Students complete Algebra I Common Core exam in June for HS credit

Criteria for Accelerated Math

- **Classroom Test Average**
 - 90% or better
- **MAP Benchmark**
 - Projected score of high 3 - 4 NYS assessment
 - Performance at 85%ile or higher
- **Short prompts**
 - Administered in classes during June
 - Focus on critical thinking, logical reasoning
- **Prognosis Test**
 - Administered in May
 - Indicates readiness for algebra, skills based problem solving
- **Student Profile**
 - 10 elements
 - Teacher scores based on observation
 - Scale of 4 (consistently) to 1 (rarely)



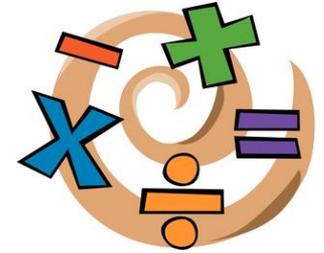
Student Profile for Accelerated Math

The student . . .

1. Does quality class work and homework.
2. Has quick recall of mathematical skills and concepts.
3. Easily masters new mathematical skills and concepts.
4. Recognizes and understands the various alternative strategies in problem solving.
5. Can clearly explain his/her thinking.



Student Profile for Accelerated Math



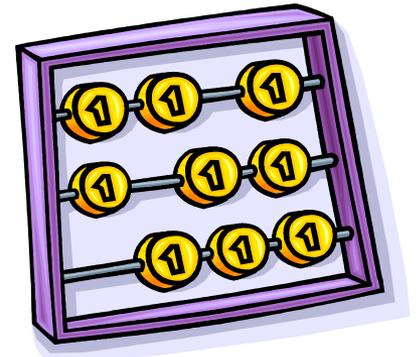
The student . . .

6. Becomes absorbed in and is persistent in working through challenging material.
7. Can work independently with minimum direction.
8. Can think abstractly.
9. Takes the initiative to challenge oneself in a variety of ways.
10. Manages demands and high expectations.



Criteria to Remain in Accelerated Math

- Mastery of foundational concepts is imperative for future Mathematical success.
- Must maintain at least an 85% average to remain in an accelerated/honors class.



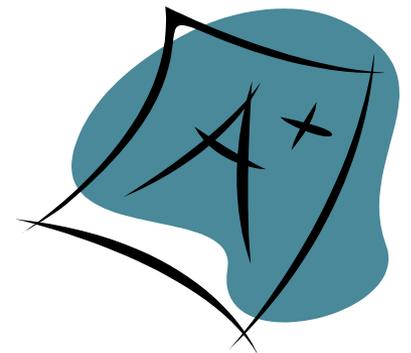
Not Yet Ready for Acceleration?

- Students develop readiness at different levels
- HS offers math acceleration in grade 10:
 - Algebra II and Geometry may be taken concurrently
- Students may enter Chemistry when:
 - Student has a test average of 90% in Algebra I *OR*
 - Student is enrolled in Algebra II



7th Grade Work Load

- Check your child's One Note
 - *Know your child's password!*
- Check the Parent Portal
- Expect about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour per subject for assignments, studying, reading





How Can Parents Help?

- Make daily, punctual attendance a priority
- Establish a routine at home
- Try to avoid over scheduling
- Encourage independence and responsibility
- Try to keep things in balance
- Be sensitive the developmental stage – build resiliency!
- Keep in touch with teachers



Thank you
for being here
tonight!

