



## Grade Level 7 Overview

### Core Curriculum Subject Areas

#### **Reading/Language Arts:**

Seventh grade English at CES will continue to build upon their developing literary skills while enhancing their growing knowledge of grammar and vocabulary to become more sophisticated readers and writers. Reading and writing will work hand-in-hand in this course to set the groundwork that will help students become enthusiastic and confident lifelong readers, critical thinkers, and stronger written communicators. By the end of the year, students will broaden their knowledge and ability to analyze literary genres including short stories, novels, non-fiction texts, and historical speeches. This course will challenge students to read more deeply into texts and also write deeper, more reflective critiques of the literature. The 6+1 Traits of Writing program will continue to be a guiding focus in the writing curriculum as students explore writing from different perspectives in narratives, creative stories, objective expository essays and reports, and personal journals. They will also build the “muscles” of vocabulary and “skeleton” of grammar so that they can more easily write in support of their own opinions and unique ideas as critical thinkers. The techniques that they learn and the knowledge they gain will not only benefit them in this class, but in all subjects on their schedule.

#### **Mathematics:**

In Pre-Algebra, students continue the transition from arithmetic to an algebraic approach to mathematics in preparation for Algebra I. An emphasis is placed on computation skills with real numbers, algebraic and pictorial representation of real-world situations, understanding and usage of algorithms to calculate answers, identification and usage of the properties that permit the arithmetic behind the algorithms, and the application of algorithms and properties to solve real-world problems. With successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to begin a high school level of Algebra.

Algebra I provides students an in-depth look into algebra and its connection to geometry and other areas of study. This course is intended to strengthen understanding of real numbers and their properties by looking at linear, quadratic, exponential, radical, and rational functions. Real-world situations will be modeled as tables, graphs, equations, and verbal descriptions. Strategies of transforming, simplifying, and solving will be explored as students strengthen their abstract thinking and problem solving skills.

#### **Social Studies:**

“What is past is prologue.” In order for students to be productive citizens and future leaders, they need to have a sound knowledge of their nation’s history and how it led to the present day. Beginning with an examination of how slavery came to America, seventh graders will study the events that shaped the United States from the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century (The American Civil War up to the Civil Rights Era.) Place based learning, works of art, oratory, films, and primary sources will punctuate the curriculum. Emphasis will be placed on the recurring importance of the words of the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” Understanding our nation’s struggle to realize these words in practice through a factual foundation and an emphasis on critical thinking, students will be equipped to better understand the present and be prepared for the future.

**Science:**

In seventh grade science, students take a course in life science. Focus is placed on organisms and the study of their structure and function, growth and development, interdependence within an environment, and survival adaptations. Students develop their questioning and observation skills through interactive hands-on activities. A continued emphasis is placed on following the scientific method in all experimental work. Students will focus on the interaction of life, structure and function, biodiversity, and reproduction. The students participate in two other small modules, current events in science and teen wellness, both of which focus on health and lifelong wellness by making healthy choices.

**Co-Curricular Subject Areas****Spanish:**

Middle School students dive into Spanish language by taking part in a lively series of activities that give them opportunities to develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in Spanish. Middle school students have a greater emphasis on reading and writing by including real world reading materials, graphic novel style stories, activity pages and unit projects. Middle school students also develop Spanish grammar reference sheets they can refer to throughout their language acquisition journey. The program reinforces previous topics and themes and introduces new ones at the same time. The topics include but are not limited to school and schedules, numbers, around the house and home activities, daily routine and holiday customs, past experiences, sport and recreation and basic technology.

**Art:**

Students in Middle School will learn fundamental art techniques and skills while experimenting with multiple mediums. They will build confidence in creating meaningful and complete art works through a systematic approach. They will explore different cultures and learn significant art history movements. Students will create a group project to auction at the Christ Episcopal School Gala, they will create artworks to submit to the Rainforest Artlink Program, and they will participate in the Arts at the MAESA Academic fair.

**Music:**

Students in Middle School music are learning to become proficient performers, increasing their skills and seeking outlets to share their talents. Students will learn musical concepts and terms, directly applying this knowledge to choral and solo performances. Other topics covered will include music history and listening to varying musical genres, as to further understand music's role in society and culture throughout history. Students will participate in seasonal concerts such as the Grandparents/Special Guest Day, the Christmas Concert, and the Spring Musical.

**Physical Education:** Seventh grade PE is highlighted by the following units as well as twice weekly trips off-campus to Freestate Gymnastics, Title Boxing, Bowl America, and various outdoor parks:

Ballroom Dance	Field Day Skills
Sportsmanship/Fair Play/Rules	Floor Hockey
Volleyball Skills	Dodge Games
Golds Gym Fitness Classes	Ball Skills
Soccer Skills	Indoor Soccer
Basketball Skills	Lacrosse
Flag Football	Frisbee
Jump Rope	Agility Activities
Fitness/Strength Exercises	Long Walks
Cooperation Activities	Kickball

### **Field Study Trips and Curricular Highlights**

- Echo Hill Outdoor Education: overnight field trip
- Gettysburg Battlefield
- Lincoln's Cottage and the National Gallery of Art
- Spring Musical (lead roles)
- White Tail Ski Trip (every two years)
- Hershey Park