

# Winnisquam Regional Middle School

## 7th Grade Program of Studies

### 2011-2012

#### **English/Language Arts (ELA)**

The 7th grade English / Language Arts course is designed to prepare students for 8th grade and beyond. The class will explore the following themes of Growing Up and Responsibility, Culture and Heritage, Survival, Challenges and perseverance, Transformation, and Diversity. Students will explore the themes through the use of short stories, novels, poetry, non-fiction, and drama. Other topics and skills such as spelling, grammar, vocabulary, and the writing process will be incorporated within the themed units. An honors option is offered to students who are capable of extending their learning by engaging with the curriculum at a more advanced level.

#### **Read 180**

Read 180 is a remedial ELA program designed for students whose literacy skills are significantly below grade level. The program includes Whole-Group Instruction, Individualized Computerized Instruction, and Modeled and Independent Reading. This program replaces the regular 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA class until students are performing at grade level.

#### **Algebra**

This course is aligned with the Winnisquam Regional High School's Algebra course and builds upon the skills developed in previous math courses. The central focus is on symbolic reasoning and calculating with symbols. This course emphasizes the use of mathematics in real life situations and the integration of problem solving and critical thinking skills to make meaningful connections to life's experiences. This is an honors level course in Grade Seven.

#### **Pre-Algebra**

Pre-Algebra is a course designed to provide students with the understanding of the concepts and skills needed to be successful in algebra and geometry. Students will extend their elementary skills and investigate and explore mathematical ideas and develop multiple strategies for analyzing complex situations. Students will analyze situations verbally, numerically, graphically and symbolically. In addition, students will apply mathematical skills and make meaningful connections to life's experiences.

#### **General Math**

General Math is a course designed to further the development of students' mathematical concepts. Students will continue with grade level course work, along with strengthening basic arithmetic skills. Arithmetic skills will be strengthened; geometry and introductory algebra skills will be emphasized to better ready students for higher level mathematics. Some topics include identifying, working with

and solving for variables, transformations of objects, ratios, volume of three dimensional shapes and integers.

## General Math with Lab

General Math with a lab follows the same description as General Math except there will be an additional lab component to the class. The lab will allow time for students to focus on individual skill building needs. The program(s) will be technology based and occur in the learning lab. The math teachers and the learning lab instructor will work together to create, monitor, and adjust labs to enable students to make progress and meet individual learning goals.

## Science

The main focus of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum at Winnisquam Regional Middle School is Life Science. The curriculum is divided into the following sections: Human Body Systems, Life Structures and Functions, and Animal Diversity and Ecology. Throughout the year, these aspects of life science are closely studied and analyzed in a variety of methods. We use the Full Option Science System (FOSS) which lends itself to many hands-on, inquiry-based labs and activities. In addition to the FOSS science system, the students are provided with a Glencoe textbook which has supplemental material to enrich and enhance the curriculum. An honors option is offered to students who are capable of extending their learning by engaging with the curriculum at a more advanced level.

## Social Studies

The focus of seventh grade social studies is World Geography. The students will come to understand more about the world in which they live. During the course of the year, they will be able to identify many of the countries and physical features of the world. We look at diverse cultures, physical environments, why people live where they do and how they earn a living. Each continent is used as a backdrop to develop map skills, the reading of charts and graphs and the building of vocabulary. An honors option is offered to students who are capable of extending their learning by engaging with the curriculum at a more advanced level.

## Band and Chorus

Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade have the option to choose to participate in Band and/or Chorus.

## Spanish

Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade have the option to choose to participate in a Rosetta Stone Spanish class one day per week. This is offered on a first come first served basis.

