

**Jamesville – DeWitt Middle School**

**Grade Seven**

**Academic Program Guide**



**2019 – 2020**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We believe that a robust academic program challenges students to think deeply about what they are learning, inspires students to seek out new ideas, and prepares students for the challenges of the outside world. We want our children to excel as:

- **Communicators**
- **Collaborators**
- **Thinkers**
- **Problem Solvers**
- **Innovators**
- **Individuals committed to themselves and others**

With that in mind, our teachers work throughout the school year and over the summer to carefully design curriculum and units of study aligned with the New York State Common Core Learning Standard and the specific above mentioned values held by our unique Jamesville-DeWitt community. All of this work occurs with an eye towards enriching and enhancing the quality of student learning throughout our school.

If you have questions about any of our programs, please feel free to contact any member our our administrative curriculum team at **315-445-8360** as follows:

Principal Curriculum Leader: Andy Eldridge  
Vice Principal Curriculum Leaders: Kerri McKee & Mia Woolery  
Math Department Chairperson: Molly Anthony  
Science Department Chairperson: Anna Endreny  
E.L.A. Department Chairperson: Denise Stillitano  
LOTE Department Chairperson : Kitty Robinson  
Social Studies Department Chairperson: Kari Sebast

We are proud of the academic programs our school offers your children. We want Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School to be a place where learning is challenging, joyful, and inspiring for our students. At the same time, we always strive to improve the quality of our work with your children, and we are eager for your feedback and comments. As you continue your journey with us, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

*Andy Eldridge*

Principal

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## Grade 7: Program Overview



Our grade 8 program recognizes the developmental growth of our middle level students and is designed to challenge our students to take on coursework in a caring and supportive middle level atmosphere. As such, we continue to organize students onto teams, and we continue to focus on grade level essential questions that will prepare our students to be: **Communicators, collaborators, thinkers, problem solvers, innovators, and individuals committed to themselves and others.**

It is our goal to support our students as we want our 7<sup>th</sup> graders to be excellent readers, writers, and communicators, guaranteeing their success in high school and beyond. In addition, we will continually improve our educational program through the concurrent development and regular re-evaluation of a high quality standards-based curriculum, diverse extra-curricular programming, a comprehensive instructional delivery system, effective assessment methods and technological support for teaching and learning.

# Units of Study



## **Academic Core:**

- English Language Arts – 2 Units, 2 periods a day all school year
- Mathematics – 1 Unit, 1 period a day all school year
- Accelerated Math - 1 Unit, 1 Period every day all school year (in place of Mathematics 7)
- Social Studies – 1 Unit, 1 period a day all school year
- Science – 1 Unit, 1 period a day all school year

## **Wellness:**

- Physical Education –  $\frac{1}{2}$  Unit, 1 period every other day all school year
- Home and Careers- $\frac{1}{4}$  Unit. 1 period, every other day for 20 weeks

## **Fine Arts:**

- Technology –  $\frac{1}{4}$  Unit, 1 period every other day for 20 weeks
- General Music –  $\frac{1}{4}$  Unit, 1 period every other day for 20 weeks
- Art –  $\frac{1}{4}$  Unit, 1 period every other day for 20 weeks

## **Language Other Than English:**

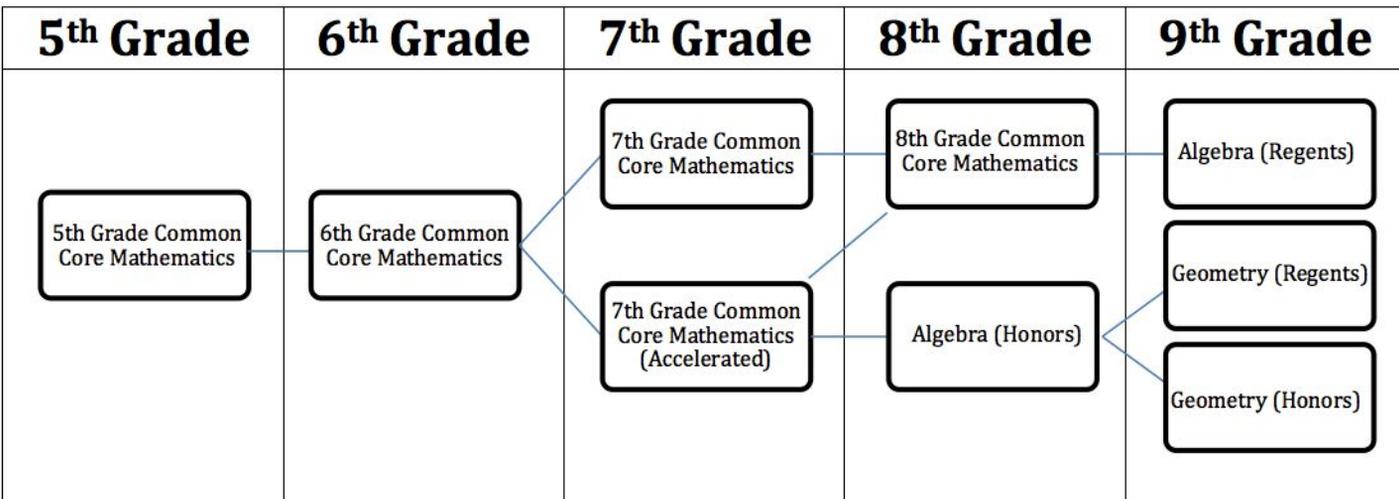
- World Languages – 1 Unit, 1 period a day all school year

## **Electives:**

- Band / Orchestra – 1 period every other day all school year (weekly lessons)
- Chorus – 1 period every other day all school year



# The Academic Core: Mathematics



The goal of the mathematics program at Jamesville-DeWitt is to provide a rigorous mathematics experience for all students, in accordance with NYS Common Core Standards, National Standards for Mathematics Education, and best practices in the teaching of mathematics. Students will learn to persevere as problem solvers and thinkers throughout their mathematics coursework at JDMS.

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade Common Core Mathematics

This course is rigorous in its curriculum and expectations. Students will learn 7<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics as defined by New York State including topics such as: proportional relationships, percents, rational operations, algebraic equations, probability, geometry and measurement. The course is designed to include a continuous spiral review of mathematics learned in prior years and all current units of study. Upon successful completion of this course, students will take 8<sup>th</sup> grade Common Core Mathematics in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Common Core Mathematics.**

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Common Core Mathematics (Accelerated)

Seventh Grade Common Core Accelerated Math is a fast-paced, demanding, highly rigorous course. The curriculum includes all of the seventh grade New York State math standards which are taught and assessed at an honors level. Additionally, it includes selected eighth grade New York State math standards again taught and assessed at an honors level. The expectations for students enrolled in this course are extremely high. Students need to be self-directed, have superior command of prior mathematics content, have highly developed reading skills and exhibit excitement and passion for solving complex and challenging problems. Students also need to be able to advocate for themselves and persevere when work becomes challenging. Upon successful completion of this course, students can choose to take Algebra Common Core (Honors) math in eighth grade. **Prerequisites: Successful completion of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Common Core Mathematics AND Teacher Recommendation.**



# Wellness: Physical Education



**Grade 7 Physical Education:** The Jamesville-DeWitt Physical Education program is based upon the acquisition of knowledge and skills that are the foundation for engaging in physical activity. Our mission is to empower all students to sustain regular, lifelong physical activity as a foundation for a healthy, productive and fulfilling life.

The Physical Education curriculum is a sequential educational program. It is based on physical activities undertaken in an active, caring, supportive and non threatening atmosphere in which every student is challenged and successful. We aim to provide every student with a wide variety of physical activities and challenges that will contribute to the development and maintenance of their physical, cognitive, and affective well being. Ultimately, students will be provided with the foundation for making informed decisions that will empower them to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

# Wellness: Physical Education

<b>Unit Themes</b>		
Fitness	Aquatics	Striking/Fielding Sports
Project Adventure	Team Passing Sports	Personal Performance
Net & Wall Activities	Target Activities	Dance/Aesthetic Movement

<b>Physical Education Participation Proficiencies/Student Targets</b>
Develop and consistently demonstrate appropriate dress and participation.
Develop and demonstrate at a novice skill level, basic skills in as many kinds of activities as possible.
Develop and consistently demonstrate good sportsmanship.
Continually develop good safety habits while playing sports and partaking in physical activity.
Develop physical fitness by partaking in activities, which enhance their endurance, coordination, strength, agility, and speed.
Develop and consistently demonstrate appropriate decision making ability and accepting responsibility.
Perform and develop the areas of flexibility, abdominal, upper body strength, agility, and endurance.
Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively with peers and teachers through a variety of physical activities.

\*Students will need to bring a change of clothes and wear sneakers to Physical Education. There are no Physical Education locker or locks. Students will need to bring their clothes to and from Physical Education.

# Technology



*Technology education uses concepts of science, math, social studies, and language arts in a hands-on, systems-based approach to problem solving. It guides students in the understanding, design, and development of systems, devices, and products to serve human needs and wants. Students will learn the fundamentals of design and materials processing through the use of hands-on activities. Learning the safe use of hand and power tools will enable our students to construct their designs. They will learn to use the computer as a tool by completing activities that include laser cutting, 3D printing, and robotics. Students that develop their problem solving skills in technology education will be better prepared for their future in any area of study. Hands on activities will focus on increasing student's technical literacy and encourage them to pursue careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields.*

## **Technology Grade 7:**

Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Technology Education course will use the modeling and design skills developed in 6<sup>th</sup> grade to complete independent and group projects. In order for students to meet the standards of our digital age they will learn how to read and write code to be used with custom circuitry they assemble. Students will also be given the opportunity to use specialized equipment in our technology laboratory to combine electrical components into a working project.

# Fine Arts:

## General Music & Art

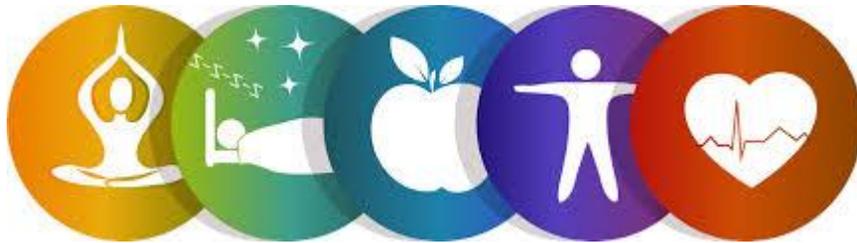


**Grade 7 General Music:** Seventh Grade General Music is a twenty-week course that meets every other day. Basic guitar skills are introduced which include reading guitar tablature, chord charts, and performing while singing and playing. The study of music history is continued from sixth grade as students focus on the Classical and Romantic Eras. Basic musical elements are reviewed and expanded upon as students create and perform their own compositions.

**Grade 7 Art:** 7th grade Art 7th grade Art is a 20 week class that meets every other day for 38 minutes. This class focuses upon an introduction to the basic concept of Why we make Art and How Art affects and influences our daily life. Students learn the differences between Fine Art/Craft and Design. Students are exposed to a wide variety of 2D and 3D Art materials and techniques. Students will learn about drawing/painting in both wet and dry media as well as printmaking concepts. Ceramics and sculpture are introduced. Introductory fundamental technical skills are layered upon basic design concepts so that students learn to assess and evaluate their own progress. In addition, students will learn to critique their own work using the language of Art .7th grade is the 1st year that students are eligible to participate in the CNY Scholastic Art Show. At the end of 7th Students are chosen for 8th Grade Advanced Art through interest, talent, motivation and skill. Students are also able to participate in theatre Arts play set production.

# Home & Careers

**Home and career** skills is a course designed to help middle school students live in a society of constant change and to improve their quality of life preparing them to meet their present and future responsibilities as family members, consumers, **home** managers, and wage earners.



**Grade 7 Home and Careers:** This class is designed to give students practice with a variety of life skills within the subject of home and careers through individual and whole class activities. Topics that we will cover in this 20-week course are the aspects of physical, mental and social health (peer pressure, decision making, goal setting, self-esteem, stress and relaxation), as well as the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drugs. We will review the benefits of making healthy food choices and participate in several food labs. We will also discuss cell phone usage and internet safety, as well as learning about laundry and clothing care. Students will be using the sewing machines to practice sewing skills and make a small project.

# Languages Other Than English: World Languages



**Grade 7 World Languages:** Students will continue their exploration of Spanish, French or Chinese cultures and languages. They will build on their vocabulary and grammar through interactive, creative activities in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking and culture. Students will be expected to communicate and interact more in the target language as they continue on their pathway to proficiency. Language classes meet daily for 38 minutes.

## French

*Topics:* physical and personality descriptions, places in a city and parts of a home, the Eiffel tower history and project, French speaking countries project

*Grammar:* more irregular verb conjugation, possessive adjectives, stress pronouns, noun adjective agreement, adverbs, prepositions of location

## Mandarin Chinese

*Topics:* school supplies, education, clothing, physical descriptions, leisure activities, sports, travel, numbers, weather, animals, colors, clothing, more advanced foods, dining out, travel directions, using landmarks, money and advanced numbers.

*Writing and Grammar:* continued building of Chinese character knowledge, expanding Chinese vocabulary and continue building correct tonal pronunciation of Chinese vocabulary, using adverbs and adjectives, relative comparisons, using correct measure words with nouns, action verb usage, more advanced tense cases, Chinese poetry

## Spanish

*Topics:* food, family, greetings and goodbyes, physical and personality descriptions, clothing, school life, leisure activities, sports, extending invitations, expressing feelings and emotions, weather, seasons

*Grammar:* adjectives, noun adjective agreement, adverbs, possessive adjective, verb conjugation, interrogative expressions, expressing obligations, time telling, contractions, sequencing events, stem changing verbs, making comparisons

## Electives: Band, Orchestra, Chorus



**Grade 7 Band:** Band is an elective, full-year course. The bands at JDMS are performing ensembles consisting of members of the woodwind, brass, and percussion families of instruments. Band meets every other day (in addition to weekly group lessons) and all band students are expected to perform in their respective ensemble's concerts. In addition, musical growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in NYSSMA Solo Festival, All County Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Pit Band.

**Grade 7 Orchestra:** The Jamesville Dewitt Seventh grade orchestra consists of students that typically have 2-3 years of experience and will have played in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra. Orchestra meets every other day. Students in the orchestra will work on techniques and develop skills to perform in the ensemble. Concerts are a mandatory part of the orchestra program.

**Grade 7 Chorus:** Seventh Grade Chorus is an extension of the general music classroom, with a focus on developing musicality and music literacy through singing and performing as an ensemble. Throughout the year, students sing three-part music and eventually four-part selections from a variety of historical periods and cultures, while developing an understanding of personal responsibility and what it means to make music with others. Seventh Grade Chorus rehearses every other day throughout the school year, and gives three concerts annually.

# Student Services



**Grade 8 Academic Intervention Services:** To increase student learning in all curricular areas, staff engage in ongoing analysis of multiple sources of student data resulting in modification of instruction and instructional resources. Instruction will be differentiated for students where a gap exists between their performance and the performance of the total population. Success will be evaluated based upon positive trends in student data. Academic Support Services are used to strengthen students' skills as well as build confidence with academics. Students attend Academic Intervention Services every other day in a small group setting. We use this time to reinforce basic skills, reteach concepts, and help students grasp new material when introduced in the classroom.

**Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School Goal:** We will continue to use STAR Reading and grade book to create academic intervention priorities. We will use STAR Mathematics data to create intervention priorities within the classroom. We will continue to use the academic data from individual students to improve remediation and pre-teaching opportunities.

# Counseling Services

**OUR MISSION:** The mission of the counseling staff at Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School is to provide high quality, comprehensive, school counseling services to all students. Our programs are designed to help all students develop and enhance their academic, social and personal strengths in order to become responsible and successful students.

The middle school years are characterized by the term "transition." During these years, students experience more physical and emotional changes than in any other year other than infancy. The middle school counselors assist students, parents, and staff in dealing with this transitional phase. Programs in the middle school assist students in:

- Making choices and dealing with changes
- Setting goals
- Organizing information
- Learning about themselves and dealing with personal relationships
- Developing skills related to decision making and problem solving

The middle school counselor's role encompasses coordination, consulting, and counseling. Coordination involves managing various aspects of services that help students succeed. Consultation is a key vehicle used to address the needs of the emerging adolescent student. The middle school counselor consults with parents, teachers, other educational professionals on personal, social, and academic matters. The school counselor delivers services through a variety of methods such as individual counseling, small group counseling, and classroom activities and lessons. In any counseling situation the particular topics presented or discussed are based upon the needs of the students.

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's counselor if they have concerns about their progress or well being. By working closely together, parents, counselors, and teachers can help students achieve success.