



Swanson Middle School Differentiation Report Second Quarter, 2021-2022

Grade 6 English Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)	Instructional Methods & Practices
<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Memoir book clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compare/contrast details in texts ○ Analyze ideas within and between selections providing textual evidence ○ Draw conclusions and make inferences based on explicit and implied information ○ Describe cause-and-effect relationships and their impact on plot 	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on complex themes and issues within differentiated novel units related to culture and identity ● Student-led interactive activities within books clubs to foster deep discussion, critical thinking, and analysis of tiered text ● Refinement of concise evidence-based analytical writing skills in an effort to help students critically and successfully respond to open-ended questions
Grade 7 English Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)	Instructional Methods & Practices
<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Realistic Fiction book clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ literary analysis writing - claim, evidence, explanation ○ symbolism ○ character & plot development ○ embedding quotations/punctuating evidence ● Playwriting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ script conventions ○ conflict ○ character & plot development ○ inferences 	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Book clubs grouped by interested and reading level ● Differentiated writing instruction ● Higher level thinking question stems for group discussions ● Peer review activities with similar-ability peers

Grade 8 English Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)	Instructional Methods & Practices
<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Animal Farm Novel Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Historical Connections ○ Literary Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Allegory ■ Symbolism ■ Theme ■ Character ■ Conflict ○ Socratic Seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Written preparation ■ Oral participation ● Media Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understand fact vs. opinion and recognize bias ○ Understand and evaluate types of propaganda ○ Think critically about the consequences of media messages on our lives ○ Infer connections to today’s world ○ Create and publish an original propaganda project on a topic of choice ○ Work collaboratively in a group to meet objectives ● Independent Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Realistic goal setting for personal growth ○ Provide evidence of growth and progress ○ Quarterly reflection and self-evaluation 	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student choice in topics for projects and for independent reading. Challenged to read at or above their Lexile. ● Higher-level questioning strategies for seminar - both written and oral ● Challenged to use two to three pieces of evidence per argument in students' written analysis. ● Ability to provide leadership and effective team-building strategies during group work. ● Able to work with RTG on projects and written assignments, such as the propaganda project. ● Ability to demonstrate creativity through the format selection (e.g. could do a video, iMovie, song/music, slides, etc) for propaganda project. ● Encouraged to set independent reading goals that challenge and show growth over time.

<p>Grade 6 US History Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)</p>	<p>Instructional Methods & Practices</p>
<p>Curriculum Continued moving through our curriculum for US History to present from 1763-1803. Topics covered included underlying causes of colonial unrest; the American Revolution, including military and political developments; the early government of the U. S. (Articles of Confederation, Constitution, Bill of Rights); and the beginning of the causes and consequences of Westward Expansion.</p>	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● American Revolution biographical research offered to all students as extension work ● Spiraling questions on image analysis (for both Revolutionary War and Westward Expansion) that meet students at their level ● Newsela articles related to the topic studied for those looking for a “deeper dive” ● Choice opportunities on assignments that allow students different ways to demonstrate understanding and to extend thinking (for example, on Articles of Confederation and Bill of Rights work) ● Performance Based Assessments with opportunities for students to extend their thinking and written expression skills
<p>Grade 7 Civics and Economics Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)</p>	<p>Instructional Methods & Practices</p>
<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Right, Duties, Responsibilities of Citizenship ● Process of Naturalization ● Electoral college ● Political Process Inquiry ● Powers of the President ● Powers of the Legislative Branch 	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individualized product options based on ability and interest ● Inquiry based writing with differentiated primary sources ● Higher order thinking activities: lawmaking simulation, classroom debate, case studies ● Student choice for various activities including a Choice Board on Canvas linked to curriculum including current events, videos, articles and other areas of interest ● Extension opportunities which extend the learning of Civics and Economics ideas and link to real world application

Grade 8 World Geography Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)

Instructional Methods & Practices

Curriculum

- **Cultural Geography**
 - **Project-Based-Assessment**
 - Written, audio, visual primary source analysis to answer the question “How Does Migration Change Culture?”
- **Economic & Demographic Geography**
 - Economic systems, categories of economic activity, developed vs. developing characteristics, demographic statistics, population dilemmas
- **Political Geography mini-unit**
 - Major content and vocabulary related to types of government and causes of conflict
- **Anglo-America mini-unit**
 - Student choice of mapping activities, examination of major socio-economic recent events, or independent research
- **Latin America regional unit**
 - Mental map construction, physical geography, historical development, culture, economics, politics, and how they all interact to make life the way it is in Latin America today

Differentiation Strategies Offered:

- Differentiated resources and writing tasks integrated into Culture PBA with multiple opportunities for deeper student analysis, counter analysis, and resource credibility investigations
- Economic System case studies ungraded but “required” assignment with greater depth of content than offered in class
- Resource game extension activity for extended metaphor creation related to resource and economic concepts
- Categories of economic activity differentiated activity with opportunities for artistic, creative expression as well as independent research along nonfictional and fictional topics
- Levels of development independent research extension activity
- Gapminder dollar street families self-differentiating image analysis activity
- Anglo America mini-unit student choice and voice opportunities; self-differentiation with opportunities for greater depth and breadth of content exposure
- Conflict resolution differentiated activity based on attempting to provide solutions for provided already resolved conflicts as opposed to analyzing ongoing unresolved conflicts for potential resolutions
- Columbian Exchange self-differentiating activity based on student choice of foods to dissect for ingredient origins
- Land Division and Wealth Inequality in Latin America lecture differentiated based on expectation of student note-taking style - independent supported versus slotted notes
- Latin America Assets & Challenges extension options with higher rigor of analysis expected and more complex topics

<p>Grade 6 Science Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)</p>	<p>Instructional Methods & Practices</p>
<p>Curriculum: Matter (atomic structure, elements, interpreting formulas, chemical reactions) and Water (properties of water and water distribution)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6.5: The student will investigate and understand that all matter is composed of atoms. ● 6.6: The student will investigate and understand that water has unique physical properties and has a role in the natural and human-made environment. ● 6.8: The student will investigate and understand that land and water have roles in watershed systems. 	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practice with library research, applying the scientific method through labs and/or classroom activities, and designing presentations. These strategies build student skills to successfully participate in the Independent Science Project and Swanson Science Fair as early as 7th-grade. ● Weekly differentiated class activities that ask higher order thinking questions and/or provide extension opportunities or challenge questions. Students are often given the option to choose between ‘Extension’ and ‘Skill Builder’ activities.
<p>Grade 7 Science Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)</p>	<p>Instructional Methods & Practices</p>
<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand cell structures and functions of plant and animal and plant cells. ● Distinguish cell types based on observed characteristics. ● Apply knowledge of cell structures and functions to understand cell transport and life processes (osmosis, diffusion, photosynthesis and respiration). ● Synthesize knowledge of cells in terms of the cell cycle; how it facilitates growth, development, and repair among living things. 	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implemented pre-assessments to differentiate based on prior knowledge. ● Encouraged independent exploration through use of technology and microscopes to observe and differentiate cells and how structure and shape corresponds to the life process /function carried out. ● Engaged in scaffolded/ hands-on lab activities requiring higher order thinking to predict and explain the net movement of materials across a semipermeable cell membrane to understand osmosis and diffusion. ● Explored scientific ethics through classroom debate/discussion. ● Expanded content knowledge through use of Canvas resources such as PBS Learning, CK-12, and IXL learning tools.

Grade 8 Science Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)	Instructional Methods & Practices
<p>Curriculum (PS. 2 and 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing, conducting, and analyzing an experiment of choice (science project) • Measuring properties of matter • Collecting evidence to identify physical and chemical properties and changes • Modeling atoms of elements, compounds, and mixtures • Using patterns and symbols in the periodic table to describe elements 	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiation of Content: Multimedia resources and discussions to extend student thinking beyond the standards, building connections across concepts. • Differentiation of Product: Tiered assignments for the science project, allowing for choice and extra rigor for those who chose to compete in the Science Fair. • Differentiation of Process: Use of pre-assessments to drive and differentiate instruction based on student readiness. Collaborative groups challenge each other to solve problems, evaluate models, and be creative.

Grade 6 - Math 6 Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)	Instructional Methods & Practices
<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratios and Proportional Reasoning • Rational Numbers (fraction operations and practical problems) 	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensions (open middle, higher-order thinking questions, application problems) • Access to IXL (all grades are an option) • Challenges • Dreambox provides natural extensions when students master content • CML Contests offered • AMC 8 Math Contest offered • MathCounts Canvas course and after school club
Grade 6 - Pre-Algebra Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)	Instructional Methods & Practices
<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions, Equations and Inequalities 	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensions (open middle, higher-order thinking questions, application problems) • Access to IXL (all grades are an option) • Challenges • Dreambox provides natural extensions when students master content • CML Contests offered • AMC 8 Math Contest offered • MathCounts Canvas course and after school club

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rigorous Course - learning math 6/7/8 standards
Grade 7 - Math 7 Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)	Instructional Methods & Practices
Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate expressions for given replacement values ● Solve two step linear equations ● Solve and graph two step linear inequalities ● Translate expressions ● Proportional Reasoning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scale drawings ○ Consumer Math ○ Percentages ○ Unit Conversions 	Differentiation Strategies Offered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extensions (higher order thinking questions, application problems) ● Access to IXL (all grades are an option) ● Challenges ● Dreambox provides natural extensions when students master content ● Gifted Resource extensions such as scholastic math challenge. ● MathCounts Canvas course and after school club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AMC 8 Math Contest Offered
Grade 7 - Pre-Algebra Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)	Instructional Methods & Practices
Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solving multi-step equations including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Combining like terms ○ Distributive property ○ Variables on both sides of the equation ○ Real world applications ● Solving multi-step inequalities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Graphing solutions ○ Identifying numbers that are members of the solution ○ Real world applications of what inequalities mean 	Differentiation Strategies Offered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extensions (open middle, higher order thinking questions, application problems) ● Access to IXL (all grades are an option) ● Challenges ● Dreambox provides natural extensions when students master content ● CML Contests ● AMC 8 Math Contest offered ● Rigorous course learning 7th and 8th grade math ● Gifted Resource extensions such as scholastic math challenge. ● MathCounts Canvas course and after school club
Grade 7 - Algebra I Int. Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)	Instructional Methods & Practices
Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Graphing linear equations in two variables with a variety of domains ● Describing the transformations of linear functions ● Writing equations of lines in different forms 	Differentiation Strategies Offered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Higher order of thinking Number Sense Routines ● Concept exploration activities prior to introduction of topic ● Higher order of thinking Practice Sets ● Optional practice activities prior to assessments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing equations of lines that are parallel, perpendicular, direct variation, and inverse variation ● Determining the equation for the Line of Best Fit for a data set and using that equation to make predictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unit 4 Project that reinforces writing and graphing equations ● Use of Desmos Graphing Calculator ● Spiral Review ● CML Contests ● AMC 8 Contest Offered ● Math Counts Canvas course and after school club
<p>Grade 8 Pre-Algebra Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)</p>	<p>Instructional Methods & Practices</p>
<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Simplifying expressions by combining like terms ● Simplifying expressions by using the distributive property ● Review solving 1-step equations ● Solving 2-step equations ● Multi-step equations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simplifying by combining like terms on both sides of an equation before solving ○ Simplifying by the distributive property ○ Solving equations with variables on both sides of the equal sign. 	<p>Differentiation Strategies Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spiral Review ● Use of notecards ● Extension activity applying concepts to block coding activity using Tinkercad ● Project on application of percent change in real life ● Choice Stations ● MathCounts Canvas course and after school club ● AMC 8 Math Contest Offered ● After school support on Tuesdays and Thursdays for questions/answers on topics and assignments and study support for assessments
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Grade 8 Geometry Int. Curriculum (i.e., summary of standards/content instructed)	Instructional Methods & Practices
Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proving congruent triangles ● Proving quadrilaterals are parallelograms ● Using Properties of parallelograms to find unknown segment lengths and angle measurements 	Differentiation Strategies Offered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spiral Review ● Construction Project that reinforces unit of study ● CML Contest ● AMC 8 Contest Offered ● Math Counts Canvas course and after school club