

Frelinghuysen Middle School Grade 7 Course Synopsis



MATHEMATICS

The grade 7 math program consists of six books from the Connected Math series. The main topics that are covered are: Interpreting tables and graphs, Introducing geometric concepts, Proportional reasoning, Number sense, Operations and integers, and Probability and Statistics. An honors program is offered in order to challenge the most capable students, in addition to providing a more in-depth and rigorous study of the above concepts. A basic skills program is offered to assist students who need additional support in math. A test prep course is offered to improve students' standardized test taking strategies. There is a resource program that is offered for classified students. The program parallels the regular curriculum with modifications based on the implementation of the student's Individualized Educational Plan. The goals of our program are: to use a problem solving approach, which emphasizes the NCTM Standards. To develop the confidence, knowledge and techniques for using math to reason and solve problems in everyday life and be able to communicate mathematically. Lastly it is to help students value mathematics and its connection to all subjects.

WORLD LANGUAGES

The philosophy of this 2nd year program focuses on increasing student's ability to speak, listen, and write in the target language. In addition, students' knowledge of culture and the interrelationship between language and culture is extended. The goals of the 7th grade program are: 1) to further develop oral profi-

ciency skills in order to successfully communicate on a variety of topics in the target language; and 2) to enhance and encourage awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The seventh grade language arts curriculum integrates reading and writing, encouraging students to move beyond the basic skills of reading and writing, to deal with abstract concepts and symbolism. As they are guided to appreciate the language and conventions of authors they read, they will sharpen their writing skills by composing, drafting and publishing for a variety of purposes. *Goals:* to successfully complete the reading elements of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to: identify characteristics of different genre; utilize reading strategies appropriate to task; adjust reading rate to skim, scan, and read for details, improve fluency, predict outcomes within and beyond the structure of the text; identify, summarize and evaluate elements of fiction; explain main idea with a logical sequence of ideas, details, and reactions; analyze text for purpose, tone and style; compare a variety of works by the same author. To successfully complete the writing elements of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to: use varied techniques to generate ideas, for writing; develop and use varied pre-writing activities, use drafting techniques to produce a finished piece of writing, prepare final draft in a matter appropriate for the audience, focus writing to respond to an identifiable purpose, use a style and tone appropriate for the intended audience and purpose, use correct spelling, punctuation, syntax, and word usage.

SCIENCE

This course is designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts, skills and attitudes involved in science. Through a variety of independent units of study the student will be exposed to scientific methodology while completing appropriate laboratory and other hands-on activities. Emphasis will also be placed on an introduction to safety procedures in the science classroom/laboratory, an introduction to proper study skills and an initial exposure to collecting, analyzing and interpreting empirical data, as well as developing a sense of appreciation and understanding of scientific contributions from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Goals: The student will demonstrate the ability to: 1) Work safely and cooperatively in the laboratory, 2) Use the units of the metric system, 3) Apply the scientific method to problem solving, 4) Proficiently use a compound microscope, 5) Utilize the cell theory to investigate living things, 6) Explain how living things function and react/interact with their environment, 7) Use and develop various systems of classification, 8) Recognize the relationship between function, structure and behavior of organisms.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The 7th grade Social Studies curriculum is divided into two distinct units. During the first marking period, students study civics and government which includes an examination of the Constitution and its application to issues of the American legal system. The second unit involves a continuation of the 6th grade curriculum which covered the first half of U.S. history. Students study post-Civil War America through the 20th Century. Emphasis is placed on significant events that have impacted both our Country and the world.

Goals: 1) To reinforce map skills, 2) To expand critical thinking skills, 3) To reinforce reading and writing skills, 4) To expand study and research skills, 5) To gain an understanding of the functions of our federal government 6) To gain an understanding of United States history from post Civil War to the present time, 7) To gain an understanding significant events in United States history and how it has impacted our relationship to the rest of the world, 8) To gain an understanding of the historical contributions that have shaped our diverse society.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will develop overall physical fitness and game skills and strategies in various activities. Emphasis is placed on lifelong skills.

Goals: 1) To improve the strength, speed endurance and flexibility of the student, 2) To understand the value of physical exercise, 3) To improve the social and emotional development of the student, 4) To improve the student's knowledge of skill, rules, techniques, and strategies as it pertains to specific sports, 5) To expose students to a variety of activities which will ultimately add in their search for life time leisure activities, 6) To have fun.

HEALTH

The Health curriculum covers the following topics: Alcohol and Drug Awareness, DARE, and the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program.

Goals: 1) To increase a student's understanding of one's self, 2) Creating wellness by learning good habits, 3) Substance abuse prevention

ART

Creative expression is a necessity for the healthy growth of all children. Emphasis is given on art values, sensitivity to design, and continuous process of attaining skills and striving toward individual creation and expression

Art Connections: Emphasizes classic hands-on drawing techniques and graphic arts and uses them interchangeable.

General Art: Emphasizes drawing and the value of 3D artwork.

Visual Art: Emphasizes the fine arts and basic drawing and painting skills.

Goals: 1) To gain knowledge of the expressive media, 2) To utilize art elements and principles, 3) To utilize art media to produce artistic products, 4) To demonstrate knowledge of the critique process, 5) To enhance aesthetic awareness of art history, 6) To help students evaluate their own progress inc creating artwork, 7) To engage students in understanding and appreciating the process of creating artwork in addition to their product.

COMPUTER

Students who participate in the computer application exploratory cycle will learn how to use the computer, computer applications, and computer peripherals as academic tools in order to assist them in their daily class work. The students will apply and integrate keyboarding fundamentals, application awareness and Internet usage in cross-curricula projects.

Goals: 1) students will be able to use correct finger reaches for alphabetic and punctuation keys, 2) Students will be able to safely and effectively search the Internet, 3) Students will be able to analyze and integrate information found on the Internet into projects via other computer applications, 4) Students will be able to create, design, format and organize documents using presentation software, 5) Students will integrate digi-

tal media into their work using computer peripherals such as digital camera and scanners, 6) Students will be able to input, organize and process information suing a spreadsheet program.

ORCHESTRA

Students will develop the skills for playing in an orchestra. Throughout the course, students will continue to develop the technical facility by way of more refined bowing and left hand technique. Students will be exposed to various styles of music from different time periods.

Goals: 1) The opportunity to perform in concert using a wide variety of orchestral literature, 2) Develop an understanding, appreciation, and love for music, 3) Communicate aesthetic responses

CHORUS

Students will have the opportunity to grow in their enjoyment and understanding of music by singing selected vocal scores that fit the technical level and voice range of the student. The repertoire will include a variety of styles such as folk, popular, multicultural and classical music.

Goals: 1) To increase the ability of students to perform two part singing and three part harmony, 2) To offer students the opportunity to study and perform a variety of choral literature, 3) To increase the vocal range of students, 4) To reinforce through performance vocal techniques, diction, and sight-singing, 5) To utilize technology to enhance performance, 6) To introduce student created movement to accompany vocal literature performance, 7) To prepare students for scheduled performances.

BAND

This course continues the development of musicianship techniques. Emphasis is placed on increased understanding of how the music should be performed as well as increased individual technical skill. Students will continue to be exposed to a wide variety of music styles.

Goals: 1) To offer students the opportunity to study and perform a variety of band literature, 2) To further develop and reinforce music performance techniques, 3) To prepare students for scheduled performances.

SYNERGISTICS SYSTEM (MATH OR SCIENCE)

Students participating in this course will take in a fourteen day rotation, each consisting of a different technology based unit of study. Each student will complete different Synergistic Systems modules. Seventh grade math modules include: Package and Design, Digital Design, Flight Technology, Lights and Lasers, Robotics, Confident Consumer, Music and Sound, Bioengineering, Interior Design, Baking and Measuring, Personal Finance, and Forces.

Seventh grade science modules include: Applied Physics, Baking and Measuring, Biotechnology, Body Systems, Cell Structure, Energy, Power and Mechanics, Forces, Genetics, Heart Fitness, Immune Systems, Microbiology, Plants and Pollination, Weather and Weights and Measures.

Goals: 1) Students will develop a measurable awareness of technology and its significant force and source in their everyday lives, 2) Each unit of study will be explored through the application of design/problem-solving activities, which engage students in hands-on experiences with a variety of technologies in math and science, 3) Students will acquire life skills in problem solving by conducting experiments and using advance software applications, which utilizes critical thinking, 4) The activities completed in this course will reinforce and enrich concepts of math, language arts, social studies and science as interdisciplinary components of each unit of study.

QUEST

Students who participate in the FMS Quest programs are identified, highly capable children who are given an opportunity to study topics in a wide variety of integrated and differentiated research based curricula. The focus of these programs is to develop higher level critical thinking and writing skills. Specific lessons strengthen divergent and cognitive skill development through a variety of collaborative, research, and shared inquiry approaches. Additionally, Quest students are given opportunities to participate in enriching experiences outside of the classroom at the county and state level in enriching challenges, such as those sponsored by the New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs.

INFORMATION LITERACY

Information literacy is a necessity for today's youth who will enter a constantly evolving global community. The program focuses on the organization, management, evaluation and communication of information and ideas. Students will be introduced to word retrieval and research techniques and strategies using print and non-print resources. There is also a focus on synthesizing information and ideas through visual, oral and written communication end products. Emphasis is place on lifelong skills, which can be utilized in high school and beyond.

Goals: 1) to ensure that students are effective users of information, 2) To develop information and communication skills, 3) To prepare students for the next level of the information literacy and library media program

RESOLVING CONFLICT ACTIVELY PROGRAM (RCCP)

Students participating in this course acquire the skills and understanding they need to deal with conflict productively and nonviolently. The course is organized around the concept of a "Conflict Resolution Tool Kit." Students learn about 1) conflict escalators, 2) win-win resolutions, 3) P.O.V. glasses – looking at all the

different points of view in a conflict, 4) active listening, 5) "I" messages, and 6) anger thermometer—technique for gauging the "degree" of one's anger.

Goals: 1) Encourages students to think about why there are different kinds of conflict., 2) explore a repertoire of effective responses to conflict, 3) implement skills into their daily lives.

BASIC SKILLS

Students identified in need of additional support in mathematics or language arts are eligible for basic skills instruction.

Goals: 1) To provide additional support to students who are either recommended by their teachers or have performed below the established base line criteria on standardized tests

TEST PREP

This course identifies students that have scored in the Proficient range or between the 50-85 percentile on standardized tests and provides additional support in language arts and math test taking skills.

Goals: 1) To improve the ability of students in taking standardized tests.

ASSESSMENT

Student progress is assessed using multiple indicators. Assessment tools may include:

- Cumulative Exams
- Quizzes
- Running Records
- Self Assessments
- Portfolio Records
- Performance Based Assessments
 - Projects
 - Class Participation
 - Homework
 - Journals/Logs
 - Daily Assignments

