

Seventh Grade Curriculum

Students in the Seventh Grade Program at Al Nur School explore the concepts listed below. Children learn these concepts at their own pace. Children are taught with hands-on materials, as well as with traditional methods.

Goals

- Provide a safe and loving environment for all children
- Foster a sense of self-confidence and well being in each child
- Expose children to and build a love for grade appropriate reading, math, science, Arabic, Quran, social skills, art, and movement
- Provide physical activities to facilitate gross and fine motor development
- To develop in children and parents a positive attitude towards self, others, school and learning

Math

Students will expand their understanding of the properties of real numbers, solve linear equations and inequalities, and use data analysis techniques.

In the second half of Pre-Algebra sequence, students continue to build their Algebra skills. Students will:

- Compute basic trigonometric ratios
- Change word phrases and sentences into mathematical expressions and equations
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide positive and negative rational numbers in decimal and fraction form
- Use several transformations to solve equations and inequalities
- Study points, lines, planes, polygons, and circles
- Solve problems involving percents, ratios, and proportions
- Graph equations, inequalities, and systems of equations
- Calculate areas of plane figures
- Calculate volumes and surface areas of space figures
- Apply the Pythagorean Theorem to solve triangles and compute basic trigonometric ratios
- Calculate statistical measures and expected value
- Compute the probability of overlapping, independent, and dependent events
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide polynomials and monomials
- Communicate strategies for solving word problems

Language Arts

The Seventh grade Language Arts program provides a solid foundation in reading and writing. The course is divided into two main strands: Literature and Language Skills. Literature includes the study of a diverse range of classic and contemporary stories, poems, plays, nonfiction works, and novels. The Language Skills strand includes composition; grammar, usage, and mechanics; and vocabulary. The instructional plan includes readings and activities on a range of topics and skills:

Composition

- Choose and use writing processes to create paragraphs, essays, reports, and stories.
- Generate ideas through brainstorming, lists, notes, and graphic organizers; organize material for drafting; revise drafts by adding, deleting, or moving material; proofread for errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling; and publish selected pieces of work.
- Recognize the purpose and audience for each piece of writing.
- Write to express (e.g., personal narrative), influence (e.g., persuasive essay, advertisement), inform (e.g., compare-and-contrast essay, how-to essay), and entertain.
- Use a voice and style appropriate for the audience.
- Use transitions and precise wording to promote coherence.
- Analyze and appreciate the writer's craft and use the work of others as models for writing.
- Evaluate their own writing through the use of checklists.
- Use offline and online methods of research to increase knowledge and follow an appropriate format for documenting sources.
- Understand and interpret the meaning in visual images (e.g., graphs, charts, tables).
- Produce their own visuals to enhance meaning in an oral presentation.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics

- Understand and apply the conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics in written work.
- Use capitalization and punctuation (end marks, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes, semicolons, colons, and hyphens) to clarify meaning.
- Understand and use various kinds of complete sentences and appropriate conjunctions to connect ideas.
- Use adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases to expand upon ideas and make writing precise.
- Recognize and use verb tenses correctly and avoid unnecessary shifts in tense.
- Use standard English, including correct subject-verb agreement, proper pronoun-antecedent agreement, and appropriate pronoun case.

Literature

- Read a diverse variety of literature, both classic and contemporary, for different purposes (e.g., information, entertainment, research).
- Use various comprehension strategies (e.g., accessing prior knowledge, identifying main ideas and supporting details, making inferences, paraphrasing, summarizing, comparing and contrasting) to aid in understanding the text.
- Respond to a variety of texts by sharing observations, speculations, and interpretations.
- Use a reading notebook to record ideas.
- Make connections within texts and between texts, when appropriate, of themes and major issues.
- Analyze the elements of various genres (e.g., poetry, short stories, biographies, informational texts).
- Understand, identify, and use literary terms and literary devices.
- Analyze characters, settings, and plots.
- Understand how tone, style, mood, and point of view affect the text.
- Use reading assignments as a springboard for research.
- Use text features (e.g., headings, graphics, images, table of contents, index) to locate information efficiently.
- Read to increase knowledge of their own culture and the cultures of others.
- Listen actively and purposefully to professional presentations of reading selections.
- Listen in order to analyze and appreciate spoken language.
- Use oral presentations for dramatic readings and to provide information to an audience.

Vocabulary

- Use systematic word study to increase vocabulary.
- Determine the meaning of words through the application of knowledge of Latin and Greek roots and the study of prefixes and suffixes.
- Use prior knowledge and past experiences to understand words in context, analogies, and multiple-meaning words.
- Refer to dictionaries, thesauruses, and related software to clarify the meanings of words and to identify synonyms and antonyms.

Science

Students perform experiments, develop scientific reasoning, and recognize science in the world around them. The Seventh grade science curriculum focuses on Life, Earth, and Physical Sciences which includes units on:

- The Properties of Matter
- Elements Forming Compounds
- Everyday changes in Substances
- Motions and Forces
- Work and Machines
- Energy and Power
- Weathering and Soil formation

- Erosion and Deposition
- The Earth-Moon System
- Bones, Muscles, and Skin
- Food and Digestion
- Circulation
- Respiration and Excretion
- Fighting Disease
- The Nervous System
- The Endocrine System
- Ecosystems and Biomes
- Relating to the Environment
- Living Resources

Social Studies

In Grade 7, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students identify regions of Texas and the distribution of population within and among the regions and explain the factors that caused Texas to change from an agrarian to an urban society. Students describe the structure and functions of municipal, county, and state governments, explain the influence of the U.S. Constitution on the Texas Constitution, and examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens. Students use primary and secondary sources to examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas as they identify the different racial and ethnic groups that settled in Texas to build a republic and then a state. Students analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of Texas in various industries such as agricultural, energy, medical, computer, and aerospace. Students use primary and secondary sources to acquire information about Texas.

Technology

- Use computer programs to create and write picture stories
- Use a computer mouse: click, click and drag
- Use the Internet to explore kid-friendly websites
- Acquire technology skills as outlined in the TEKS

Quran Memorization Program:

Quran

- Develop the love of Quran and a motivation to memorize it.
- Know the right etiquette for learning Quran and learn to respect it.
- Continue memorizing the Quran starting from where the student left off.
- Revision of past surahs previously memorized.
- Understand meanings of the Surahs with the help of stories, pictures, and plays.

- Improve on Quran recitation and pronunciation.
- Learn how to read and write the Ayahs they are memorizing.

Arabic Grammar and Islamic Studies

- Arabic grammar is taught through a customized curriculum which enhances their understanding and reading of the Surahs they are memorizing.
- Islamic Studies is customized to the Surahs that the student are memorizing by having them understand the meanings of the verses in the Quran as well as deriving lessons from those verses.
- The Islamic Studies curriculum also incorporates Islamic manners and concepts which will enhance the student's understanding and character development and leadership skills.
- The boys will be trained to write and deliver Friday Khutbahs and be given the opportunity to lead daily salat.