



# The Atlanta Academy

## **7th Grade Curriculum**

### **Language Arts**

During seventh grade students will strengthen their grammar and writing skills. The primary aim is to provide the tools, resources and inspiration for students to become better writers. Students are taught through a writing workshop approach, where poetry and mini-lessons will integrate grammar, punctuation, genres, and principles of good writing into the writing process. The students will learn to write and publish written work in various genres, including poetry, a memoir, a short story, a book review and persuasive essay.

### **Vocabulary / Literature**

Students must have a good command of language in order to become good readers. Therefore, we will focus on increasing their vocabulary skills. They will master words listed in their vocabulary text. Twenty words per week will be assigned as homework each night. They will learn the definition, synonym, antonym, part of speech and sentence usage. A quiz on each unit will be given to test their study skills and mastery. These skills will be reinforced in their writing assignments.

The primary aim of the literature program is for every student to appreciate, understand, and enjoy some of the classics. Reading will be taught through specifically chosen works. Students will learn to identify the author's purpose, theme, conflict, characters, settings and conclusion. They will master these skills and become discriminating critics of the written word. At the conclusion, students will be given a test on the novel. We will read from famous authors like: Golding, Steinbeck, Lee, Orwell, Hemingway, Shakespeare, and others.

### **Mathematics**

Mathematics in the Middle School encourages problem solving, critical thinking, and mathematical inquiry. The aim is for all middle school students to become free thinkers, applying their math foundations to solve real world problems. In seventh grade students begin the process of developing critical thinking skills that are a vital component in algebraic investigations. Through application and mathematical language, students will investigate and explore the concepts of integers, equations and inequalities. At this grade level, measurement is emphasized and implemented through an interdisciplinary approach. Pre-Algebra and Algebra are offered. Placement is determined by the mathematics department



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## **Social Studies**

We will be using *The American Journey*, textbook. This course will highlight the important people, places, and events that helped shape America. Some of the key concepts, historical references and periods that will be taught are as follows: early exploration, colonial settlements, American Revolution, the United States Constitution, manifest destiny, expansionism, Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrial Revolution, reform movements, Great Depression and FDR, WWI and WWII, Cold War, civil rights era, Korean and Vietnam Wars, and a look at more contemporary government administrations. Standardized test practice will be part of the curriculum. In addition, current events will be used often to encourage critical thinking on modern day issues that will affect our lives.

## **Science**

During the year students will focus on two main content areas Life and Physical. First we will start with the basic unit of life, the cell, and progress through cell processes and heredity. After we complete the study of life, we will study a variety of Physical science topics such as waves, sound, light, mirrors and lenses. Students complete dissections and various labs throughout the school year which encompass all areas of Science.

## **Spanish**

This course is level II Spanish. Students start using more complex features of the Spanish language. The goal is to focus on the development of communicative competence and the understanding of the Hispanic culture and civilization. The language is taught with emphasis on both writing and speaking.

## **Band**

Open to all Middle School students regardless of experience. Each student selects their particular instrument and continues to further develop their skills all year. This is the fine-tuning stage of learning their instrument before going on to High School. Students perform at least three times each year: Grandparent's Day, Christmas and Night of the Arts.

## **Technology**

Students spend the first quarter using the typing program "Mavis Beacon Typing Tutor". 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> quarters students are introduced to new computer skills while using PCs and Apple computers. Students create cross-curriculum projects using a variety of programs and applications. Applications include but are not limited to multimedia, Microsoft: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Publisher, and I-Works: Numbers, Pages, and Keynote. Applications are taught in both the PC and Apple formats.



## The Atlanta Academy

### **Media Center**

Students are given a library orientation and review at the beginning of the school year. Middle School students come on an as needed basis. Students in these grades should have a continually increasing knowledge and understanding of library and research skills. Students continue to become aware of and proficient in the use of resources available for research. Students are encouraged to work independently and locate needed materials for both research and leisure reading with minimal assistance from media center staff. Informal, one-on-one teaching based upon the students needs and understanding is provided.

### **Art**

Students will be exposed to a broad range of mediums. Through drawing, painting, ceramics and mixed mediums we will develop our skills for seeing and interpreting the world around us. Students will make pottery, paint landscapes, self-portraits and much more to explore our visual world. As artists in class, students will have the freedom to find and explore their own sense of style and creativity. Through art history the class will look at how art has developed through the years, while studying specific artists and their respective movements. Students will learn the technical skills used by professional artists, while discovering their own personal style.

### **Physical Education**

The seventh grade program builds on the concepts taught and practiced in the fifth and sixth grades and helps the student understand the rules and regulations involved in sports participation. The fitness and health-related advantages of activity participation are also emphasized. The seventh grade will participate in the below listed activities throughout the year: lacrosse, softball, ultimate frisbee, flag football, fitness testing, tennis, badminton, basketball, soccer, team handball, and volleyball. Each student also participates in the President's Fitness Challenge and has the opportunity to win the President's Physical Fitness Award. Students have PE twice a week for 50 minutes



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### **Exploratory**

Students will go to exploratory class once a week. They will rotate through four different classes. Each class will last for one quarter. The music and art exploratory are in addition to the regular special classes. Some of the courses offered include:

- SSAT- 8th Grade Only
- Health
- Music (ensemble practice)
- Art- Photography (Digital Cameras)
- Community Outreach with Officer Hood which will include: discussing civil rights, making good choices, and learning about laws in the Legislative branch of government.