

July 2009

Dear Student and Parents:

Welcome to the Blue Team!!!!

We are pleased to have each and every one of you on our Team. We hope that this school year will be one that will make you feel good about yourself when it is all over. The following information will give you a brief introduction to our Team and some points that will help you to be more productive during the school year.

### **Supply List Blue Team**

#### **Social Studies**

1 ½ in. binder  
loose-leaf paper  
1 blue folder  
2 tab dividers  
blue/black pen  
pencils

#### **Math**

1 ½ in. binder  
4 tab dividers  
loose-leaf paper  
pencils  
Single-Subject Notebook

#### **Homeroom**

2 boxes of tissues  
Pencils/pens

#### **English**

1 ½ in. binder (pocket on front and back cover)  
loose-leaf paper  
marbled composition book or notebook  
5 tab dividers  
pens/ pencils

#### **Science**

3 ring binder – large size (3in. +)  
Colored pencils  
Pencils (Pen is not acceptable for labs/graphing etc)  
Metric ruler

#### **Every Class**

1 Homework Folder

# CURRICULUM INFORMATION

## Science

- A. Seventh grade science is a course of study in life science. This course will provide students a foundation in laboratory skills as well as introductory content related to the study of life.
- B. Accelerated science is a course of study in physical science typically provided to our eighth grade students. Physical science contains introductory content covering the disciplines of Chemistry and Physics.
- C. Skills that we will be working on throughout the year include observing, data recording, reading and interpreting graphs and tables, following safety rules, formulating a hypothesis and designing experiments to test the hypothesis.
- D. Content and process skills taught in this course will provide a foundation of knowledge to prepare students for the New York State Intermediate Science exam to be taken in eighth grade covering sixth, seventh and eighth grade content. In addition, the skills and knowledge obtained during the course of study provided through science at the middle school will provide a foundation of knowledge and skills to assist students in achieving success during high school studies.

## English

- A. English Language Arts encompasses the strands of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. We have a textbook we are using entitled *Elements of Literature* published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston. Its content and organization are structured for standards and skills mastery of literature, informational text, vocabulary, writing, listening, and speaking. Students are immersed in classic and contemporary literature. We will learn vocabulary and literary terms as we read, and study grammar through literature. Students also prepare for the NYS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Examination given in January.
- B. One wonderful feature of this textbook is that it can be accessed online on any computer with an Internet connection. If students are absent from class or wish to review a reading further, they can complete the work we did in the textbook at home! Each student will be assigned a user name and password and receive a set of complete directions.
- C. Reading books outside of those assigned for classes is required. Periodically, we will have a reading/writing workshop day, when we will read independently and work on a particular reading/writing skill. Students need to complete a **Thumbs Up! Or Thumbs Down!** form each **month** for one individual book they read. These will count toward the student's overall reading grade. Any challenging book is acceptable, and each student should have an outside reading book with him or her at all times. Reading is the best way for students to improve their English skills!

## Math

- A. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade math curriculum is divided into two sections. The first section will cover math concepts mandated by the new math standards that will be tested on the State Math Assessment in March. Some of these "pre-March" concepts are adding, subtracting and multiplying integers, solving simple to two-step equations, performing statistical analysis, determining probabilities, calculating surface areas and volumes of prisms and cylinders, and exploring the real number system. The second section covers math concepts that will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-Algebra curriculum. Some of these "post-March" concepts are performing geometric transformations, writing equations, using scale drawings, and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

The math department at Dansville Middle School has established a website to be used as an extra resource. The address is <http://dms-math.pbworks.com>.

## Social Studies

- A. 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies is the first year of the two-year American History sequence. This class is a chronological study of events and their causes and effects. Examples of the topics include basic geography, American Indians, American Revolutionary War, government and up to the Civil War. A strong emphasis is placed on connecting social studies with current events, to other subjects and citizenship. Marking period averages are determined from tests, homework, participation, and projects.
- B. This year the students will be using a textbook that is published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston. This textbook also has the same feature as the English textbook, which is the ability to access the textbook online. Each student will be assigned a user name and password and receive a set of complete directions.
- C. This year the students will be taking a final in June based on what they have learned since September. This test is similar in format to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade intermediate-level State Social Studies Exam they take in June of eighth grade. If you would like to see examples of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade state test you can go to <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/elintsocst.html> .

All of these guidelines will be explained to the students in their respective classes, but any encouragement you can give your child, such as making sure he or she has the proper materials and that assignments are done on time, would be much appreciated. Please feel free to call us during the school day at 335-4020, email or make arrangements for a conference if you have any questions or problems during the school year. By working together, we are sure we can make this a more profitable school year for your child.

Please fill out the section at the end of this page. We are asking for you to provide an e-mail address if available so that the Blue Team teachers can contact you. If you do not have an e-mail address, which is fine, just mark the appropriate box. Please send the bottom section to school with your students and retain the top portion for your reference.

Our extensions and e-mail addresses:

Ms Ross	ext. 6111	<a href="mailto:rosst@dansvillecsd.org">rosst@dansvillecsd.org</a>
Mrs. Shoop	ext. 6107	<a href="mailto:shoopj@dansvillecsd.org">shoopj@dansvillecsd.org</a>
Mrs. Stone	ext. 6108	<a href="mailto:stoneb@dansvillecsd.org">stoneb@dansvillecsd.org</a>
Mr. Sweet	ext.6110	<a href="mailto:sweetp@dansvillecsd.org">sweetp@dansvillecsd.org</a>

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Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

No E-Mail available: