

Team Kutztown Parents,

We welcome your child to 7th grade at Nitschmann Middle School for the 2021-22 school year! They are now part of Team Kutztown! The teachers listed below are the teachers on this team, and we will be collaborating over the next few months to make it a great school year for your child. The following pages list pertinent information such as teacher contact information, 7th grade curriculum information, grading policies, classroom expectations, behavior interventions, and more. Please take some time to read this information. We are looking forward to a great year! Thank you.

Team Contact Information

- Mr. Charles Falteich - English/ Team Leader
Email: cfalteich@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41542
- Mrs. Norma Gomez - English
Email: ngomez@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41544
- Mr. Garen Danyi - World Geography
Email: gdanyi@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41543
- Mrs. Gayle McLaughlin - Learning Support
Email: gmclaughlin@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41548
- Mr. Robert Pearson - Science
Email: rpearson@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41546
- Ms. Kristin Evancho - Math
Email: kevancho@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41545
- Ms. Kelly Hipp - School Counselor
Email: khipp@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41915

Curriculum and Grading Policy

SCIENCE (Mr. Pearson)

Seventh grade Life Science includes topics such as the scientific method, metric system, laboratory equipment & safety, characteristics of living things, cell theory, cell division, genetics, classification, ecology and a major emphasis on diversity of organisms and their adaptations to a variety of environments. In order to meet the various standards, students will interpret data, formulate hypotheses, and design and perform experiments. Students will also produce reports which are organized, present ideas thoughtfully, and use appropriate vocabulary and sentence structure. The primary resource that we will be using this year is the Discovery Education Techbook.

Grading Policy:

Tests/Quizzes - 50%

Classwork/Labs/Warm-ups - 40%

Homework - 10%

Late assignments will lose 10% of the total points per day late.

No assignment will be accepted after it is ten days late.

There will be one formal lab report assigned per semester. The grade for this assignment will be equal to one test grade for that particular marking period.

SOCIAL STUDIES (Mr. Danyi)

The course of study for 7th grade Social Studies is World Geography. We will explore and analyze the continents of North America, Europe, South America, Africa, and Australia.. The class will begin with the mastering of map skills. We will then move on to the Five Themes of Geography, which are Location, Place, Human-Environment Interactions, Movement, and Regions. This provides the background for how we will explore and analyze each of the previously mentioned continents. At the end of the year, we will be learning about global issues specific to world regions and how they relate to the USA. The benchmarks I will be using are found in the Pennsylvania State Standards for Geography.

Grading Policy:

All classes are graded on a total points' system. Students can expect a weekly quiz and/or some form of assessment.

-Homework

-Classwork completed in digital notebook or traditional notebook and submitted Google Docs.

-Assessments

-All late homework assignments will lose 10% of the final grade for each day they are late.

English (Mrs. Gomez & Mr. Falteich)

All students in seventh grade English classes will learn speaking, listening, writing, vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension skills using the BASD's StudySync curriculum as a resource. Although your child has two teachers for English, they receive only one grade for their English class. The two English teachers use a grading system based on total points. Unit tests, projects, and oral presentations receive more weight than quizzes or classwork. Parents may access their child's grades on Schoology 24 hours a day.

MATH (Ms. Evancho)

Text/Workbook EnVision 2.0

Students are required to complete homework daily. It is expected that these assignments will be completed each day. Homework will be checked everyday. NO LATE homework will be accepted for full credit. Late homework will be accepted up to 3 days late. Maximum grade will be 70%. Tests and Quizzes must be made up within 5 school days of an absence. (Exceptions are excused absences and family emergencies.) Students will be required to supply their **own calculators** to use during class. We will spend time learning how to use calculators and their functions. Extra calculators are not available in the classroom.

Sections Covered in Math

- Decimals and Integers
- Exponents, Factors, and Fractions
- Operations With Fractions
- Algebra: Equations and Inequalities
- Ratios, Rates, and Proportions
- Percents
- Geometry
- Measurement (Area and Volume)
- Right Triangles in Algebra

Grading Policy:

All classes are graded on a total points system. Students can expect a weekly quiz and/or some form of assessment.

- Homework
- Classwork
- Assessments

Academic Skill Development/Supplemental Language Arts (Mrs. McLaughlin)

Course Description

- Academic Skill Development is a course designed for students with diverse learning needs. The small group setting provides an accommodating atmosphere where students feel safe to ask questions and be supported in their learning. Students are provided with specially designed instruction based on individualized education plans and there is an emphasis on meeting educational goals.
- Organization skills, following procedures, and study skills are taught and reinforced during this class. One on one time with the teacher, as well as small group study is available to students for academic subjects. Students are provided with the specially designed instruction needed in order to be successful in their regular education classes.
- Supplemental Language Arts is a course designed for students who have an IEP which states this course is needed based on the students' academic needs.

Course Objectives

- The student will be able to prioritize major assignments and homework assignments.
- The student will be able to self-advocate for his or her individual needs regarding learning support in academics.
- The student will be able to complete assignments on time while addressing rubric requirements and following teacher directions.
- Supplemental LA-The student will have a better understanding and usage of reading and writing skills.

Grading Policy

Academic Skill Development is an ungraded course. The main focus of the course is building independence to promote success in all academic areas.

Supplemental Language Arts. Homework assignments count for 10% of a student's grade. Classwork, tests, quizzes, participation all carry equal weight to determine the rest of a student's grade.

Communication Expectations

Students are strongly encouraged to review their Schoology courses daily for information regarding grades, assignments, assessment dates, messages from teachers, and other important information. Students should review their Gmail account on a daily basis for additional information. Please feel free to communicate via email regarding any questions or concerns.

Class Management Plan

Expected Classroom Behavior

Be Here...Be Ready

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Actively Engaged in Learning

Follow Instructions the First Time

Interventions

Verbal Warning

Parent Contact (email/call)

Teacher Detention (24 hours' notice)

Code of Conduct Referral - (Student meeting with Assistant Principal)

Homework

Homework is designed to be meaningful and reinforce classroom concepts. Homework will be given as each teacher feels necessary. Some core subjects need constant reinforcement, and therefore, homework will be given almost every night. Points will be deducted from a student's homework average if an assignment is late or incomplete. The student is responsible for obtaining and completing any missed assignments. Up to one six day cycle will be given to students to make up assignments missed during class absences. In the case of an extended absence, arrangements between the student and teacher can be made.

Extra Help

After school tutoring with academic subject teachers is available for any student who is interested. Teachers are available Tuesday - Thursday. Tutoring takes place from 3:05 to 3:25 P.M. in the teacher's assigned classroom. Some teachers are also available at 7:30 A.M (by appt. with prior notice).

Counselor Corner

Hello Team Kutztown Parents and Guardians! As many of you know, I will be your child's school counselor during their time at Nitschmann. I am looking forward to empowering and supporting my students through the new terrains of time management, increased responsibility and all the emotional/physical changes that come with being a 7th grader.

With the many new opportunities available this year, I will be encouraging students to utilize their strengths within the Nitschmann community. As a member of their educational team, I will continue to collaborate with teachers to support academic and personal growth. And as always, I am here to listen and help answer your questions throughout the year. Please feel free to call me or email me any time.

Best wishes on a great school year!

Mrs. Kelly Hipp
khipp@basdschools.org

Communication

Communication is a key element to your child's success this year. If you have any concerns, questions, or problems, please contact us through phone or e-mail. Email is the easiest way to contact us. You do have access to your child's records, grades, and performance on

Schoology. Schoology access is very simple. Please contact the Guidance Office if you are having difficulty accessing your child's grades on Schoology. This is an excellent way to quickly obtain information on your child's current academic performance. Additionally, Dr. Mayes sends out a weekly email on Sunday evening that includes pertinent information for our team and each of our academic classes.

Of course, parents play an equally important role in a child's school success. Encourage your son/daughter to come to class prepared to work. Provide them with support at home and a place to study. Remind them what is acceptable behavior and what is not. Occasionally check your child's work and assist with assignments and study if necessary. All of these things will help maintain a good learning environment and help us all to have a great year! By working together, we can make this a great year for your child. Thank you for your cooperation!

Team Identity

Throughout the year, we will be doing team educational activities in large and small groups. Positive student performance and good behavior will also be rewarded with fun team activities each quarter. At some point we even hope to have our team visit Kutztown University to visit the campus, meet professors, and learn about possible educational opportunities. Traditionally our team has used "Team Kutztown Cares" as our motto. Our team organizes the schoolwide Thanksgiving Food Drive and holds other drives for the less fortunate members of our community. Additionally, your child will have the opportunity to attend an environmental bike and boat field trip later in the school year. More information will be provided as the dates for these activities and field trips approach.

Once again, we are looking forward to a good 2021-22 school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Falteich
Mrs. Gomez
Mrs. McLaughlin
Mr. Pearson
Ms. Evancho
Mr. Danyi
Ms. Hipp