



Introduction to 7th Grade

7th Grade Structure

There are three **core teaching teams** in 7th grade at Mill Creek and one **enrichment teaching team**. Each core teaching team is made up of 2 or 4 team teachers who teach math, science, global studies and English to their team of students, along with teacher consultants. The four enrichment teachers teach all 7th grade students physical education, career awareness and technology, adolescent health and global languages.

In each team, students will have an **anchor teacher** designated who will have a role similar to a 'homeroom' teacher. This teacher might be responsible for handing out paperwork or forms, delivering building-wide information to students or to serve as a base of communication for families.

In 7th grade, students travel with the same class of approximately 30 students to their four **core classes** (Math, English, Science, Global Studies). This group of students is called an **anchor**. On each 7th grade team, the anchors are referred to by unique names or colors. On our team, the two sections are called **Blue (Mrs. Darnton's anchor class) and Green (Mrs. Mutschler)**. Students will attend **enrichment classes** (Spanish/French, Careers and Technology, Adolescent Health, Physical Education) with a mix of approximately 30 students from our team.

At Mill Creek, the core classes are taught as **block classes**. This means that you will only have 2 core classes on most days. In 7th grade, we usually do one day per week where we have all 4 core classes as well. For example, you might have all four classes (Math, English, Global Studies and Science) on Monday, then have only Math and English on Tuesday and Thursday, and only Science and Global Studies on Wednesday and Friday. Your teachers will explain how it will work for you personally the first days of school. Your **Enrichment class** will meet every day for 9 weeks, and then you will switch to a new enrichment class.

*****Note- The schedules that are provided by the office do not necessarily match the actual order you will attend your four core classes (English, math, science, global studies). The printed schedules should be used to find out your enrichment class and elective classes only.***

The general schedule for our team is as follows:

8:15 – 9:48	Block Core Class (either Math, Science, English or Global Studies)
9:53 – 11:18	Block Core Class #2
11:20-11:40	Community Time
11:41 – 12:11	Lunch
12:16-1:26	Enrichment Classes (Spanish/French, Gym, Adolescent Health, or Careers and Technology)
1:31 - 2:16	6th Hour Elective
2:21 - 3:06	7th Hour Elective

At the end of the day, students take **elective classes** both 6th and 7th hours. These elective classes may be with students from any team and from either 7th or 8th grade. These classes may be located anywhere in the school building meet every day.

Grading System and Criteria for Evaluation

Grades should represent the level of mastery of an instructional objective. The instructional objectives for 7th and 8th grade level subjects are aligned with the Common Core State Standards, the Next Generation Science Standards and/or Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE's) and benchmarks. The objectives address the skills required for successful performance in the next grade or in a sequence of courses.

Mill Creek Academic Grading System for English and Global Studies

At Mill Creek, students will be assessed on their mastery of content. The final grades for a course will reflect the student's knowledge and mastery of the course curriculum based on Performance (summative) assessments.

There are many practice (formative) assignments and assessments that will take place on the way to mastering content. These assignments and assessments will provide feedback for the student, teacher and parents as to where the student is in the process of mastery learning. Students may receive scores on formative assessments to aid in providing feedback, but they will not be counted toward the student's summative grade.

1. **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS (Summative)** - Unit and Course/Grade Level Understanding and Performance
 - a. Assessments OF Learning -100% OF FINAL GRADE
 - b. Unit (chapter) assessments
 - c. Unit or major performance tasks – mainly products, performances, and projects (e.g., essays; artwork; visual representations; models; multimedia; oral presentations; lab experiences; live or recorded performances) or other forms of authentic assessments to demonstrate mastery.
2. **PRACTICE ASSESSMENTS (Formative)** - Lesson Practice and Activities
 - a. Assessment *FOR* Learning – Not counted as part of final grade, but necessary for students to work toward mastery of content
 - b. Independent practice on daily work (daily assignments and classroom work)
 - c. Brief progress checks (e.g., small quizzes over one or more lessons; reviews or warm-ups)

Mill Creek Academic Grading System for Math and Science (Taught on the Platform)

Students will take two classes on the Summit Learning Platform, both Math and Science. Students grades are based primarily on cognitive skills (justifying and constructing and explanation, making connections and inferences, selection of evidence, modeling, etc.) and content knowledge skills. The breakdown of the course grades can be seen in the chart below:

Science Grades	Math Grades
70% Cognitive Skills (Assessed with Projects)	30% Cognitive Skills (Assessed with Projects)
21% Content Knowledge (Assessed with Power Focus Areas)	40% In depth Concept Knowledge (Assessed with Concept Units)
9% Content Knowledge (Assessed with Additional Focus Areas)	21% Content Knowledge (Assessed with Power Focus Areas)
	9% Content Knowledge (Assessed with Additional Focus Areas)

Mill Creek Elective Grading System

The elective program at Mill Creek is designed to aid students in exploring other interests and topics that may be completely new to them. We do not expect students to demonstrate mastery of curriculum in an elective course. Therefore students will receive a Pass/Fail grade for each elective course. (*The exception is our music courses such as band and orchestra in which students will still earn a grade based on mastery of curriculum.*)

***Academy:** Any student who has two or more failing classes (D's or E's), in a four week reporting period is required to attend the Academy Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:20 – 4:20 p.m. A certified general education teacher, special education teacher, and community agencies will supervise and support the Academy. In addition to receiving academic mastery grades, students will receive scores in two other areas which are a very important part of a student's middle school education: Work Habits and Citizenship.

Work Habit Performance

Students will be assessed in their daily work habits and will receive an assessment based on turning work on time, use of classroom work time, and other work habits within the classroom:

- E - Exceeds Standards
- M - Meets Standards
- P - Progressing towards standards
- N - Not Meeting Standards

***Academy:** Any student who has two or more failing classes (N's) in Work Habit Performance in a four-week reporting period is required to attend the Academy Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:20 – 4:20pm. A certified general education teacher, special education teacher, and community agencies will supervise and support the Academy.

Citizenship Performance

Students will be assessed in citizenship and the ability to demonstrate traits such as, (courtesy, teamwork, respect, appreciation, responsibility, honesty, cooperation, etc.)

- E - Exceeds Standards
- M - Meets Standards
- P - Progressing towards standards
- N - Not Meeting Standards

***After School Privileges:** Any student who has two or more failing classes (N's) in Citizenship in a four-week reporting period is not allowed to attend after school activities such as dance, lock-ins, and other earned privileged events during the four week period.

Team Activities

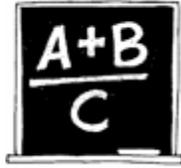
Each month near grade reporting time, each 7th grade team gives out **team awards** for the month to students on the team. Awards are given in such categories as Hard Worker, Dependable Student, Improvement, Academic Excellence, Class Participation, and Team Player. In addition, students will participate in **team time** each month, which brings the whole team of students together for team-building activities, to discuss character traits, or for other fun challenges.

How Can I Help My Child Succeed in Middle School?



When it comes to middle school, we are all in this together! It is a time when we are striving to help the students learn responsibility and take initiative, yet we still want to make sure that they are being successful and enjoying the middle school experience. Here are a few things that, as parents, you can do at home to help your child realize his/her academic potential.

- 1) **Establish a consistent homework schedule at home.** Having a consistent time when homework starts each day is useful to students, whether it is right after school, or at another set time.
- 2) **Make sure your seventh grader gets a good night's sleep.** Research shows that adequate sleep allows new learning to transfer into long-term memory. The needs of kids in middle school range from 9-12 hours of sleep for 6 to 12 year-olds, and 8-10 hours for kids 13 to 18 years old per night. Note: if your seventh grader has difficulty falling asleep, make sure he or she is not exposed to screens 45 minutes before wanting to sleep. The photons from screens make the brain think it is daytime.
- 3) **Make sure your seventh grader is at school.** Research has shown that students who miss school on a regular basis tend to have lower math and reading scores. We understand some absences are unavoidable, but if your child is well please send him/her to school!
- 4) **Have a designated quiet area for your student to work.** An area where there are no siblings, animals, computers, TV or other noises to distract a student will help students to get their work done efficiently.
- 5) **Have your child work in an area where you are close by** so he or she can ask you questions if needed, or be redirected if he or she is off task.
- 6) **Talk to your child!** Ask your 7th grader how he or she is feeling about school subjects, getting work in on time, and staying organized.
- 7) **Use tools to help you stay connected with what is happening at school.** [PowerSchool](#), the personalized learning platform (PLP), our online homework calendar, and your child's planner are all useful tools to help you know what is going on at school, and to see how your student is performing.
- 8) **Contact the team!** Please encourage your child to advocate for him/herself if there are any problems or issues at school. However, feel free to contact the teachers via e-mail or phone to receive input on how your child is doing or to ask questions. We are here to help!



Team Communication Tools & Resources

There are many resources available for students and/or parents to help achieve a successful year.

<i>Julia Arbour</i>	<i>Teacher Consultant</i>	<i>Ext 5207</i>	<i>arbourj@dexterschools.org</i>
<i>Cheryl Darnton</i>	<i>English & Global Studies</i>	<i>Ext 5103</i>	<i>darntonc@dexterschools.org</i>
<i>Marianne Mutschler</i>	<i>Science & Math</i>	<i>Ext 5104</i>	<i>mutschlerm@dexterschools.org</i>

(Mill Creek Phone 424-4150)

Team Website with Homework Calendar and Team Information -

Visit dexterschools.org – Schools – Mill Creek – Academics – Academic Teams – Darnton/Mutschler Team!

Please use the homework calendar feature on the website if your child is absent or forgets to write in his/her planner.

PowerSchool - PowerSchool will be updated frequently. Check PowerSchool with your child often to keep on top of things. Please keep in mind that if your child hands in an assignment late, it will not be graded until after all on-time assignments have been graded.

Personalized Learning Platform – Parents should log in frequently to view their child’s progress through the math and science curricula.

Weekly Email Updates – Weekly e-mails will be sent from the team with announcements from class, important reminders, and upcoming dates/deadlines. We rely heavily on this e-mail update as a main source of communication from the team. **Please sign up via the “Get Connected” box on the Mill Creek main website for our team’s e-mail list.** Through this sign-up box, you can also elect to receive other e-mail communications, such as the principal and counselor’s e-mail newsletters.

Student Planners – Students should be writing down their daily class agenda and homework. Parents should review the planner daily/weekly to help support your child’s success.

Your Child – We have many ways for you to reach us with your concerns. If there is a school work or homework issue, a content question, or a grade dispute, please talk to your seventh grader first and have him or her make contact with the teacher. We are very happy to speak with parents, and we are especially dedicated to helping 7th graders develop the ability to advocate for themselves this year.

ADM Team Information Acknowledgement Page

- *Please either fill out the **Online Acknowledgement Page** via our team website: **Visit Dexter Schools – Schools – Mill Creek – Academic Teams – Darnton/Mutschler***
OR
- *Return this page to any DHMV team teacher by **Friday, Sept. 8***



***We have read and understand the information provided in the Team Information packet.**

***We have signed up to receive weekly team emails by going to the Mill Creek website, clicking on the Schoolpost logo beneath “Mill Creek Email Sign-Ups” in the lower right hand corner, then clicking on “Mill Creek – 7th Grade Darnton/Mutschler Team.**

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Thank you! We appreciate your attention to our program details.
Your ADM teachers,
Julia Arbour, Cheryl Darnton, and Marianne Mutschler