

## Preparing for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

The second semester of your 6th grade year is now under way. We appreciate your desire to become part of our school. As you work through the end of the year, there are some basic things you can do to be prepared for life as a 7th grader at CUPrep

### English

To help you in the area of Language arts and history, please work on reading comprehension, reading for fun, and writing with proper grammar and sentence structure. Students should be able to put together solid paragraphs quickly by the end of sixth grade. If your handwriting is shaky, practice and work to improve it; you will have a lot of writing to do in 7th grade.

### Science

Science will require students to be able to organize themselves and take good notes. 7th grade Life Science will consist of regular activities (labs) with lab reports as well as being able to comprehend lecture and textbook reading. Taking notes is simply writing down what you need to know, not just what the teacher wrote on the board or the bold-faced words in the chapter. You will be asked to use that information to complete homework assignments and take tests.

### Math

**As a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, we assume that all of our students have a mastery of arithmetic. We do not offer remedial math as a course.**

**Every 7<sup>th</sup> grader takes pre-algebra or Algebra 1. Students will not be promoted to Algebra 1 unless pre-algebra skills are mastered.**

The most significant academic decision in the enrollment process will be “which math should my student take?” Prior to Algebra 1, a student needs to master arithmetic and demonstrate the ability to grasp abstract concepts. Math from Algebra 1 upward is very sequential: Algebra 1 leads to Geometry, with which leads to Advanced Algebra 2, which leads to Pre-Calculus, etc.

As we work with junior high students, we have the goals to :

- 1) Make sure they have arithmetic nailed down, then
- 2) prepare them to start thinking abstractly, and
- 3) build skills in working with basic single variable equations.
- 4) Once those goals are met, the student is usually ready for Algebra 1. The course sequence we offer is:

Pre-algebra

Math 8 (second-year pre-algebra if necessary)

Algebra 1

Geometry

Advanced Algebra 2

Math Analysis (Pre-Calculus)

AP Calculus or College Calculus at FLC

If a student has mastered pre-algebra, they may take the Algebra 1 course in 7th grade if a conference with the Math teachers and the parents determines that taking Alg 1 would be in the students' best interest.

However, this sets up the student to having to come to school in 9th grade four days per week instead of two. Adv. Algebra 2 is only offered on M/W. Ninth grade classes are on Tu/Thurs.

### Junior High Electives:

Students may also take one elective each semester if they wish. At this point, we plan on offering the following electives during the 5th period time slots: With the exception of Martial Arts and Dance, students may only take any of these electives one time.

Robotics and Engineering

Introduction to Art

Speech & Drama (fall semester only)

Taiko Drumming Ensemble

Dance (spring semester only)