

Introduction

We are pleased to provide this overview of the seventh grade academic program at Lexis Prep. Our carefully developed curriculum provides Lexis Prep students with a strong college-prep education in the setting of personalized instruction.

The following guide gives an overall picture of what a Lexis Prep student will learn in seventh grade. The individual learner and classroom needs will determine how the guide is implemented in the classroom.

English Language Arts and Reading



The Middle School English Language Arts and Reading curriculum at Lexis Prep is built on the *Holt McDougal Elements of Language* and *Elements of Literature* programs. These engaging and rigorous programs include reading and writing instruction based on the research of Dr. Kyleene Beers, Professor of Reading at the University of Houston and Past President of National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

The program's chosen literature pieces were developed to motivate students to become self-directed critical thinkers, collaborators, and effective communicators. A critical part of this program is the before, during, and after reading

strategies designed to facilitate each student's comprehension of literature. The curriculum also includes a core component of integrated support for struggling readers and writers. The importance of technology integration is evidenced by the wide availability and access to online resources and program pieces.

The language arts curriculum includes research-based skills and strategies in grammar (*Warriner Handbook*), language usage, and writing mechanics. These traditional methods incrementally teach parts of speech, which help students understand the intricacies, oddities, dynamic components and rules of the English language.

Coordinated with the language components is a series of classic literature studies called *McDougal Littell Literature Connections*. This series includes classic and contemporary titles that are read, studied and discussed in a nurturing setting with the classroom teacher. We encourage our students to analyze and distinguish between opinion and fact, as well as to be able to critically analyze an author's style, point of view, and influence. At Lexis Prep, we strive to nurture inspired human beings for whom a love of literature and critical thinking is essential.



Listed below are the standards which are met with the use of the Lexis Prep middle school curriculum. These standards include: Literature, Informational Text, Language, Speaking and Listening, and Writing. They offer a focus for instructional practices and strategies, help ensure students gain adequate exposure to a range of tasks, and are rigor infused throughout the requirements.

National Standards Correlation

Key Ideas and Details

- Cite several sources of textual evidence to support analysis of text explicitly and with the use of inferences
- Analyze how two or more themes or central ideas in a text relate to one another
- Analyze how dialogue or specific incidents propel action, reveal character, or provoke a decision

Craft and Structure

- Interpret figurative and connotative meanings of words and phrases as they are used in text
- Describe how any given sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text
- Analyze how an author presents the points of view of different characters in a story or drama

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Compare and contrast a text to its filmed, staged, or multimedia version
- Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on patterns of events or character types

Range and Level of Text Complexity

- Read independently, proficiently, and fluently literature appropriately complex for sixth through eighth grade

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

- Cite several sources of textual evidence to support analysis of text explicitly and through inferences
- Analyze how two or more central ideas in a text relate to one another, drawing on key details
- Describe in detail how an author introduces, illustrates, and elaborates a key idea in a text

Craft and Structure

- Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text and the importance of the author's choice
- Describe how any given sentence, paragraph, and/or chapter fits the overall structure of a text
- Describe and analyze an author's point of view or purpose in a text

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Compare and contrast the impression conveyed by a printed text as compared to listening to and viewing it
- Identify the stated and unstated premises of an argument contributing to the conclusions
- Analyze where two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same subject

Range and Level of Text Complexity

- Read independently, proficiently, and fluently informational text appropriately complex for sixth through eighth grade

Writing Standards

Text Types and Purposes

- Write arguments that introduce and support a topic using words to convey relationship

- Write informative/explanatory texts with topic relevant facts, sentence structure and conclusion
- Write narratives to establish context, point of view, sequence of events, wording and closure

Production and Distribution of Writing

- Demonstrate writing organization, development, substance, and style appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- Demonstrate writing planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach
- Use technology to produce and publish writing, including presenting and citing information

Research to Build Knowledge

- Perform short, focused research projects in response to a question
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources
- Write in response to literary or informational sources

Range of Writing

- Write routinely over extended time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences

Speaking and Listening Standards

Comprehension and Collaboration

- Initiate and engage in group discussions on seventh grade topics, texts, and issues studied in class
- Determine the main ideas and supporting elements presented in oral, visual, or multimodal formats
- Evaluate a speaker's or presenter's reasoning and claims supported with evidence

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

- Incorporate digital media and visual displays of data
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks

Standards for Language

Conventions in Writing and Speaking

- Observe conventions of grammar and usage
- Observe conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Make effective language choices

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- Determine word meanings based on seventh grade reading
- Understand word relationships
- Use grade appropriate vocabulary and English language arts-specific words and phrases

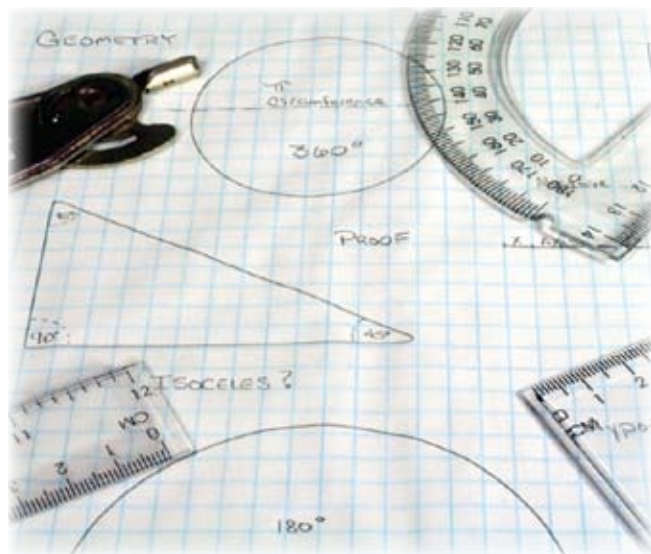


Mathematics

The goal of the Lexis Prep 5-8 mathematics program is for our students to develop the ability to think and reason mathematically and use mathematics to solve problems in authentic contexts.

The expectation is that they will achieve mathematical proficiency through the mastery of mathematic skills, concepts, and processes. This goal is met through the opportunity to develop, practice and review concepts over time. Lexis Prep students move from the concrete to the pictorial to the abstract through a deliberate sequence of instruction. Our students' regular exposure to critical thinking and problem solving prepares them for real world applications.

The Lexis Prep mathematics curriculum is aligned with both the National Council for Teaching Mathematics (NCTM) Standards and Benchmarks as well as Saxon Math. The standards outlined below show the general progression of topics over the course of the school year. Parents can be confident their child will receive thorough mathematics instruction.



Lexis Prep Math Standards Correlated with NCTM Standards and Saxon Math

Number and Operations and Algebra and Geometry

- Develop an understanding of and apply proportionality, including similarity
- Understand proportionality solving with single and multistep problems in numerous contexts
- Use ratio and proportionality to solve percent problems involving discounts, interest, taxes, and tips
- Solve problems about similar objects and figures using scale factors
- Use graph proportional relationships and identify the unit rate as the slope of the related line
- Distinguish proportional relationship from other relationships, including inverse proportionality

Measurement and Geometry and Algebra

- Understand and use formulas; determine surface areas, volumes of three-dimensional shapes
- Decompose two- and three-dimensional shapes to find surface areas
- Develop and justify formulas for the surface areas and volumes of prisms and cylinders
- Understand formulas for their volumes (Volume = Area of Base \times Height)
- Apply formulas in problem solving to determine volumes of prisms and cylinders
- Understand formula for area of circle by rearranging wedges into approximates of a parallelogram
- Use two- and three-dimensional shapes to model real-world situations and solve problems

Number and Operations and Algebra

- Develop an understanding of operations on all rational numbers and solving linear equations
- Understand addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to all rational numbers
- Apply rules for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with negative numbers
- Use arithmetic of rational numbers to formulate and solve linear equations in one variable

- Make strategic choices of procedures to solve linear equations in one variable
- Understand properties of equality to express an equation in a new way

Measurement and Geometry

- Connect work on proportionality with area and volume by investigating similar objects
- Understand scale factor describes corresponding lengths in two similar objects
- Apply proportionality to measurement in different contexts to solve problems involving rates
- Apply proportionality with circumference, radius, and diameter of a circle

Number and Operations

- Use division to express any fraction as a decimal including fractions with infinite decimals
- Use division with proportions, especially those involving percents
- Divide fractions to solve equations of the form $ax = b$, where a and b are fractions
- Understand multiplication and division and structure of a number with prime factoring

Data Analysis

- Use proportions to make estimates relating to a population on the basis of a sample
- Apply percentages to make and interpret histograms and circle graphs

Probability

- Understand when all outcomes of an experiment are equally likely in the event of a fraction
- Use theoretical probability and proportions to make approximate predictions

Science

The Lexis Prep science program provides students with opportunities to think and act like scientists. Lexis Prep students acquire scientific knowledge, practice science process skills, and apply science concepts through reading and observing, as well as by conducting investigations that have real-world applications.

Seventh grade science is organized into five disciplines: life science, physical science, earth and space science, history and nature of science, and science and technology. All science outcomes are aligned to the National Science Education (NSE) Standards.

Lexis Prep utilizes Delta Education which provides a kit-based curriculum and instructional resources that correlate with state standards. Delta Education provides the expertise to ensure the best combination of materials are selected for each grade level in order to align the Lexis Prep curriculum with the science concepts, inquiry nature, and developmental appropriateness reflected in the state standards.



Lexis Prep Science Standards Correlated with NSE and Delta Education

Unit 1: Astronomy

In **Astronomy**, students use a set of 12 SkyCaps, a tool created by Dr. Carolyn Sumners of the Houston Museum of Natural History, to experience observational astronomy in the classroom. Experimenting with the SkyCaps and other kit tools, students discover how Earth's motion relates to day and night, the annual seasons, and the predictably changing night sky. They reproduce constellation patterns and build a three-dimensional model to explore stellar distances and magnitudes. Color transparencies from Hubble images and space shuttle training programs support student investigation of the life cycles of stars, the shapes of galaxies, and the size of the universe. Students also build instruments to experience celestial navigation. Astronomy brings the expanse of the cosmos and centuries of ideas about it into the reach of student understanding.

Unit 2: Earth Processes

Earth Processes begins and ends with two important, related geological theories: continental drift and plate tectonics. In the activities, students examine the evidence supporting these explanations of Earth's dynamic landforms. Students construct a layered Earth replica that demonstrates the planet's structure. Next, they replicate the formation of the three types of rock and discover how heating, cooling, compression, and weathering create a perpetual rock cycle. Then, they explore, map, and measure the forces that result in earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and mountain-building. Students model the explosive events that make plate margins, especially the Pacific Rim's Ring of Fire, the most volatile area on Earth.

Unit 3: Famous Scientists

In **Famous Scientists**, students learn about the work of well-known scientists and how that work that has shaped our lives. These scientists include Archimedes (buoyancy, levers); Galileo (law of falling bodies, telescope); Edison (light bulb, phonograph); Matthew Henson (heat loss, nutritional requirements); Rachel Carson (intertidal zone, natural insect control); and Stephen Hawking (black holes, event horizon).



Unit 4: Plants in Our World

From corn to cotton to cork, plant products are varied and valuable. In **Plants in Our World**, students investigate plants from the roots up. First, they focus on the tissue system that transports water and nutrients within the plant. Next, controlled experiments with seedlings confirm that plants need light and water. Students use three chemical indicators as they test plants for carbon dioxide, starch, and chlorophyll. Through these investigations, they determine how plants give off and take in gases, and produce and store food. Students express their findings in equations for respiration, transpiration, and photosynthesis. To close, students compile a comprehensive list of the ways people use plants and plant-based materials.

Social Studies

Lexis Prep students enjoy *The Medieval World and Beyond*, the TCI *History Alive!* curriculum for seventh grade. *History Alive!* consists of a series of instructional practices that allow students of all abilities to master key social studies concepts. The approach is characterized by eight features consisting of: theory and research based active instruction, standards based content, preview assignments, multiple intelligences teaching, considerate text, graphically organized reading notes, processing assignment, and assessments to inform instruction.

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) has organized grade level content into Ten Thematic Units of Instruction that form the framework of the social studies standards. All ten themes are found at each grade level of *History Alive!* with specific themes enhanced at different grade levels. The focal themes in seventh grade are bolded below.



- Culture
- **Time, continuity, and change**
- **People, places, and environments**
- Individual development and identity
- Individuals, groups and institutions
- **Power, authority, and governance**
- Production, distribution, and consumption
- Science, technology and society
- Global connections
- Civic ideals and practices

The Lexis Prep social studies curriculum is content and benchmark aligned with the NCSS thematic units. Where objectives overlap with other grade levels, the objectives are met using different age-appropriate content and activities at each grade level.

Lexis Prep Social Studies Standards Correlated with NCSS and *History Alive!*

Unit: The Medieval World and Beyond

- Europe during Medieval Times
- The Development of Feudalism in Western Europe
- The Roman Catholic Church in Medieval Europe
- Life in Medieval Towns
- The Decline of Feudalism
- The Byzantine Empire

Unit: Islam in Medieval Times

- Origins and Spread of Islam
- Learning about World Religions: Islam
- Muslim Innovations and Adaptations
- From the Crusades to New Muslim Empires

Unit: The Culture and Kingdoms of West Africa

- Early Societies in West Africa
- Ghana: A West African Trading Empire
- The Influence of Islam on West Africa
- The Cultural Legacy of West Africa

Unit: Imperial China

- The Political Development of Imperial China
- China Develops a New Economy
- Chinese Discoveries and Inventions
- China's Contacts with the Outside World

Unit: Japan during Medieval Times

- The Influence of Neighboring Cultures on Japan
- Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan's Golden Age
- The Rise of the Warrior Class in Japan

Unit: Civilizations of the Americas

- The Mayas
- The Aztecs
- Daily Life in Tenochtitlán
- The Incas
- Achievements of the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas

Unit: Europe's Renaissance and Reformation

- The Renaissance Begins
- Florence: The Cradle of the Renaissance
- Leading Figures of the Renaissance
- The Reformation Begins
- The Spread and Impact of the Reformation

Unit: Europe Enters the Modern Age

- The Age of Exploration
- The Scientific Revolution
- The Enlightenment

National Standards for Arts Education

The National Standards for Arts Education were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations. They describe the learning outcomes recommended as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 education for all American students. The content standards for 5-8 visual arts education include:

- Understand and apply media, techniques and processes
- Use knowledge of structure and functions
- Choose and evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas
- Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
- Reflect upon and assess the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others
- Make connections between visual arts and other disciplines



National Standards for Music Education

The National Standards for Arts Education were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations. They describe the learning outcomes recommended as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 education for all American students. The content standards for 5-8 music education include:

- Sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Compose and arrange music within specified guidelines
- Read and notate music
- Listen to, analyze and describe music
- Evaluate music and music performances
- Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Understand music in relation to history and culture



National Standards of Physical Education



The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) defines five major focus areas specifying what a physically educated person is capable of performing. These focus areas are:

- Learn skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities
- Be physically fit
- Participate regularly in physical activity
- Know the implications of and the benefits from involvement in physical activities
- Value physical activity and its contribution to a healthful lifestyle

The Difference Maker: Lexis Accent

Customizing is the Key to Success for Each Child

The hallmark of a Lexis Prep education is our personalized approach called Lexis Accent. We know some students need an extra emphasis in their academic program and Lexis Accent is our tool to do that. This customization may include special one-on-one and small group sessions during the school day. These specialized sessions give the Lexis Prep staff the opportunity to focus on the particular learning needs of every child.



Writing - Students receive extra support in the writing process from draft to final copy, including areas such as voice, style, conventions, and research skills.

Reading - A focused time spent on phonemic awareness, systematic phonics instruction, decoding, fluency, and comprehension.

Math - Students use manipulatives while receiving extra instruction in order to ensure mastery of all mathematics concepts.

Social Skills - Students learn practical strategies for developing appropriate friendships, understanding social nuances, and being comfortable in social situations.

As part of the enrollment process, your child will be evaluated to determine if he would benefit from personalized time in any of these areas. If so, it will be included as part of his education plan. There is no additional charge for these classes as we have found the Lexis Accent program is key to ensuring success in a college prep program.

Your child may also work with an Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Physical Therapist, or Counselor at Lexis Prep. These are provided by a third party and there is an extra charge for these services.



Executive Function: Prepare for a Lifetime of Success

The ability to self-regulate is essential for success in life. At Lexis Prep, we call this executive function, a well-known concept that entails many different skills and abilities. Children with ADD or ADHD frequently struggle in this area so we put special emphasis on developing this skill in all our students.

According to Joyce Cooper-Kahn and Laurie Dietzel (*Late, Lost and Unprepared*), executive function can be defined as “a set of processes that all have to do with managing oneself and one’s resources in order to achieve a goal. It is an umbrella term for the neurologically-based skills involving mental control and self-regulation.” Skills and abilities that make up executive function include self-monitoring, planning, organization, emotional control, initiation, shifting, and working memory.

All Lexis Prep students spend time each day learning and practicing these critical executive function skills. Executive function is built into our curriculum and is also explicitly taught with the goal of helping every student effectively develop and utilize these important life skills.



10 Essential Elements of the Lexis Prep Success Model

UHA!

At Lexis Prep, our mission is summarized by UHA!: To Understand, Honor and Accommodate diverse learners and do it with a passion! Everything we do flows from the UHA! principles. This includes the 10 Essential Elements of the Lexis Prep Success Model.

1. A Customized Curriculum

Each child has a unique learning style. A child learns best when teaching is personalized to fit the way he learns, rather than forcing him to learn the way the school teaches. At Lexis Prep, every teacher strives to understand how your child learns best and to utilize that style in every teachable moment. Our Lexis Accent Program customizes the educational program further by strengthening those specific areas that need more attention.

2. High Academic Expectations

A Lexis Prep education is never watered down. It is a solid, age-appropriate, college preparatory experience that will prepare your child well for further studies. Our academics are research-based and multisensory.

3. Integrated Executive Function Skills

Executive function is the ability to plan and organize oneself to accomplish a goal. Your child will learn executive function skills in every aspect of his education to best prepare him for future education opportunities as well as life beyond school. It is the first thing we think about when we interact with a child and it is the last thing we teach at the end of every day.

4. Painless and Intelligent Homework

It is imperative that your child learn how to effectively manage homework before entering high school and college so we focus on developing these critical skills. Homework at Lexis Prep is individualized, manageable, and relevant. It is never busy work and should not be a source of frustration.

5. Passionate and Highly Qualified Teachers

Our teachers are passionate, experienced, and dynamic. Most of our teachers have specialized training, a masters degree or both. They receive regular training in order to continually develop their teaching and assessment skills.

6. Collaboration with Medical and Educational Providers

At Lexis Prep, we are part of a team working together to ensure your child's success. This includes coordination with other professionals, including physicians who are managing medication, psychologists and counselors, speech and language specialists, occupational therapists, and outside tutors.

7. Constant Evaluation of Academic Progress

Our teachers constantly evaluate each student's academic progress. This is done through daily assessments, anecdotal observations, and more formalized testing such as the NWEA MAP assessment given three times each year.

8. Manage the Environment, Not the Child

At Lexis Prep, we believe success is largely dependent on managing the environment. We emphasize routines and transitions throughout the day. When a difficulty arises, we analyze the antecedents in order to determine where changes might be needed.

9. Partner with Parents

A strong partnership with parents is critical to the success of each student. This partnership begins with the initial interview and continues with daily communications, a monthly open forum for all parents, and parents visiting the classroom.

10. We Make It Fun!

Learning should be enjoyable. Children who pursue education (rather than endure it) will be far more successful in the future. At Lexis Prep, we provide a great college prep education and enjoy ourselves every day in the process.