



7th Grade



Curriculum  
Overview

**Spooner Middle School**



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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for supporting your child's academic growth and progress. We know that students are more likely to succeed in school when their parents/guardians participate in their educational activities on a daily basis. Staff in the Spooner Area School District have worked hard to identify and provide you with this Curriculum Overview. It contains a sample of the content that your child should master by the end of the school year. While this is not inclusive to all of the material required for graduation at the end of 12th grade, it serves as a resource that can be used when supporting your child throughout the school year.

We have aligned our English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum to the Common Core State Standards and are starting to see positive outcomes in the classroom as teachers and students are becoming more comfortable with expectations. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be more rigorous and relevant to students and reflect the knowledge and skills required for success in college and careers.

Additionally, this document provides recommendations for parents to "extend" student learning at home. Activities and resources are available for each content area at each grade level. Parents are also encouraged to check student progress in Skyward. This will assist parents in monitoring student progress. Another resource is our school district website at [www.spooner.k12.wi.us](http://www.spooner.k12.wi.us). You are encouraged to visit the "parent" tab for additional resources and information.

Above all else, remember to speak with your child's teacher on a regular basis. This communication is very important to your child's success. Their teacher can provide parents with immediate information and feedback intended to support your family successfully meet their needs.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kabdi

Spooner Middle School

Principal

## PARENT AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

*DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, AND EXCEL*

### SKYWARD

Skyward is a tool for parents to assist them track their child's attendance, discipline and grades. Parents can access Skyward at <https://sasd-21.sasd.spooner.k12.wi.us/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wsSky/fwemnu01.w> Please contact your child's school office for assistance to access this information if needed.

### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Today's students are preparing to enter a world in which colleges and businesses are demanding more than ever before. To ensure all students are ready for success after high school, the Common Core State Standards establish clear, consistent guidelines for what every student should know and be able to do in math and English language arts from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents and educators can access additional information at <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

### WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Educational information for parents and students can be accessed on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website at [http://dpi.wi.gov/launchpage\\_parentsstudents](http://dpi.wi.gov/launchpage_parentsstudents).

### SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS

New assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics for grades 3-8. Students will be participating in these assessments beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. For additional information and practice questions please visit their website at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/>.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

### At home, you and your child can:

- Encourage your child to use a variety of sources—books, magazines, videos, interviews, online sources, etc.—to seek information about any topics in which he or she shows interest.
- Involve your child in family decisions by asking him or her to use informational sources to find information to solve real-life problems, i.e. locate reviews online before making a purchase or investigate options for activities in an area your family will visit, and then discuss his or her research before making a decision.
- Encourage your child to read daily. Talk with your child about what he or she is reading.
- Discuss your expectations regarding ethical use of technology, privacy, and online safety with your child. Consult the Netsmartz Workshop (<http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>) for resources and tips you can use when talking with your child about these issues.

# INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY LITERACY

The Spooner Middle School Library Media Program is designed to help our students become effective users of ideas, information, and technology for successful life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Working collaboratively with classroom teachers and specialists, we provide a wide variety of resources, from traditional sources such as books to digital sources such as computer applications and e-books. Students have regular opportunities to select books for personal reading and may participate in the Wisconsin "Battle of the Books." Our mission is to help students develop skills in using media and technology responsibly, conducting research and inquiry, learning independently, and working collaboratively.

## MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

- To choose a variety of media and technology tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.
- To select and use technology tools to communicate ideas and information effectively and productively.

## INFORMATION AND INQUIRY

- To conduct relevant and personally meaningful inquiry and research.
- To evaluate and apply information from a variety of sources in multiple formats to meet personal and academic needs.

## INDEPENDENT LEARNING

- To read, view, and listen for pleasure, personal growth, and learning.
- To demonstrate self-motivation and personal responsibility for learning.

## LEARNING COMMUNITY

- To use media and technology tools to work productively in a collaborative learning environment
- To demonstrate responsible and ethical use of information and technology in both physical and online learning environments.
- To respect intellectual property rights and recognize the importance of free and open access to information in a democratic society.

## RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RtI)

RtI allows the school district to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of individual students. Students who need academic interventions as well as enrichment are supported in this initiative. Additionally the parent is a key component of their child's education. Parent and family resources can be found at <http://www.wisconsinrticenter.org/parents-and-family.html>.

## PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Our Parent Teacher Organization strives to enhance children's educational experiences. Our primary objective as a PTO is to provide our school with funds, programs, resources, and services that will enrich and maximize the education of every child. To meet this important objective, and afford services that are no longer covered by our school budgets, we must fundraise. Though it may not be our favorite responsibility, it is a necessary one. Our school community must raise money if we want to provide our children with such items as updated technology, library books, school improvements, incentive prizes, grade and curriculum based assemblies, etc. Our goal, simply stated, is creating a better school and a better educational experience for our children. We strive to create an atmosphere where teachers, administrators, and support staff can do their best work – and so can our children. Becoming a member does not mean you automatically sign up to volunteer, it just means you support our group and believe in what we're doing.

## PTO COMMUNICATIONS

- Visit the Spooner School website – [www.spooner.k12.wi.us](http://www.spooner.k12.wi.us). Simply click on PTO under the "For Parents" section for access to all PTO related activities and information.
- PTO Parent Email Distribution List – To be added to our distribution list please include your
- E-mail address on the Membership envelope or simply contact an Executive Board Member and request to be added.
- Spooner Area Schools PTO is also on Facebook. Simply visit our page and click "Like".

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

This course is designed to polish foundational writing, reading, speaking and researching skills learned in the primary grades. Furthermore, students will transition to deeper thinking and meaning in preparation for secondary English classes. There are three genres/themes throughout the year; historical fiction, realistic fiction (adventure), and nonfiction (biography/memoirs). The first unit focuses on the relationship between character and setting, in addition to the historical fiction set during time periods being read. Also, exploring the history of the English language; and learning figurative language. The second unit focuses on improving word choice and descriptive writing skills. In addition, using credible resources, citing sources and evidence in writing. The last unit focuses on exploring the role of writing in the business world with an emphasis on formal writing, analyzing word choice in advertising, and speaking.

## READING

- To analyze how story elements can interact in literature (how setting shapes the character or plot).
- To recognize, consider, and use figurative meaning in one's own writing and the writing of others.
- To critique the same text in multiple mediums (such as a book and movie).
- To make inferences from a piece of writing and support those inferences with evidence.
- To evaluate an opinion or claim and determine whether it is supported by evidence.

## WRITING

- To conduct research on a variety of topics and use the research to support a thesis or position.
- To write for a variety of purposes and audiences, including fiction and formal non-fiction.
- To improve word choice by mastering thesaurus use and understanding the subtle differences between synonyms (difference between *cackle* and *laugh*).
- To properly organize a piece of writing to clarify meaning and share information in a logical way.
- To use proper search engine queries to locate relevant, reliable information in an efficient manner.

## CHOIR

Performance-based class designed to introduce choral concepts, including part-singing, vocal production/technique, proper diction, music theory and history, ear-training, and appropriate stage presence and behavior. This ensemble will perform music of all types concentrating on standard choral literature.

### OBJECTIVES

- Rehearse and perform a wide variety of music from different time periods.
- Develop excellent choral ensemble habits and daily rehearsal techniques.
- To improve individual vocal skills.
- To utilize proper concert etiquette both as a performer and audience member.
- To learn to manage stress related to public performances.
- To develop a team concept and cultivate excellent work habits.
- To acquire fundamental skills in music theory.

## SPANISH

Introduction to Spanish is a semester long course that meets on A and B day. This class is open to all 7th grade students. This Spanish course is designed to explore the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn a variety of basic Spanish concepts such as “saludos y despedidas” (greetings and farewells), los días de la semana (the days of the week), “los meses” (the months), “los colores” (the colors), “la ropa” (clothing) among other concepts and useful expressions. A variety of different activities and games are incorporated to learn and practice the target language. Students will also learn about the Hispanic culture through music, holidays, and projects (students will be making “maracas”).

## LEARNING BEYOND THE CORE

### ART

ART is a semester long course that meets on A and B days. It is designed to build upon the knowledge and skills acquired in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Art and will move at an average pace. With a variety of art materials, students will focus on learning and skill building through the use of the Elements and Principles of Design in their artwork and daily life. Each student will be able to work independently on a variety of projects that are aligned with state standards in the visual arts.

### BAND

This class is an introduction to instrumental music with a fundamental focus on the principles of music education and performance through the venues provided such as marching band, concert band, small ensemble performance, solo performance and audition-based ensembles regionally and statewide. This course also serves as a preparation for students interested in music-related classes in high school. This course is recommended for students who have an interest in developing and improving their existing musical skills. The class provides students with fundamental skills and knowledge and diverse experience necessary to succeed in performance-based situations. This course is designed to analyze artistic performance in both subjective and objective manners. Students will be evaluated through their performances, class assignments and other auditions. Evaluations will be objective as well as subjective in nature. Instrumental Music fulfills an elective requirement in middle school.

### SPEAKING AND LISTENING

- To discuss issues and texts by building on others' ideas, using relevant information and following general rules for orderly discourse.
- To use visuals like posters, models or digital slideshows to support your position.

### LANGUAGE

- To understand the function of dependent and independent clauses and their role in constructing simple, complex and compound sentences.
- To understand how to use commas to separate coordinate adjectives.
- To improve our spelling skills and spell words at grade level.
- To understand the complicated history of the English language and use this understanding to decipher prefixes, suffixes and root words in our language.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

### At home, you and your child can:

- Every week sit down with your student and review grades on Family Access.
- Provide and read with/alongside your child, a wide range of reading material at home like magazines, newspapers, and books.
- Encourage you student to read at home every day. Set aside a time of day to create a routine and value of reading.
- Demonstrate and discuss how you use Language Arts skills every day. For example: reading directions, filling out an application, answering questions in an interview, or writing a letter.
- Easy sites to access:  
<https://newsela.com/>  
<http://www.usatoday.com/>  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

## MATHEMATICS

College Preparatory Mathematics is used as the 7th grade curriculum. CPM is based around the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Content. This course helps extend students' understanding of numbers and computation to include integers and proportional reasoning. Areas of focus are integers, rational numbers, expression and equations, inequalities, ratios and proportions, percents, scale drawings, circles and area, surface area and volume, and probability and statistics. As students explore these different concepts, they will be asked to problem solve using abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry to answer an essential question at the beginning of each unit. The goal of this course is to build on and master basics mathematical skills at a higher level of thinking to help prepare students for higher level math courses.

### INTEGERS

- Students will understand integer rules while adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers.

### RATIONAL NUMBERS

- Students will add, subtract, multiply and divide rational numbers.
- Students will apply properties of operations.
- Students will convert rational numbers to a decimal using long division.

### EXPRESSIONS AND EQUATIONS

- Students will add, subtract, factor, and expand linear expressions with rational coefficients.
- Students will write, graph, and solve one step equations including negative numbers.
- Students will solve two step equations.

### INEQUALITIES

- Students will solve one-step inequalities involving integers and rational numbers.
- Students will solve two step inequalities.

### RATIOS AND PROPORTIONS

- Students will find unit rates associated with ratios of fractions, areas, and other quantities in like or different units.
- Students will decide whether two quantities are proportional using ratio tables and graphs.
- Students will represent proportional relationships with equations. Students will explain what point  $(x,y)$  means on a proportional graph.
- Students will use proportionality to solve ratio problems.

## HISTORY

- To analyze connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts and classify events as examples of continuity or change.
- To explain how and why perspectives of people have changed over time and understand how multiple factors influenced the perspective of people over time.
- To explain and evaluate multiple causes and effects of events and developments in the past.
- To classify various historical sources and evaluate their relevance to the historical record based on evidence gathered about them.

## GEOGRAPHY

- To observe, analyze, and explain human-environment interactions and how culture influences the types of interactions that occur.
- To construct and use maps of various types to represent and explain the spatial patterns of culture and environmental characteristics.
- To explain spatial patterns of human population movement and how it is influenced by political, economic, and environmental change.
- To analyze the ways in which cultural and environmental characteristics vary among various regions of the world.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

### At home, you and your child can:

- Use Family Access to review grades with your child on a regular basis.
- Watch the news with your child and discuss how current events relate history, geography, and the other themes of social studies.
- Regularly question your child about social studies class and encourage them to talk about the topics we are exploring.
- Practice map reading with your child and discuss how maps are used in our daily lives.



## SOCIAL STUDIES

The course of study for 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies is designed to explore the geography, history, culture, government, and economics of the countries in the Eastern Hemisphere with a focus on geographic skills and thinking. The course is intended to expand student's understanding of people, places, and environments throughout various parts of the world while using the tools of geographers such as maps, photos, and satellite images. Students are encouraged to become geographic thinkers and to learn to answer geography's two most important questions; where are things located and why they are located there. The course is broken down into several units that focus on specific regions of our planet. In term 1 we focus on the regions of Australia, New Zealand, and North Africa. During term 2 we explore Southern Africa and Russia. In term 3 our efforts are placed on learning about Central Asia and the Middle East. During term 4 we focus on the India subcontinent, China, and Eastern Asia.

## CIVICS

- To describe the roles of political, civil, and economic organizations in shaping people's lives.
- To explain the relevance of personal interests and perspectives, civic virtues, and democratic principles when people address issues and problems in government and society.
- To understand rules and laws as a way of addressing public problems and analyze the purposes, implementation, and consequences of those public policies in multiple settings.
- To compare historical and contemporary ways of changing societies, and promoting the common good.

## ECONOMICS

- To understand why people specialize and trade, and how that leads to economic interdependence.
- To describe the role of competition in the determination of prices and wages in a market economy.

## PERCENTS

- Students will compare fractions, decimals, and percents.
- Students will use proportions to solve percent problems.
- Students will use the percent equation.
- Students will solve percent problems involving percents of increase and decrease and simple interest.

## CONSTRUCTIONS AND SCALE DRAWINGS

- Students will use supplementary, complementary, vertical, and adjacent angles.
- Students will draw geometric shapes with given conditions, focusing on triangles and quadrilaterals.
- Students will reproduce a scale drawing at a different scale.
- Students will represent proportional relationships with equations.
- Students will use proportionality to solve ratio problems.
- Students will use scale drawing to compute lengths and areas.

## CIRCLES AND AREA

- Students will understand pi and its estimates.
- Students will use pi to estimate and calculate the circumference and area of circles.
- Students will find perimeters and areas of composite two-dimensional figures, including semi-circles.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

### At home, you and your child can:

- Review the online information about CPM at <http://cpm.org/>
- Encourage your student to work on math skills through various websites such as Khan Academy and Moby Max
- Demonstrate or discuss how you use math each day.
- At home, you and your child can:
- Every week sit down with your student and review grades on Family Access on Skyward.
- Review daily homework and notes from class. Have students teach you what they learned in class.
- Include students in everyday math skills.
- Balancing a checkbook, calculating a tip at a restaurant, measurements while do household building/chores, telling time, calculating a total bill after a percent is applied, etc.
- Practice basic math skills. Use flashcards to review addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills.
- Play math related/problem solving games with your students.
- Cribbage, sequence, checkers/chest, multiplication war, etc.

## SCIENCE

This course is designed to help students understand the scientific process of developing and testing ideas, through traditional disciplines of life science including botany, zoology, and human anatomy. Students apply knowledge and skills they began developing in 5<sup>th</sup> grade science to complete hands-on laboratory experiences, inquiry, research, and writing. First quarter focuses on structure and process. Second quarter breaks down organisms' interactions. Third quarter compares and contrasts inheritance and variation of traits. Fourth quarter analyzes unity and diversity in organisms.

### MOLECULES TO ORGANISMS

- Conduct an investigation to provide evidence that living things are made of cells.
- Develop and use a model to describe the function of a cell as a whole and ways parts of cell contribute to the function.
- Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of an organism.
- Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for the role of photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and flow of energy into and out of organism.

### ECOSYSTEMS

- Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations of organisms in an ecosystem.
- Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.
- Develop a model to describe cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and non-living parts of an ecosystem.

### HEREDITY

- Develop and use a model to describe why structural changes to genes located on chromosomes may affect organisms in a variety of ways.
- Develop and use a model to asexual reproduction results in genetically identical offspring and sexual reproduction results in offspring with variations.

### BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION

- Analyze and interpret fossil records.
- Construct an explanation based on evidence that describes how genetic variations of traits in a population increase some individuals' probability of surviving and reproducing in a specific environment
- Use mathematical representation to support explanations of how natural selection may lead to increases and decreases in specific traits in populations over time.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

### At home, you and your child can:

- Discuss family traits and how they have been passed on.
- Spend time outside observing the environment.
- Develop and awareness of what natural resources are being used everyday.