



Holston Middle School
7th Grade General Syllabus
2023 – 2024

Welcome Holston Students and Families to the 7th grade. We would like to share with you the general syllabus and expectations that are consistent throughout the entire 7th-grade team. Each teacher will also share a syllabus that is specific to their class.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Attendance Policy

Parents/guardians have the legal responsibility to ensure that their child is fully participating in virtual and in-person school by monitoring their progress and time spent on daily coursework. When a student is unable to participate in daily instruction, parent notes/doctor notes should be submitted. All virtual students are held to the same attendance policies/guidelines as students who are in traditional schools. See Knox County Board of Education Attendance Policy (J-120) regarding absence documentation.

Honor Code:

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th Edition, "Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been paraphrased." Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time with a letter drop in the grade or earning a zero for the assignment. Parents should be involved in making that decision.

- ***Cheating*** is defined as representing any other person's work or work from any source as your own.

Device Use/Misuse:

Improper use of any computer or network is prohibited. This includes the following:

- Use of racist, profane, or obscene language or materials
- Using the network for financial gain, political or commercial activity
- Attempting to or harming equipment, materials or data
- Attempting to or sending anonymous messages of any kind
- Using the network to access inappropriate material
- Knowingly placing a computer virus on a computer or the network
- Using the network to provide addresses or other personal information that others may use inappropriately.
- Accessing of information resources, files, and documents of another user without permission
- Vandalism, any malicious attempt to harm or destroy district equipment or materials, data of another user of the district's system, or any of the agencies or other networks to which the district has access is prohibited. Deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt system performance may be viewed as violations of district guidelines and, possibly, as criminal activity under applicable state and federal laws. This includes but is not limited to, the uploading or creating of computer viruses.
- Forgery or attempted forgery of electronic messages is prohibited. Attempts to read, delete, copy, or modify the electronic mail of other system users or deliberate interference with the ability of other system users to send/receive electronic mail is prohibited. Forgery or attempted forgery of documents or currency is prohibited. Deliberate attempts to create, copy or modify official documents or currency using district technology resources may be viewed as a violation of district guidelines and, possibly, as criminal activity under applicable state and federal laws.

Failure to comply with these standards may result in temporary or permanent removal of user access to KCS Virtual Instruction.



Classroom Expectations

- **Be respectful** - Treat everyone with proper consideration, regardless of whether he/she is in the classroom at the time. Use respectful language, in writing as well as in discussions. Show respect for your environment by keeping the classrooms clean and neat.
- **Be responsible** - Arrive at class on time and with all necessary materials. Complete assignments on time, ask questions when necessary, and stay aware of deadlines. Be prepared for the start of class each day. Do what is right, regardless of what everyone else in the class is doing.
- **Be appropriate** - Conduct yourself as a mature, well-mannered young adult. Think before speaking, and make sure all contributions to the class dialogue should be meaningful and relevant. Take care of personal business when the time is appropriate. Use your privileges wisely.
- **Be involved** - Participate to the fullest extent that you can. Stay awake. Take part in discussions. Ask questions. Answer questions. Stay on task. Take notes. Keep your head up. Do your homework. Use class time efficiently. Listen. Watch. Participate.
- **Be honest** - Do your own work. Do not cheat, and do not plagiarize. Do not attempt to sneak around the rules. Avoid inventing excuses to cover up for your mistakes. Accept consequences for your mistakes, and learn from them.

GRADING and ASSESSMENT

For grading purposes, I use the Knox County grading scale. There will be two categories in the grading book. Daily Grades will make up 90% and TCAP will be 10% of the total grade. The following is the grading scale.

Grade	Percentage
A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
F	Below 60%

Assignments:

Students will be given class time to complete most assignments. When an assignment is not completed in class, students are expected to complete it at home and turn it in on the due date.

Makeup work or Absent

- Please check Canvas for assignments and details of activities.
- If you know that you will be absent ahead of time, please communicate with teachers.
- If you miss class due to an illness, you will have three days to make up work for every day you are absent. It is your responsibility as soon as you return to get all of your make-up assignments and the due dates.

Honors Expectations

Projects/Homework Assignments: Students will be given additional projects and homework assignments that challenge them to problem-solve and think critically at a higher level. Some assignments and projects may require additional research and the use of their computer as a tool for completion. Students will be communicated with expectations and procedures that need to be followed for homework assignments and rubric-graded projects. Students may be expected to work at home to complete given projects and additional homework assignments to ensure they are completed by the given due date. Daily work may require reading and comprehension of grade level or above grade level text as well as application of grade level or above grade level writing strategies, skills, and organization that connect to the state science objectives.



Contact

The following are the team email and phone numbers. We will get back to you within 24 hours during the school week.

Teacher Name	Email	Phone number
Mary Bee (Science)	mary.bee@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41246
Joshua Brink (History)	joshua.Brink@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41248
Danielle English (Science)	danielle.english@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41253
Gina Eshleman (Math)	regina.eshleman@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41242
Morgan Holliday/Hall (History)	morgan.holliday@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41247
Nikki Halko (ELA)	jaclyn.halko@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41250
Jandé Hill (ELA)	jande.hill@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41245
Linda Holtzclaw (Math)	linda.holtzclaw@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41252
Allison Mullins (7th Grade Principal)	allison.mullins@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41249 OR 41205
Susan Musick (Math and ELA)	susan.musick@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41243

How will we communicate with my students?	How will we communicate with families?
We will post grades to the Parent Portal (Aspen) at least once per week.	We will email parents using the email address listed in the Parent Portal (Aspen).
We will post announcements, assignments, and resources to Canvas each week.	We will post grades to the Parent Portal (Aspen) at least once per week.
We will use Microsoft Teams for virtual class meetings if needed.	We will post announcements, assignments, and resources to Canvas each week.
We will communicate course expectations in this syllabus.	We will communicate course expectations in this syllabus.

ELA

Mrs. Halko	Ms. Hill	Ms.Musick
My name is Mrs. Halko, and I am thrilled to be joining the 7th Grade Team at Holston Middle School. Some of you may recognize my name because I worked with the 6th Grade Team last year. I am excited to bring my passion for education to your child's classroom.	My name is Jande' Hill, and I am excited to be your teacher for 7th grade ELA. We will continue to explore our learning through reading! This is my first year at Holston Middle School, and I look forward to having a great school year together!	Hello, I am Susan Musick, the 7th grade Special Ed Teacher. This is my fifth year here at Holston. I teach and co-teach both ELA and Math. I look forward to helping your students this year.



RESOURCES

1. Textbook(s) - provided by the school. Online and Classroom Workbook.
2. Notebook or Binder - for organizing class notes and handouts.
3. Writing Utensils - pens, pencils, highlighters, etc.
5. Quill, Vocab App, Padlet, Kahoot, Quizizz, Microsoft Teams, & Others as Needed (Amplify.com is the curriculum we use in ELA. The texts are online. We have workbooks we use in the classroom; however, it is directly aligned with the online curriculum. Students will use Quill.org and VocabApp.)

OTHER INFORMATION

Mrs. Halko and Ms. Hill

Assignments

Students will submit assignments and projects through Canvas, Amplify, in their workbooks, or on paper as directed

Late work will be accepted; however, there will be a point deduction for late work. If a student has an excused absence, they have five school days to turn in the work without point deductions.

Assessment and Feedback:

Regular assessments and feedback will be provided to monitor students' progress throughout the course. Teachers will use various methods such as quizzes, tests, writing assessments, class discussions, and projects to evaluate students' understanding and skill development.

INSTRUCTION/STANDARDS

In 7th-grade English Language Arts, students will develop their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The course focuses on strengthening comprehension, critical thinking, analysis, and effective communication through a variety of literary and informational texts. Students will engage in discussions, essays, projects, and creative activities to enhance their language skills and foster a love for reading and writing. We cover the TN ELA standards.

7th Grade Amplify Units

7A Red Scarf Girl & Narrative Unit

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution

7C Brain Science Unit

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About

Brain Science

Inventing Ourselves: The Secret Life Of The Teenage Brain

The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat

7D Poetry & Poe Unit

"The White Horse" & "The Silence"

"A Narrow Fellow In The Grass"

"The Tell-Tale Heart"

"The Cask Of Amontillado"

"The Raven"

7e The Frida & Diego Collection Unit

The Frida & Diego Collection

7F The Gold Rush Collection

California Gold Rush

Brown Girl Dreaming

****7B is intentionally not on this list, as it will not be covered.

ELA STANDARDS and explanations are located at the below website for Tennessee.

[https://bestforall-cms.tnedu.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/ELA%20Standards%20Guide%20\(Grade%207\)%20-%20RI%20Standards_2.pdf](https://bestforall-cms.tnedu.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/ELA%20Standards%20Guide%20(Grade%207)%20-%20RI%20Standards_2.pdf)



Social Studies

Mr. Brink	Mrs. Hall
<p>Welcome to 7th grade. I have been teaching here at Holston since 2019-2020, and I am proud to be a Hurricane!</p> <p>I have a daughter, a dog, and two cats that seem to dictate a majority of the things I do.</p> <p>My personal philosophy is that we need to have high expectations and that our ability to read and write well is about as important as any other skill out there. I am looking forward to working with your children and you, the parents and guardians of our students. When we work together, our students will absolutely have the best chance at success!</p>	<p>Welcome to 7th grade Social Studies! My name is Morgan Hall, my email and your student's schedules will say Holliday (I recently got married and the name change has not officially happened yet). I have been teaching at Holston Middle since 2020-2021. I love being here at Holston and I look forward to working with you and your students! I believe we will have a successful school year!</p>

MATERIALS

- Colored Pencils
- Highlighters (multiple colors)
- Loose-leaf Notebook Paper (College-Ruled)
- Over-the-ear headphones
- Pens (Black, Blue & Red)
- Pencils
- Sharpies
- 3-prong, 2-pocket Folder (RED)

RESOURCES

Textbook: (Spielvogel, J) World History & Geography: The Middle Ages to the 1700s, Tennessee edition 2020

The curriculum taught in this class includes, but is not limited to, the historical study of multiple religions and their effects on world culture, politics, and everyday life. As stated in the State of Tennessee Curriculum, and on the included Pacing Guide, students will analyze the geographic, political, economic, social, and religious structures of the civilizations studied. Some religious texts will be studied as they pertain to historical events.

Primary Documents and Supporting Texts that are religion-aligned selections listed on the State of Tennessee Curriculum include the following:

- Excerpts from 'The Analects', Confucius
- Excerpts from 'The Hadith', Muhammad
- Excerpts from Eusebius of Caesarea, "Ecclesiastical History" that describes Constantine
- Excerpts from Summa Theologica, Thomas Aquinas
- Excerpts from "Ninety-Five Theses", Martin Luther
- Excerpts from "In Praise of Folly", Erasmus, and
- Excerpts from both textbooks listed on syllabus



Compliance with Instructional Materials Policy & Procedure I-211:

I utilize a variety of video and media source excerpts from *National Geographic*, *Planet Earth*, History Channel, PBS and BBC, History Teachers Videos Channel (youtube for educators), *Horrible Histories*, *Mankind: The Story of All of Us*, www.npr.org, www.newsela.com, <http://www.tngeographicalliance.org/seventh-grade-lesson-plans.html>, opened.com, among others.

Alternative for objectionable material:

If you do not approve of a specific topic and or any of the supporting texts listed above, please make your request to me in writing and an alternative assignment will be provided. The request should include your name, your student's name, the specific activity/materials in which you do not want your student to participate or to which you do not want him/her exposed, and the nature of your objection.

OTHER INFORMATION

Mr. Brink	Mrs. Hall
Students are responsible for missing/makeup work. They will have until one week after the end of a Module (as stated on Canvas) to turn in missing work.	Students are responsible for missing/makeup work. Students should check Aspen daily and/or weekly to ensure they have completed any and all assignments required. They have one week after the end of each module (after we have taken the module assessment) to turn in missing/make-up work. If they have any questions, they should ask me after class or via Canvas Messages. While I will have assignments posted on Canvas, most if not all are paper-based. However, your student should still have their computers charged and have the required materials needed for my class.

INSTRUCTION/STANDARDS

Social Studies Standards are located on the webpage below. The syllabus with the standards will also be posted on our class's Canvas page.

Social Studies Standards

- Can be found on the Knox County Website.
 - <https://www.knoxschools.org/cms/lib/TN01917079/Centricity/Domain/1013/Seventh%20Grade%20Standards.pdf>



Math

Mrs. Eshleman	Mrs. Holtzclaw	Ms. Musick
Hello, I am Gina Eshleman. I am so excited to have you in my class this year. We are going to have a great math year full of problem-solving, pattern recognition, and mastering new concepts. These are all skills that you will not only use in math, but in your everyday life. My husband, Troy, and I have three young adults Daniel and Alex are in college and Sofia is a high school Junior. I do not have much free time since I am currently getting my master's in math education. When I do have free time I like to spend time outdoors with my family or playing board games with them. I also love to read, cook, and watch Bearden girls' soccer. I look forward to meeting each of you and celebrating your success this year.	Hello, I am happy to have you in class this year. This is my 40th year teaching. We are going to have a great year with a new I-Ready curriculum. I am married and have three grown children, two sons-in-law, and two rescue Chihuahua mixes named Poe and Molly. I like to spend my free time reading, traveling, and being with my family. I look forward to getting to know you!	Welcome to 7th Grade, I am the Special Ed teacher and will be co-teaching in Math this year. I look forward to helping support each and every one in class.

MATERIALS

Students will need to come to class with a charged Chromebook and pencil. Students will have a workbook that they will keep at school. I- I-Ready Math has an online tool called iReady that they will be able to use at school and home.

RESOURCES

We will be using I-Ready math as our curriculum this year. *Ready Mathematics* helps teachers create a rich classroom environment in which students at all levels become active, real-world problem solvers. Through teacher-led instruction, students develop mathematical reasoning, engage in discourse, and build strong mathematical habits.

We will also be using iReady math, an online tool. i-Ready allows teachers to meet your student exactly where they are and provides data to increase your student's learning gains. i-Ready consists of two parts: Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be given. Students are expected to do their best on every assignment. Retakes on quizzes/tests will be given at the teacher's discretion. If a retake is offered, the student will be required to complete an assignment(s) to prepare for the retake.

OTHER INFORMATION

Mrs. Eshleman	Mrs. Holtzclaw
Students are responsible for making up missed work when absent. They will have three days to make up missed assignments.	Students are responsible for making up missed work when absent. They will have three days to make up missed assignments.

INSTRUCTION/STANDARDS

<https://www.knoxschools.org/Page/293>



Science

Mrs. Bee	Mrs. English
Welcome to 7th Grade Science! My name is Mrs. Bee and this is my third year teaching at Holston Middle School and my eleventh year teaching. I became a teacher to share my love of science with young people. I really enjoy the middle-level learners because of the energy, passion, and curiosity that each learner brings to my class. My husband, Mike, and I have two energetic boys; Carson (age 13) and Gavin (age 10). We also have two dogs named Mulligan and Bogey. As a family, we enjoy spending time outside, hiking, camping, and swimming. We also love playing board games and cards. I am excited to meet everyone and learn more about you.	Welcome to 7th Grade Science! My name is Ms. English, and this is my tenth year teaching at Holston Middle School! This year we will explore Physical science and Life Science topics! I am looking forward to helping you have a great and successful year!

MATERIALS

The student will take notes and keep all work in their Science Notebook, which will stay with the student. This will require each student to have:

- Spiral notebook
- Pencil or Pen
- Glue stick
- Colored pencils/pens
- 3 Ring binder pencil-pouch (optional, but helpful for organization of glue/pencils)

Fees: There are no fees associated with this course.

RESOURCES

We will be using a variety of different resources during science class.

- The textbook that will be used is Pearson and comes with digital access. The approximate cost to replace the consumable text if lost or damaged is **\$25.97**.
- Occasionally, there will be a science video that I feel is educational and supplemental to the science learning objectives listed above. The videos are from the HMS library collection or from a school-approved educational website.
- I frequently like to use text from a variety of sources to enhance student understanding of content.
 - YouTube
 - Phet Labs
 - Gizmos
 - NearPod
 - Prezi
 - National Geographic
 - Scientific American
 - LiveScience
 - Genetics
 - Nature
 - Other reputable sources

If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to me in writing and an alternative assignment will be provided. This request should include your name, the child's name, the specific activity or material in which you do not want your child to participate or to which you do not want them exposed, and the nature of your objection.

SAFETY

The safety procedures for this course can be found in the safety contract that each student and guardian is responsible to read, sign, and return by **Friday, August 18th**. The students will have a copy provided to them to keep in their Science Notebook. The safety contract can also be found on my Science Canvas site.

INSTRUCTION/STANDARDS are [linked here](#).