



May 2022

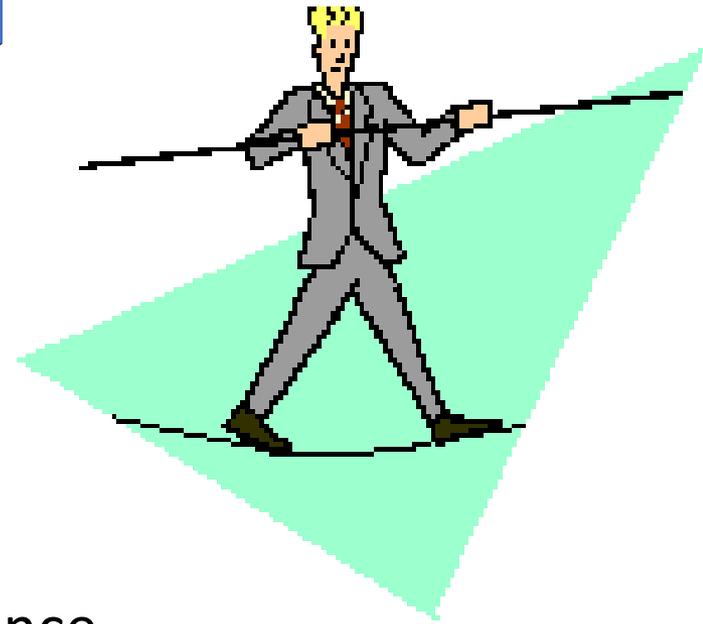
# Orientation to 7th Grade

“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. . .”

*-Samuel Beckett*

## 7<sup>th</sup> 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



# 7<sup>th</sup> 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 and texting
  - Social drama



# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses

## Core

### *Every day:*

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

## Related Arts

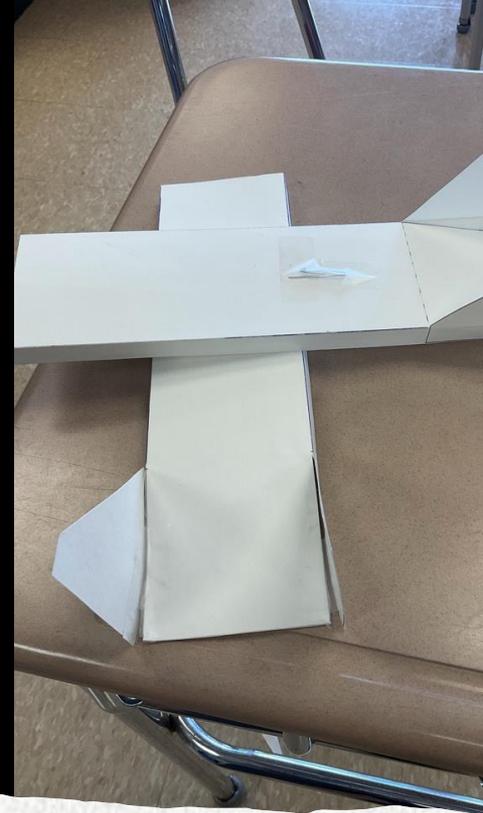
### *Alternating days:*

- Music (3-year  
strand)
- PE

### *Daily for one quarter:*

- Art or  
Computer Art
- Home and  
Careers
- Health
- Design and  
Modeling





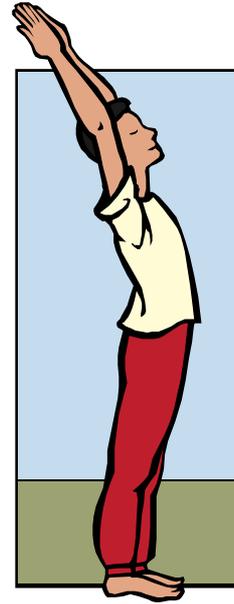
## PLTW: Design and Modeling

- Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

# Health Education

---

- Understanding Health and Wellness
- Achieving Mental and Emotional Health
- Resolving Conflict
- Stress and Stress Management
- Nutrition
- Muscular and Skeletal Systems
- Prevention Education: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Substances
- Puberty and Changing Bodies





## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Art

- Build upon 6<sup>th</sup> 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

# Family and Consumer Sciences – Home and Careers

## Productive Work Habits, Creative Thinking, Problem Solving, Values and Goals

In the Home and Careers class every activity is embedded with respect for each other, shared resources and ownership in the classroom. Each activity in cooking, sewing and career contemplation is built upon student values to ensure personal pride in completed work.

### Self-Management & Safe Practices



Sewing Machines  
Courtesy of the BMEF



### Family

- I value family because I think it is important to have a group of people you know you can rely on and that you can easily spend time with.
- I also think pets are important too. They provide a strong sense of companionship, and they love you no matter what.

### Identifying Values

### Cooperation & Following Directions





# Core Classes

---

# World Languages

---

## French & Spanish

- Continue learning a new language with an emphasis on the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- ***At the end of 8<sup>th</sup> 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 to Level 2 language instruction in High School.



# Social Studies 7

## U.S. History: Colonial Times to the Civil War

- Map skills
- Analyzing primary source documents
- Essay writing
- Categorizing
- Compare and contrast
- Summarizing main ideas
- Social skills



# Science 7

## Units of Study

- Cells
- Photosynthesis/ Cellular Respiration
- Genetics & Heredity
- Reproduction in Species
- DNA Structure and GMOs
- Evolution
- Plants
- Classification of Life (Kingdoms, Classes)



## Science Skills

- Observing, Identifying & Classifying
- Analyzing Data
- Experimental Procedure Design and Writing
- Microscope Use/Making Slides
- Collaborating with Peers

# 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
- Active Learning Units: Student choices and responsibility for learning



# Mathematics – Grade 7

## Next Generation Learning Standard Domains:

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



# Math Courses in Grade 7

## Math 7

- Curriculum covers 7th grade Next Generation Learning Standards
- Students prepare for Math 8
- Classes may be collaborative or supported (two teachers)

## Accelerated Math: Math 7/8 and Math 7/8 Honors

- Compressed curriculum covers 3 years of material in just 2 years
- **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 plus the Algebra I course.
  - **Algebra I**
    - High School level course
    - Final report card grade appears on HS transcript
    - Students complete Algebra I Common Core Regents exam in June for HS credit



# Criteria for Math Acceleration

*General guidelines based on past practice*

Criteria	Math 7/8	Math 7/8 Honors
Test/Quiz average	90% or higher	95% or higher
MAP Test	Projected to achieve <b>proficiency</b> (high-level 3) on NYS Standards,	Projected to achieve <b>mastery</b> (mid-level 4) on NYS Standards
Algebra Prognosis Test	75% or higher	85% or higher
Math 6 Final Exam	87% or higher	94% or higher
Student Profile	rating of <b>34</b> out of 40 (85%)	rating of <b>38</b> out of 40 (95%)

# Student Profile for Accelerated Math

*Based on teacher observation, using a scale of 1 - 4*

## The student . . .

1. Does quality class work and homework.
2. Has quick recall of mathematical skills and concepts. Student easily masters new mathematical skills and concepts.
3. Student is intrinsically motivated; asks questions and uses resources (i.e.: refers to class notes) when necessary
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 Continue in Accelerated Math

- Mastery of foundational concepts is imperative for future mathematical success.
- Must maintain:
  - at least an 85% average to remain in Math 7/8
  - at least a 90% average to remain in Math 7/8 Honors



# Not Yet Ready for Acceleration?

Students develop readiness at different levels; can be re-assessed each year as needed



HS offers math acceleration in grade 10:

Geometry and Algebra II may be taken concurrently with recommendation of the Math department.



Students may enter Chemistry when:

Student had an average of 85% in both Bio and Alg I *OR*

Student successfully completed Geo (Geo H is strongly recommended), is enrolled in Alg II.

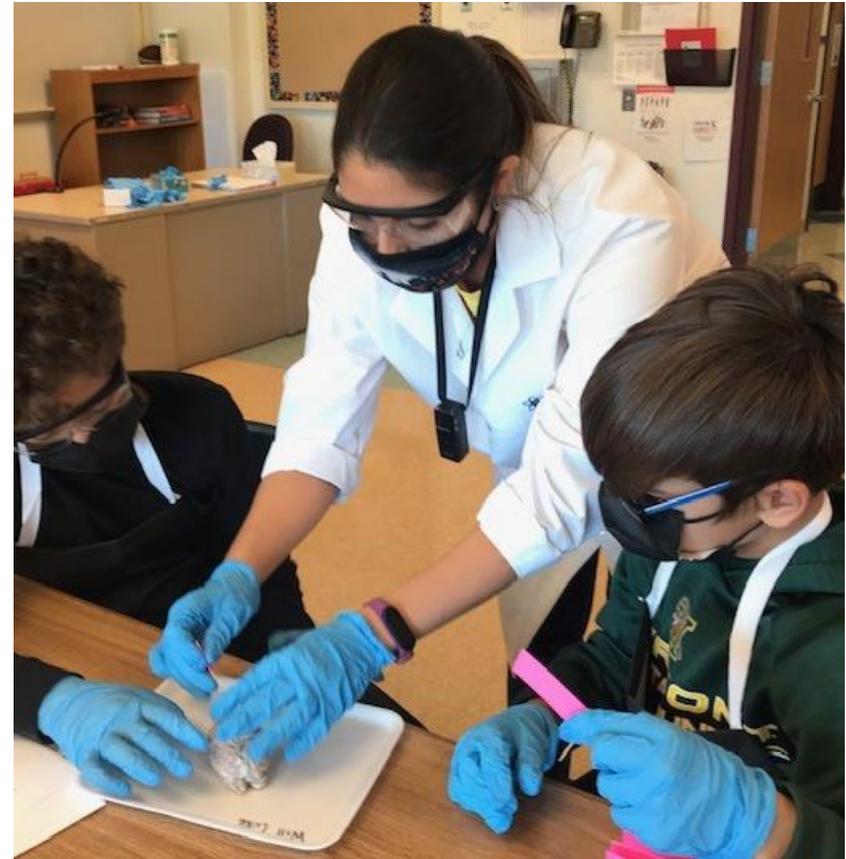
# Final Thoughts on Acceleration

- Our goal is to match each child to the program that is right for him/her.
- Accelerated coursework is a heavy lift unless your child is truly ready – interest, skills foundation, and work ethic all matter.
- Trust that the teacher knows your child as a learner.



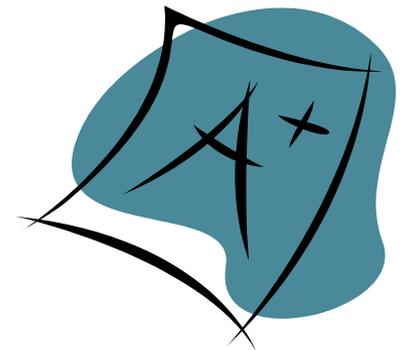
# Grade7 Enrichment

- Social Studies
- Science: Medical Detectives (PLTW)
- Math: Coding
- Art: Photography
- Instrument Lessons
- Math and ELA Strategies
- Speech and Language
- Learning Center
- Advisory



# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Work Load

- Check your child's OneNote Notebook
  - ✓ *Know your child's password!*
- Check the Parent Portal
- Expect about ½ 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!
- Stay in touch with teachers

