

YOUR SEVENTH GRADE YEAR

Class of 2023

Dear Class of 2023!

Welcome to New Castle Middle School. We hope that your two years with us will be educationally profitable for you. This fall you could be a 7th Grader at NCMS depending on your finish of the 2016-2017 school year and ISTEP testing – so make the most of the end of your elementary career. The counselors will be around sharing packets of materials that explain the entire course selection process and activities available at the middle school.

Middle School is a time of change. The work load and social adjustments are greater here than at the elementary level. You will be expected to attend school regularly, complete all assignments, and behave appropriately. Your 7th grade year will be exciting and filled with many new opportunities.

As a member of the Class of 2023, you will be included into the 1:1 initiative that is available at NCMS. Students will be provided with a computer device which they will be responsible to have charged daily and bringing and using in class daily.

Good luck in your first year at New Castle Middle School. We hope it will be your most successful year ever.

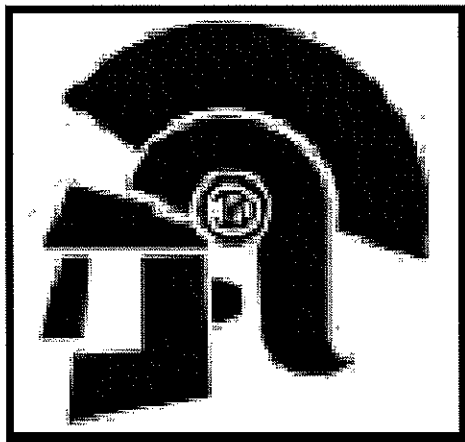
Mr. Kirk D. Amman
Principal

7th GRADE – Class of 2023

Next year you will be moving to New Castle Middle School. You can expect a lot of changes! The building, the classes, and the teachers will all be new for you. Certainly changing classes every 50 minutes is something most sixth graders have not experienced. YOU will be more in control of your own education than ever before. That means more of the responsibility for your success will be yours. That's a little scary, but the seventh grade staff is experienced helping people become the best students they can be.

In order for a schedule to be made out for your seventh grade year, ***you must fill out a subject selection sheet (the yellow sheet with this packet) and return it to your sixth grade teacher TOMORROW.*** Please be certain all information is correct. We need to be able to mail you the summer newsletter about July's orientation when you'll get your schedule, tour the building to see your classes, pick up your computer device and try out your locker.

All of us at New Castle Middle School wish you a good end to your sixth grade year. We look forward to seeing you in July as you start your 2017-2018 seventh grade year. You or your parents may call your 7th grade counselor, Mrs. April Havens, at 521-7230 or email her at ahavens@ncweb.me if you have any questions.



New Castle Middle School BASICS

- SCHOOL DAY** 8:00 to 3:00. Students enter the building through the breezeway or through the front doors. Students are expected to go to lockers and then to the cafeteria until the 1st bell at 7:55am. Classes begin at 8:00am.
- CLASSES** Classes meet for 50 minutes. Students take 7 classes: English, math, life science, world history, Business (1 semester), physical education (1 semester) and either band, choir or a semester of general music and a semester of RISE or TAPS. Students have homeroom (study period) for 50 minutes at the end of the day.
- LOCKERS** Each student is assigned a locker with a combination. Students are not to share lockers or combinations with anyone. Lockers are also issued to students in PE.
- GRADING** Students will bring home mid-term grade reports as well as at the end of each grading period. Grades are updated in Power School each Tuesday morning by 8am. Honor rolls and honorable mention honor rolls are figured on a 12-point system. Honor Roll is 9.0 or higher and honorable mention is 8.5 to 8.99.
- ATTENDANCE** An Attendance Review Committee meets when a student has 5 unexcused or 10 excused absences in one semester. Penalties may include Monday Afternoon School.
- TARDINESS** Class tardiness is handled by the individual teacher usually with an after-school detention up to 3 tardies. Then class tardiness and tardiness to school may mean one or multiple Monday Afternoon School.
- COMPUTERS** NCMS is a 1:1 building in the New Castle Corporation. Each student will be issued a computer device and they are responsible for its care and being charged.
- HOT ROOM** HOT room is when students are failing multiple classes each week. Many times it is because students do not complete their homework assignments. Time is provided at lunch where students will be placed in a quiet area with teachers to assist them so they can complete their homework.
- ACADEMIC PROBATION** Student must pass at least 5 classes on each grading period or be placed on academic probation, where they are not permitted to participate in school activities.

LUNCH

Costs of student meals: Breakfast = **\$1.40** Lunch= **\$2.80** (subject to change). A la carte items may be purchased at an additional cost. Free and reduced lunch applications are available in the main office or can be found on line at: ***lunchapplication.com***

Pay for school meal anytime from your computer or smartphone – MySchoolBucks.com

PHYSICALS

You are urged to have a school physical completed for your child as they enter the middle school. This physical includes dentist as well as optometrist.

SPORTS PHYSICAL **A sport physical is MANDATORY before any student may try out for a sport.** Physicals must be completed after May 1st to be applicable for the 2017-2018 school year.

SPORTS

Authorized sports at NCMS:

Fall – Cheerleading, Volleyball, Cross Country and Football

Winter – Basketball and Wrestling

Spring – Track

Authorized club sports with NCMS:

Winter – Swimming

Spring - Golf

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Every student at New Castle Middle School is required to complete a minimum of 2 hours of community service each year. There is a wide variety of opportunities to fulfill this obligation.

CLUBS

Clubs meet through the school year. Students may participate as long as they are not on Academic Probation. Clubs include but not limited to:

Chess Club, Game Club, Craft Club, Science Club

Comic Club, SADD, Radio News Team, Recyclers Club,

Golden Rule Club, Ping Pong Club, Academic Teams,

Spell Bowl Team, FCA Club, Yearbook,

Trojan Times Newspaper Staff, National Junior Honor Society and Student Council

ACTIVITIES

NCMS encourages ALL students to be involved in school activities.

Activities include but not limited to:

School Dances, Kings Island Reward Trip

Holiday Marketplace, Riley Week, College Week,

Pennies for Patients, Renaissance Lock INs

WELCOME CLASS OF 2023!

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MATH

Seventh grade math reinforces basic skills with an emphasis on techniques for problem solving. Students are expected to use an algebraic approach in solving problems and be able to solve problems requiring two steps. Topics include whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percentages, area, perimeter and equations. Math courses in the 7th grade are divided into different sections according to skill levels. Math 74 is typical math and Math 73 is more remedial.

HONORS MATH

Emphasis is placed on application and problem solving using an algebraic approach. Students are expected to solve problems that require two or more steps. Topics include whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percentages, area, perimeter, and volume, use of variables, equations and integers. Students are selected for this class based on teacher recommendations, Acuity and ISTEP scores. Parents can request their child to be considered for this class by marking the appropriate box on the subject selection sheet.

WORLD HISTORY

Seventh grade social studies classes are heterogeneously grouped and teachers use a multi-disciplinary approach. Students study history, geography, economics, religions, and citizenship of the Eastern Hemisphere including Africa and Asia following state standards. The major emphasis of study is promotion of geographic literacy. The five themes of geography (location, place, human, environment and regions) are emphasized. Connections are made between the physical environment and human civilizations. Historical and modern regional studies of civilizations include how and why people migrated to different locations, and how the people in these places survived and advanced with the available resources of their region.

SCIENCE

7th Grade Science is designed to help students with a variety of backgrounds and abilities learn science. Emphasis is placed on hands-on activities, the development of critical thinking skills, and the relationship of concepts to everyday living. Topics include the solar system, volcanoes and earthquakes, light and sound, cell structure and processes, virus, bacteria, fungi and historical perspective of disease.

ENGLISH

The seventh grade English curriculum is aligned with the Indiana Academic Standards and structured following the 8 Step program. Texts are used to help the students develop vocabulary and reading comprehension skills, discuss the purposes and characteristics of different forms of informational texts, and write using standard English conventions. Students build oral communication skills by participating in whole and small group activities. In addition, the Accelerated Reader program is used to help achieve the school-wide goal of all seventh graders reading at or above grade level.

HONORS ENGLISH

The seventh grade high ability English curriculum is aligned with the Indiana Department of Education's academic standards and structured following the 8 Step program. The class is faster paced with more in-depth study and includes lessons that require higher level thinking skills. In addition, the seventh grade high ability curriculum includes projects that challenge students and offer them ways to utilize their creativity and the chance to demonstrate a broad range of skills. Vocabulary assignments are intended to broaden the students' vocabulary banks. Finally, students participate in the reading of contemporary novels both as a class and independently through the Accelerated Reader Program. In-class discussions foster the growth of oral communication skills.

Read 180

The seventh grade Read 180 curriculum is aligned with the Indiana Academic Standards for Language Arts and structured following the 8 Step and Read 180 programs. The class is a two hour class which reinforces reading skills for struggling readers. The first hour follows the same curriculum and uses the same texts as the English 7 classes with the exception of the Accelerated Reader Program. During the second hour, students split their time between participating in independent reading with the Reading Counts program and working with a computer program called Read 180 which targets and works to strengthen student's individualized reading skills.

BAND

Seventh grade band is the introductory band course at the middle school. It is a two semester course of study devoted to students developing basic and intermediate skills on their chosen instruments. Students are assigned to classes of like or similar instruments to learn fundamentals of musicianship, music theory, and listening skills. Students will also have the opportunity to interact in small group and full band situations and to perform at all middle school concerts. There will be a band sign up nights on February 21st and 22nd, where students can try instruments and decide which instrument is right for them. Information will be available those nights on how to rent an instrument.

CHOIR

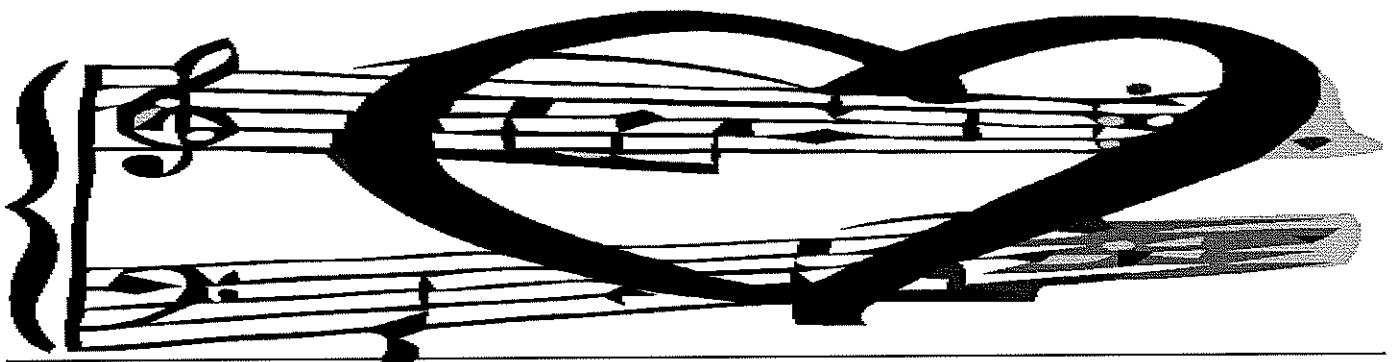
Seventh grade choir is an opportunity to participate in a choral blending of singing voices. No advanced training is required. Students are taught proper vocal techniques and basic sight-singing skills. The choir performs at some school activities and, on occasion, participates with other choral groups in performances. Choir does receive a letter grade. Required performances are a major portion of the grade. The choirs also engage in optional activities such as contests and trips. Students are placed in classes based on teacher recommendations and music test scores. There is an \$18 fee per semester for choir.

GENERAL MUSIC

Seventh grade general music is a one-semester course designed to cover many different areas of music. Some course topics are:

1. Basic elements of music.
2. Composers and music history.
3. Learn to play recorder, piano and Orff mallet instruments.
4. Instruments in the orchestra.

This course is required for all students who do not take band or choir.



RISE

Reading Is Success Everyday is a one-semester course designed to cover many different aspects of reading. This course will aid the struggling reader as well as assist the average reader how to continue developing their reading skills. This course is an elective for all students who do not take band or choir.

TAPS

Trojans Acquiring Problem-solving Skills is a one-semester course designed to cover many different aspects of problem-solving. This course will aid all levels of students to continue developing their problem-solving skills. This course is an elective for all students who do not take band or choir.

BOYS' and GIRLS' PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is a one-semester course consisting gym activities studying the importance of fitness and life-long activities. Students participate in stretching exercises, jogging, walking, team games and individual sports. Swimming is also incorporated in PE classes at the middle school. Non-swimmers will be given basic swimming instruction. More experienced swimmers will learn five different strokes to become a better swimmer. All swimmers receive basic lifesaving skills. Learning physical skills, taking written tests, and participating in class are all major components of the physical education curriculum.

BUSINESS

The focus of Business 7 is developing touch typing skills, digital citizenship, and personal finance. Students will be developing touch typing skills to improve their typing speed and accuracy and learning how to interact appropriately in the digital world for the first 12 weeks. In the last 6 weeks, students will explore personal finance issues. Subjects of study include checking and savings accounts, debit and credit cards, paychecks and payroll taxes, interest rates and the effects of interest, insurance, financial responsibility and credit history, decision making, budgeting, and charitable giving.

NEW CASTLE MIDDLE SCHOOL SEVENTH GRADE HONORS COURSES

FAQs

For who are honor classes designed?

Honors courses are designed for students who possess a strong academic aptitude in a specific subject and demonstrate commitment to academic pursuits. Honor classes are geared toward the serious student who is interested in going beyond the basics and covering topics in depth.

How are honors classes different from regular classes?

The curriculum for honors classes is condensed. The student moves through basic material very quickly and then goes in-depth. Classroom activities require active student participation and involvement. Higher-level thinking is emphasized and students are expected to produce work that is more sophisticated and demonstrates levels of advanced reasoning.

What is required of students taking honors classes?

Honors students are expected to maintain certain standards in order to remain in an honors class. If a student is not meeting those standards, a conference will be held to discuss the problem(s). The student will be given a reasonable amount of time to make the changes necessary. If it is determined that the student has not made a sincere effort to make the recommended changes or the student has been identified incorrectly for honors, the student will be removed and assigned to a regular classroom.

2017-2018 NCMS 7th GRADE SUBJECT SELECTION SHEET



STUDENT INFORMATION

PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR 6th Grade TEACHER BY 2/24/2017.

_____/_____/_____/ or ____
(LAST NAME) (FIRST NAME) (MIDDLE) M F

* _____/
(PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME) (PHONE AND/OR EMAIL ADDRESS)

* _____/
(PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME) (PHONE AND/OR EMAIL ADDRESS)

SCHEDULING INFORMATION

6 of the 7 periods in the school day are required. 1 elective choice must be made. NO STUDENT WILL BE PLACED IN BAND UNTIL INSTRUMENT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE BAND DEPARTMENT. (Call 593-6695 to make arrangements for instrument display and sign-up or if unable to attend instrument displays.)

The required subjects are: (Please mark regular or Honors English and math. Acceptance to honors class is not guaranteed. This begins the application process.)

English Regular _____ or Honors _____ (ISTEP above 550 and/or A's in 6th grade Lang.)

Math Regular _____ or Honors _____ (ISTEP above 555 and/or A's in 6th grade math.)

Science

World History

Business and Physical Education (one semester each)

Homeroom (study period)



The elective subjects are:

_____ Band _____ (all year)

Instrument

OR

(Check one) _____ Choir (all year)

OR

_____ Gen. Music (one semester) AND

_____ RISE (Reading Class) OR _____ TAPS (Math Problem Class)

Some students are recommended for the READ 180 program. Those students will not have a homeroom period. Parents will receive a letter about the program if a student is recommended.

For students in Special Services, decisions made during annual case reviews in the spring will override choices made on the subject selection form.

*Signature of parent or guardian _____

New Castle Middle School

Nomination for Seventh Grade Honors Classes

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

STUDENT:

In order to be considered for a honor class, I realize I must meet the following criteria: ***(Initial each line)***.

_____ I have maintained a semester average of A- or above in the subject area I am selecting.

_____ I have passing scores on ISTEP+.

_____ During this school year, I have not missed more than 10 days.

PARENT:

I would like for my child to be **considered** for the following honors class(es).

_____ Honors English 7

_____ Honors Math 7 ***(please check)***

Parent Signature: _____

This form is due in the MS office no later than 3:30pm, on Friday, February 24, 2017.

There are a limited number of honor seats available. Not all who apply will be in an honors class. We use a matrix with various indicators (ISTEP & IREADY Scores, Grades, Teacher Rec., etc) to determine placement.

Honors classes' expectations:

1. Student will earn a B- or higher each quarter and at 1st semester.
2. Student will complete all assignments.
3. Student/Parent will communicate concerns to the classroom teacher.
4. Student/Parent/Teacher will take corrective action if student is not meeting expectations.

Failure to meet the above expectations by earning below a B- or failing to complete assignments more than 4 times may result in a conference to discuss the student's withdrawal from honor class(es).

New Castle Middle School

IMPORTANT DATES to REMEMBER

- February 15 Wednesday, 6th Grade Parents "Preparing for MS"
Bundy Auditorium, 7pm
- Feb. 16 - 6th Grade Classroom presentations by NCMS at Riley & WWR
Feb. 17 - 6th Grade Classroom presentations by NCMS at Parker, Westwood
& Eastwood
- February 21 & 22 - Instrument Display for those choosing Band in the
gallery area behind Bundy Auditorium. 4:00 - 7:00pm
- February 24 - Friday, **ALL SUBJECT SELECTION SHEETS DUE TO NCMS**
- Fridays in JUNE - Athletic Physicals provided by Henry County Sports Med.
for a reduced rate. Sports Physicals will be at Forest Ridge
Medical Center.
- JULY 25th - Tuesday, 7th Grade Parent/Student Orientation at
12:30pm or 6:00pm in Bundy Aud. Schedules/lockers and
computers will be distributed with parents/guardian present.
- JULY 27th - Thursday, **COMPUTER PICK UP DAY** - 8AM to 4pm (7th or 8th)
Must have parent/guardian to pick up device.
- JULY 28th - Friday, 7th Grade **TROJAN QUEST**

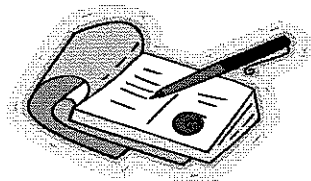
Please Attend according to the following schedule

Last name A - D	8:30am to 9:45am
Last name E - J	10:00am to 11:15am
Last name K - P	12:30pm to 1:45pm
Last name Q - Z	2:00pm to 3:15pm

AUG. 2nd - Wednesday, 1st Day of MIDDLE SCHOOL 2017-2018!

School Website

<http://www.nccsc.k12.in.us/ncms/>



Kirk Amman – Principal
Julie Hansell – 8th Grade Counselor
April Havens – 7th Grade Counselor