

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF 7TH GRADERS

CONTACTING TEACHERS

Because teachers spend the day teaching your children and attending team, department, and other meetings, we usually are unable to check our e-mail and voicemail until the end of the school day. We will make every attempt to return your emails and phone calls within 24 hours.

If you have a question or concern about a specific class, please contact that teacher first. Usually a simple phone call or email will answer a question about an assignment or something that happened in that class which affects your child.

HOMEWORK

Check your child's planner daily. It should be filled out completely every day and should be the most current record of homework and due dates. If there is no homework for a class, students are expected to record what took place in class. During 7th hour (except Phy Ed) students have the opportunity to review homework from all classes and update their planner before leaving school.

Weekly assignments and grades can be accessed through our school website. (www.stanthony.k12.mn.us/sams)

The seventh grade homework page is updated every Monday afternoon. *Please note that if teachers change an assignment or test date after noon on Monday, the weekly homework web page is not changed; however, your child should make the change in his/her planner.*

The 7th grade policy for unexcused late work is a deduction of 30% from whatever score a student receives on the assignment, (not 30 percent from the total possible points). For example, if a student receives 20 out of 25 possible points on an assignment but it is turned in late, a reduction of 30 percent would result in a score of 14 out of 25. Also, although we strongly encourage participation in activities and sports, they are not an excuse for not having homework done on time. (Note: FACS and Language B/Spanish do not accept late assignments.)

GRADES

The best way to determine your child's grade status in a class is by accessing the online grading system. Please understand that it takes time for teachers to grade assignments and to enter grades online. Please contact Traci Adams, the middle school secretary, for help on how to use the online grading system. (612-706-1030)

Missing assignments will show up on the online grades. They are usually indicated by an LI. If your child thinks that he/she turned an assignment in but it shows up as without a grade, check their folder/notebook, locker or at home. Students sometimes complete homework but forget to turn it in or turn it in to the wrong place.

ABSENCES

According to the school policy, "a student shall be allowed two school days for the first day absent and one day for each additional day missed to make up work and receive full credit." Also, if students know they will be absent for a family vacation, please notify the teachers at least a week in advance.

ORGANIZATION AND PUNCTUALITY

Some seventh graders can have difficulty staying organized throughout the year. Help your child plan so that they can meet deadlines and work around other commitments such as music lessons or sports. Assist them in keeping their backpacks, folders, and lockers neat. It's a good idea to organize backpacks and other school materials before bedtime to avoid forgetting necessary homework, books, and such during the typical morning chaos found in many homes.

Students may use two hall passes out of their planner per day to either go to their locker or to the bathroom.

COMPUTERS

Many assignments in 7th grade require computers, printers, and internet access. If these are unavailable in your home, the Media Center is open until 4:00 p.m. every day. Public libraries also offer computers and internet access.

HEADS UP INFORMATION

Major projects to expect in 7th grade include World Savvy in Humanities(late fall/early winter), the cell model

in Science, the Showcase Portfolio in Language A and HP Language A (4th quarter), and the Language B (Spanish) final project (end of 4th quarter).

Anticipated field trips include a band field trip in October, a skiing/snowboarding trip to Afton Alps in February, indoor rock climbing at Vertical Endeavors in May, a housing architecture exploration for HP Language A in the fall, and a fun field trip on the last day of school.