

Parents or Guardians,



**Work together...  
...be the best!**

**TEAM 7.3**

## Welcome to Team 7-3 - The Hornets' Nest!

Here is a packet of information about our team, your child's core classes and team teachers. Let's start with some basic information about grading and communication.

### Grading:

Hedrick uses a **proficiency-based** approach in communicating how a student is doing in class.

At the beginning of each unit, students are given a specific **Learning Target**, (a description of the lesson's purpose), and a clear description of how to achieve proficiency. Students' grades will be based on classwork, homework/practice, labs, projects and summative assessments (quizzes/tests).

Grades are reported as follows:

**Mastery:** the traditional A. Through extensive evidence, the student demonstrates superior academic performance, an in-depth understanding of the standard, and an ability to apply knowledge and strategies to complex problems.

**Advanced:** the traditional B. The student consistently meets and sometimes exceeds the basic level and demonstrates a complete understanding of the standard.

**Meets (Proficiency):** the traditional C. The student generally meets the standard and demonstrates a basic knowledge of essential skills; some errors may be present, but the strengths are dominant.

**Approaching:** the traditional D. Though the student is occasionally demonstrating a working knowledge of the essential skills that encompass the standard, there are still more weaknesses than strengths.

**Beginning:** the traditional F. No understanding or skill is demonstrated yet.

Students who do not at first show proficiency because their grades on an assessment are Approaching or Beginning, need to keep trying! This means that the **student takes responsibility** to review or complete the previously assigned classwork/practice material, re-read, study, and ask questions in order to strengthen their understanding of the material. When the student is ready for a retake, he/she follows the procedure of his/her teacher to schedule a time for the retake. **Retakes are expected in our classes!**

As the year progresses, it will be very important to communicate with us when you have questions or concerns. Please contact us:

Becky Plankenhorn, Science, Team Leader, [becky.plankenhorn@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:becky.plankenhorn@medford.k12.or.us), (541)842-1580

Loni Strong, English, [loni.strong@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:loni.strong@medford.k12.or.us), (541) 840-1579

Koebly Johnson, Social Science, [koebly.johnson@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:koebly.johnson@medford.k12.or.us), (541) 840-1567

Peg Hansen, Math, [peg.hansen@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:peg.hansen@medford.k12.or.us), (541)840-1569

We also maintain classroom websites that we will be using all year. They contain important information on DAILY ASSIGNMENTS, FIELD TRIPS, RESOURCES and more... Please bookmark these sites on your computer/phone - and check them often!

<http://plankenhornscience.weebly.com/>

<http://strongenglish.weebly.com/>

<http://johnsonsocialstudies.weebly.com/>

<http://mrshansenmath.weebly.com/>



## **Hedrick Middle School**

Grade 7 Social Studies  
2018 - 2019

Mr. Johnson – Team 7-3  
[koeby.johnson@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:koeby.johnson@medford.k12.or.us)



Welcome to Social Studies!

In seventh grade, our studies will examine multiple millennia of history, vastly varied cultures, revolutions in economic and political practices, and the geography of extremely different regions of our planet! Put simply, we will learn about interesting people, their ways of life, and what they contributed to the world, and along the way we will learn more about who we are and where we fit into the whole picture!

### Major Units of Study:

- Ancient Greece and Persia
- Ancient India
- Ancient Rome, Judaism, and Christianity
- Ancient and Medieval Africa
- The Byzantine Empire and the Rise of Islam
- The Middle Ages in the Eastern Hemisphere
- The European Renaissance, Reformation, and Age of Exploration

Integrated throughout these units will be a study of world geography, current events, economics, social science analysis, non-fiction literacy, historical literature, government and civics.

### Grading

I use a proficiency-based approach in communicating how well a child is doing in class. Students' skills and knowledge in social studies are measured in five categories:

- Historical Knowledge and Thinking
- Geography
- Civics and Government
- Economics and Financial Literacy
- Social Science Analysis

## The Essential Skills for the Oregon Diploma

In order to earn a diploma from high school in Oregon, students will need to demonstrate proficiency with the following “Essential Skills”. It is very important that you develop these skills now: practice doesn’t always make perfect, but it sure helps! Expect to work on these skills in social studies all year:

1. *Read and comprehend a variety of text*
2. *Write clearly and accurately*
3. *Apply mathematics in a variety of settings*
4. *Listen actively and speak clearly and coherently*
5. *Think critically and analytically*
6. *Use technology to learn, live, and work*
7. *Demonstrate civic and community engagement*
8. *Demonstrate global literacy*
9. *Demonstrate personal management and teamwork skills*

## Classroom Expectations

- Be kind and respectful to each other
- Take care of classroom materials and environment
- Come prepared, organized, and on time for class

## Procedures in Room 202

- As students enter the classroom, they should take out their planners and write homework/classwork for the day’s class in their planners.
- Students should be quietly seated and ready to work when bell rings.
- When a student or the teacher is speaking, eyes should be on her/him, with no side conversations.
- Students must use hall passes when leaving the classroom.
- Tardy students need an excused note from the office or teacher who held them late.
- Students are responsible for finding out what they missed when absent by checking the ABSENTEE HOMEWORK BINDER or the ASSIGNMENTS section of our class website for missed work.

Having spent time living and traveling in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Central America, I speak from personal experience: the right to a good education is not enjoyed equally by all children around the world. Please treat this year as a wonderful opportunity to grow and learn, and do your best!

Thank you,

Koebby Johnson

2018-2019

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

Dear Parents and Guardians,



Becky Plankenhorn  
Team 7.3 Science

**Welcome** back to school! I hope your summer was a refreshing one and that you and your child are looking forward to an exciting first year of middle school. As the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter begins, I would like to share some information about Hedrick's 7<sup>th</sup> grade science.

**Our studies** revolve around the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) covering physical, life, earth sciences and engineering.

**Each day students** will be expected to record the following in their planners: homework, upcoming events, and upcoming tests to study for. Any classwork not completed in class is expected to be completed at home and returned the following day. Students will also be checking their grades and recording them weekly in their planner. My school website also contains class activities, assignments and team information.  
**CHECK IT OUT AT:** [plankenhornscience.weebly.com](http://plankenhornscience.weebly.com)

**PAL-Parent Access Link** is an online service that allows you to stay informed about your child's attendance and academic progress. I encourage you to set up a time, at least once a week, to sit down with your child and review his/her PAL information together.

If your child misses a day of class or needs help with an assignment, it is his/her responsibility to find out what classwork/practice or assessment was missed and/or set up a time with me to help as needed.

<https://www.medford.k12.or.us/>



Your child is encouraged to **retake an assessment** if he/she is not proficient on the first try. Your child is expected to return a parent signed study guide and complete selected classwork in order to sign up for a retake.

I will do my best to help your child understand what they learn and what they still need to learn to become a **Proficient Learner**. I look forward to instilling excitement and a sense of wonder in your child throughout this school year.

***The three easy steps on How to Pass 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science:***

**SHOW UP.**

**PAY ATTENTION.**

**DO YOUR BEST WORK AT ALL TIMES.**

Working together, we can ensure that your child will have a successful year at school. I look forward to a great school year for everyone.

Thank you,

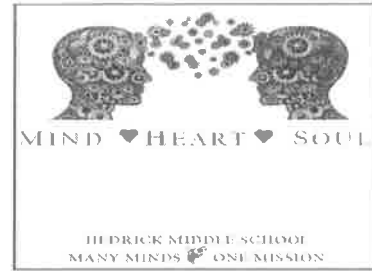
***Mrs. Becky Plankenhorn***

## Mrs. Hansen's Math Studio

Team 7-3 Math, Room 204, 541-842-1569

Webpage: [mrshansenmath@weebly.com](mailto:mrshansenmath@weebly.com)

Email: [peg.hansen@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:peg.hansen@medford.k12.or.us)



### Welcome!

In my classroom, I expect everyone to **Be Focused, Be Humble, Be Kind!!**

Oregon has adopted the **Common Core State Standards** (CCSS) for mathematics. This year in math class, students will be studying topics from these CCSS Reporting Standards:

- Ratio & Proportional Reasoning
- Equations & Expressions
- The Number System
- Geometry
- Statistics & Probability

In addition to Reporting Standards, math classrooms will also be using CCSS **Practice Standards**. Students will be employing **Habits of Mind** and **Habits of Interaction** to meet the Practice Standards. Students will be asked to make sense of, justify why and generalize about math ideas together and independently.

### Practice Policy:

Students are expected to complete all math homework (practice) by the following class period. Students should be ready to ask any questions they may have. Practice and questions will be discussed in class. Practice is part of your student's grade, and is necessary if a quiz retake is needed. Students should expect 15 - 20 minutes of practice every night. Students are expected to **complete** or **at least attempt** each practice problem.

**Notebooks:** **Graph Spiral Notebooks** are required for all math work. These may be purchased from Mrs. Hansen for \$2.00 or at a local store. Students will also keep a math section in their school binder.

*The Medford School District never wants financial circumstances to be a barrier to a student's education. We encourage families to support the school supplies listed above. School supplies will be provided by the District for families for whom this is a hardship.*

**Class Materials:** Please bring these supplies to class with you each day.

Graph spiral notebook	Binder	Planner
Text book	Pencil	Calculator (TI-30XIIS)

### Take these 3 steps to be successful in math class-

- ❖ Come to class prepared, organized and on-time
- ❖ Engage in discussions respectfully
- ❖ Respect classroom materials and manipulatives

\*\*\* CHECK P.A.L. FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE GRADE INFORMATION

Check my web page for daily practice (homework) and access to textbooks.

<http://mrshansenmath.weebly.com>

It's going to be a great year! Mrs. Hansen



Ms. Strong

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English

### Beyond the Curriculum 2018-19

**Welcome** 7th grade English Students and Families,

I hope you've had a wonderful and adventurous summer. Getting back into the swing of school is always a challenge, not only for student and families, but for teachers as well. However, I have been working really hard getting ready for the exciting year ahead and I think you will truly enjoy learning in my classroom. Here is a quick breakdown of some important information about English at Hedrick on Team 7.3.

In English we will strive for mastery in the following areas: Reading Informational Text & Literature, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language Use and Grammar. Students will be expected to record in their planners—daily classwork, practice (homework), and/or indicate big deadlines such as upcoming tests or when “Performance Tasks” are due.

My school website: <http://strongenglish.weebly.com> contains the above information and will provide a safe location for our Team 7.3 students to publish their writing and benefit from collaboration with their classmates. Additionally, we are very fortunate to have a class set of Chromebooks for the students to use in preparation for the “Smarter Balance” test. These Chromebooks will be used daily and it is expected that each student provides their own set of earbuds EACH DAY for the entire year. Also, we will be using Google Classroom; including Google Docs, Forms and the elusive “Cloud” for storing, sharing and working real time with classmates at school and from home.

**Independent Reading (AR):** Each day students are required to have independent reading material in English & ATI (Additional Targeted Instruction) class and from time to time in their other classes. Examples of independent reading materials are: books, magazines, newspapers, manuals, brochures, any material that can be read.

When you are finished with your assigned class work and on most Fridays you will be encouraged to read. (Science and Math will also ask you to have material to read on testing days.)

Additionally, you will be required to read at least **2.5 hours (30 minutes a day X 5)** a week at home as ongoing practice (homework). Reading Logs will be collected bi-weekly to check comprehension and for minutes read.

Independent reading time and having reading materials in class is expected in English.

- I will be doing random book checks throughout the week to make sure you are bringing your reading material to class.
- AR tests and personalized reading goals will be part of each students Reading grade in English. \*Verbal AR Tests are available for material that does not have an “official” test.
- Parents will be encouraged to log on to Renaissance Learning and also keep track of AR progress. Parent log in information will be coming home soon....

**Practice Policy:** All work is expected to be completed: in and out of class. Practice is not always collected for a grade, but I keep track of whether or not it was completed. Practice assignments and all writing Performance Tasks will become part of your child's English Spiral Portfolio. Portfolios will help each student:

- examine a broad range of their own work collected over time
- plan and manage their time to complete the work
- analyze and assess their own progress towards mastery

English Spiral Portfolios will go home at the end of the year and it's quite remarkable how much each student will grow as a writer.

**English Text Books & Novels:** Each student will be checking out a 7th grade Collections textbook and receiving (2) consumable workbooks which have been aligned to the **Common Core State Standards**. The replacement cost for a lost Collections book is \$97.00 and replacement workbooks are approximately \$10. Additionally, from time to time, your student will have a novel assigned to them. If lost, the replacement cost for novels are \$15 for hardback books and \$10 for paperbacks.

\* We will be reading at least **one** novel together as a class in addition to our unit on Literature Circles.

**Smarter Balance & Writing Work Samples:** I will scale back practice work prior to and during all state and district required assessment. I will also remind students how important it is to get a good night's sleep and to eat a healthy breakfast and lunch. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

### **Attendance:**

In a Proficiency Based Learning System, attendance is key to success! Each student's entire English grade is based on **summative assessments**, which take place at school in a meaningful and timely manner. Team 7.3 teachers make every effort to balance the calendar and keep a scope and sequence that is not too rigorous. Seat time is a child's most valuable tool to assure success towards Proficiency.

### **Retakes:**

Students are encouraged to retake/redo Summative assessments throughout the year in English and/or ATI. However, before a retake can occur – all the required Formative work must be completed. Please encourage your student to come in before school, at lunch or afterschool when he/she misses school or is confused about what is needed in order to retake or make-up a Summative assessment.

**As the year progresses, it will be very important to communicate with me when you have questions or concerns.**

**Please contact me: [loni.strong@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:loni.strong@medford.k12.or.us) or (541) 842-1579**



I look forward to meeting you at Open House, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>,

*Loni Strong*

After reading over this packet of information and filing it somewhere safe for future reference, please sign below and have your child return this half-sheet to Mr. Johnson on Tuesday, September 4th!

**BE KIND**  
**BE PATIENT**  
**BE HONEST**  
ENCOURAGE PEOPLE  
**APOLOGIZE**  
**FORGIVE**  
THANK PEOPLE

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, and I have read and reviewed this packet, and I will do my best to help my child fulfill the expectations of each class.

\_\_\_\_\_

print parent/guardian

\_\_\_\_\_

signature parent/guardian

\_\_\_\_\_

date

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