



Holston Middle School
7th Grade General Syllabus
2024 – 2025

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
Luke Askins (Science)	luke.askins@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41246
Danielle English (Science)	danielle.english@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41253
Joshua Brink (History)	joshua.Brink@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41248
Travis Thompson (History)	travis.thompson@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41245
Nikki Halko (ELA)	jaclyn.halko@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41250
Karen Pallesen (ELA)	karen.pallesen@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41242
Angel Johnson (ELA)	angel.johnson@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext 41264
Gina Eshleman (Math)	regina.eshleman@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41247
Martha Sileno (Math)	martha.dimariasileno@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41252
Susan Musick (Math and ELA)	susan.musick@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41243
Allison Mullins (7th Grade Principal)	allison.mullins@knoxschools.org	865-594-1300 ext. 41249 OR 41205

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. Pallesen	Ms.Musick
<p>My name is Mrs. Halko, and I am excited to teach ELA this year at Holston Middle School. This is my 3rd year at Holston. In ELA we will apply TENNESSEE ELA standards for language, reading comprehension, and writing, and we will MASTER them!</p> <p>I feel very strongly that parent communication is the key to student success. Please message me on Parent Square or email me with any questions, comments, concerns. I regularly send out whole class messages to parents/caregivers with ELA updates.</p> <p>My goal is for students to master the standards in ELA, but I also want each and every student to know they are loved and supported.</p>		<p>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.</p>

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. Pallesen
<p>Assignments Students will submit assignments and projects through Canvas, Amplify, in their workbooks, or on paper as directed.</p>



Late work will ONLY be accepted for ABSENCES. 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. There will be a project assigned at some point in every unit.

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. The substitute text is “Brown Girl Dreaming.”

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	Mr. Thompson
<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>Hello, I would like to welcome you all to a spectacular year here at Holston Middle. This is my 22nd year at Holston and I have seen it evolve into one of the premier middle schools in Knox County. That said, I believe in the importance of lifelong learning and in order to achieve something great there has to be commitment and sacrifice. As the teacher, I must set the example of having that thirst for learning because even being over the age of 50, I still wake up everyday super excited to learn something new.</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	Mr. Thompson
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.	It is the students’ responsibility to seek out and complete their missing work. They will have one week after the completion of a module to submit or turn in their missing assignments. The majority of their assignments will be on CANVAS.

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. Sileno	Ms. Musick
Hello, 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. I look forward to meeting each of you and celebrating your success this year.	Welcome to your favorite 7th grade class, MATH! We are going to have a great year together as we experience the wonder and joy of math. I am excited to watch you sharpen your skills as a mathematician.	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 they will keep at school. i-Ready Math has an online tool called i-Ready that they will be able to use at school and home.

RESOURCES

We will be using i-Ready math as our curriculum this year. *i-Ready Mathematics* helps 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 an online tool i-Ready MyPath. MyPath meets your student exactly where they are and provides data that will help to increase your student's learning gains.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Objectives: Understanding and applying proportional relationships, extending the understanding and application of operations with rational numbers, basic statistics, and geometric concepts.

Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

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. Sileno
Students are responsible for making up missed work when absent. They will have three days to make up missed assignments.	See Honors Math Information: ☰ Holston 7th Grade Math (standard/honors) 24/25



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INSTRUCTION/STANDARDS: [7th grade math standards list.png](#)

Science

Mr. Askins	Mrs. English
<p>Science time! Welcome back to Holston. My name is Mr. Askins, and this is my fifth year at Holston. This year we will be investigating various themes in basic introductions to Biology and Chemistry. I'm here to help and work with you to make this year a win!</p>	<p>Welcome to 7th Grade Science! My name is Ms. English, and this is my twelfth year teaching at Holston Middle School! This year we will explore Physical science and Life Science topics! I look forward to helping you have a great and successful year!</p>

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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One Subject Spiral notebook- any color ● Pencil or Pen ● Glue stick | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. 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 a school-approved educational website.
- I frequently like to use text from a variety of sources to enhance student understanding of content.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ YouTube ○ Phet Labs ○ Gizmos ○ NearPod ○ Prezi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Geographic ○ Scientific American ○ LiveScience ○ Genetics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nature ○ Other reputable sources
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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 Monday, August 19th. 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](#).