

# **Block Schedule Overview for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

## **Teacher: Klauder**

### **2011 – 2012**

#### **Block: Social Studies (Economics)**

Date: 8/16 – 9/2

Description: We will explore the nature of “stuff”. What is needed versus what is wanted. From the concept of natural resources and self-sufficiency, to the barter system and currency, we will learn the basics of economics. Our block will conclude with an overview of business plans and we will put a class business plan into action with a small fund raising project.

#### **Block: Language Arts (Creative Writing)**

Date: 9/6 – 9/30

Description: Students will be given the opportunity to tap into the creative forces within through our block on creative writing. Students will have the opportunity to express themselves in ways that are self-exploratory rather than self-indulgent. While focusing on self-discovery, we will also continue our work on written conventions, including: parts of speech are reviewed, punctuation, sentence structure, and usage. Descriptive writing, vignettes, poetry and short stories are part of the work.

#### **Block: Science (Physics)**

Date: 10/3 – 10/28

Description: In the first half of our 7<sup>th</sup> grade Physics block, we will be continuing our study of sound, light and heat. We will also learn about magnetism and electricity. In the second half, we will begin our study of mechanics, the simple machines, including: levers, inclined planes, wheels and pulleys.

#### **Block: Social Studies (History – The Middle Ages)**

Date: 10/31 – 11/23

Description: We will study the major events, ideas and personalities of the Middle Ages, discovering how the fall of Rome led to this fascinating period of history. Our studies will cover the change from crude villages, monastery life, and castles to the birth of cities, rise of the arts, trades and commerce. We will also study how religious fervor swept Europe, leading to the rise of the great Gothic cathedrals, as well as the crusades and the Inquisition.

#### **Block: Social Studies (Geography/History/Astronomy – Age of Exploration)**

Date: 11/28 – 12/15

Description: Exploration, the challenging of established ideas and conventions, will be our theme for this block. We will study the major explorers and their accomplishments, both on

the earth and in the stars. Prince Henry the Navigator, Columbus, Vespucci, Magellan, Copernicus and Galileo will be among the historical figures that we will study.

**Block: Math (Geometry/Perspective Drawing)**

Date: 1/3 – 1/27

Description: This Perspective Drawing block merges the students knowledge of geometry and their developing artistic skill. Grade seven Perspective Drawing bridges the study of the two-dimensional forms of Geometric Drawing (which we studied in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade) and the three-dimensional studies of Solid Geometry (8<sup>th</sup> Grade). Perspective drawing helps students to develop awareness and their sense of observation.

**Block: Social Studies (History – The Renaissance)**

Date: 2/1 – 3/8

Description: We explore the golden age of the Renaissance. By studying the great thinkers and artists, students will experience the remarkable advances in art, culture, science and politics during this amazing time period. We will study the lives and work of Da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo and others from this important period in history.

**Block: Science (Chemistry)**

Date: 3/19 – 4/20

Description: In seventh grade chemistry we will explore transformation through the study of combustion, salts, acids, the lime cycle, and water. The students are given the opportunity to experience transformation through careful experimentation and detailed observations.

**Block: Science (Nutrition and Physiology)**

Date: 4/23 – 5/17

Description: We will learn about the living human body and its complex systems. In seventh grade, the focus is on the digestive, respiratory, circulatory, and the reproductive systems, through study of their form and function and the interplay of the organs throughout the body. A study of these systems, each with its own special function, allows for discussion of specific issues of health.