



Lincoln School

Ballfield Road, Lincoln, MA 01773 (781) 259-9408

June 15, 2017

Dear Families of Incoming Seventh Graders,

We would like to welcome you and your child to seventh grade! We anticipate having a wonderful year together. The seventh-grade teachers provide an interdisciplinary curriculum, incorporating skills across all subject areas. These skills include: mathematics; research/data collection/analysis; debate; gathering evidence; essay writing; reading comprehension; content; and roots/suffix/prefix vocabulary. One highlight of our interdisciplinary curriculum is an overnight trip to the Sargent Center for Outdoor Education with a Science/English focus. **You will receive more information in September at our information session, immediately preceding Open House on Thursday, September 14. Make sure you have an up-to-date physical and doctor's note for required medications, as the trip will come up quickly (October 17-20, 2017). It will cost approximately \$430. A financial aid application is available through Dr. Hobbs.**

Seventh grade is an exciting and dynamic time. As adolescents strive for independence, they are maturing and making more choices about their academic, personal, and social lives – becoming who they will be as adults. Academically, students continue to move from “learning to read” to “reading for content” and for pleasure. In Lincoln, seventh grade is writing and vocabulary intensive. Vocabulary is taught, reviewed, and practiced in all subjects to learn new concepts and skills. Many forms of writing are taught, including how to write an essay for an argument. Students practice writing in all subject areas. In addition, teachers focus on using evidence/details to develop a thesis, debate, and/or short answer question.

In Social Studies, students learn about the ancient world using the “flipped classroom” model and technology is fully integrated into the curriculum. Students also have a “paperless” option for all, or some, of the class resources depending upon their preference. There is a civic learning opportunity for students through the South Sudanese Enrichment for Families and students get to meet a former “Lost Boy” of Sudan.

In Mathematics, the seventh graders deepen their understanding of fundamental concepts in algebra beginning at the concrete level, then developing use of algebraic expressions to delineate real world problems, followed by a thorough study of rational numbers, including the study of integers, and representing and solving linear equations. In the spring, students master the principles of ratio and probability to explore, make predictions about, analyze and graph data. Key skills in geometry and opportunities for metacognition will be integrated throughout.

Seventh graders study Life Science (biology/ecology, cells, genetics), Physical Science (heat/magnetic energy), and Earth Science (erosion, deposition). Each piece is broken down further, for example, in the ecology unit, students study plant, reproduction, and behavior, including adapting to changing environments (evolution by natural selection). Throughout the year, students write formal labs, use a variety of investigation techniques, and answer essential questions.

There is additional cross-curriculum and cross-grade work, such as participating in the grade 5-8 Olympic Day, African Music integration, and including 5th grade during the Nomad project. We hope that you and your family have a wonderful summer break, and we look forward to an enjoyable, productive, and rewarding school year.

Sincerely,
The 7th Grade Teachers

Communication:

We value communication and feel it is important to form a strong partnership between the school and the home. To that end, we would like to give you some information about methods of communication we have found helpful in the past. In addition to phone calls, email, websites, midterm reports, and report cards, we also use parent/teacher conferences and weekly reports (as needed) as ways to communicate information. For curriculum information, please see the Program of Studies that is handed out at Open House and also posted on the school website.

Homework Web page:

Parents can check links to nightly assignments at the Lincoln School website under the specific teacher's name, however, we encourage seventh grader to develop independence in this area as they strive to become lifelong learners. See: <http://www.lincnet.org/Page/4529> for calendar and <http://www.lincnet.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=406> for a listing of all the seventh grade teachers' websites: We do our best to coordinate across curriculum areas so that major projects and tests are not scheduled on the same day.

If your child is absent, please notify Anne Crosby in the office as early as possible and request to pick up handouts after school. Ms. Crosby will email the teachers and, if there is work, it will be left in the Brooks office or available on the website.

School Visits:

Remember to check in at the office to receive a visitor badge if you are going into the building. If you would like to meet with a teacher, please make an appointment through Ms. Crosby as impromptu "teacher meetings" are not possible due to school responsibilities.

Conferences:

The Lincoln School District offers half days and an evening time for conferences in October. In addition, the 7th grade teachers maintain weekly times for parent/teacher conferences. 7th grade parent-teacher conferences are on a "rolling" basis, scheduled as requested. Conferences are meant for the teachers to learn about your child, share information, and plan appropriate support. We plan conferences with all academic teachers present, rather than an individual teacher, as academic and social growth patterns are easier to understand (and may vary) across subject areas. This collaborative approach to conferences is the most beneficial in understanding a child's learning needs.

Please call Anne Crosby in the main Brooks Office if you need to schedule a conference with the teachers (English, math, science, and social studies are invited. French/Spanish teachers, specialists, and special educators, are invited upon request). The teachers may also request conferences as the need arises.

Weekly Progress Reports (as needed):

If your child demonstrates a week of difficulty with nightly work completion or missing assignments, we will send a "Weekly Progress Report" to your email address listing overdue assignments. We find that this written record is an effective means of communication to facilitate work completion. We encourage students to complete overdue work, as all assignments are important to understanding concepts and lessons in class. In addition, we emphasize the importance of maintaining a high standard for daily assignment completion. Please make sure Ms. Crosby has your most up-to-date email address on the Emergency Contact cards.

At-Home Computer Use:

Often assignments require online or computer use and Internet access. Students are given a school-based Google Drive account. If a student is unable to access a computer or the Internet, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher for access during school hours. Students are responsible for backing up their work and passing it in on time.

Health:

As adolescents grow and change, we would like to emphasize the importance of frequent hand washing, using deodorant, coughing into one's shoulder, having plenty of boxes of tissue, and using hand sanitizer in classrooms, especially during the winter months and flu season.

Supplies:

We are including a list of supplies your child will need during the school year (posted on back). Students will also receive this information at the beginning of school in their respective classes; however, if you would like to secure supplies prior to the opening of school, please refer to the enclosed list.

OPTIONAL general supplies for all seventh grade classes:

- * USB "flash drive," if no Google Drive access
- * Wireless keyboard for when the class uses iPads
- * Pencil box or bag
- * Small traditional pencil sharpener (non-electric)
- * 1 "jelly pen" or permanent marker
- * Plastic "accordion" folder (or other system) to organize homework by subject
- * Stapler (may be left at home)
- * Index cards (at least 100 to start)

We strongly encourage students to color-code their subjects as identified below in parentheses. You may obtain a colored binder (this is preferred) or used colored tape on the spine. Please write the subject name on the spine of the binder. More specific supplies needed for the following classes:

Math

- * 1" or 1 1/2" Binder
- * 6 Notebook dividers
- * 2 pocket folder
- * Calculator with square root function (we use TI - 34 in class)

Social Studies

* If students wish to go "paperless" and only use Google Classroom/Drive you may do so, which means you do not need any of the supplies below. It is then necessary that you have the Internet and good computer access at home.* If you prefer to use paper or do a combination of paper and Google Drive please get...

- >1 1/2" Binder (white)
- >3 Notebook dividers

Science

- * 2" Binder (any color)
- * 4 Notebook dividers
- * Colored pencils
- * 3-4 red ballpoint pens for grading
- Lined paper
- Calculator (can be same as math)
- Pencils

English

- * 1 1/2" or 2" Binder (red)
- * 6 dividers
- * Spiral, 3-hole punched notebook
- * Packs of 3x3 post-it notes
- * Colored pen(s) (red, purple, etc. for editing)
- * Highlighter

Spanish

- * 1" Binder (black)

French

- * 1 1/2 Binder (black)
- * French/English dictionary or app for home
- * 6 Notebook dividers