



Washington Square Academy

Curriculum 2025-2026

Grade 7

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English

Objectives

Identify and cite textual evidence to support a claim; identify a theme or central idea of a text as supported by a variety of literary devices; be able to summarize a text, orally and in writing; analyze the treatment of themes across multiple texts; acquire an increasingly comprehensive academic vocabulary; write for a variety of purposes, with style appropriate to purpose and audience; establish habits of and practices for revising, editing, and rewriting texts; learn effective strategies for collaborating with peers to acquire, analyze, and present information; craft research questions and draw on a variety of sources for answers; engage in formal and informal discussions with teacher and peers.

Texts & Reference Materials

Literature:

(Note that selections may vary by academic year.)

Novels & Plays:

- *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- *Lord of the Flies*, William Goulding
- “The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street,” Rod Serling

Selected Short Stories:

- “All Summer in a Day,” Ray Bradbury
- “Mrs. Flowers,” Maya Angelou
- “The Lottery,” Shirley Jackson

Selected Poems:

- “First They Came,” Pastor Martin Niemoller
- “The Hangman,” Maurice Ogden
- Sonnets, William Shakespeare
- Selections from Billy Collins’ Poetry 180

Selected Works of Non-Fiction:

- *Children’s Accounts of the Holocaust*, The Anti-Defamation League



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- *Night*, Elie Wiesel
- *Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank

Language:

- *Wordly Wise* Vocabulary Study, Levels 7-8
- *The Rooted Mind*: Latin and Greek Roots Challenge
- Teacher-generated materials
- Selections from NoRedInk.com and IXL.com

Content

Literature:

- Cite the best possible evidence from the text to support analysis of explicit and implicit meaning.
- Identify how a writer develops one or more themes over the course of a text; show how theme interacts with character, setting, plot, and diction.
- Understand how dialogue and events help to propel the action of the story and reveal character.
- Analyze in detail the structural elements of a text, including the role of specific sentences, paragraphs, and text features in developing and refining a key concept.
- Analyze how differing points of view among characters and between character and audience help to create humor, irony, and/or suspense.
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
- Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.

Language & Writing:

- Write multi-paragraph arguments in the forms of essays, letters to the editor, and advocacy speeches to support claims with clear reasoning and relevant supporting evidence, including appropriately-cited sources.



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- Write multi-paragraph informative/explanatory texts such as essays, reports, and articles to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- Understand how to present supporting evidence in logical sequence.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and to demonstrate the relationships among ideas and topics.
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- Establish and maintain a style appropriate to audience and purpose.
- Write creative narratives to develop experiences or events using effective literary techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured sequences.
- Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an appropriate narrative sequence.
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking; retain and further develop language skills learned in previous grades.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.



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Mathematics

Texts & Reference Materials

- [Art of Problem Solving](#)
- Teacher-generated materials

Math 7 Pre-Algebra Honors

Number Sense:

- All operations of integers and fractions
- Fractions, decimals, and percent conversions
- Exponents
- Squares and square roots

Algebraic Expressions:

- Order of operations
- Translating and evaluating expressions
- Distributive property
- All operations expressions
- Equations & inequalities
- Solving one-step and multi-step equations and word problems
- Solving one-step and multi-step inequalities and word problems

Ratio, Proportion, & Percent:

- Rates/unit rates and proportional versus non-proportional relationships -Proportion word problems
- Scale Drawings and Models
- Similar figures
- Percent proportion and equation
- Discount, Markup, Tax, Tip, commission
- Percent of Change



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Functions & Graphing:

- The Coordinate Plane and Graphing Relations
- Graphing Functions using a Function Table
- Multiple Representations of Functions: Tables, Graphs, Equations
- Verbal Descriptions
- Slope from a Graph (positive and negative slope only)
- Slope-Intercept Form
- Graphing a Linear Function in Slope-Intercept Form
- Slope-Intercept Form Application

Geometry:

- Perimeter and area
- Composite figures
- 3D figures
- Volume and surface area applications

Probability & Statistics:

- Theoretical probability vs. experimental probability
- Tree diagrams
- Compound probability
- Mean, median, mode, range
- Stem and leaf plots

Math 7 Algebra I Honors

- Multi-Step Equations & Inequalities
- Relations & Functions
- Linear Equations
- Direct & Inverse Variations
- Systems of Equations & Inequalities
- Exponents & Exponential Functions
- Polynomials & Factoring
- Quadratic Equations
- Rational Expressions & Equations



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- Radical Expressions & Equations



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Science

WSA's Science Curriculum is informed by the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS).

Objectives

Students will understand and apply the Scientific Method using standards of measurement; learn to design and conduct laboratory experiments; write increasingly complex and well-structured laboratory reports; and understand the structures and foundational concepts of energy, force, gravity, electricity, magnetism, sound, chemical changes, and human organs. Students will also acquire a sense of wonder about the world around them as they increasingly recognize the science that governs their everyday lives.

Texts & Reference Materials

- Marshall Cavendish Education, *Lower Secondary: Science Matters*
- Teacher-generated materials

Content

The Nature of Science:

- The Scientific Method
- Standards of measurement
- The structure of lab reports
- The science of our everyday lives

Motion and Forces: Energy, Work, & Simple Machines:

- The nature and conservation of energy
- Work
- Understanding and using simple machines
- Lab: Newton's Laws as Proven By Catapults

Electricity & Magnetism:



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- Electricity
- Electrical current and circuits
- Ohm's Law
- Magnetism

Sound Energy Through Vibrations:

- Sound: audible waves
- The music and uses of sound
- Sound and society
- Lab: Circuitry Through Yogurt-Cup Speakers

Chemical Change:

- Types of chemical changes
- Bonds
- Solutions, mixtures, and compounds
- Interactions between matter
- Movement of atoms during chemical reactions
- Effects of chemical changes

Human Anatomy:

- The human digestive system: organs, enzymes, structure, and function
- The urinary system
- Lab: Just Like Kidneys: Semipermeable Membrane Prototypes
- The nervous system: brain cell communication
- Lab: Observe Symptoms Demonstrated by Mock Patient and Diagnose Affected Organ Systems



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Social Studies: Survey of American History

Objectives

Research and Inquiry:

- Students develop research skills by asking questions, gathering information from primary and secondary sources, and evaluating the reliability of sources.

Critical Thinking:

- Students analyze historical events and multiple perspectives to develop critical thinking skills; make reasoned judgments; compare and contrast the treatment of a topic in primary and secondary sources; analyze in detail a series of events as described in a text; cite specific textual evidence to support analysis; summarize points of agreements and disagreement; and demonstrate their ability to reevaluate their thinking after exposure to new evidence and lines of reasoning.

Communication:

- Students respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; practice communicating their ideas effectively through writing, speaking, and delivering visual presentations.

Texts & Reference Materials

Teacher-selected and -generated materials including historical periodicals and primary sources

The Constitution:

- Events leading up to the formation of the Constitution; the Articles of Confederation
- The Bill of Rights
- Primary source analysis: The Federalist Papers
- Comparison and contrast between Federalist and Anti-Federalists views
- Contrasts between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson

Early America:

- The impact of the French and Haitian Revolutions on the US
- Mexican and Latin American Independence



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The Age of Jackson:

- Geography of the Age of Jackson
- The Trail of Tears and relationships with Native Americans
- Analysis of Jackson & John Quincy Adams

Manifest Destiny:

- Westward colonization and the Texan Revolution

Sectionalism & Reform:

- Debates and tensions between slave states and free states
- The Second Great Awakening
- The Mexican-American War and its aftershocks

The Civil War:

- Events leading up to the Civil War
- Leading figures of the Civil War
- Primary source analysis: the Southern States' declarations of secession
- Similarities and differences between the Union and the Confederacy
- Europe takes sides

Reconstruction:

- Post Civil War events
- The leadership of Frederick Douglass
- Contrasting testimonies about the KKK from its founder, Nathan Forrest, and from one of its victims, Andrew Flowers
- The failures of Reconstruction and the origins of "Jim Crow"

The Gilded Age:

- Industrialization and corporate monopolies
- Political machines
- Electricity and the motion picture



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- Nationalist unifications

The Progressive Era:

- Theodore Roosevelt and trust busting
- Investigative journalism
- Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*
- Conservation, labor rights, and corporate regulation
- American Imperialism

World War I & The Great Depression:

- The rebirth of the KKK and Federal segregation
- Birth of a Nation
- American entry into the Great War
- The League of Nations
- Prohibition and organized crime
- 1929 Wall Street Crash and the Dust Bowl
- Prelude to World War II

World War II:

- Fascism and rampant imperialism
- American initial neutrality and subsequent entry into the war
- Lend-Lease: an “arsenal of democracy”
- The Flying Tigers

The Cold War:

- McCarthyism
- Containment Doctrine
- Proxy Wars
- Nuclear brinkmanship
- The Civil Rights Movement



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World Language: Mandarin

Students in Washington Square Academy's Mandarin Program take the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) Test at the appropriate level at the end of Grades 6, 7, and 8.

HSK is China's national, standardized test of proficiency in the Chinese language for non-native speakers (similar to the TOEFL in the United States). Students who successfully complete WSA's Mandarin Program are well on their way to obtaining full HSK certification, a qualification that may open many doors for them not just personally, in terms of a love and understanding of this beautiful language and culture, but also professionally, in terms of educational and employment opportunities.

Information on the relevant levels of certification can be found [HERE](#):

Grade 7: [HSK Level II](#)

Course materials for each grade level include elements of the HSK Curriculum as well as a variety of teacher-generated sources designed to motivate and inspire each individual student. At Grade 8, these materials are supplemented with [Cheng & Tsui's Integrated Chinese](#) texts and workbooks.



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World Language: Spanish I

Texts & Reference Materials

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: ¡Avancemos! Level 1
Teacher-generated materials

Content

Grammar & Vocabulary:

- Verbs: reflexive
- Verb tense: present; present progressive; preterite; future; imperfect
- Tenor idioms
- Adjectives: possessive; demonstrative
- Objects: direct and indirect
- Affirmative and negative tú commands

Spanish Culture & Daily Life:

- Clothing
- Food
- Feelings
- Games: Spanish board games; dominoes
- Topic of choice: book project