

Grade Seven and Grade Eight Curriculum Overview

2010-2011

7/8 Team Philosophy Statement: The seventh and eighth graders assume a great deal of responsibility for their individual learning and contribute to the overall life of the school as its student leaders. Our goal is for the girls to solidify their academic, artistic, and athletic skills, to gain self-knowledge, to deepen their love of learning, to enhance their appreciation for and understanding of the world beyond Nashoba Brooks, and to strengthen their voices as young women.

Grade Seven Experience

Grade Eight Experience

Inter-Disciplinary Units of Study	Holocaust and Monument Projects, Africa, Journaling and Discovering our Place, Orienteering and Mapping, 3rd/7th Grade Musical, Montreal Trip.	Fenn/Nashoba Musical, Journaling and Discovering Our Place, Washington, D.C. Trip, Sudan, Big sisters-Little sisters.
Critical Skills Developed Across the Curriculum	Critical reading, Essay and journal writing, Collecting and analyzing data, Managing long-term assignments, Debating, Giving presentations, Learning by revision, Learning language and cultural awareness, Working independently and collaboratively, Building self-awareness, and Strategies for solving problems.	Critical Reading, Critical Thinking, Persuasive Writing, The Research Paper, Managing long-term assignments, Discussion skills, Giving presentations, Decision-making, Learning by revision, Learning language and cultural awareness, Leadership skills, Planning for the future, and Strategies for solving problems.

Subject Area Highlights

Drama	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How does participating in the 7th and 3rd grade musical enhance communication skills and the ability to collaborate toward a common goal?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: The 3rd/7th Grade Musical.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Reading a script, Auditioning, Character development, Memorizing lines, Taking direction, Developing self-confidence, Using one's voice, body, and face effectively to portray characters, Moving to music, Singing in character, Collaborating toward a common goal, and Sharing the stage with third grade students.</p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>What kind of feeling do you, as a Nashoba Brooks student, walk away with after the Fenn/Nashoba musical?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: The Fenn/Nashoba Musical.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Auditioning, Character development, Reading a script, Memorizing lines, Taking direction, Moving to the music, Singing in character, Handling the lights and sound equipment, Developing self-confidence, and Collaborating toward a common goal.</p>
Health	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How can I use health education to help me make good decisions?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: Stress reduction and management, Fast food choices, Healthy eating, Body image, Eating disorders and disordered eating, and The importance of sleep and sleeping disorders.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Developing coping strategies, Making good decisions, Helping others, and Becoming critical consumers.</p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How can I use my knowledge of risk behaviors to promote personal responsibility and make good choices?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: Substance use and abuse, Effects of Alcohol, Healthy relationships, and Comprehensive human sexuality.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Developing strategies for avoiding risky behaviors, and Making connections between healthy choices and optimal health.</p>

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Humanities and Language Arts

Humanities-Talking about Turbulent Times--and Telling the Tale "The Power of Story"

Overarching Question: *How do I use my knowledge of the past to raise my voice and make a difference in the world?*

Sampling of Topics of Study:

Examining the cultural threads - personal/societal, values, rights, freedom and justice - from various turbulent points to assess their current relevance. Thoreau & the Mexican War; Salem witch trials, Upheavals in ancient & modern Africa, Facing History and Ourselves units on Civil Rights and the Holocaust, Roots of democracy & rights of free speech - ancient Greece and the trial of Socrates, First amendment challenges - McCarthy and the Cold War.

Key Skills Taught:

Forming and articulating attitudes, beliefs and values, Organizing, developing, analyzing, supporting, and synthesizing ideas in oral and written discourse (essays, journals, research, public speaking, discussion, debate), Using primary/secondary sources, Building vocabulary, and Using conventions of grammar effectively.

Language Arts

Overarching Questions: *How can we see past surfaces and assumptions and see what is really there? How do we learn about the female experience through literature? How can we clearly communicate our ideas?*

Sampling of Topics of Study:

Autobiography, Short stories, The House on Mango Street, A Raisin in the Sun, A Gathering of Old Men, Much Ado about Nothing, Author studies: Rachel Carson, Martin Luther King, Grammar review, and Vocabulary development.

Key Skills Taught:

Developing critical reading skills, Taking notes, Analytical writing, Participating in Harkness discussions, Writing research papers, Studying for tests and quizzes, and Creative Writing.

Latin

Overarching Question: *What can learning about Latin teach us about ourselves and history?*

Sampling of Topics of Study:

Roman history, Body parts, Numbers, Subject-verb agreement, Prepositional phrases, 1st, 2nd, 3rd declensions, Vocative case, Ablative case uses, Irregular verbs, Present and imperfect tenses, and Five verb conjugations.

Key Skills Taught:

Diagramming sentences, Understanding English parts of speech, Memorizing, Translating passages, Building English and Latin vocabulary, Managing time, and Working independently and collaboratively.

Overarching Questions: *What can learning about Latin teach us about ourselves and history? How can Latin act as a gateway into other modern languages and disciplines?*

Sampling of Topics of Study:

All six cases and uses, Adjective/Noun agreement, Prepositional phrases, All verb conjugations, Six tenses active and passive, Personal and reflexive pronouns, Possessive adjectives, Perfect passive participle, and the Passive present infinitive.

Key Skills Taught:

Applying understanding of grammar to reading, Memorizing, Building English and Latin vocabulary, Translating longer sentences with multiple clauses, and Gaining respect for those learning English as a second language.

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<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>Pre-Algebra Overarching Question: <i>How will I represent patterns and relationships that model real-world phenomena?</i> Sampling of Topics of Study: Integers, Rational numbers, Exponents, Absolute Value, Variables, Order of Operations, Scientific Notation, The Number Line and Coordinate Plane, Inequalities, Linear functions, Probability, Counting choices, Proportional reasoning, Measurement, Area, Volume, Proportion, and Percent applications Key Skills Taught: Computing with integers, fractions and decimals, Simplifying expressions, Solving one variable equations, Solving problems involving discount and interest, Solving problems involving volume, perimeter, area, and surface area, Using the distributive property, Graphing on the coordinate plane, Introduction to inequalities, Problem solving skills, and Standardized test taking techniques.</p>	<p>Algebra I Overarching Question: <i>How do I use Algebraic tools to explore, model and solve real life problems?</i> Sampling of Topics of Study: Algebraic Expressions, Working with Functions, Rational Numbers, Cartesian coordinate graphs, Developing and solving linear functions and inequalities, Working with systems of equations and inequalities, Graphing and solving exponential and quadratic functions, Polynomials and factoring, Radicals and applying Quadratic Formula, and Data Analysis. Key Skills Taught: Simplifying expressions, Solving multistep one-variable equations and inequalities, Graphing and analyzing linear, quadratic, absolute value, and exponential functions, Calculating and simplifying rational, exponential and radical expressions, Solving systems of equations, Factoring polynomials, Using a variety of methods to solve quadratic functions, Using graphing calculators as tools, and Preparing for a cumulative exam.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How does music tell our story?</i> Sampling of Topics of Study: 3rd/7th Grade Musical in the Fall, and History of American popular music. Key Skills Taught: Taking risks, Presenting, Researching, Listening, Auditioning, and Working collaboratively.</p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>What are the origins of Western Classical Music?</i> Sampling of Topics of Study: Gregorian chant through Contemporary Music. Key Skills Taught: Researching and recognizing music from various periods. Audition preparation for Musical.</p>
<p>Physical Education</p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How do I find my way?</i> Sampling of Topics of Study: Orienteering, Fitness, Badminton, Volleyball, Dance, Frisbee golf, Gymnastics, Golf, and Track and Field. Key Skills Taught: Navigating terrain with a map and compass, Applying fitness components to lifetime fitness, Developing skill competency in selected games, and Combining movements into gymnastics and dance sequences.</p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>What skills and wisdom will enable me to stay strong and play on?</i> Sampling of Topics of Study: Ultimate Frisbee, Rugby, Yoga, Floor Hockey, Tennis, Health/Fitness, Self-Defense, Team Handball, Dance, Flag Football, Adapted Sports Awareness, and Kayaking Key Skills Taught: Proper stretching and relaxation techniques, Muscular and cardiovascular strength and endurance building, How to be strong leaders and team players, Applying rules and strategies to games, Self Defense maneuvers, Kayaking basics and safety.</p>

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Science		<u>Introduction to Physical Science/Engineering/Robotics</u>
	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How do we as scientists make sense of and take responsibility for our relationship with the world?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: Hurricanes, Mapping, Weather Forecasting, Concord geology and Geography, Glaciers and ice ages, Solar system and stellar evolution, Earth chemistry, Periodic Table, Earthquakes, Plate tectonics, Volcanoes, Environmental problems and solutions.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Map making, Recording and analyzing data, critical thinking and drawing conclusions, Sketching and nature drawing, Conducting Internet research, Classifying, Presenting, Lab report writing, Designing experiments, and Making models.</p>	<p>Overarching Questions: <i>How do we as scientists replicate and interpret famous experiments? How do we use these procedures to investigate our world?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: Volume, Mass, Characteristic Properties of Matter, Solubility, Compounds, Elements, Radioactivity, Atomic Model of matter, Design Engineering, and Robotics.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Designing experiments, Recording, Organizing and analyzing data, Creating slide shows, Giving presentations, Taking notes, Sketching from nature, Writing reports, Using scientific vocabulary, and Collaborating.</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>7th Grade Social Studies is taught as part of the 7th grade Humanities course.</p>	<p><u>Implementing Change in an Imperfect Democracy</u></p> <p>Overarching Questions: <i>What are the foundations of the current American system of government? How have people that were alienated by our original government fought for their inclusion? Are we a democracy? What are the limits of protest in attempting to implement change?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: The Articles of Confederation, The Constitutional Convention, The Declaration of Independence, Branches of government, The Electoral College, Petitioning the government, The Woman Suffrage Movement, Brown v. Board of Education, and The Civil Rights Movement, and Contemporary movements such as the Immigrant's Movement and the Gay Rights Movement.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Persuasive essay writing, Analyzing primary sources, Geography, Debating, Listening and participating in discussions and role plays, Organizing long term assignments, Critical reading, Giving presentations, Note taking, and Evaluating historical events and movements.</p>

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<p>Spanish</p>	<p>Overarching Questions: <i>How does the study of Spanish help me better understand & communicate with others in my community and in the world? How does it push me to question assumptions and stereotypes?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: Possessive adjectives, Negative expressions, Commands, Prepositions, Verb tenses (present, preterite, near future, near past) Reflexive verbs, Introduction to pronouns, Comparative structures, Vocabulary, Idioms and conversational expressions, Description of self, family, city & stores, travel, and Mexico.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Negotiating dialogue in varied scenarios, Understanding spoken Spanish, Using a bilingual dictionary, Writing short papers, Reading short stories and poetry, Identifying parts of speech, Building vocabulary, Presenting in class, Fostering respect for cultural differences, Developing language learning tools, Integrating technology in projects (Smart Board, Rosetta Stone, Textbook CD-ROM program).</p>	<p>Overarching Questions: <i>How does the study of Spanish help me better understand and communicate with others in my community and in the world? How does the study of another language and culture help me learn about myself and equip me for learning other languages?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: Adverbs, Verb tenses (imperfect, future, conditional, subjunctive), Command form, Object & Possessive pronouns, Vocabulary, Idioms and conversational expressions, Description of varied contexts and people, Life as an exchange student, and Spain.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Speaking confidently, Understanding spoken Spanish, Writing longer pieces, Reading short books and articles, Reading and writing poetry, Recounting stories, Giving directions and presentations, Fostering respect for cultural differences, Developing a culminating repertoire of communication skills, and vocabulary, Developing a grammatical foundation in Spanish, integrating technology in projects (iMovie, Smart Board, Rosetta Stone, Textbook CD-ROM program).</p>
<p>Technology</p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How can we manipulate technology to demonstrate our knowledge of a particular subject?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: Spanish and Latin vocabulary, Compilation of fitness data, Animation, and Digital movies and Adobe Photoshop</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Using a digital still and video camera and drawing tablets, Entering data, Searching on the Internet, Importing text and graphics, Using Astronomy Village software, and Word processing.</p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How can we manipulate technology to demonstrate our knowledge of a particular subject?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: Compilation of fitness data, Equations of lines and absolute values, Adobe Photoshop, PowerPoint, Exponential graphs, and Quadratic functions.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Writing equations of lines and absolute values, Using Inspiration software, Researching on the Internet, Citing Internet sources, Word processing, Designing a page of the yearbook, Creating data tables and graphs in Excel, and Using a digital still and video camera and Drawing tablets.</p>
<p>Visual Arts</p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How do I see the world?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: Self Portraits, Block prints, Photography and Adobe Photoshop, Monument Project, Painting, and Sculpture.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Learning elements of art, Arranging compositions, Painting techniques, Observational drawing, Working with clay and plaster, and Manipulating images using Adobe Photoshop.</p>	<p>Overarching Question: <i>How do I want the world to see me?</i></p> <p>Sampling of Topics of Study: Observational drawing, Painting, Photography and Adobe Photoshop, Reduction printing, and Sculpture.</p> <p>Key Skills Taught: Using the principles of design, Observational drawing, Using multiple painting techniques, Using color and tone, Building more advanced skills in Adobe Photoshop, and Creating a 3-dimensional piece of art.</p>