



ENGLISH

CORE ENGLISH GRADE 7

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Core English 7 provides a variety of opportunities in reading and writing that challenge the students to examine people and places that are different from the world they know. Strengthening comprehension; learning to prioritize, organize, and retain important concepts and information; fostering an enjoyment of reading; and developing public speaking and listening skills are major goals of the seventh-grade program. The students use the writing process to develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writing and begin to read and write critically about literature. Throughout the year, the students continuously revise and edit their work as they build their writing portfolios.

This course is organized around thematic units that reflect a variety of encounters with literature. In *Emergence of Literature*, the students will investigate the development of literature from the oral tradition to the written format. In *The Meaning of Literature*, the students examine the elements authors use to build stories that express their views of the world. Reading, discussion, and classroom presentations require that the students move beyond the literal recall of facts to an interpretation of a piece of literature. *The Purpose of Literature* unit is designed to help students make connections between the elements of a text and the knowledge of self in a complex world. In *The Imaginative Worlds of Science Fiction and Fantasy*, the students are offered surprising or different perspectives from which to view people, events or objects. At this grade level, students take a Reading Test for the English Standards of Learning.

PREREQUISITE

English 6

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

Enrollment for the next English course should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input. The courses available are Core English, Grade 8 and Advanced English, Grade 8.

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Elements of Literature, 7

READING SELECTION

After the Dancing Days, Margaret Rostkowski
Al Capone Does My Shirts, Jennifer Choldenko
Among the Hidden, Margaret Haddix
Bearstone, Will Hobbs
Blizzard, Jim Murphy
The Call of the Wild, Jack London
The Cat Ate My Gymsuit, Paula Danziger
A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens
The Double Life of Pocahontas, Jean Fritz
Dreamland Lake, Richard Peck
Edgar Allen, John Neufeld
The Forgotten Door, Alexander Key
Hidden Talents, David Lubar
Homecoming, Cynthia Voight
In My Father's House, Ann Rinaldi
Joey Pigza Loses Control, Jack Gantos

The Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan
No More Dead Dogs, Gordon Korman
Out of the Dust, Pam Hesse
Plain Girl, Virginia Sorenson
A Single Shard, Linda Sue Park
Sojourner Truth, Peter Krass
Something for Joey, Richard E. Peck
Sounder, William Armstrong
Tangerine, Edward Bloor
The Teacher's Funeral, Richard Peck
The Watsons Go to Birmingham: 1963,
 Christopher Curtis
Weirdo, Theodore Taylor
Where the Red Fern Grows, Wilson Rawls
The Witch of Blackbird Pond, Elizabeth Speare
Wolf Rider, Avi
A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L'Engle

**7TH GRADE VIRGINIA BEACH STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

COMMUNICATION: SPEAKING, LISTENING, AND MEDIA LITERACY

- ELA 7.1 The student will participate in and contribute to conversations and group discussions. (SOL 7.1)
- ELA 7.2 The student will present, listen critically, and express opinions in oral presentations individually and in collaboration with peers. (SOL 7.1; SOL7.2)
- ELA 7.3 The student will understand the elements of media literacy. (SOL 7.3)

READING AND RESPONDING TO LITERATURE

- ELA 7.4 The student will read to determine the meanings and pronunciations of unfamiliar words and phrases within authentic texts. (SOL 7.4)
- ELA 7.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, narrative nonfiction, and poetry presented in a variety of media and formats. (SOL 7.5)
- ELA 7.6 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of nonfiction texts presented in a variety of media and formats. (SOL 7.6)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

- ELA 7.7 The student will write in a variety of forms with an emphasis on exposition, narration, and persuasion. (SOL 7.7)
- ELA 7.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing. (SOL 7.8)

RESEARCH

- ELA 7.9 The student will apply knowledge of appropriate reference materials to produce a research product. (SOL 7.9)



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A H E A D O F T H E C U R V E

Mission Statement

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.

Dr. James G. Merrill, Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
2512 George Mason Drive • P. O. Box 6038 • Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456-0038

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The following staff are designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Guidance Services at (757) 263-1980 or to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources at (757) 263-1133.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone (757) 263-1070 or (757) 263-1429; fax (757) 263-1424; TDD (757) 263-1240

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