

A Parent's Guide to Curriculum

Seventh Grade

Bensenville School District 2 Mission Statement

The purpose of Bensenville Elementary School District 2 is to prepare each student for a world of opportunities as a responsible citizen.

The Primary Goal of District 2 is:

To have staff members who each and every day work to give children a foundation for success so that they may achieve academic excellence and reach their full potential as responsible citizens.

Strategies

- 1) Create a safe, trusting, secure and orderly school learning environment.
- 2) Achieve a greater understanding of each other and the world around us.
- 3) Teach children and adults to manage conflict in a responsible manner.
- 4) Build partnerships to unite schools, families, community members and businesses that create a community of life-long learners who support and take pride in District 2.
- 5) Establish recognition for all members of the learning community - students, parents, teachers, volunteers, staff members and community partners - so that excellence is recognized and rewarded.

Bensenville Elementary School District 2
210 S. Church Road
Bensenville, Illinois 60106
630-766-5940
www.bsd2.org

Curriculum Overview

Language Arts

The District 2 Language Arts program reflects the belief that literacy is a communication process that includes the academic areas of reading, writing, spelling, listening and speaking. Program goals are based on the Illinois State Goals and Standards for Learning for Language Arts and current best practices in the area of language arts.

The goal of the Language Arts program is to develop high achieving students who will:

- read, comprehend, interpret, and use written materials.
- experience a variety of different forms of literature.
- understand how and why language functions and evolves.
- apply the writing process to communicate effectively for various purposes and audiences.
- listen critically and analytically for understanding and to gain information.
- utilize spoken language effectively in formal and informal situations to communicate ideas.

Seventh Grade Language Arts Overview

The K-8 curriculum is designed to promote each child's development and progress toward mastery of the skills and knowledge expected as students advance through the grades. The seventh grade curriculum is designed to:

- Develop and apply appropriate strategies to read with understanding and fluency. Learning experiences include: previewing reading materials; making predictions; relating reading to information from other sources; making inferences; drawing conclusions; summarizing and retelling; checking and clarifying for understanding; comparing, contrasting and evaluating ideas; using information to form, explain and support questions and predictions; and applying appropriate strategies to self-correct errors while reading.
- Develop and apply a functional system for word study and identification. Learning experiences include: reading and comprehending unfamiliar words using root words, synonyms, antonyms, word origins, and derivations; clarifying word meaning using context clues and a variety of resources including glossaries, dictionaries and thesauruses.
- Develop and apply reading to a variety of literature. Learning experiences include: choosing material from a

variety of genre to read and enjoy; selecting and reading material to access information; identifying and analyzing a variety of literary techniques such as figurative language, dialogue, description in a variety of genres; and identifying characteristics of various literary forms including short stories, novels, drama, biographies, poetry, and science fiction.

- Develop written work for a variety of purposes and audiences using a process for organizing thoughts, ideas and/or information. Learning experiences include: composing narrative, expository, and persuasive writing; producing written work that conveys a clear understanding of ideas and information displaying focus, organization, elaboration and coherence; and writing compositions that contain complete sentences and effective paragraphs.
- Develop active listening and speaking skills to use in a variety of situations. Learning experiences include: developing speaking and listening to promote effective communications and applying these skills to individual and group experiences.

(Standards Updated and Revised 7-14-2004)



Mathematics

Purpose: To apply mathematical knowledge and use appropriate strategies to analyze data, develop solutions to a variety of problems, and evaluate and communicate results.

The District's Mathematics program is based on the Illinois Standards for Learning and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Standards. Mathematics is taught as a separate subject. The study of mathematics is also integrated into the ongoing daily routines of the classroom and other subjects.

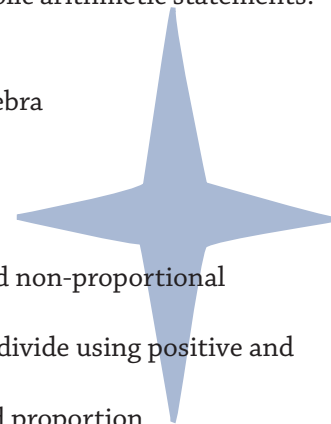
The goal of the curriculum is to develop high-achieving students. The focus of the program is to develop problem-solving strategies and mathematical concepts built on a strong computational skill base. Emphasis is given to establishing links from past experience, action with concrete materials, pictures, verbal statements, and symbolic arithmetic statements.

The mathematical goals addressed throughout the K-8 program are:

Numeration and Computation
Geometry and Spatial Sense

Measurement Systems
Data Collection and Analysis

Algebra



Seventh Grade Mathematics Overview

- Evaluate and select appropriate and efficient methods to solve problems, such as use of paper/ pencil, calculator, and mental math
- Communicate mathematically
- Understand and use ratio and proportions
- Use algebra to solve problems
- Calculate using scientific notation with positive and negative powers of ten
- Solve equations with fractions
- Calculate unit and rate conversion with systems
- Use proportional reasoning to solve problems involving similarity, scale and rate
- Solve one and two step equations including fractions and positive and negative integers
- Find area and perimeter of regular and irregular shapes

Pre-Algebra

- Evaluate and select appropriate and efficient methods to solve problems, such as use of paper/ pencil, calculator, and mental math
- Communicate mathematically
- Make generalizations using variables
- Write algebraic expressions to represent situations and patterns
- Develop and use formulas to solve problems
- Understand and apply formulas of volume and surface area
- Use the distance formula
- Recognize and represent linear relationships
- Evaluate expressions using positive and negative exponents

- Understand proportional and non-proportional relationships
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide using positive and negative integers
- Understand ratios, rates, and proportion

Algebra

- Evaluate and select appropriate and efficient methods to solve problems, such as use of paper-pencil, calculator, and mental math
- Communicate mathematically
- Make generalizations using variables
- Solve linear inequalities and linear systems
- Solve quadratic equations by graphing, formula, or factoring
- Solve simple equations involving rational and rotational symmetry
- Use combinations to calculate outcomes
- Solve systems of equations by graphing, using matrices, and subtraction
- Graph linear equations
- Graph inequalities on a coordinate plane and use graphs to solve problems
- Understand concepts of relations, functions, and functions notation
- Multiply and factor polynomials
- Understand proportions and their properties
- Use algebra to solve geometric problems

(Standards Updated and Revised 7-14-2004)

Science

Purpose: All students will know and be able to apply the scientific method to learn scientific concepts and vocabulary and investigate scientific principles as they apply to a contemporary technological society.

The District's Science program is based on the Illinois State Goals and Standards for Learning and the National Science Education Standards.

The goal of the curriculum is to develop high-achieving students in the area of science. The focus of the program is to develop students who have an understanding of the process of scientific inquiry; the key concepts and principles of life science, physical science, and earth science; and understand the relationship among science, technology, and society. The science units are also designed to be integrated with math and reading strategies.

The scientific process skills addressed throughout the K-8 program are:

Observing	Classifying	Inferring	Predicting
Communicating	Measuring	Using numbers	Creating models
Identifying variables	Recording data	Interpreting data	Drawing conclusions
Formulating hypothesis			

Seventh Grade Science Overview

The Cell

Students will learn the specific characteristics of living things including life processes and cell theory. Using a microscope, students will compare and contrast plant and animal cells. Experiments showing how materials enter and leave a cell through the processes of diffusion and osmosis will be conducted. Students will also study how cells change food into a usable source of energy. The cell unit will conclude with the study of cell division and the role chromosomes play in inheritance.

Chemistry

Students will observe the physical properties of matter and differentiate between elements, compounds, and mixtures. Using experiments, physical and chemical changes will be compared and contrasted. Students will identify the parts of an atom and understand the importance elements play in our everyday lives.

Landfills

In this unit students will explore what happens to biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste products in a landfill. Students will create a landfill in a bottle. They will collect data on the rate of decomposition, leaching, and release of gas. Students will investigate the financial as well as environmental pros and cons of landfills.

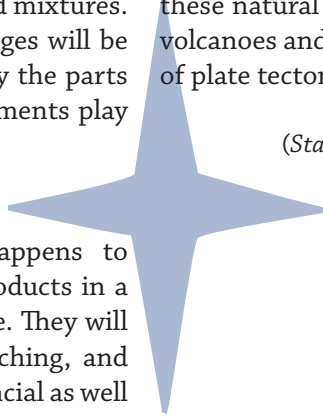
Earth's Changing Surface

Students will investigate how the earth's surface is in constant change. They will compare and contrast mechanical and chemical weathering. Students will examine the importance of soil formation. They will end the unit by identifying the major causes of erosion and how they affect shorelines and beaches.

Earth Science

The Restless Earth - In this unit, students will learn how stress can change the Earth's features, both on and beneath the surface. They will explore the causes and effects of earthquakes and volcanoes and learn how scientists predict these natural phenomena. Students will also discover how volcanoes and earthquakes provide evidence for the theory of plate tectonics.

(Standards Updated and Revised 5-24-2007)



Social Science

Purpose: To apply social scientific knowledge and use appropriate strategies to analyze data, develop solutions to problems, evaluate, and communicate results.

The District's Social Sciences program is based on the Illinois State Goals and Standards for Learning and the National Council for Social Studies' recommended themes. Across the curriculum, social sciences will be integrated with all subjects.

The goal of the curriculum is to develop high-achieving students in the area of social studies. The focus of the program is to develop students who can access, process, and present information. Emphasis is on establishing links from the past to the present.

The social sciences goals and themes addressed throughout the K-8 program are:

Politics	Economics	History	Geography	Sociology	Reasoning
Culture	Technology	Civics			

Seventh Grade Social Science Overview

The seventh grade curriculum focuses on the beginning of the United States as a nation. In the first semester students study the United States Constitution and are assessed on their learning. Geography is integrated into the entire curriculum.

- The Scope and Sequence is as follows:
 - Unit 1: American Beginnings (Beginnings to 1550)
 - Unit 2: Colonies in the Americas (1500-1750)
 - Unit 3: The Colonies Break Free (1675-1783)
 - Unit 4: A New American Nation (1777-1800)
 - Emphasis on the U.S. Constitution
 - Unit 5: Building a Strong nation (1800-1840)
 - Unit 6: A Changing Nation (1790-1860)
 - Unit 7: The Nation Expands West (1790-1860)
 - Unit 8: The Nation Breaks Apart (1848-1865)
- Current Events: Taught regularly throughout the year, and reinforced at home
- Politics: Comparative political systems of the world, types of governments, types of government leaders, how rules are made and enforced
- Economics: Consumers, producers, types of economies
- around the world, trade, global interdependence
- History: Famous world leaders, early U.S. leaders
- Geography: Use of the five major themes: location, place, region, human-environment interaction, movement, correlations to the eighteen National Geography Standards, physical systems of earth, relationships between geography and society
- Sociology: Different social groups
- Reasoning: Ability to make clear, well-supported decisions
- Culture: U.S. regional studies
- Technology: Applications world-wide, implications of instant global communication
- Civics: Citizenship, democratic values, U.S. system

(Standards Updated and Revised 7-20-2005)

Physical Development and Health

The District's Physical Development and Health program is based on the Illinois State Goals and Standards for Learning. The program is designed to develop in students the desire to acquire and maintain a strong and healthy body. Students are taught to realize that a strong body and good health are basic to their lives.

The District believes effective human functioning depends upon optimum physical development and health. In District 2, physical education provides students with the knowledge and attitudes necessary to achieve healthful living throughout their lives and to acquire physical fitness, coordination and leisure skills.

The Physical Development and Health program in District 2 is one phase of the total educational program which enables students to safely develop physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally to their maximum capacity according to their individual abilities.



Middle School Physical Development and Health Overview

(Grades 6,7,8)

At the middle school level, students meet daily to participate in a variety of physical activities. Emphasis is placed on safety, fitness, skill development, good sportsmanship, and active participation.

The activities the students will be involved in include:

Soccer	Ping-pong	Flag football
Aerobics	Speed ball	Badminton
Basketball	Fitness activities	Volleyball
Floor hockey	Softball	Track and field

Health education is also taught to all students. Topics include nutrition, exercise-fitness, muscular and skeletal systems, first aid, and wellness.

Physical fitness is assessed throughout the year with the Presidential Physical Fitness test administered in the spring.

In cooperation with the Village of Bensenville, District 2 is offering classes at the Redmond Recreation Center. Student activities will include ice skating, roller blading, cross-country skiing, wall climbing, orienteering, and fitness lab.

An intramural program is available to all middle school students. In addition, an extracurricular program is available to all seventh and eighth graders. Activities include cross-country, girls basketball, boys basketball, cheerleading/dance, girls volleyball, boys volleyball, and track and field.

(Standards Updated and Revised 7-20-2005)

Fine Arts

The District 2 Fine Arts program is based on the Illinois State Goals and Standards for Learning as well as the National Standards established by the Music Educators National Conference, the Illinois Music Educators Association, the Illinois Art Education Association, and the Illinois Theater Association.

The goals of the Fine Arts program are to develop high achieving students who will:

- understand the elements, processes, tools, and the unique qualities of the arts.
- demonstrate and apply the skills and knowledge necessary to create and perform in the arts.
- know and be able to recognize significant works in the arts and how they reflect various cultures and civilizations past and present.
- nurture talents and abilities that will continue throughout their lives.

The K-8 discipline-based curriculum is designed to build upon the knowledge, understanding, and skill development from the previous year(s). It contributes to creative development, self-discipline, critical thinking, and self-esteem of every child. Whenever possible, the arts are integrated into the other areas of learning.

Seventh Grade Fine Arts Overview

Students will receive instruction for six weeks in music, visual art, and drama/video communications.

Music

Elements: time signatures, meter, tonality, dynamics, form, texture, notation.

Performance: singing, playing of instruments and/or keyboards.

Technology: using current technologies to study music notation and to create music.

Art

Elements: lines and shape, color, form, texture, patterns.

Performance: drawing, lettering, and painting.

History and Culture: taught as it relates to the art projects created.



Instrumental Music

Students in grades 5-8 may participate in the District's Instrumental Music program. Participation in band provides students with an opportunity to develop, enrich, and refine instrumental performing skills.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Bands

The seventh and eighth grade bands rehearse after school. Band students will receive one sectional rehearsal a week during the regular school day on a rotating basis. Students enrolled in the seventh and eighth grade bands will focus on the development and refinement of their instrumental skills in an ensemble setting. Attention will be given to tone production, balance within an ensemble, individual technique, musicality, music history, notation, and rhythm. Extracurricular opportunities in the band program include Jazz Band, and solo and small ensemble performances.

Goemetry Skills Extension

Seventh graders will analyze all properties of all bi- and tri-dimensional shapes with an emphasis on calculating circumference, area, and perimeter using various venues: i.e. altitude, bases, and radi. Students will extend the algebraic application of geometry into algebraic algorithm.

Technology Education

Students will receive instruction for six weeks. They will select two modules to investigate and study. Each module is approximately 12 - 15 days in length. The goal is to develop students who will:

- Be able to utilize computers, tools and machines in solving problems, creating products and applying principles of physical science.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship that science, math, language arts and social studies have in our everyday lives.
- Be able to better select career paths based on the exploration of technical areas.

Students receive instruction for six weeks. They select two modules to investigate and study. Each module is approximately 10 days in length plus an orientation period. Students work individually or in pairs to complete the required activities.

Practical Life Skills Education

The District 2 Life Skills Technology program provides students with the practical experiences needed to become independent, organized and self-motivated learners. The goal is to develop students who will:

- Increase their understanding and use of procedural, technical text while learning life skills.
- Experience teamwork, time management principles, cooperative and collaborative learning, and develop self-direction and motivation in work-related situations.
- Increase knowledge of vocabulary used in the area they are studying and use their vocabulary for a better understanding of the materials and equipment.
- Reinforce and enhance mathematical, social studies, language arts, reading and science skills by solving problems which are integrated into all modules. All modules are based on interdisciplinary facts and information.

Students will have three modules to investigate and study in this six week class. The modules will focus on cooking, sewing and consumer awareness.

Career Strand

This six-week class will focus on career education/opportunities and the importance of education and life skills in each one.

Foreign Language/Literacy

Purpose: The District's Foreign Language program is designed to:

- provide children with both the knowledge and opportunity to communicate using another language;
- establish a solid basis for pronunciation and intonation in the foreign language;
- establish a favorable attitude toward language learning;
- support the student's intellectual and cultural growth/awareness.

The Foreign Language program is based on the Illinois Standards for Foreign Languages.

Students in grades 6-8 have the option of studying Spanish as part of their school program. Students may elect to take Spanish as an exploratory course of study.

The benefits of foreign language instruction focus on the role the individual plays in a multilingual, global society. According to the Illinois State Standards, research indicates the study of a foreign language provides students the edge needed to succeed at higher levels in other subjects.

Library Media Centers

The purpose of the K-8 Library Media Center program is to support all areas of the curriculum by:

- providing students and staff members with quality print, electronic, and telecommunications resources and providing guided access and instruction in their use.
- assisting classroom teachers in planning and implementing expanded curriculum opportunities for identified gifted students.
- supporting and connecting with other community resources, e.g. the Bensenville Community Public Library.
- teaching students to select, evaluate, interpret, record, and organize information.
- supporting the development of life-long reading and learning in all students by exposing them to a variety of literature, authors, and illustrators.

