

Oak Park Preparatory Academy
“Home of the Blue Knights”
Course Offerings



Seventh Grade Core Curriculum

Seventh Grade English

Seventh grade English is a year-long course of study in reading and writing. The class focuses on specific areas of informational text, such as biography, autobiography, research techniques and presentations, as well as narrative text such as mystery and Greek mythology. Students engage in various projects, papers and presentations to prepare them for MEAP and to make real world connections as they progress towards the eighth grade.

Seventh Grade Mathematics

Seventh grade math will deepen student knowledge of linear relationships and introduce proportional relationships. Students will understand the relationship of equations to their graphs; construct tables and contextual situations for linear functions. Algebraic concepts will include simplifying and solving simple expressions and equations. Geometrically, students will study similarity of polygons, based on their knowledge of proportions. Data studies will include ratio, stem-leaf and box whiskers plots based on real life situations.

Seventh Grade Science

In seventh grade life science students will examine how plants make and store food, how cells use and transport food and how various systems work together.

Physical Science: Students will expand their understanding of electric currents, circuits, magnetism and common forms of energy. They will be able to describe the differences between physical and chemical changes and describe them in terms of atoms and molecules.

Earth Science: Topics of study will include rocks and minerals, topography, fossils, human activity on the earth's surface. Students will also begin their studies in Astronomy.

All students are encouraged to participate in our district-wide science fair.

Seventh Grade Social Studies (Eastern Hemisphere)

In the seventh grade social studies, students are introduced to the culture of the Eastern hemisphere, which includes Asia, Australia, Africa and Europe. A small number of countries, representative of selected regions, are studied in depth. Students work extensively constructing and interpreting tables, graphs and various kinds of maps. Higher order thinking skills are practiced by addressing current social, economic and problems that are critical in the regions being studied. Special attention is devoted to issues pertaining to conservation and development of natural resources. Cultural differences and similarities

among various Eastern societies are explored and global connections linking nations of Western and Eastern Hemispheres.

Eighth Grade Core Curriculum

Eighth Grade English

The Middle School English Language Arts (ELA) Course is a year-long course of study in reading and writing. The class focuses on specific areas of informational text, such as biography, autobiography, research techniques and presentations, as well as narrative text such as mystery and Greek mythology. Students engage in various projects, papers and presentations to prepare them for MEAP and to make real world connections as they progress towards the high school level.

Eighth Grade Mathematics

Eighth Grade Mathematics Curriculum utilizes the “Connected Math Program.” Student in mathematics will focus on concepts in algebra, geometry and data analysis. Students will be exposed to a variety of math concepts that will improve students’ knowledge of linear relationships and introduce proportional relationships. Students will understand the relationship of equations to their graphs; construct tables and contextual situations for linear functions. Algebraic concepts will include simplifying and solving simple expressions and equations. Geometrically, students will study similarity of polygons, based on their knowledge of proportions. Data studies will include ratio, stem-leaf and box whiskers plots based on real life situations.

Eighth Grade Science

Science Curriculum consists of concepts focusing on Earth Science. Students will examine how plants make and store food, how cells use and transport food and how various systems work together. Students will expand their understanding of electric currents, circuits, magnetism and common forms of energy. They will be able to describe the differences between physical and chemical changes and describe them in terms of atoms and molecules. Additionally, Earth Science topics of study will include rocks and minerals, the water cycle, weather patterns, topography, fossils, human activity on the earth’s surface.

Eighth Grade Social Studies (American History)

Eighth grade students will trace the origins of the first people in the America and examine the development of the new Nation in American History. Different perspectives on democracy are conducted through the study of the Jacksonian Era. The periods of Expansion and Reform are also studied. Students explore Industrial America and review the economic, social, cultural and political differences between the North and South during the antebellum period and the rebuilding of the United States after the Civil War.

Seventh & Eighth Grade Rotational Course Curriculum

Technology

Technology is a card marking class in which students will learn mastery in the skills of typing, Internet searches, creating documents, charts, graphs and power point presentations. Students are required to create a portfolio of all their work of mastery in technology.

Art

The basic goal of art is to develop and build within students the ability to create works of art. The lessons will cross the curriculum connecting the four core subject areas: math, science, language arts and social studies. Students will explore different techniques in media, such as soft pastels, markers, watercolors, etc. Exploring art with the different media will be a vehicle for solving visual application as a means of personal expression.

General Music

This course is to help students gain an appreciation for music. Students will learn the fundamentals of music theory, the history of composers, styles of music and also learn to sing basic songs. This is not a performing group.

Physical/Health Education

This course is designed to help students develop a sense of responsibility and a positive attitude through physical activity and information regarding health living. Course content will prepare students for responsible and healthy living at school, home, and in the community, now and in the future.