



What Your Child Will Learn in Seventh Grade

Greetings Seventh Grade Parents!

In Harford County Public Schools (HCPS), we are committed to ensuring that every child graduates having received an outstanding education. We know that you as parents are integral to this process and want you to know the role that the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards (MCCRS) serve in the implementation of our curriculum.

How do the MCCRS relate to the Common Core State Standards?

In school year 2013-2014, Maryland implemented the MCCRS in all schools across the state. Maryland's new standards are based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a set of consistent, high-quality academic goals in English language arts and mathematics, adopted by Maryland and more than 40 other states. The MCCRS define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to graduate from high school fully prepared to enter college and the workforce.

What is the connection between the MCCRS and the HCPS curriculum?

The MCCRS guide HCPS instructional leaders to develop and refine curriculum so that teachers consistently create lessons that give our students the most essential knowledge and skills they need to progress academically.

What will lessons look like in the classroom?

Teachers are encouraged to create engaging and interactive lessons, integrating technology when appropriate. Our teachers provide the best environment for learning so that our children grow as learners but also gain the content and skills necessary to become productive members of our workforce and society.

How do the MCCRS affect all content areas?

The MCCRS clearly define benchmarks for learning in reading, writing, and mathematics. The literacy expectations for English language arts are clearly outlined, but just as importantly, so are the expectations for literacy in all content areas. For students to be college and career ready, they must be proficient in reading and writing complex informational and technical texts. This means that instruction in EVERY classroom focuses on both the critical content as well as the reading and writing skills necessary to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of that discipline. In mathematics, students who demonstrate exceptional proficiency with both content and application may be ready for advanced work in middle school.

How can you support your child at home?

As you review this brochure, think about ways you can support your child's learning at home. We need your help as we implement our curriculum and hold students to the highest standards of academic performance. Through a strong partnership with you, we will ensure that your child is fully prepared for success in school, work, and life.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

MATHEMATICS

Reading

- Determine a theme or central idea of a text; analyze its development; and provide an objective summary of the text.
- Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.
- Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.

Writing

- Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create clarity.
- Introduce and support a topic clearly, using strategies such as definition, classification, compare/contrast, and cause/effect. Include formatting and multimedia when useful to the overall message.
- Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters.

Speaking and Listening

- Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

Language

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- Compute unit rates associated with ratios of fractions.
- Recognize and represent proportional relationships between quantities.

The Number System

- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- Add and subtract rational numbers; represent addition and subtraction on a horizontal or vertical number line diagram.

Expressions and Equations

- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.

Geometry

- Draw, construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them
- Solve problems involving scale drawings of geometric figures, including computing actual lengths and areas from a scale drawing and reproducing a scale drawing at a different scale.

Statistics and Probability

- Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations.
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of and persevere in solving problems.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics, use appropriate tools strategically, and attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure as well as express regularity in repeated reasoning.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

SCIENCE

Construct Knowledge

- Recognize and provide examples that human beings, like other organisms have complex body systems of cells, tissues and organs that interact to support an organism's growth and survival.
- Explain the ways that genetic information is passed from parent to offspring in different organisms.
- Explain that in any particular environment, the growth and survival of organisms and species depend on the physical conditions.
- Recognize and describe that evolutionary change in species over time occurs as a result of natural variation in organisms and environmental changes.
- Explain that the transfer and transformation of matter and energy links organisms to one another and to their physical setting.
- Recognize and explain that human-caused changes have consequences for Maryland's environment as well as for other places and future times.

Apply Evidence and Reasoning

- Compile evidence to verify the claim of biologists that the features of organisms connect or differentiate them—these include external and internal structures (features) and processes.
- Gather and organize data to defend or argue the proposition that all living things are cellular (composed of cells) and that cells carry out the basic life functions.
- Give reasons supporting the fact that the number of organisms an environment can support depends on the physical conditions and resources available.

Understand and Use Technology

- Design, analyze, or carry out simple investigations and formulate appropriate conclusions based on data obtained or provided through technology as appropriate.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Political Science

- Analyze the characteristics and structure of various systems of government around the world.
- Analyze the historic events, documents, and practices that are the foundations of political systems around the world.
- Analyze the roles of governments around the world regarding public policy and issues.
- Analyze the importance of civic participation as a citizen of the world.

Geography

- Use geographic tools to locate places and describe the human and physical characteristics in the contemporary world.
- Describe and analyze population growth, migration and settlement patterns in contemporary world regions.

History

- Analyze the growth and the development of nations in the contemporary world.
- Analyze the major sources of tension and conflict in the contemporary world.
- Analyze the major traditions, customs and beliefs of world religions and their expansion.

Economics

- Analyze the decisions that people made because resources were limited relative to economic wants for goods and services in contemporary world regions.
- Analyze how scarcity of economic resources affects economic choices in contemporary world regions.
- Analyze how technological changes have affected the consumption and production in the modern world.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

UNIFIED ARTS

Art

- Compare how artists use design concepts to organize the elements of art and principles of design to convey ideas, thoughts, and feelings in selected artworks.
- Describe subject matter, styles, and techniques representative of various cultures and periods of art history.
- Apply creative problem-solving strategies in the production of visual arts that incorporate the principles of design and focus on the use of depth of space in unified compositions and multimedia forms. Demonstrate proper use and care of art media and tools.
- Develops a variety of analytical and interpretive skills and apply them to express a critical response to works from diverse cultures and various historical periods focusing on the principles of design.

Music

- Interpret the expressive elements of music through written or oral means, and performance.
- Describe how musical expression reflects social, political, and ethical issues and determine the factors that influence musicians in historical eras and places.
- Identify and explain the relationship of music, dance, theater, the visual arts, and other disciplines.
- Explore musical ideas through simple improvisations, compositions, arrangements.
- Evaluate selected musical compositions using established criteria.

Media

- Utilize the Online Public Access Catalogue by exploring advanced features to increase skills in locating materials.
- Increase knowledge of academic integrity by analyzing and evaluating ethical terminology to cite sources.
- Analyze various electronic databases, conduct Boolean searches, and use graphic organizers to record information.

Physical Education

- Display excellent sportsmanship during group activities.
- Create an original performance sequence.
- Engage in health related fitness assessment.
- Demonstrate mature, accurate throwing skills to a moving target and catching skills while moving.
- Demonstrate striking of a moving object with accuracy using a body part and an implement.

A Message from the Superintendent:

In the 7th grade, your child continues to need your support and involvement. Continue to create a quiet place for your child to study and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate on reading, writing, and math, uninterrupted by friends, siblings, or other distractions including electronic devices. Try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. Ask your child what he or she is learning in each subject area. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific subjects. Check in with your child emotionally and socially as well. Be involved in his/her social life so that you know your child's friends, interactions on social media, and involvement in the neighborhood. Your child needs you now as much as ever.

Barbara Canavan



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