



# GRADE 7

**Hopes and dreams for this year..**

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.



## Social Studies in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Social studies content in grades 7 continues to explore the question of inquiry: **What is the relationship between geography, prosperity, and power?** Course content traces the human experience in the United States from pre-Columbian times to the American Civil War, and tying political, geographic, economic, and social trends in United States history to parallel trends and time frames in New York State history, specifically **the local Syracuse area**. A *District-Wide Digital Portfolio Assessment* is given at the end of this course.

### In order to build social studies skills, your 7<sup>th</sup> grade student:

- Reads primary and secondary sources in order to:
  - Analyze the texts using evidence.
  - Understand the main ideas of the text.
  - Relate the texts to important historical events or concepts.
- Distinguishes between fact and opinion in a text.
- Uses technology and media to better understand concepts taught.
- Compares primary and secondary sources about the same topic.
- Learns about historical events within a context and as related to things such as geography, economy, and social and political factors.
- Learns about topics like immigration and civil rights to gain a deeper understanding of history and the present American Landscape.

## Resources

### Apps

#### HISTORY Here

*History here is Apple Watch compatible and let students teachers and anyone who wishes to explore a new place and learn about the history of a specific location. Although this app is designed for iPhone and Apple Watch, it can be added to an iPad and used with wi-Fi enabled location services.*



#### News-O-Matic

*Another iPad, iPhone and Apple Watch compatible app is News-O-Matic. Current events are so important in the classroom and this app provides students with access to lots of relevant and high-interest news stories.*

#### NBC Nightly News

*Lots of news organizations have corresponding iPad apps that let you share select content with students easily. With the NBC Nightly News iPad app, you can preview and share news stories from the previous night's television program. It's a great option for making connections with content being taught in the classroom.*

#### NPR News

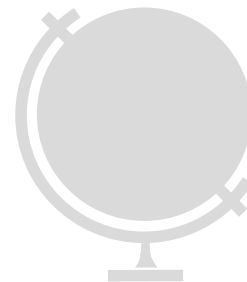
*In addition to accessing print content similar to what you might find in other newspapers, NPR has audio recordings students can listen to on their iPad. Not only is this a great option for students who may struggle to follow along with the vocabulary in a news story but it also helps students grow as listeners.*

#### TED Talks

*This app is full of relevant information on a range of topics that may align with your social studies goals. These talks can be shown to one child or played for the whole family who are studying a particular topic.*

#### HISTORY TV

*If you're looking for videos to share with students, you might want to check out this app from the television station the History Channel. It includes short clips and extras for viewers of any age to explore.*



## Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

### Shared Reading Experiences

Share and talk about the main ideas of articles with your child that are about material dealing with current events occurring in **New York State**, or topics she finds relevant or interesting that are problems for citizens in New York State such as fracking and medical care to name a few. Share items in articles having to do with these issues as studied in social studies. Ask questions about the articles you both read and watch news coverage to compare what other news sources say. Hold a debate that uses evidence from the articles.

#### Try it

What are some topics you'd like to talk about with your child?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are some questions you can discuss about these topics?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Write for Enjoyment

Encourage your child to keep a journal; try keeping one yourself based on current event articles he or she is reading that deal with **State Issues**. When you or your child finds a passion topic, write about it in a relevant way. For example, write letters to the editor of a local, state or national paper for publication discussing your views on the topic based on the evidence you use from the articles you have read.

#### Try it

What are some topics you'd like your child to write about?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Use Technology to Enhance Learning

Since most middle-schoolers are technology fans (and experts), encourage your children to use technology to "show what they know" or further their learning. Of course, as with any use of technology, be sure to monitor your child's technology use, access, and communication with others.

#### Try it

Some ideas to get you started are below. Brainstorm what topics or apps you could use!

- Make short editorial videos on particular current events.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Make quick videos (or use one of many various apps) for presenting short narrated lessons about topics being learned so that your child can teach you.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Create photo collages or scrapbooks of work completed and or articles read.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Create a continuous conversation via email or another technological format in which your child sends you quick snippets (pictures and or texts) of something interesting they learned. Follow up with questions or comments on what your child sends.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## ELA in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students in grades 6-8 should experience a balance of literature (fiction) and informational (non-fiction) texts and have discussions about texts that support language development as well as the building of background knowledge about important topics. Students should be frequently engaged in text-based reading, speaking, and writing tasks. While specific standards vary a bit as students move through grades 6-8, the major concepts remain the same; the biggest difference is that the skills are applied in increasingly more challenging text in each grade.

### Assessments

**STAR Assessment:** STAR Assessments are short tests taken in the Fall, Winter and Spring that provide teachers with information on your child's skills in relation to grade level standards and other students in the same grade.

- Teachers analyze the results to learn what students already know and what they are ready to learn next, to monitor student growth, and to determine which students may need additional help. STAR Assessments are heavily researched and scientifically proven to help teachers guide each student on his or her unique path to mastery.

**ANet Assessment:** ANet assessments, taken 3 times a year, measure what your child has or hasn't learned through classroom instruction and what they might need additional exposure to or practice with.

**Tips to prepare for any assessment:**

- Get a good night's rest (The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 9-12 hours of sleep every night for 6-12 year olds)
- Have a healthy breakfast

### STAR Assessments

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Test Date			
Score			

### ANet Assessments

Test Date			
Score			

## Major Concepts

### Reading

- Cite evidence from text to support analysis
- Determine a theme and explain how it is developed throughout a text
- Identify point of view, how it is developed and how it impacts meaning
- Trace and evaluate the effectiveness of an argument

### Writing

- Write an argument and use reasons and evidence to support it; introduce and refute a counterclaim
- Write informative texts using organized and relevant evidence; conduct research to answer questions
- Write narratives using techniques such as dialogue and description

### Speaking and Listening

- Engage in discussions with diverse audiences, expressing ideas clearly and persuasively, building on the ideas of others
- Interpret information presented in a variety of texts and formats (speeches, data/graphs, etc.)
- Break down a speaker's argument and claims to determine what is supported by credible evidence and what is not
- Present claims and findings, adapting speech to a variety of contexts and tasks

### Language

- Use knowledge of language and conventions of spoken and written English (pauses, punctuation, etc.) when writing, speaking, reading, or listening
- Determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases by using a variety of strategies

## Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

### Reading

Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This time should be free from distractions such as television, electronics and cell phones.

#### Try it

Make it a routine! When and where will your child read?

Day (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Time (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.

#### Try it

What topics, events or activities interest your child?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Write down a few book or magazine ideas.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

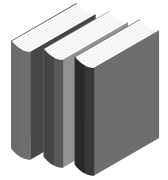
It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.

#### Try it

What are some books you'd like to read this year?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.



#### Try it

List any suggestions you may receive throughout the year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Conversation

Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career.

#### Try it

What can you discuss?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary

Visit museums, zoos, theaters, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your child's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.

#### Try it

Where will you go together? What are some new words you learned?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



## Major Concepts

### Ratios, Percent and Proportional Relationships

- A Ratio is a comparison of two quantities. Like, the ratio of boys to girls is 5:8 means that for every 5 boys there are 8 girls.
- The order in which the numbers are written is important in a ratio.
- A percent (%) is a ratio out of a hundred. So if I say that a student got 56% in class then it means that out of 100 points that were possible, the student scored 56 points.
- When two ratios are equal we call them a proportion together. For example, 5:6 is the same as 10:12. So we can say that 5:6 and 10:12 are equal and form a proportion. Just like a ratio, the order in which we put the numbers is important in a proportion.

### Expressions and Equations

### Geometry

### Statistics and Probability

### Rational numbers

- A rational number can be expressed as a fraction like  $\frac{7}{12}$  or  $\frac{20}{6}$ . The denominator (number on the bottom) cannot be 0.
- Also, if you look at the decimal form of a rational number, the decimal either stops or the numbers start repeating themselves in a pattern, like 5.145145145, where the pattern 145 is repeating after the decimal.
- For an Irrational number, the decimal neither stops nor do the numbers repeat in a pattern. Examples are  $\frac{22}{7}$ , or square root of 2.

## Resources

### Apps

#### Bedtime Math App

#### Thinking Blocks

Ask your child's teacher if they have any additional app suggestions.



### Web

[www.asdk12.org/staff/hoppas\\_mary/pages/Everyday\\_Math\\_Parent\\_Support/Vocabulary\\_Cards.html](http://www.asdk12.org/staff/hoppas_mary/pages/Everyday_Math_Parent_Support/Vocabulary_Cards.html)

[www.teachertube.com/](http://www.teachertube.com/)

[learnzillion.com/math](http://learnzillion.com/math)

## Assessments

**STAR Assessment:** The STAR Assessment is taken in the Fall, Winter and Spring.

- **STAR Assessments** are given district-wide three times per year. Some students' progress is being monitored more often.

**Unit assessments** are given at the end of each module/topic of study.

**Tips to prepare for any assessment:**

- Get a good night's rest (The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 9-12 hours of sleep every night for 6-12 year olds)
- Have a healthy breakfast

## STAR Assessments

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Test Date			
Score			

## Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

### Ratios, Percent and Proportional Relationships

Go to the store, or shop online. Have your child pick out an outfit and list the prices and any discounts below. Find the sale prices and the total with tax using the space below.

#### Try it

Sales tax= \_\_\_\_\_

Item 1= \_\_\_\_\_ Discount? \_\_\_\_\_

Item 2= \_\_\_\_\_ Discount? \_\_\_\_\_

Item 3= \_\_\_\_\_ Discount? \_\_\_\_\_

Item 4= \_\_\_\_\_ Discount? \_\_\_\_\_

### Averages

Track the temperature for each day of one month using the grid below. Find the average temperature for the month.

#### Try it

Month:						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Average Temperature= \_\_\_\_\_

### Operations with Integers

Practice fluency with operations with integers using this card game.

#### Double War:

You will need a deck of cards and at least 2 players

Getting started:

- All of the black cards are positive
- All of the red cards are negative.
- Ace = 1
- Face cards equal 10

Game playing:

1. Divide the deck among all of the players evenly.
2. Decide if the round is multiplication, addition or subtraction.
3. For each round, all of the players put 2 cards face up in front of them.
4. Each player figures out the value of their two cards (using the decided operation).
5. The highest value gets all of the cards that are face up.
6. If there is a tie, the players in a tie puts down two more cards to decide who gets the cards.
7. Play until one player has all of the cards or until you play for 15 minutes. Whoever has the most cards wins!

### Expressions

Practice solving for x with these equation and inequalities. Be sure to check if your solution is correct!

$$2x - 4 = 26$$

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$$19 = \frac{1}{2}x + 7$$

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## Science in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students focus upon Earth and Space science. Students will learn about Astronomy including topics such as :

- Phase change
- Periodic Table
- Energy
- Waves
- Temperature
- Force and Motion
- Electricity and Magnetism

Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade scientists will also continue to conduct investigations and experiments. They will apply the scientific method in order to practice like a scientist. Using the scientific method, 7<sup>th</sup> graders will:

- Question, observe, and research.
- Develops a hypothesis (based on observations and research).
- Make predictions.
- Experiment as well as follow instructions in order to conduct experiments.
- Develops a conclusion.
- Compare the results of an experiment to what is written about the topic throughout their research.

## Science Fair

Each 7<sup>th</sup> grade student will participate in the SUNY ESF Environmental Challenge Science Fair. As part of the curriculum, they will create a science fair project that will be presented, and showcased at the Carrier Dome.

## Assessments

**NYS Science Assessment:** The NYS Science intermediate assessment is given in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It is a 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade assessment, which means materials taught at each grade level 5-8 can be included on the exam. This test consists of 30 multiple choice questions, 15 short answer questions, and a performance test which contains three stations. Material students learn during 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be seen when your student is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

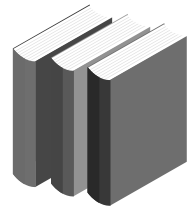
## Resources

### Books

***Older than Dirt: A Wild but True History of Earth***  
by Dan Brown

***Radioactive!***  
by Winifred Conkling

***Teaching Children About Physical Science: Ideas and Activities Every Teacher and Parent Can Use***  
by Elaine Levenson



### Apps

**Classify it!**  
*Sort and group organisms*

**goReact**  
*Virtual chemistry*

**Periodic Table of the Elements App**  
*Periodic table*



## Explore Science Locally

**Baltimore Woods**  
(315) 673-1350

**Beaver Lake Nature Center**  
(315) 638-2519

**Bricks 4 Kidz**  
(315) 632-8592

**Clark's Reservation**  
(315) 492-1590

**The Museum of Science and Technology (MOST)**  
(315) 425-9068

**Rosamond Gifford Zoo**  
(315) 435-8511

**Wonderworks**  
(315) 466-7700





# 7

# Fine Arts



## Arts in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

The arts are an important part of a complete education, allowing students to develop artistic skills in the four artistic processes of creating, presenting/performing, responding, and connecting. In Seventh Grade, students will continue to use their knowledge and skills as artists and musicians.

**Students may also begin/continue instrumental music (Orchestra and Band) instruction in Seventh Grade.**

### Major Concepts

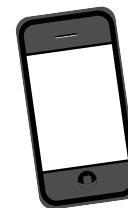
#### Art

- Constant practicing and refining of skills and knowledge previously learned
- Responding to art, artistic literacy

#### Music

- Continued growth in music literacy (pitch and rhythm)
- Musical styles and historical periods

## Resources



#### Art Apps

Sketchbook  
PixPop Art  
DoInk  
ArtSet Pro  
Making Emoji  
Art Project

#### Music Apps

GarageBand  
MonkeyDrum  
Note Perfect  
Ear Trainer  
Note for Little Drummers

#### Dance Apps

QDancer  
Kids Dance  
Pirate Sessa  
GoNoodle

#### Theater Apps

The Complete Fairytale  
Play Theater  
Kids' Theatre Works

Keep up with  
SCSD Arts events  
with the Fine Arts  
calendar!



Art Exhibit	
Date	Location

Music Concerts	
Date	Location

## Arts in the Syracuse Community

Everson Museum of Art  
ArtRage Gallery  
Community Folk Art Center  
Open Hand Theater/  
International Puppet Museum

Stone Quarry Hill Art Park  
Corning Museum of Glass  
Syracuse Stage  
The Redhouse Arts Center

Gifford Family Theater  
Famous Artists Broadway  
Series  
Symphoria

Syracuse Children's Chorus  
Syracuse Children's Theatre  
CNY Jazz

## Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

### Virtual Museum Tour

Google "Virtual Museum Tour" and pick an art museum to explore. Choose a piece of artwork that you see and complete the questions below together.

#### Try it

Title of piece:

\_\_\_\_\_

Artist:

\_\_\_\_\_

How does the artist use lines and line movement:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the colors:

\_\_\_\_\_

What textures do you see?:

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there a sense of movement in the art? In which direction does the movement flow?:

\_\_\_\_\_

How does the art make you feel? What mood does it convey:

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think the artist is trying to accomplish with this art? Do you think they succeeded? How did you decide whether or not they succeeded?:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Discuss Music

Check out any music that you own, turn on the radio, or check out YouTube. Choose a song and complete the questions below together.

#### Try it

Title of song:

\_\_\_\_\_

Musician:

\_\_\_\_\_

Does the song have lyrics? How does the musician use them?:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the sounds you hear. What instruments are used? Are they traditional or electronic?:

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the form of the song? Is there an order to the parts of the song?:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How does the music make you feel? What mood does it convey?:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think the musician was trying to accomplish with this song? Do you think they succeeded? How did you decide whether or not the musician succeeded?:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Physical Education in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

By 7<sup>th</sup> grade children have begun to establish many of the personal habits that will help determine their future health and well-being. Gross motor skills, which involve whole-body movement, are just about fully developed by this age, although your child will continue to refine their skills as they grow and gain more strength. Keep in mind that the information here is intended only as a general guide.

### What Your Child Might Be Learning

- Understands that you need to move 60 minutes every day
- Understands that physical activity helps you learn
- Demonstrate proficient technique for the following patterns: overhand, sidearm, and underhand throw; catching; kicking/punting; striking; trapping; dribbling (hand and foot); and volleying.
- Develop, refine, and demonstrate routines to music.
- Demonstrate body management and object manipulation skills needed for successful participating in individual and dual physical activities.
- Participates in a variety of activities that improve cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility
- Able to use a pedometer and heart rate monitor to measure their current fitness level
- Match personal preferences in physical activities with each of the five areas of health-related fitness.
- Create a personalized fitness program
- Seventh grade students need 10 hours of sleep every evening
- Understands that healthy food provides you with energy
- Understands that physical activity is important for good health

### What Does My Child Need for Physical Education Class?

Students are expected to come to the gym prepared for a class full of learning and DOING

- Safe and secure gym shoes with a non-marking sole.
- Comfortable clothing so kids are free to run, roll, and scoot.
- A positive attitude and lots of energy.

*Proper nutrition, adequate sleep, and physical activity can all impact academic performance and overall mental and physical wellness. Support healthy behaviors at any age.*

### What days does my child have PE class?

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### Grades by Quarter

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

## Resources

### Web

**SHAPE: Society of Health and Physical Educator**  
[www.shapeamerica.org](http://www.shapeamerica.org)

**Fuel Up To Play 60**  
[www.futp60.com](http://www.futp60.com)

**Onondaga Health Department**  
[healthyliving.ongov.net](http://healthyliving.ongov.net)

**Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
[cceonondaga.org/nutrition-health](http://cceonondaga.org/nutrition-health)

**American Heart Association**  
[healthyforgood.heart.org](http://healthyforgood.heart.org)

**Movement and Mindfulness**  
[www.gonoodle.com](http://www.gonoodle.com)

**The Alliance for a Healthier Generation**  
[www.healthiergeneration.org/live\\_healthier/get\\_moving/increase\\_physical\\_activity](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/live_healthier/get_moving/increase_physical_activity)

## Practice at Home!

Help your child learn outside of school using these activities.

### Middle School Sports offered

Fall	Winter	Spring
Football	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Boys Soccer	Girls Basketball	Boys Lacrosse
Girls Soccer	Boys Volleyball	Girls Lacrosse
Girls Swim	Girls Volleyball	Softball
Boys Cross Country	Boys Swim	Boys Outdoor Track
Girls Cross Country	Wrestling	Girls Outdoor Track

### Staying Active

Make time to encourage your child to participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Walking, jogging, biking, swimming or playground play is appropriate activities for you to engage your child.

#### Try it!

What activities can your student incorporate into their weekly schedule?

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*It is also helpful when your child sees other people doing physical activity at home. As a parent/guardian you are the role model. You can get involved in your child's physical activities. Something as simple as a walk in the morning or evening is enough to impact a child and push him or her to stay active.*

### Exploring Interests

#### Try it!

Ask your child what sports, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read about the activity.

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Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career. Visit recreation centers, pools, parks, walking/jogging paths, and other physical activity places to help increase your child's exposure to new activities.

#### Try it!

Where can you visit to increase your child's exposure to new activities?

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### Technology

Use technology to help build your child's interest in physical activity. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions

#### Try it!

Go to [www.onlib.org](http://www.onlib.org) for information on the Onondaga County Public Libraries.

My local County Library Branch is:

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My Local Parks and Recs Department is:

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