



PS/IS 366: Washington Heights Academy

A Neighborhood Learning Community for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8

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Dear Grade 7 Families:

Welcome to Grade 7! We are writing to introduce ourselves as members of the Grade 7 Team, and to share our expectations for the upcoming school year. One of our primary goals is to maintain strong home-school communication to ensure that all of our students have a positive and productive year.

Curriculum and Instruction

Students will work with a wide range of content, skills and concepts across all content areas, using the following curricula as a framework:

English Language Arts (ELA): *CodeX & Expeditionary Learning*

Math: *enVision Mathematics*

Social Studies: *Passport to Social Studies*

Science: *Interactive Science, FOSS, Measuring Up*

These programs will be supplemented with additional resources to enrich students' learning experiences. Below are some topics and themes to be covered during the first part of the year.

<u>Math Topics</u>	<u>ELA/Social Studies Themes</u>
Topic 1: Integers and Rational Numbers	Unit 1: Mapping Your Life / Your Vote! Your Rights! (Novel Study: <i>The Outsiders</i> , by S.E. Hinton)
Topic 2: Analyze and Use Proportional Relationships	Unit 2: Working Conditions: Then and Now (Novel Study: <i>Lyddie</i> , by Katherine Paterson)
Topic 3: Analyze and Solve Problems	Unit 3: The Sports Report
Topic 4: Generate Equivalent Expressions	Unit 4: The Value of Dreams (Drama Study: <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> , by Lorraine Hansberry / Langston Hughes Poetry)
Topic 5: Solve Problems Using Equations and Inequalities	

Your children will also continue to explore College and Career Readiness, while laying a strong groundwork for the High School Application process.

Learning Activities

Students will practice key concepts and skills through a variety of learning activities, and will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate what they have learned. Each unit of study will include:

- Pre- and post-assessments to show how students have grown from beginning to end of the unit
- Daily homework checks and regular quizzes to assess student learning throughout the unit
- Frequent written assignments in all content areas to reinforce and extend student learning
- Collaborative learning activities in which students work in groups, share knowledge, clarify misunderstandings, and support each other's mastery of the learning targets
- Special projects through which students may express individual understandings and interpretations

Classroom Expectations

To achieve their full potential, all students must be on time, in uniform, prepared with homework and supplies, and fully attentive every day. Students are expected to submit all homework assignments, to be active classroom participants, and to use class time efficiently to complete all learning activities.

Students must conduct themselves appropriately and responsibly and all times, adhering to classroom and schoolwide rules, policies, procedures and behavioral expectations. Our schoolwide Grading Policy will be discussed at Open School Night.

Strong attendance and punctuality are critical to the high school application process. Seventh graders must therefore make every effort to be in school on time every day.

Home-School Connections

We look forward to working closely with all families to support children's progress and to celebrate their growth. Please review your child's homework sheet on a daily basis to see what homework has been assigned, and check your student's Skedula account regularly for up-to-date grades. We hope to see you at Open School Night, Report Card Conferences, Student Recognition Ceremonies and other special events throughout the year.

We are available by appointment on a weekly basis (Tuesdays, 2:45-3:15). If you would like to set up an appointment, please contact us at the email addresses below or send a note with your child.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Darabos

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Open School Night

Wednesday, September 25

Please come and learn more about curriculum and instruction, classroom expectations, special projects, and how we can make this a successful school year for all of our students.