

SOUTH LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Parent Guide
to our

Seventh Grade



Mission Statement

Every student learns. Every student achieves.

Student Responsibility Program

South Lake Middle School's discipline plan focuses on a proactive, positive approach to misbehavior. The Responsibility Program process is one that teaches students to take responsibility for themselves by learning to think on their own, to respect the rights of others, to make effective plans, and to build self-confidence.



Cavaliers Caught Caring

Cavaliers Caught Caring – C³ - serves as a reward program for those students who exhibit a positive attitude, kindness toward others, and/or responsible behavior. The goal is to acknowledge those students who help maintain a friendly school atmosphere and promote good deeds amongst the student body. Staff members will pass out C³ tickets to those students who exhibit these exemplary behaviors. The student will place the ticket into her/his Team's C³ container for a drawing at the end of each month. Two names will be drawn and these students will receive prizes.

General Information

Report Cards/Progress Reports:

Report cards for the first and second trimester are handed out at the Fall and Winter/Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences; those not picked up will then be mailed home. Third trimester cards are mailed home for all students. Progress reports are also mailed home during the middle of each trimester.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

School wide Parent/Teacher Conferences are held twice a year. The dates are listed in the annual school calendar. Individual teacher contacts can be made at anytime by calling the main office to get the team's schedule and make an appointment.

MEAP

Seventh grade students receive the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics MEAP in October. The ELA assessment is in Reading and Writing.

Focus On The Middle:

FOCUS ON THE MIDDLE is the school's newsletter published each month. This newsletter includes information about the teams, school activities, and important dates to remember.

Parent Koffee Klatch:

Koffee Klatch is an informal gathering where parents are updated on the latest information about school, have the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, discuss concerns, and get to know one another. The Parent Koffee Klatches are held once each month on Thursday, one at 9:00 a.m. and the other at 6:30 p.m. on the same day in the Media Center.

Core Courses

English

- **Writing**

In 7th grade Language Arts, students will explore various aspects of writing in a Writer's Workshop format using the 6+1 Writing Traits. The 6+1 Traits focus on organization, ideas, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Students will choose their own writing topics, as well as have topics assigned. They will have experience writing for a number of purposes, often in response to the literature in which they are immersed. Conventions of writing are practiced with the Daily Skills program, which addresses spelling rules, grammar, and word study.

- **Reading**

Students will read a variety of materials, often in connection with their Social Studies classes in order to provide a coordinated learning experience. The selections include myths from ancient cultures, memoirs, biographies, autobiographies, and a mystery novel. Informational reading will center on research reports, essays, and newspaper and magazine articles.

- **Genre**

The genre study is memoir, autobiography, biography, drama, legend, mystery, poetry, and myth.

MARS - Reading

The MARS reading class is designed to assist students who need additional support with their reading skills. The class focuses on developing strong independent reading skills, improving oral reading fluency and building vocabulary. Students are recommended for this class by their 6th grade teachers, who base their decision on classroom performance, as well as MEAP scores. Students new to the District are scheduled into MARS classes as well. MARS Reading is a trimester long class.

Math

The following topics will be covered throughout the school year:

- Introduction to Algebra
- Similarity
- Ratio, Proportion, and Percent
- Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division of Integers

- Linear Relationships
- Probability and Expected Value
- Number Sense and Numeration
- Geometric Constructions
- Statistical Analysis
- Regular and ongoing review of basic skills

MARS - Math

During the trimester students will revisit areas of mathematics that they may have struggled with in the past and therefore have not quite mastered yet. Topics will vary based on individual student needs, ranging from simple multiplication/division facts to solving algebraic equations. The goal of this class is to help students raise their understanding and become more successful in their traditional math class by giving them the support they need to build confidence in their mathematical abilities.

Science

The goals for the student are to:

- Generate Scientific Questions about the World Based on Observations
- Conduct Scientific Investigations
- Utilize Technology

The following topics are covered during the school year:

Science Processes

- **Scientific Method** - Question, Hypothesis, Procedure, Data, Conclusion
- **Metric Measurement** - Tools/Equipment
- **Inquiry** - Techniques to analyze and present findings that address social implications

Physical Science

- **Motion of Objects** - Objects and substances energies in motion
- **Energy** - Transformation from source to receiver
- **Properties of Matter** - The primary energy source of the sun is basis for all energy conversion on earth
- **Changes in Matter** - Waves transfer energy through differing mediums

Life Science

- **Organization of Living** - Cell growth and differentiation

- **Heredity** - How characteristics of living things are passed on through generations
- **Evolution/Ecosystem** - Traits are influenced by both genetics and the environment

Earth Science

- **Earth System** - Seasons result from variations in position relative to the sun
- **Earth in Space and Time** - Relationship to position of our planets, and celestial bodies within our solar system

Social Studies

World History

The seventh grade social studies program has changed to meet the new challenges of our global society through an introductory examination of the Eastern Hemisphere.

- Students will study the geography, civics, economic systems and culture across Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and Oceania.
- Students will be taking an in-depth look into the ancient history of these regions to the year 300 AD and examine current issues that affect our world today.
- Comparisons between the United States and these regions are conducted through various activities and projects to highlight the common bonds we share and to celebrate our diversity as a nation and world.

Global Studies: Social Studies, Language Arts, and Mandarin

The Global Studies program focuses on the idea of “globalization” within the traditional seventh grade curriculum in Language Arts and Social Studies. The program also includes Mandarin Chinese language as an exploratory class. An emphasis will be placed on the study of China and the relationship between China and the United States as well as China and the rest of the world.

- Interaction with peers and instructors through programs such as Blackboard highlight the technology part of this course.
- The study of global issues both here and abroad will be included through group projects, discussions, guest speakers, events, writing, reading and more.
- The Language Arts class includes literature in the required seventh grade genres with a focus on China and its people, culture, and history.
- The class will enable students to enhance critical and creative thinking skills as they work on real world issues.

- Students interested in the program should have an enthusiasm for learning, self-discipline, and good attendance with few tardies. The program requires a 2-year commitment (7th and 8th grades).

Foreign Languages

Mandarin

Mandarin-普通话

This class focuses on the pronunciation of Chinese, called Pinyin (üó), and familiarizes students with the use of the four basic tones. They use æChengo Chinese (ØÍÉí), which is a multi-media E-language software program. With this software, students learn the most frequently used Chinese in daily life, as well as explore the rich and colorful Chinese culture. Mandarin is offered as part of the Global Studies program. The following are among the areas covered in Mandarin:

- Pinyin and four tones system in the Chinese language;
- How to read and write Chinese characters;
- How to use a Chinese dictionary;
- Vocabulary including colors, numbers, days, months and years among others;
- Conversational dialogues in daily life;
- Exploring Chinese culture, painting and other activities.

Students can earn credit toward their high school foreign language requirement with Mandarin 7 and 8.

Spanish

The following topics will be covered during the full school year course. Students can earn credit toward their high school foreign language requirement with Spanish 7.

- Basic vocabulary, including, but not limited to -
 1. Colors
 2. Numbers
 3. Classroom Objects
 4. House Words/Phrases
 5. Days and Months

- Alphabet
- Conversation Vocabulary
- Culture and geography are also incorporated when students learn about the different countries that speak the language and their customs/traditions.
- Music and projects, as well as many hands-on activities are used to enrich the lessons and vocabulary.

Fine Arts

South Lake Middle School offers a variety of Art and Music courses that provide our students with practical approaches to cultivate their creativity. These classes also service preparation for the High School Fine Arts credit that is now required of all state of Michigan graduates.

Art

Students are exposed to a variety of art media and techniques while creating several original two and three- dimensional pieces. The focus of this class is to improve the student's art skills and their understanding of art as a subject for study.

Through the creation of their own works, students will:

- Develop creativity;
- Have a productive means of self-expression
- Develop a positive self-image
- Cultivate stronger problem solving skills
- Become confident independent and critical thinkers
- Develop an understanding and respect for the art and people of other cultures and eras

Band

The 7th Grade Band is a full year course designed to further the development of their technique and musicianship, while continuing to work on fundamentals. Participation in this group also consists of a few scheduled outside activities such as a concerts and the St. Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade. These students can also participate in Solo & Ensemble if desired. In addition, students have the opportunity to attend a live performance of a production at the Fox Theatre.

Choir

The 7th Grade Choir is a full year course designed to help students develop their singing techniques and to learn how to read music. They will work on a variety of music throughout the school year. Students will also be using solfege as part of the methods that are used to learn to sing in parts. Students will also have several concerts which are usually held in the evenings. Performances are mandatory. This class will also have the same opportunity as the Band class which is to attend a performance at the Fox Theatre.

Exploratories

Economics and Personal Finance

This introduction to the exciting world of micro economics is centered on teaching student the fundamentals of personal finance, basic business, and government roles in our economy.

- Students learn how to create a personal budget based on what career paths they select to follow and create spending habits based upon their income levels.
- Students learn about loans, credit cards, and purchasing cars and houses to help reinforce their budgeting skills through real life simulations and activities.
- Students examine investing options and the role of banks as well as other financial institutions through varied activities.

Forces in Motion

The curriculum emphasizes a deep knowledge in physical concepts related to energy and motion. An active engagement in inquiry based science is highlighted, through engineering projects. Students will work in a team setting to design and construct models to further explain and justify mathematical and scientific concepts relating to motion. They will justify the why behind their designs/plans and explain the process of their construction in a video documentation of their own design. The course's aim is a deep understanding of content by developing strong problem solving strategies through the process of design and construction. The course includes the following three units.

- **Roller Coasters**
Newton's laws and the physics behind roller coasters
- **Card Board Boats**
Archimedes Principals and fluid dynamics
- **Video Documentation**
Concepts related to communications through media

Life Skills

Four units of study are presented during each trimester:

- Health, with specific information about the food pyramid and the importance of exercise
- Foods, focusing on cooking that includes five cooking projects - chocolate chip cookies, brownies, cinnamon bits, pancakes, and cinnamon rolls
- Sewing, during which students learn how and choose a project on which to work

Physical Education and Health

Physical Education

The curriculum emphasizes physical fitness, team and individual sports, and positive personal/social skills. Classes meet daily for one trimester. Students are expected to participate to the best of their ability in all class activities.

Students learn basic sport concepts and controlled games are used to reinforce the learned skills. In addition to sports activities, each week time is spent on physical fitness activities, such as cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, muscular strength, and muscular endurance.

Positive sportsmanship, teamwork, fair play, and respect for others are expected of all students.

Health

Students learn about physical, mental, and emotional health. The focus topics are self-esteem, goal setting, hygiene, abstinence, male reproduction, and female reproduction. Students also learn about the consequences of sexual activity including pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDS.

Core Extensions

Core Extension classes provide an extension of the academic and exploratory classes. This enables students to review, enrich, and receive additional assistance in their subject areas, as well as learn more in depth about units requiring more time and coverage. Core Extension is graded and based upon uniform expectations.

Student Support Services

Support Services are available to certified students, who are scheduled in a variety of classes:

- Self-Contained, which is a small class where students are instructed at their achievement level
- Collaborative, which is a regular education class with two teachers
- Teacher Consultant, which is a regular education class with a consultant checking weekly on the student

Guidance and Counseling

The following services are provided by the Guidance and Counseling Department:

- Individual Counseling - Social/Emotional/Behavioral Issues
- Groups offered throughout the year-topics determined yearly
- Referrals made to outside agencies
- Mediation between students
- Educational Development Plans for 7th grade students
- Substance Abuse Awareness/Prevention
- Skill Building
- Academic Counseling/Planning
- Scheduling
- Weekly Progress Report Coordination

- Assembly Coordination
- Summer School Requirement and Attendance Coordination

Media Center

The Media Center has an open door policy. Students may come to the Center at almost any time if they have a pass from their teacher. Computers are available for student use in the Center proper. There is also a computer lab adjacent to the Center, which is for classroom use only. Classes come to the Center for book selection during Learning Center, Core Extension, and after school. Classes are also scheduled into the Center for research.

The Center uses the student's ID card for checkout on its automated system. Books may be checked out for two weeks and may be renewed. Magazines and some reference books can go out overnight.

Mentoring After School Help

The Mentoring After School Help/Homework (M.A.S.H.) is available to all students who wish to receive additional help with class assignments or homework. A tutor and additional staff are present to assist students as needed.

M.A.S.H. meets Mondays through Thursdays, from 2:50 p.m. until 3:40 p.m., with the exception of scheduled half days. Students must sign in upon arrival and prior to 3:00 p.m.; they are to sign out upon dismissal. A pass is required for the student to be admitted after 3:00 p.m. Students must have homework or assignments to work on in order to attend.

Homework Help Night

Homework Help Night is designed to assist not only students who are at risk with their grades, but also those who are having difficulty completing their homework assignments during the week. Using this program provides an additional tool for

students who need extra time and guidance to learn and find success in their work. Students who are asked to attend Homework Help Night participate in a written agreement between the teacher, student, and parent. A student may be asked to attend Homework Help Night by initiation of an individual teacher, counselor, or parent.

It is scheduled for two Wednesdays each month, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Parents must escort and sign in their child. Upon completion of Homework Help Night, a parent or guardian must personally check the student out with the supervising teacher.

Extra Curricular Activities

Sports

SLMS is a member of the Macomb Metro League Conference and offers the following competitive sports for 7th grade:

- Basketball - Boys and Girls
- Football - Coeducational
- Track
- Volleyball - Girls

A physical is required before any student can participate in any of the sports.

Student Council

The Student Council works throughout the school year to serve the school and community. Council members organize such activities as charity initiatives, pep rallies, and school dances. Representatives are elected by their peers in their Core Extension classes at the beginning of the school year.

Youth Center

The Youth Center is an after school program that provides students with the opportunity to participate in enrichment, study, and extra curricular activities. Examples of these activities are Science Olympiad, The Melting Pot, National Junior Honor Society, South Lake Misses (Dance Group), Homework Help Night and M.A.S.H. Activities such as Art Studio Workshop, Intramural Soccer, Board Games, Chess Club, Puppet Theatre and Jazz Band are contingent upon parent and staff volunteers.