

September 11, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the adventure and thrilling roller-coaster ride of being a seventh grade parent! Your child has been introduced to his/her team of teachers for the year, and we would like to take the time to introduce curriculum areas along with notes for a successful school year.

Attendance

In order for your son/daughter to be successful, it is important to attend school every day unless he/she is ill or has family circumstances that prevent him/her from being in school. Research indicates that successful students attend school regularly. All absences and tardies must be verified by the parent/guardian by calling into the school office (623-2450).

Students who are absent must be responsible for checking Canvas and/or asking the teachers for missed work as soon as returning to school. For the first day of absence, a student has two days to turn in completed work. If a student is absent for a second day in a row, an additional day is issued (total of three) for completing work. Students participating in sports should ask teachers for any missing work **before** leaving for a school activity.

Communication

As parents, you can keep in touch with the daily activities of your student by checking Canvas. All assignments, projects, and tests will be posted on Canvas by individual teachers. Parents can access Canvas on the HMS website (www.haysfalcons.com) for any classwork and can access grades in PowerSchool.

Core Curriculum Areas

Math will focus on areas such as: ratios/proportional reasoning, the number system, expressions/equations, statistics/probability, and geometry. Grading this year will be based on tests, quizzes, and homework. Math is an assessed area so we will be preparing and practicing for the state assessments throughout the year. Mrs. Kitchen, Mrs. Haskett, and Mrs. Schroeder teach the sections of this class.

The 7th grade **reading** curriculum is Reading Workshop. Throughout the year, students will focus on becoming self-driven readers while focusing on various genres. We will focus on the following this year: Investigating Characterization (fiction), Historical Fiction Book Clubs, and Essential Research Skills for Teens (nonfiction). We will assign weekly journals that align with our units, on top of weekly warm-ups and a weekly participation grade. Grades are calculated by total points.

The 7th grade **language arts** curriculum is Writing Workshop. We will focus on the following this year: Narrative writing, creating and writing a Companion Book, and Argumentative writing. Each unit requires smaller assignments leading up to a final piece. Grades are calculated by total points, but the final pieces in each unit naturally weigh themselves because they are worth more than the smaller assignments throughout the unit. Mrs. Treinen, Mrs. Mackey, Mrs. Kuehl and Miss Morlan will be teaching reading and language arts this year.

The **science** classes use the Next Generation Science Standards to guide our topics/units. We will be covering things such as Ecosystems, Atoms, Matter, Forces and Motion, Newton's Laws, and Space. Grading is based on assignments, projects, and tests/quizzes. Our goal is to limit

the amount of homework your student has to do outside of the classroom. As long as they work hard and use their time wisely they should be able to avoid taking home work. Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Ozores are the two 7th grade science teachers.

Social Studies will focus on Kansas History this year. Within the Kansas History curriculum, civics & government, and geography from the United States and around the world will be intertwined. Grading will be based on assignments, projects, and tests/quizzes. Ms. Brungardt, Mr. Scott, and Mrs. Leikam will be teaching social studies.

Citizenship Project

This year, the seventh graders will participate in a Citizenship Project. This project is a team effort focusing on the idea of what it takes to be a good American citizen. Each student will have a set of requirements to meet, including a states/abbreviation test, service acts, and a citizenship test. More information will be sent out later with the requirements and deadlines.

New Schedule

This year, HMS is utilizing a new block schedule. Students have 8 total classes but will only attend 4 each day on a rotating schedule. Classes will be 75 minutes in length, which allows teachers more time to implement projects and hands on learning. In addition to their four classes, students will attend a Falcon Squad and Seminar each day. Falcon Squad is a home base for kids. They will (hopefully) have the same teacher for this class every year. This is a time to make connections with their teacher and other students. Seminar is also with their Falcon Squad teacher, but it is a time to focus on academics. Students should use this time to complete homework assignments, study for tests, make up work from absences, or read. With 40 minutes of seminar time every day, students should have very little homework to do outside of school if their time is used appropriately.

With all of the uncertainty this year brings, the above information is subject to change at any time. Teachers will communicate any policy or curriculum changes with you as they occur.

Feel free to contact us with questions or concerns by phone or email. Thanks for your support this school year and for sharing your child with us this year!

Sincerely,

7th Grade Team – Allison Kitchen, Chelsea Haskett, Lisa Schroeder, Emalee Taylor, Kate Ozores, Melissa Treinen, Peyton Morlan, Rebecca Kuehl, Sarah Mackey, Michele Brungardt, Cade Scott, Suzanne Leikam, and Amanda Walstrom

