

WHAT'S GOING ON IN SCHOOL?
MS 447 7th Grade Curriculum Updates Fall 2020

Subject	Curriculum Overview for MP1 (12/14/20)
Imagine NYC	<p>Imagine NYC is a project-based learning experience that every student engaged with as we began our academic year. Our goals were to create a community among classmates and teachers that works for everyone, and to learn and practice skills to help us succeed in our very different learning environment. The core of the unit centered around issues that have affected each of us and our fellow New Yorkers over the past six months. Our driving question asked, how can we make NYC a better place for New Yorkers to live? Students explored topics of interest that relate to the pandemic and racial justice, identifying problems and possible solutions, and presenting findings at a virtual event.</p>
English Language Arts	<p>At the end of October, we will read <i>Seedfolks</i> as a class. We will work on close reading and inferencing, and we will analyze character development and theme. Alongside this whole class text, we will be launching independent reading, and every student will read their own novel of choice. Students should be reading for approximately 2 hours per week, including time set aside during class. We will also build in paragraph writing to review TEAL format and to build on writing claims and citing evidence from the text. Students will write paragraphs and complete creative reading responses throughout the book study.</p> <p>The culminating project for this first unit will be a student-produced podcast around the topic of “community.” Students will be drafting and conducting interviews, and scripting and recording their own podcast episodes for this project.</p>
Math	<p>We started our first unit, “Working with rational numbers” on October 1st. This will take us to the beginning of November, when we will begin our second unit, “Working with expressions”. The 7th grade math team feels that the foundation for being successful in math is staying organized and showing your work. Whether our students are working remotely or in school, we expect everyone to have a dedicated math notebook where they can take notes and work through the math problems. We would appreciate encouragement at home to have students turn on their cameras while in remote math class. We have noticed that having cameras on increases engagement and participation, which will contribute to our students’ learning experiences. We are really excited to get to know your child and look forward to working with them this year.</p>
Science	<p>As an introduction to 7th Grade Science, students have discussed the nature of science and its foundational skills, like making</p>

	<p>observations, inferences and asking questions.</p> <p>We are soon beginning our Chemistry unit, and we are working on developing possible hands-on activities that help engage the students more, while reinforcing the concepts. These activities will be supplemented by interactive, online simulations.</p> <p>Other units this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Electricity and Magnetism • Forces and Motion <p>Our goal is to have students apply their knowledge toward real-world engineering and problem-solving situations. We build upon skills students learn in their ELA and Math classes.</p> <p>Both in-person and remote lessons usually involve note-taking, small group discussion and independent practice. Students should make sure to be prepared by having a notebook and writing utensil with them, as well as keeping up with the assignments posted in Google Classroom.</p> <p>If students have questions, they can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to a peer and/or • Email one of us • Set up an appointment to meet with us during Office Hours <p>We are excited to get to know our students this year, as we help them explore and question the world around them!</p>
Social Studies	<p>Social Studies 7 begins the first part of a two-year study in American history. We will explore the origins and early development of the United States through the reading and analysis of historical narratives and original documents. Each unit features a creative project that allows students to understand the foundations of our country and its continuing impact on our society today. Across the year our priorities are to improve literacy skills - citing and evaluating evidence from texts, creating and defending claims in writing, etc. - and to access American history in an engaging, relevant way.</p> <p>Our first unit exists in two parts: an investigation of the Colonial Era, and a personal oral history project of how we each came to live in the United States. We will begin thinking about identity and the importance of storytelling in learning about history. Throughout the unit we weave the history of our country alongside our own.</p>
Exploration	<p>Exploration is an interdisciplinary, project-based curriculum. Learning is collaborative, inquiry-driven, and draws upon diverse resources both inside and outside the classroom, to practice real-life problem solving and build knowledge. Our program offers</p>

	<p>interdisciplinary enrichment opportunities in the areas of science, technology, mathematics, humanities. the arts and social consciousness.</p> <p>Our first unit this year is “Art for Social Change”. Students will learn about different social causes, see how artists ranging from fashion designers to poets have responded to social causes, and understand how their voices can have an impact on the world through creative expression.</p> <p>Students will maintain a unit portfolio and will be assessed on project planning, project completion, and reflection.</p> <p>We look forward to supporting students in creating hands-on projects!</p>
Art	During the first cycle of art students will be introduced to Graphic Novel Illustration, Optical Art, Surrealism, DaDa art and the art of Yayoi Kusama and Nick Cave. We meet live on Zoom each class after a brief independent drawing warm up. After our meet students will work asynchronously on their independent work.
Music	Music meets live on Zoom for every class. We begin each class with a listening activity followed by a physical and vocal warmup. We sing a variety of music, study how to play musical instruments, and learn how to read music notation and symbols.
Dance	We meet live on zoom each class. We warm up as a group, learn choreography, and then use the choreography to make group dances to share at the end of each unit. This year we are studying choreographers and our first choreographer is Ronald K. Brown and the next one is Pearl Primus.
Theater	We meet live on zoom for each class. We begin Theatre class with 3 minutes of relaxation, followed by Theater activities. We play ensemble building theater games, learn improvisation techniques, engage in playwriting exercises, and work on scene study with partners in breakout rooms. Students reflect on their work verbally and in journals.
Physical Education	We meet live on zoom for every class! Class structure: Stretching, Stretch of Day, Exercise of Day, Essential Question, Topic of Day, Workout and Reflection. During the first cycle our main focus is Fitness. Topics include: 5 components of fitness, 6 related components of fitness, HITT (High, Intensity, Interval, Training), Tabata and many others.
Health	There are two main units in Health: The Mind-Body Connection, and Sexual Health--each takes up approximately half of the school year. During the Mind-Body Connection unit, we discuss emotional

	<p>wellbeing, nutrition, exercise, and substance abuse. Students are actively taking notes during each class and completing independent work or exit slips for a weekly grade. The unit will culminate in an open-notebook quiz, loosely anticipated in January.</p>
Technology	<p>In our first unit, students are learning more about how to use Google Slides as a tool to creatively present information. As a group project for this unit students are creating "Choose Your Own Adventure" interactive stories. They're focusing on design elements like formatting text, images, and backgrounds, best practices for using images from the internet, and linking objects on a slide to other slides in the presentation.</p> <p>We almost always meet live on Zoom. Since Computer Apps only meets once per week, when work is not completed during our meeting period, it may be necessary to finish it outside of class time.</p>
Advisory	<p>The advisory program helps support social and emotional learning throughout all grades with a focus on the five interrelated sets of cognitive and behavioral competencies; <i>self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.</i></p>