



SEVENTH GRADE ACADEMIC AGREEMENT

Enrolled on the First Day of School

Welcome to seventh grade at the Math and Science Academy! Please read the following academic information and sign and return the agreement. Math and Science Academy has accelerated curricula, small class sizes, and is a rigorous, college-prep school. Regardless of a child's previous academic scores on tests or grades in school, ALL seventh grade students will be placed in the following classes:

Seventh Grade Courses

English 7

Math (see information below)

Physical Education (every other day) with Health (every other day)

U.S. Studies

Spanish class (see information below)

Earth Science

Enrichment course - students will be placed in one full year of band or two semester long classes:

- Band (For new students-band is an option on the new student registration, for returning students- a survey is sent out to all parents in early March); or
- Two of the following semester long courses:
Study Skills (Semester 1) for all new students; teacher recommended for returning students.
Other semester courses are Art & Technology, Young Adult Literature, or Poetry. Middle school students cannot choose enrichment courses other than Band.

MATH

New students: All incoming seventh grade students will be given a math placement exam. The math placement exam will determine if the student will be placed in Middle School Math II, Integrated Math I, or Integrated Math II. MSA's math courses are advanced compared to other schools.

Returning students: Returning students will follow the math progression courses and be placed accordingly. For example, if a student successfully completed Middle School Math II, the next course the student will take is Integrated Math I.

SPANISH

New students: All incoming seventh grade students with previous Spanish experience will take a placement test to determine a starting level and follow the flow chart from there. This does not apply to students who have had Spanish approximately once a week throughout elementary school. Seventh grade students with little or no previous Spanish classes will be placed in Spanish 1A.

Returning students: Students returning to MSA for seventh grade who successfully completed Spanish 1A as a sixth grader will be placed in Spanish 1B.

Grading

Students who receive a **final grade of an F** for the following classes are required to retake the course in 8th grade: English 7, Earth Science, U.S. Studies

See next page for Math and Spanish expectations.

Math and Spanish final grade expectations and course progression.

Course	Grade level	Must receive the following grade to progress to next class	Student who receive the below grades for the course in 7 th grade must retake the course in 8 th grade
Middle School Math II	7	D- or better to progress to Integrated I	F ⇨ Repeat Middle School Math II
Int Math I	7	C- or better to progress to Integrated Math II	D+, D, D-, or F ⇨ Repeat Integrated Math I
Int Math II	7	B- or better to progress to Integrated Math III	C+ - F ⇨ Repeat Int Math II
Spanish 1A	7	C- or better to progress to Spanish 1B	D+, D, D-, or F ⇨ HS Spanish I
Spanish 1B	7	C- or better to progress to Spanish II	D+, D, D-, or F ⇨ Repeat Spanish 1B

Seventh Grade Student and Parent Expectations

SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Be challenged on a daily basis. Students should be committed to moving through materials at a demanding rate and have the ability to advocate for themselves as needed. Students will need to be able to manage their time wisely and be committed to spending a lot of time on their school work, both during school and out of school.
- Complete their assignments daily. **Expected amount of daily homework for a seventh grade student is approximately 1.5 – 2 hours.**
- Write assignments in some sort of organizer. Teachers often instruct students at the beginning of every class to write assignments down.
- Be prepared for tests. Students usually know about major tests one to two weeks before the test and need to make sure they study every night for at least 10-15 minutes until the night before the test, when they should study for a longer time.
- Problem solve when having trouble with homework. Students should try this progression of steps: Looking at their notes, looking at the class website, calling a friend, calling/emailing the teacher in a timely manner, checking in with the teacher during teacher office hours (before or after school).
- Manage their part in group projects. When completing group projects, students are expected to use in-class time wisely, communicate with their project partners outside of class (phone, email, messaging, etc.), and communicate any problems or concerns promptly with their teacher.
- Pace themselves when working on projects. Teachers usually chunk larger projects into smaller pieces, and students need to stay on top of those smaller pieces so they are not overwhelmed by the final due date.
- To prioritize school work over extra-curricular activities. Schoolwork should come first. Students are expected to complete their assignments, even if they have many activities in one evening.
- Turn in work on time. In middle school, late work receives a 50% grade reduction. In some high school classes, late work receives no credit.

- Be respectful to others. Students must take responsibility for their actions, their community, and to follow the MSA Student Handbook.

PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- **Be aware of the academic challenges at MSA.** If your student struggles with school, you will be expected to help your student with study skills and organization.
- Read the school announcements daily.
- Provide a place for your student to study.
- Read their student’s organizer daily and help their student create a daily schedule to get all of their homework completed in a timely manner. That can be a lot for a younger student to understand, and they need reminders to reinforce the message at home.
- Provide the resources to help students complete their assignments but not to do the work for the students. This includes picking up a computer and turning all forms in before the first day of school.
- Help students balance their activities with their schoolwork by not allowing students to be over-scheduled. Schoolwork should come first. Students are expected to complete their assignments, even if they have activities in one evening.
- Check Skyward Family Access and class websites as necessary and contact teachers if you have any questions. Parents may set up Skyward notifications if a student earns a grade below a certain level.
- Volunteer at MSA in whatever ways are possible.

Additional Information

Visit the MSA website at mnmsa.org to read about the following information:

- Grading Handbook at mnmsa.org/Current Families/handbooks and guides
- MSA course book to see the progression from grade to grade - mnmsa.org/About MSA or mnmsa.org/Current Families/handbooks and guides
- Student Handbook at mnmsa.org/Current Families/handbooks and guides

I have read the above seventh grade academic agreement regarding courses, grading, student and parent expectations, and additional information located on the MSA website:

Student’s Name _____ Date _____
(Please print)

Parent’s Name _____ Date _____
(Please print)