

The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.
-- Dr. Seuss

WATERFORD-HALFMOON UFSD

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Stepping Up

From Grade 6 to Grade 7

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

ENTERING JUNIOR HIGH

2012-2013



**FROM THE DESK OF
MR. SCANLAN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

I would like to welcome the Class of 2018 to the Waterford-Halfmoon Junior/Senior High School. As rising seventh grade students you are about to experience many changes. You will leave a tremendous group of teachers from your elementary school years and embark on some new and exciting privileges. As you all know, with privilege comes responsibility.

You will have more freedom than you have ever had throughout your academic career. You will be able to move from class to class on your own and you will be trusted to keep yourself organized and on top of your studies. As seventh grade students, you will be asked to take more responsibility in all areas of your life.

We will ask that you take these privileges and responsibilities seriously. If you do, you will experience success throughout your junior and senior high school years and beyond. The Greek philosopher Aristotle once said “good habits formed at youth make all the difference.” The routines that you establish in these coming years will serve as the foundation for the person that you will become. The success that you experience in the coming years will allow you to prosper in the future.

Although you will have more responsibility, you will also have supports in place to aid you as you continue to develop. You are encouraged to reach out to any adult in the building. We are available and happy to assist you with any issues or problems that arise.

Welcome to Seventh Grade!

Mr. Scanlan

SAMPLE REPORT CARD

MUSIC 8

A review of the elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre and form) and the instruments of the orchestra as well. Singing (in unison and two and three parts) is the main outlet of musical expression and is sometimes accompanied by the playing of musical instruments. Students will also study American Music History. Whenever possible, students will hear live performances or demonstrations.

TECHNOLOGY 8

In eighth grade, students will focus on the design process. Brainstorming, modeling, testing, evaluating, and modifying will be used to apply the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Students participate in engineering design activities to understand how criteria, constraints, and processes affect design. Throughout the design process, students will develop skills to communicate design information. Students will learn how various inventions and innovations impact their lives. Students will learn how technological systems work together to solve problems and extend human capabilities. This course will give students a general background on the different types of systems, how systems have evolved over time, how systems can be modified, and how systems work together.

WELCOME TO THE WATERFORD-HALFMOON JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

As you step up from Grade 6 and enter Junior High School, you will find many changes in your school life. You will do new things, meet new teachers and have much more freedom. You will be growing up and much more will be expected of you. You will have to take more *responsibility* for yourself, your studies and your behavior.

Your studies in Junior High School will impact your success or failure in Senior High School. You will have to depend more and more on good study habits. If you have not worked hard to develop good habits, it is time to start. You will have the opportunity to explore new skills and subjects in the Junior High School that will develop good *study skills* and other habits that will help you to be more successful throughout your lives.

Frequently asked questions.....

When do we go back?

School will open after Labor Day. Prior to this, an Orientation Meeting will be held for you and your parents/guardians to discuss opening day procedures, as well as your junior high program.

Where do we report?

At the Orientation Meeting you will receive a copy of your schedule and will be told where to report for Homeroom.

What room do we go to?

Homeroom is the room that you report to at the beginning of each day for the entire year.

BE ALERT! LISTEN CAREFULLY! FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!

SEVENTH GRADE PROGRAM**WHAT WILL I BE DOING NEXT YEAR?**

During your year in Grade 7, you will take English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science and Spanish or Reading five days a week. You will spend 40 minutes in each class for periods 1 through 10.

Art, Home & Career Skills, Music and Computer are called *Exploratory Subjects*. These 40 minute classes will meet for 10 weeks each. Technology is another *Exploratory Subject* but will meet for 20 weeks. In Grade 8, you will spend 20 weeks each in Technology, Home & Careers and Health. Band and Choir will be offered every other day, alternating with your Phys. Ed. Class.

A bell system is used to indicate the beginning and end of the class periods. Each class meets in a different room with three (3) minutes allowed to go from one room to another.

Period	Start Time	End Time
1	7:57 am	8:45 am
2	8:48 am	9:28 am
3	9:31 am	10:11 am
4	10:14 am	10:54 am
5	10:58 am	11:28 am
6/7	11:29 am	12:11 pm
8	12:14 pm	12:54 pm
9	12:57 pm	1:37 pm
10	1:40 pm	2:20 pm

HEALTH 8

This is a one semester (2 quarters) course. Units covered include:

- Drugs in our society - alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- Infectious diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases
- Growth and development during the teen years
- Personal hygiene
- Fetal growth and development
- First aid
- Safety
- Mental health
- Nutrition and fitness

ART 8

Art 8 is a sequential skills-based program that teaches beginning drawing and painting techniques. Students learn basic rendering skills using a pencil to draw and shade objects, progressing from cartoons to line drawings to real objects. Students will also learn to draw and paint imaginary 3-D objects to develop and expand their creative abilities. This course forms the basis for Studio Art in grade 9.

SCIENCE 8

The 8th grade Science course, along with the 7th grade Science curriculum builds a foundation and prepares the student as they enter high school and take Regents classes. During 8th grade, students will explore topics related to physical science like chemistry, states of matter, energy, force, electricity, magnetism and waves. Basic concepts are studied and reinforced through hands-on laboratory experiences & activities. Writing a formal lab report is reinforced and is required. During the spring of the eighth grade year the students will participate in the New York State Intermediate Science Assessment that evaluates their knowledge and skills from grades 5-8 covering life, earth and physical science topics.

SPANISH 8

Spanish 8 is a continuation of 7th grade. There is a strong focus on new vocabulary and grammatical structures and using them in real life situations that are relevant to students' lives. Students are expected to build existing skills and add to them by way of speaking, reading, writing and listening. We work a lot, but there are also lots of opportunities for fun days and maybe even a piñata or two!

LOCKERS AND LOCKS



In seventh grade you are assigned a locker. You should use this as another way to stay organized. Do not share with anyone, to make sure your belongings are always safe. Practice opening the lock as often as possible, so you can take care of your business quickly and without stress.

DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING THE LOCKER...

Example Combination: 37-43-49

1. Spin dial to the right three (3) times to clear it. Then stop at 37.
2. Turn dial to the left past the second number once, then stop at 43.
3. Turn dial to the right to the third number and pull the locker open. *(You will feel the dial getting tight—pull the door open when that happens)

GUIDANCE OFFICE

In Junior and Senior High School, you are assigned to work with a Guidance Counselor. A Guidance Counselor is the person you can turn to with any concerns, questions or problems in your academic or personal life.

You will have several opportunities to meet with your guidance counselor throughout seventh and eighth grade. There are planned individual, small group meetings or classroom presentations and orientations. There is always the opportunity to request your own meeting.

Your transition to Grade 7 will be smooth if you take advantage of help that is offered, and if you ask questions when you are confused. There are many adults available to assist you with your locker, finding a classroom or solving a problem.

WATERFORD-HALFMOON GUIDANCE COUSELORS:
MRS. AUSTIN: GRADES 7-9 MS. DIFABIO: GRADES 10-12

Work Hard: Nothing worth gaining was ever gained without effort

~ Theodore Roosevelt

MATH 8

The 8th grade Mathematics curriculum is essentially a continuation and extension of Math 7. It includes an introduction to algebra dealing with solving for unknown quantities in equations. Geometric concepts and skills include area, volume, congruency and constructions. The course also emphasizes the use and understanding of measurement and the metric system.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

In the 8th grade, students will examine American History in several topical units:

- Economics
- Politics
- Foreign Policy
- Social Relationships
- Domestic Development
- Modern Problems

A heavy emphasis will be placed upon the development in the student of social studies skills such as critical reading and the interpretation of charts, graphs and maps in order that he/she might be better equipped to undertake the challenges of high school social studies.

ENGLISH 8

English 8 is a required class for students. It is both fun and challenging. Every student must take either English 8 or English 8 Honors. In this class, we focus on meeting the needs of all current learning standards in order to perform well on the State English Language Arts Assessment. Final grades are based on an average of all four quarterly grades and a final examination. Student will read and write in many different genres. Every quarter, students will complete a book project after reading an independent book selected by that student. In addition, each student will complete a research paper. Highlights of this year will include:

- The annual Autumn poetry contest
- A drama unit, where students will write and perform group plays
- A reading of the popular novel *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton

ENGLISH 8 HONORS

Students choosing to participate in English 8-H will complete the standard work for regular 8th grade English, but at a faster pace. This class will require some extra work; therefore, it is a class for serious, hardworking students who enjoy doing a lot of reading and writing. If you do not like to read, this class is not for you! Students will continue to read from a variety of genres, but will also learn to “read” other non-traditional literature such as newspapers and advertisements. A writing portfolio will be completed by the end of the year. If a student’s average falls below an 85%, they may be dropped from the program and placed into a non-honors class. This class includes all the highlights from English 8 as well as many others.

Prerequisite:

85% average in English 7 and/or Teacher Recommendation

SOME HELPFUL HINTS

Don’t be a drifter. Set your goals and work hard to get there in the best possible way. Do you remember those STUDY HABITS we spoke of earlier? NO ONE can afford not to study- -no matter how much ability one has. Add some of your own “helpful hints” to these study guides:

1. Use your agenda
2. Check with your teacher when you have any questions about the assignment.
3. Plan your work and WORK your plan.
4. Select a time for study and do it.
5. Don’t let cell phones, music, computers or TV interfere with your plan.
6. Try to have one place where you do your work. Have dictionaries and all reference materials within easy reach.
7. Proper light and proper ventilation will allow you to do your best work.
8. Read carefully, take notes, use outlines and ask yourself questions about the assignments.
9. When you feel that you have learned your material, REVIEW IT.
10. Take your work in small doses. Allow enough time for each subject and avoid cramming.

What we are about to be, we are now becoming

~ Longfellow

HOMWORK POLICY

Homework is an important part of the academic program at Waterford-Halfmoon Junior High School. Students will be expected to do their homework and turn it in on time. Teachers who assign homework will also count a homework grade as part of the class average. Homework not handed in on time will be accepted late. However, late homework will be penalized (the penalty will be established by each individual classroom teacher). Students will be made aware of the penalty before the homework or project is assigned.



TECHNOLOGY 7

In seventh grade, students develop an understanding of the progression and scope of technology. Through different class activities, students will develop an awareness of the designed (human-made) world. Students will begin to see the relationships among technologies and between other fields of study, specifically math and science. Through analyzing technological products and processes, students will assess the impacts of technology. Students will begin to identify that the core technologies are the building blocks to all technological systems. Problem solving skills are enhanced throughout the course using hands-on activities.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world

~ Nelson Mandela

COMPUTER 7

In this 10 week course students will acquire the fundamental computer skills necessary for junior and senior high school. Students will learn basic computer terminology and how to manage files on the district's network. They will become skilled at controlling the keyboard at a useful level of operation for a sustained period of time, while demonstrating which fingers control each key. This course will give students hands-on experience with the integrated software programs of Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Word processing projects include creating, formatting and editing stories, reports and letters. Instruction on using online research tools and internet safety are also addressed in this course. In addition, students will gain an understanding of basic spreadsheet functions and will create engaging electronic presentations.

ART 7

An exploration of artistic media, art history, technology applications for art, beginning drawing and painting techniques. Students will learn how to create a PowerPoint presentation on a famous artist that incorporates all the different creative options in the PowerPoint program. They learn how to research information about an artist, how to draw an enlargement of a famous painting, how to paint and mix colors and how to manage other different artist media. Art 7 students also have the opportunity to create other projects, according to their interests.

STUDY HALL

The study hall is a regular part of most students' schedules and should be spent in a way which makes maximum use of the 40 minutes.

Therefore, to ensure this, the following rules and regulations must be followed:

1. Students are to bring all necessary texts and materials with them to study hall.
2. Students who do not have homework to do will be asked to read.
3. Students may not come to study hall without some form of work to do or material to read.
4. Students will not be permitted to listen to ipods/music in study hall.
5. Students with Library passes should present those passes to the study hall teacher after attendance has been taken.
6. Students will be expected to work quietly at their seats. A student wishing to speak to another student must obtain permission from the study hall teacher.

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.

~ Chinese Proverb

ENGLISH 7

Students will focus on skills that include reading, writing, speaking and listening. We will focus on a variety of literary genres. The students will read and analyze short stories, poetry, nonfiction and will read novels throughout the school year. In addition to the novels we read together as a class, students will have an outside reading book and a project to complete for each quarter. We will review and practice the different parts of speech and apply them to different styles of writing. Writing will consist of both formal and informal writings.

ENGLISH 7 HONORS

This course continues to reinforce literary elements, grammar and a variety of different genres. In addition, honor students will require a more critical analysis of literature along with emphasizing writing with a “voice” and “style”. Honor students will continue developing the skills necessary to improve their reading, writing and listening skills. Additionally, students will work at a quicker pace in order to allow for more enrichment type of activities such as research projects, high level thinking and discussions regarding literature and writing for different purposes. Student must have been recommended from their previous year teacher along with an average of 85% to stay in the course. If a student’s average falls below an 85%, they may be dropped from the program and placed into a non-honors class.

HOME & CAREER SKILLS 7/8

Middle level Family and Consumer Sciences education is delivered through the state-mandated course, Home and Career Skills. Home and Career Skills is a course designed to help middle level students live in a society of constant change and to improve their quality of life by preparing them to meet their present and future responsibilities as family and community members, consumers, home managers and wage earners. The goal is to educate early adolescents to think constructively, make sound decisions, solve problems and manage resources. Home and Career Skills is organized around four process skills; communication, leadership, management and thinking. These process skills are taught through ten (10) content topics. This course is to be taught using hands-on experiential approach. Learning occurs in the context of real-life situations and repeated practice is encouraged. The course is taught in 7th grade (10 weeks) and in 8th grade (20 weeks).



MATHEMATICS 7

Math 7 will focus on four critical areas:

1. Developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships.
2. Developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations.
3. Solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two and three dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area and volume.
4. Drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

**SCIENCE 7**

Science 7 could be called Life Science since it is a study of the world of living things. The various groups within the plant and animal kingdoms are studied along with ecology and conservation. Particular attention is given to humans and how they function among themselves and in the environment. The students will be exposed to a limited amount of laboratory work.

SPANISH 7

This is an introductory course in the study of Spanish. This course is designed to give the students the basics in the four language skills:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

The students will learn about Spanish culture through the topics covered in the textbook. The text is designed to encourage the student to speak the language using everyday life situations in Spanish-speaking countries.

