East Maine School District 63
Parent's Guide to Seventh Grade

In Seventh Grade, your child will:

Language Arts

- Recognize etymology as an aid to decoding and word meaning
- Clarify the meaning of words in context using denotation and connotation strategies
- Identify and interpret idioms, similes, analogies and metaphors to express implied meaning
- Identify elements of fiction: character, theme, conflict, point of view, plot, setting and flashback
- Make literal and simple inferences in narrative text to analyze and critique text
- Build and support creative interpretations of reading and support of plausible interpretations using features of information text
- Summarize text to demonstrate understanding of concepts, to distinguish between significant and minor details, and to connect ideas to real world situation, historical events and prior knowledge
- Continuously check and clarify for understanding (e.g., reread, read ahead, use visual and context clues) during reading
- Use information from text to form, explain and support questions
- Analyze and evaluate author's word choice
- Interpret concepts through inference and evaluation
- Draw conclusions based on information found in visual information and data
- Use topic, theme, text structure, context, and point of view to guide interpretation
- Recognize how illustrations reflect, interpret and enhance text
- Determine the author's purpose as represented by the choice of genre and literacy devices employed
- Identify conflict or contradiction within a character or a character's behavior
- Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationships among the reader, author, form and text
- Explain how the literary devices (e.g., alliteration, imagery, metaphor) contribute to the meaning of a literary selection

- Explain how character, theme, conflict, and point of view contribute to the meaning of a literary selection
- Recognize and interpret how point of view influences author's purpose
- Paraphrase, summarize, synthesize, and evaluate information from a variety of genres
- Evaluate how attitudes toward a situation or problem (immigrant, poverty) change in different times or cultures
- Develop compositions that include a variety of sentence structures (simple, compound, compound/complex)
- Use correct spelling of grade level high frequency words (no excuse words)
- Use commas joining two independent clauses
- Construct sentences using consistent verb tense and correct pronoun-antecedent agreement
- Use a range of prewriting strategies to choose a topic, organize and generate ideas
- Use an effective and coherent organizational pattern (sequence, cause/effect, comparison) in a composition
- Compose a clear thesis/claim that contains the main idea in a composition
- Choose the appropriate form, voice and style for the audience and purpose of the composition
- Use appropriate from for the purpose of writing (letters, essays, poems, reports, narratives)
- Proofread/edit for correct conventions including commas joining two independent clauses
- Revise to maintain a consistent voice, tone and focus throughout the writing
- Use graphic aids to support the presentation of the published pieces (e.g., banners, charts, maps, models, games, interviews and surveys)
- Publish a variety of writing within each genre (short fiction, newspaper articles, essays)

- Write a narrative account that establishes a context, creates a point of view, and develops a focused, powerful impression
- Use available technology (web pages, presentations, speeches) to design, produce and present compositions and multi-media words
- Differentiate between a speaker's factual and emotional content by analyzing verbal/nonverbal messages
- Formulate probing, idea-generating questions to clarify meaning
- Align content, vocabulary, rate, volume and style with the characteristics of the audience
- Identify and use discussion techniques to arrive at a consensus of opinion
- Survey a subject and select a topic
- Choose and evaluate information acquired from primary and secondary sources
- Analyze and evaluate primary and secondary sources (print and non-print) to gain new information
- Gather/organize/synthesize information in an appropriate format to accommodate characteristics of audiences (e.g., age, background, interest level, group size) and purposes of presentation (e.g., inform, persuade, entertain)