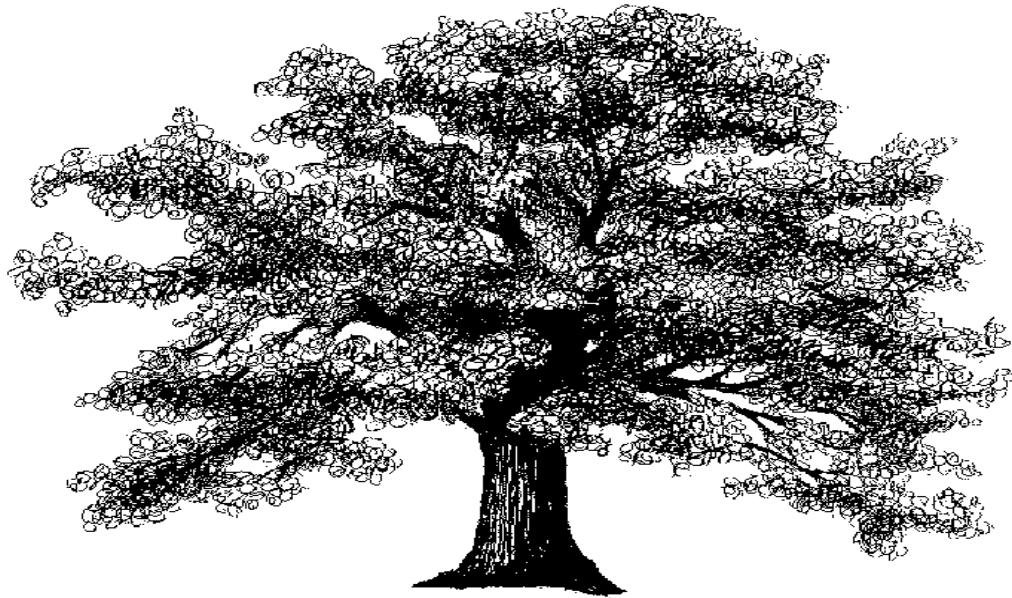


SAVANNA OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Website: soms.verona.k12.wi.us



CURRICULUM HANDBOOK SEVENTH GRADE

2017 – 2018

Student Name:



Savanna Oaks
Middle School

Principal Sandy Eskrich

Associate Principal Pete Christofferson

February, 2017

Dear Savanna Oaks Families,

This Curriculum Handbook describes the sequence of classes and choices each learner may make as he or she navigates 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at Savanna Oaks.

All students' core classes include language arts, math, science and social studies. Encore and exploratory classes are offered in the areas of music, physical education, family and consumer education, art, world languages and technology education.

Savanna Oaks provides a variety of levels of instruction to differentiate for our learners. We also provide personalized learning approaches that we believe will meaningfully engage each learner at his or her next steps. We offer students voice and choice in activities that allow them to explore and demonstrate mastery of learning standards.

We hope you will find the handbook to be a practical guide to you as you examine the required and elective course offerings.

If you have any questions relating to our curriculum, please call Savanna Oaks Middle School at 845-4000.

Sincerely,

Sandy Eskrich, Principal
Savanna Oaks Middle School

The Verona Area School District is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex or sexual orientation, economic status, age, national origin, handicap, marital status, political affiliation, arrest or conviction record or any other factor provided for by state and federal laws and regulations.

SEVENTH GRADE CLASSES

CORE CLASSES

Language Arts
Math
Science
Social Studies
Read-to-Succeed (R2S)

ENCORE/EXPLORATORY

Physical Education

Exploratory Classes

Art
Information and Technology Literacy
Family and Consumer Education
Exploring Spanish
Spanish Literacy - for native speakers.

Music Choices:

Band
Orchestra
Instrumental Music for Beginners
Choir

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEVENTH GRADE

REQUIRED CLASSES

Language Arts

The seventh grade Language Arts curriculum focuses on the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students develop their reading skills through the study of literature that is introduced in a variety of formats and units. Some of the units include Short Stories, Poetry, WW II, Multiple Novels, Informational Texts, and Book Reports - which introduce students to a wide selection of genres. Classic literature is also explored through the study of Shakespeare and World Mythology. Oral presentations, by the students, are an expectation to promote successful experiences in the speaking and listening components within the Common Core Standards of Reading.

Students continue to develop their writing skills with an emphasis on using the writing process. Writer's workshop is based on the work of Lucy Calkins; incorporating common core standards and different forms of research. Writing units include poetry, argumentative/persuasive, realistic fiction and informational/expository.

Math

The focus in seventh grade math is the 7th grade Common Core Standards and Mathematical Practices. The topics of study are ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability. We also work heavily in the math practices. The Standards for Mathematical Practice describe how students should approach mathematics. The goal of the practice standards is to instill in all students the abilities to be mathematically literate and to create a positive disposition for the importance of using math effectively.

Science

The seventh grade science course focuses on the processes and structures of living things. Topics covered include Structure, Function, and Information Processing, Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms, and Natural Selection and Adaptations. Students will continue to learn science in ways that best fit their personal learning style. While doing experiments and activities students will be given the opportunity to investigate and learn both from individual and group experimental inquiries.

Social Studies

The Seventh Grade Social Studies course is designed to connect ideas and themes from the past to current issues facing our global community today. Scholars will have the discretion to choose which lenses they would like to use to address **three perennial themes** throughout the school-year: power, revolution and conflict. These themes will be addressed through case studies from the Eastern Hemisphere.

The focal objective of the course is to create a cohesive group of global citizens who understand current policies by referring to a wide range of historical contexts. This objective is designed to build upon the geographical, historical, political and economic skills obtained in 6th Grade.

Physical Education

In seventh grade physical education, our units include soccer, fitness testing, basketball, ropes course, football, floor hockey, softball, platform tennis and adventure education. During gym class, we work to create a positive learning experience that capitalizes on each student's natural love of movement. We encourage students of all athletic abilities to learn and play to the best of their ability. This philosophy helps to create a positive attitude about physical activity and set the stage for a healthy, active life.

ENCORE/EXPLORATORY CLASSES

Each seventh grader takes Art, Information Technology Literacy (computer), Family and Consumer Education, and Spanish for a nine-week period. A brief description of each class is listed below:

Art

The art course in seventh grade provides the students with a sampling of available art mediums and techniques. The students learn to use the Elements & Principles of Design in their art productions. They also develop independent and creative thinking skills in order to solve visual problems. The current areas of focus include: line & value drawing, patterns in design, clay coil hand-building, use of color in drawing, acrylic painting techniques, art history, multicultural art forms, and a study of the applied (design) arts.

Information and Technology Literacy

In this year's Information and Technology class, we will be covering new topics in the technology realm including: robotics, computer animation, 3D drawing and printing, web 2.0 utilization, cyber bullying, online plagiarism, data analysis, and much more. The course was designed to meet the standards described by the International Society for Technology in Education. The students will work on the following goals throughout the course: Creativity and Innovation, Communication and Collaboration, Research and Fluency, Critical Thinking, Digital Citizenship, and Technology Concepts.

Family and Consumer Education

In seventh grade Family and Consumer Education, students look more in depth at family related issues including family roles and responsibilities, community service, personal financial literacy, cyber bullying and human growth and development. In

addition, students will explore the nutritional challenges that face today's teens. Students will continue to develop kitchen management skills through their participation in food labs.

Exploring Spanish

Students in seventh grade all take one quarter of Spanish. In this class students work toward reading, writing, speaking and understanding the language. Study includes the culture of the Mayas and current festivals that occur during the quarter the student has the class. The coursework provides opportunities for projects and oral practice.

Curriculum: Culture of Mexico, focus may change. Common phrases, tú versus usted, numbers to 100, subject pronouns, Ser and adjectives, weather, telling time, definite and indefinite articles, the body, gustarle and verbs.

Lectura - Spanish Literacy for Native Speakers

This one-quarter long class is available to students that speak Spanish as their first or second language. The focus of the class is to enrich the understanding of written and spoken Spanish in an academic setting. Seventh grade Language Arts skills are reinforced in Spanish through listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students learn foundational native Spanish skills with emphasis on building academic vocabulary, practicing foundational grammar, and learning language-specific phonetics. Scholars read several short stories and complete homework and projects. The class is taught in Spanish and English and participation in Spanish is expected.

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Note: Band, Orchestra, Instrumental Music for Beginners, and Choir are year-long classes. Changing music classes mid-year is typically not an option due to section sizes and experience.

Band

Band class for seventh grade musicians is a continuation of the 6th grade experience. Performance and personal skill are further developed and reinforced. These musicians may also be involved in Jazz Ensemble, Solo and Ensemble Festival and other small group or solo activities. Band class is designed to be challenging, fast-paced and fun!

Students must have taken summer band or have prior playing experience to be in this group.

Orchestra

Seventh grade orchestra meets every day. Orchestra students develop intermediate skills in music reading, bowing technique, and left hand accuracy. This orchestra gives three to four evening concerts each year. Additionally, students in the 7th grade orchestra are eligible to participate in the Savanna Oaks Solo/Ensemble Festival.

Students must have at least one year of playing experience to be scheduled for seventh grade orchestra.

Instrumental Music for Beginners

This class is an opportunity for seventh and eighth graders who do not play an instrument to learn a brass, woodwind, or string instrument, or for current music students to learn an additional instrument. The course will cover the basic note-reading, rhythm, tone production and technique necessary for beginners to play in a music ensemble. After completing this course, students will be eligible to enroll in band or orchestra for the following school year. There may be performance opportunities for some or all students who are enrolled in this course.

7th Grade Treble Clef Choir

Students in this choir learn about the mechanics of singing and work on musical literacy in a group setting while preparing literature written or arranged for two- and three-part female voices as well as singing several songs per year as part of a mixed voice choir. Students continue to work on the skills of cooperation, dedication and self-discipline necessary for a performing group. In addition to required evening concerts, optional participation in festivals, solo and ensemble contest, and honor choirs are also available. All 7th grade **girls** who have a desire to sing are welcome to join this year-long class.

7th and 8th Bass Clef Choir

Students in this choir learn about the mechanics of singing, the nature of the voice change in adolescent males, and work on musical literacy in a group setting while preparing literature written or arranged for two- and three part male voices as well as singing several songs per year as part of a mixed voice choir. Students continue to work on the skills of cooperation, dedication and self-discipline necessary for a performing group. In addition to required evening concerts, optional participation in festivals, solo and ensemble contest, and honor choirs are also available. All 7th and 8th grade **boys** who have a desire to sing are welcome to join this year long class. As 8th graders, students are allowed to take one or both semesters in order to accommodate other elective options.

STUDENT SUPPORT

School Counselors

Middle school counselors help students focus on academic, personal/social, and career development in their efforts to achieve success in school and life. Counselors work with all students in classroom settings and are also available to meet with students individually and occasionally in group settings. Classroom lessons vary by grade level and include: drug and alcohol prevention, career exploration, community building and bullying/harassment prevention. Individual and group work with students can range from organization, work strategies, and conflict resolution to social, behavioral and emotional concerns. Counselors often collaborate with parents, administrators, teachers, and other student services personnel to facilitate the best possible middle

school experience for each child. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's counselor at any time to be a sounding board about issues that may be affecting your child's school life, and/or help to problem-solve with your child around organization, motivation, negotiating friendship issues, etc

Social Worker

The primary function of the school social worker is to promote the emotional, social and mental well being and adjustment of students. The school social worker provides direct and indirect services to students, parents and school staff. These may include counseling and family intervention, groups, consultation with staff or parents, liaison with community agencies, classroom instruction, and coordination and implementation of district programs. The social worker role includes advocacy for children and families in the school system and community programs. The school social worker is the liaison for families in transition.

School Psychologist

The school psychologist helps to determine the educational needs of students who are having significant difficulty finding success at school. The psychologist provides direct and indirect services to students, collaborating regularly with school staff and parents/guardians. The school psychologist also conducts assessments of students to help determine special education needs related to learning, behavior, and social/emotional functioning. Other services provided by the psychologist include educational planning, and program development, individual or small group intervention to address academic/behavioral needs, liaison with mental health providers in the community, and coordination of school services with other school staff.

Learning Resource Coordinator

The Learning Resource Coordinator (LRC) works to enhance teaching and learning at Savanna Oaks Middle School. In collaboration with teachers, the LRC provides data about, and suggests strategies to meet the needs of learners. The LRC facilitates the administration of district and statewide assessments and provides information to parents and works with parents and students to help students access programs that meet their learning needs.

Literacy Coach

The Literacy Coach facilitates progress towards literacy goals at Savanna Oaks Middle School.

The coach supports teachers in their daily work as reading instructors to meet students' unique reading needs. The coach conducts both formal trainings and ongoing job-embedded professional learning that increases teacher ability to meet the needs of students. The coach is responsible for the administration of the Achieve 3000 non-fiction reading program including: testing, data-analysis, daily problem solving, contests and incentives.

Special Education

Savanna Oaks provides instructional services and supports that meet the needs of all of our students. Special education services address the individual needs of any student who meets state eligibility criteria for special education programming. Our cross-categorical services provide educational programs for students with learning, speech, behavioral, physical, health, hearing, visual, developmental and/or cognitive disabilities. Students may receive services on an individual basis, in small groups, and/or in the large group classroom. These services address a diverse range of learning needs including academic, functional, behavioral, prevocational, social-emotional, cognitive, and/or adaptive.

Reading

All Savanna Oaks teachers embed reading instruction and content area reading into their classes using reading strategy instruction and Achieve 3000 articles (Associated Press non-fiction articles). This is done strategically by providing learners with access to text that is both motivating, connected to content, and leveled to provide them with appropriate challenges and high level reasoning and writing expectations.

Reading is the building block of learning. At Savanna Oaks, we offer multiple approaches that support a literacy-rich environment. All students participate in reading enrichment activities during Core and Encore classes. If students require additional help to strengthen their reading skills and or strategies, we consider alternatives to build these skills.

Support Platforms

Technology

Savanna Oaks Middle School has a wide variety of technology used to support teaching and learning. Our school has embraced the idea of putting digital technology learning tools into the hands of students. Our school is one to one where every student has an ipad. Students are allowed to use their own personal electronic device under the supervision of staff. Each classroom is equipped with a data projector, TV, or smartboard to assist in the presentation of curriculum. Many classes are offered in a blended format where content is presented online and face to face. Teachers are also recording tutorials and posting them online so students can continue their learning outside of the school walls and at any convenient time.

Library Media Center

The Savanna Oaks LMC supports classroom instruction and recreational reading for students and staff. With over 9,000 books, magazines, audiobooks, and DVDs, the LMC has resources for students of all reading levels. The collection is made up of current, peer reviewed materials that provide readers with the best of young adult publications. The Librarian promotes reading through booktalks, book displays, fun

activities and one-on-one reader advisories. Libraries are moving from places to consume the ideas of others to places to create and innovate. The LMC has added a Makerspace. Patrons will be able to engage in a wide range of activities from crafting to coding. Students are encouraged to make use of the LMC website which is linked from the Savanna Oaks webpage. Click on “Library Media Center” to discover links to the online catalog, online resources, authors, books, ebooks, audiobooks, homework and research aides and much more. (www.verona.k12.wi.us **Go to - Our Schools - Savanna Oaks Middle School - Library Media Center**)

Extra Curricular Activities

An important part of middle school is the expanded opportunities available outside the school day. Savanna Oaks offers learning, enrichment athletic and service opportunities. There are late busses at 4:30 and 5:30 to provide transportation home. While specific activities vary, below are some of the offerings.

Volleyball	Grades 7, 8, Girls; Fall
Cross Country	Grades 6, 7, 8, Boys & Girls; Fall
Wrestling	Grades 6, 7, 8, Boys & Girls; Fall
Drama Club	Grades 6, 7, 8; Fall - Spring
Student Council	Grades 6, 7, 8; Fall - Spring
Yearbook Staff	Grades 6, 7, 8; Fall – Winter
Ski Club	Grades 6, 7, 8; Winter
Forensics	Grades 6, 7, 8; Winter
Math Meets	Grades 6, 7, 8; Winter/Spring
Boys' Basketball	Grades 7, 8; November & December
Girls' Basketball	Grades 7, 8; January & February
All School Musical	Grades 6, 7, 8; February – May
Science/Discovery Fair	Grades 6, 7, 8; March
Track	Grades 7, 8; Spring

After School Ninja Academy:

The Ninja Learning Academy is an opportunity for students for extended learning. Students access technology and other school resources for individual and group projects with the support and assistance of SOMS staff.

Programs for English Language Learners

Students at Savanna Oaks speak many languages. In addition to learning science, math, social studies, language arts, and other academic content, English language learners (ELLs) must also become proficient in English (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). In order to meet students’ needs and follow federal and state laws, Savanna Oaks provides the following programs which allow ~~ELL~~ students to learn grade level content and English:

English as a Second Language/English Instruction

English language arts is taught as part of a daily scheduled class by certified ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers. Topics may include social English vocabulary, English reading and writing, math, science or social studies vocabulary development.

ESL and Bilingual In-class support

An ESL or Bilingual teacher works in collaboration with the classroom teacher in general ed classes. The teacher works with ELL students and mainstream English-speaking students in small groups to support their learning. Topics may include writing, reading, math, science or social studies vocabulary development.

Assistance of Bilingual Educational Assistants

Bilingual Educational Assistants work with the students, under supervision of the classroom teacher or ESL/Bilingual teacher to help students learn content/skills (math, science, social studies, etc.). In addition, students may receive limited bilingual assistance in elective classes.

Accommodations made by the Grade Level Teachers

Grade level teachers modify the way they teach to make the content more understandable. They use additional diagrams, carefully adjust their speech (slower, explain difficult vocabulary), provide more individual help, repeat directions, use visual representations, etc. These accommodations do not change the grade level content students are required to learn.