

# Welcome to Seventh Grade

## 7th Grade Team

| Teacher          | Room #                                                                    | Email                                                    |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Ms. Baarck       | 211                                                                       | jbaarck@cps.edu                                          |
| Mrs. Hernandez   | 215                                                                       | jblindley@cps.edu                                        |
| Mrs. Garcia      | 216                                                                       | agarcia1@cps.edu                                         |
| Mr. Kissane      | 213                                                                       | dmkissane1@cps.edu                                       |
| Jordin Herzog    | Visual Arts and Product Design                                            | jnhartwig@cps.edu                                        |
| Andre Poellinetz | Physical Education and Health                                             | adpoellinetz@cps.edu                                     |
| Griffin McPhail  | Music                                                                     | gcmcpfail@cps.edu                                        |
| Anna Ziemniak    | International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) Coordinator | <a href="mailto:aziemniak@cps.edu">aziemniak@cps.edu</a> |

## Teacher Introduction

**Welcome to 7th grade! My name is Ms. Baarck and I am the 7th grade math teacher. This will be my second year at Locke School.**

**Welcome to 7th grade! My name is Mr. Kissane and I teach because it's a passion of mine to inspire and help create responsible, academically prepared students who are equipped with the skills to be successful both in and outside of the classroom.** I am the 7th grade Individuals and Societies teacher and this will be my third year at Locke, and will be my 9th year teaching overall. In 7th grade, we will begin with studying early North and South American civilizations and complete the year with the United States Civil War. You will need a

pencil, index cards, and a designated Individuals and Societies notebook and folder. Giving your best effort in every class will result in success and high achievement. I look forward to meeting you and working together so we can achieve our goals this upcoming school year.

**Welcome to 7th grade! My name is Mrs. Hernandez and I teach middle school because it is a crucial time to prepare students for future success.** I enjoy when students collaborate, learn from each other, gain confidence and strengthen their critical thinking skills.

I'm looking forward to being your Language Arts teacher next year. We have heard many positive things about all of you and are very proud of your accomplishments in 6th grade!

Our first unit next year will be "You Know My Name Not My Story" which includes reading the novel, The Outsiders. In addition to our IB units you will be expected to read at home daily for 20 minutes. We also study 6 new roots and prefixes weekly for 25 weeks until you have learned all 150, make sure to keep up the list grows quickly!

Please come to class daily with your agenda, a red folder, a 100 page composition notebook, 2 pencils, a red pen, reading log and completed homework. Your hard work in 7th grade will pay off when you are applying to high schools in 8th grade.

Spend some time at the library, find some interesting books to read and try to get involved volunteering listening to the little kids report on books. Have a restful and safe summer.

**Welcome to 7th grade! My name is Mrs. Garcia and I teach science.** I have been a middle school science teacher my entire career and I am very excited to begin my third year teaching seventh grade science here at Locke!. Units that seventh graders will explore include: plate tectonics, the rock cycle, chemical reactions, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, food webs/ chains, and symbiosis!

**Welcome to 7th grade! My name is Mrs. Herzog and I teach because** I believe every student is capable of being creative. Creativity is a skill that will serve students far beyond my classroom. I teach Visual Arts to grades 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th. I also teach Product Design to grades 6th, 7th, and 8th. I have my Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and I have a Masters in Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am currently working towards obtaining my ESL Endorsement to better serve my students during their time in my classroom. This will be my seventh year of teaching, my sixth year at Locke, and my third year teaching your students. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. I look forward to teaching your students again!

**Welcome to 7th grade! I'm Mr. McPhail, your music teacher.** I have three years of teaching experience, all here at Locke. I graduated from Butler University with a degree in music education and minors in diverse learners and music industry studies. I'm thrilled to guide you on a musical journey exploring choral music this year in the classroom. My hope is to have students perform a musical as part of an after school program. I am a member of the Apollo Chorus of Chicago and have been a member of many ensembles. In my free time I love to play video games, cook, and enjoy time

with friends. Let's make this year one filled with harmony and musical discovery!

**Welcome to 7th Grade! My Name is Ms. Ziemniak and I am the IB MYP Coordinator.** My job entails supporting the implementation of the IB programme in the middle school through on-going programme monitoring, providing professional development/coaching to teachers related to curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Most importantly, I work to support the culture of the IB at Locke. I am also the lead on the IB student advisory council, which meets monthly to discuss how we can improve our IB programme. Our school is a wall-to-wall IB school, which means all 5-8 grade students learn within the framework. The MYP is a multi-year programme, which can be implemented in a partnership between schools. For us, we are partnered with Steinmetz, our neighborhood high school.

I am currently entering my 13th year working in CPS, my 4th year at Locke. I have worked as an IB DP and MYP Language and Literature teacher as well as an instructional coach. I am passionate about developing teachers and teacher leaders within the scope of IB approaches to teaching. Some of my interests outside of teaching include pop culture, reading, blogging, movies, ceramics, gardening, and cooking. I have two kids, George (4) and Mia (1), and a dog, Rizzo, named after Anthony Rizzo (back when he was the Cubs 1st baseman!) A fun fact about me is that I am a certified Scuba diver, having dove in the Caribbean, Hawaiian Islands, and Florida.

Please check out our school website under the IB tab - MYP Programme for more information about our programme and anything else related to MYP! Looking forward to continuing to work with you all in SY2027!

#### Important Dates

|                                             |                            |                              |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Open House (2 sessions)                     | Wednesday, August 19, 2026 | 4:00-4:30 pm<br>4:30-5:00 pm |
| Back to School Bash                         | Wednesday, August 19, 2026 | 5:00-7:00 pm                 |
| First Day of School <b>Kinder-8th Grade</b> | Monday, August 24, 2026    | 7:45am-2:45pm                |
| First Day of School <b>PreK</b>             | Tuesday, August 25, 2026   | 7:45am-2:45pm                |

#### CPS Calendar

|                            |                                                     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, August 24, 2026    | <b>Kindergarten- 8th grade-</b> First Day of School |
| Tuesday, August 25, 2026   | <b>Prek-</b> First Day of School                    |
| Monday, September 7, 2026  | No School/ Labor day                                |
| Friday, September 25, 2026 | No School/ Professional Development Day             |
| Monday, October 12, 2026   | No School/Indigenous People's Day                   |
| Monday, November 2, 2026   | No School/Parent Teacher Conference                 |

|                                          |                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, November 3, 2026                | No School/Election Day                                          |
| Wednesday, November 11, 2026             | No School/ Professional Development Day                         |
| Monday, November 23- Fri. Nov. 27, 2026  | No School/Thanksgiving Holiday                                  |
| December 21, 2026 - January 4, 2027      | Winter Break                                                    |
| Tuesday, January 5, 2027                 | Students Return to School                                       |
| Monday, January 18, 2027                 | No School/M.L. King Day                                         |
| Friday, January 29, 2027                 | No School/ Professional Development Day                         |
| Monday, February 15, 2027                | No School/ Presidents' Day                                      |
| Tuesday, February 23, 2027               | No School/ Professional Development Day                         |
| Monday, March 22 -Friday, March 26, 2027 | Spring Break                                                    |
| Monday, March 29, 2027                   | Students Return to School                                       |
| Tuesday, April 6, 2027                   | No School/Professional Development Day                          |
| Monday, April 12, 2027                   | No School/ Parent Teacher Conference                            |
| Monday, May 31, 2027                     | No School/Memorial Day                                          |
| Thursday, June 10, 2027                  | <b><i>Prek ONLY</i></b> - Last day of school (Full Day)         |
| Friday, June 11, 2027                    | <b><i>Kinder- 8th grade</i></b> - Last day of school (Full Day) |

| <b><u>STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS</u></b>                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Progress Reports sent to Parents:</b>                                                                | <b>Report Cards to Parents:</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>September 24, 2026</b><br><b>December 11, 2026</b><br><b>February 26, 2027</b><br><b>May 6, 2027</b> | <b>Monday, November 2, 2026 (Conferences)</b><br><b>Thursday, January 28, 2027 (Sent Home)</b><br><b>Monday, April 12, 2027 (Conferences)</b><br><b>Friday, June 11, 2027 (Sent Home)</b> |

## 7th Grade Supply List

### **Community use items:**

- 2-4 boxes of tissues
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- 2 containers of hand sanitizer (not soap)
- 2 Clorox, Lysol or antibacterial wipes (Cleanliness goes hand and hand with attendance!)

**Writing/Coloring Materials:** We suggest purchasing 2 boxes of pencils and 2 boxes of pens while everything is on sale in early July. Only send what is needed on a daily basis and store the rest at home to replenish.

- Pens: black or blue, red for grading in class
- Pencils: send 4 sharpened per day
- Erasers: 2
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Highlighter
- Dry-erase markers

**Paper and organizational items:** Please buy the specified colors to support organization of work for your child. Please avoid buying large binders or folders with designs, students use a specific color folder and notebook for each class.

- 2 Spiral notebooks (yellow and blue)
- 1 (2 or 3-Subject notebook)- Orange –Spanish Class
- 2 Composition Notebooks with 100 pages
- 6 folders (yellow, blue, red, green, purple, and orange) Strongly suggest plastic folders for durability
- 1 Purple Notebook- Music (use your music notebook from 6th grade)
- Loose leaf paper: two packages, leave one at home bring one to class
- Graph paper
- Index cards 3x5: 2 packages, leave one at home bring one to class
- Scotch tape and mini stapler & staples

### **7th grade - Visual Arts and Product Design**

1. Sketchbook\* (9 by 12 inches and 50+ BLANK pages)
2. Pencils

3. Erasers
4. Glue sticks (2)
5. Scissors
6. Washable markers
7. Regular black Sharpies (2)
8. Fine-tip black Sharpies (2)

\*If students still have their sketchbook from last year, they do not need to buy a new one.

### **7th Science Supplies**

- 2 COMPOSITION HARD-COVER NOTEBOOKS
- 1 GREEN POCKET FOLDER
- 1 ROLL OF SCOTCH TAPE or MINI STAPLER
- 1 SET OF FINE LINE COLORFUL MARKERS-the washable markers do not bleed through
- #2 PENCILS
- LOOSE-LEAF PAPER
- Scissors
- Glue Stick



### **Language Acquisition**

If students still have their Spanish notebook from last year, they do not need to buy a new one. If they do not have it, they will need either a 2 or 3 subject notebook.

### **Additional items:**

- Glue
- Basic calculator
- Ruler (12 inch & cm)
- Protractor
- Compass
- Scissors

## **General 7th Grade Information**

**School hours:** 7:45 am- 2:45 pm

**Entry and Exit Procedures:** 7th grade students enter and exit from Door 5 (located on Newcastle). Any student that arrives after 7:55 am must enter through the main entrance on Oak Park and receive a tardy slip.

**Procedimientos de entrada y salida:** Los estudiantes de 7º grado entran y salen por la Puerta 5 (ubicada en la Newcastle). Cualquier estudiante que llegue después de las 7:55 am debe ingresar por la entrada principal en la Oak Park y recibir un pase de llegada tarde.

**Uniform Policy:**

Appropriate dress encourages better school behavior. Dress and grooming should not disrupt the learning process. Parents are to make sure that their child complies with this policy. Consequences will be given to those students who do not comply with the uniform dress code policy requirements.

TOPS- Polo shirt (plain white or navy blue with no logos or writing) or polo shirt with school logo. Long or short sleeve polo shirts are acceptable.

BOTTOMS- Plain dark blue pants. No jeans, no leggings as a substitute for pants.

SKIRT/SHORTS/JUMPERS- Plain navy blue, age appropriate length for girls in grades Pre-K-4, knee length for girls in grades 5-8.

SWEATERS/SWEATSHIRTS- Solid white or solid navy blue. Sweatshirts with school logo are acceptable. Hoods are not allowed.

GYM UNIFORM-

Top: Locke School T-shirt or uniform plain polo shirt in white or navy blue.

Bottom: Locke School sweatpants, shorts, or solid plain dark blue pants. No jeans.

SCHOOL SPIRIT/ COLLEGE DAY FRIDAYS- Any Locke School/College sponsored shirt and regular fit dark blue jeans permitted. No bare midriff! Regular school uniform may also be worn.

FIELD TRIP UNIFORM- Standard school uniform is required.

SHOES- Parents discretion however no high heels, flip flop sandals, or platform shoes are allowed.

**UNIFORME ESCOLAR:**

El vestimento apropiado promueve un mejor comportamiento escolar. Los padres deben asegurarse de que sus hijos cumplan con esta política. Se darán consecuencias a aquellos estudiantes que no cumplan con los requisitos de la política del código de uniforme.

CAMISA: Camisa de polo (blanca o azul marino sin logos ni escritura) o camisa de polo con el logotipo de la escuela. Las camisas polo de manga larga o corta son aceptables.

PANTALONES- Pantalón azul oscuro liso. Sin jeans, sin leggings como sustituto de los pantalones.

FALDA / PANTALONES CORTOS /JUMPERS - Azul marino liso, longitud adecuada para la edad de las niñas en los grados Pre-K-4, longitud de la rodilla para las niñas en los grados 5-8.

SUDADERAS - Blanca sólido o azul marino sólido. Se aceptan sudaderas con el logo de la escuela. No se permiten capuchas.

UNIFORME DE GYM-

CAMISA: Camiseta de Locke School o camisa polo en blanco o azul marino.

PANTALONES: Pantalones sudaderos de Locke School, pantalones cortos o pantalones de color azul marino. No jeans.

**VIERNES- ESPÍRITU DE LA ESCUELA / DÍA DE LA UNIVERSIDAD:** Los viernes se permite cualquier camisa con el logo de la escuela o de cualquier Universidad. Los viernes también se permiten pantalones Jeans oscuro de corte regular. ¡Ningún estómago desnudo! Uniforme escolar regular también puede ser usado.

**UNIFORME DE VIAJE** - Se requiere uniforme escolar estándar.

**ZAPATOS:** la discreción de los padres, sin embargo, no se permiten tacones altos, sandalias o zapatos con plataforma.

**Cell Phone Policy:**

Cell phones are not allowed to be used on school property. Violators will be subject to the disciplinary actions determined in the Student Code of Conduct. Student will be sent to disciplinary office and phone will be held until a parent or guardian can pick it up. All phones must be turned off and put away prior to entering the building.

**Teléfono celular:**

No se permite el uso de teléfonos celulares en la propiedad de la escuela. Los infractores estarán sujetos a las medidas disciplinarias determinadas en el Código de conducta del estudiante. El estudiante será enviado a la oficina disciplinaria y el teléfono se llevará a cabo hasta que un padre o tutor pueda recogerlo. Todos los teléfonos deben estar apagados y guardados antes de ingresar al edificio.

**Recess Policy:**

All students should be sent to school dressed appropriately for the weather. Our students will be outside for recess following the below guidelines. It is important to remember that recess is an important part of our child(ren) well-being.

**GUIDELINES:**

- Above 35 degrees F with or without wind chill: Recess should be held outdoors.
- Between 34 degrees F and 15 degrees F with or without wind chill: Principal discretion (LOCKE SCHOOL: K-4<sup>th</sup> will be inside and 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will have the option)
- Below 15 degrees F with or without wind chill: Recess should be held indoors.

**Recreo:**

Todos los estudiantes deben ser enviados a la escuela vestidos apropiadamente para el clima. Nuestros estudiantes estarán afuera para el recreo siguiendo las siguientes reglas. Es importante recordar que el recreo es una parte importante de nuestro bienestar.

**Reglas:**

- Por encima de 35 grados F con o sin viento frío: el recreo debe realizarse al aire libre.
- Entre 34 grados F y 15 grados F con o sin sensación de frío: discreción del director (LOCKE SCHOOL: K-4<sup>th</sup> estará adentro y 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> tendrá la opción)
- Por debajo de 15 grados F con o sin viento frío: el recreo debe mantenerse en el interior.

**Websites/ Resources**

**Great Math Website**

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-seventh-grade-math>

<https://www.mathgames.com/grade7>

<https://www.ixl.com/math/grade-7>  
<https://www.mathopolis.com/questions/skills.php?year=7>  
[www.adaptedmind.com/Math-Worksheets.html](http://www.adaptedmind.com/Math-Worksheets.html)  
<https://www.ipracticemath.com/>  
<https://www.kidsmathtv.com/7th-grade-math-games/>

#### **Individuals and Societies News Websites**

<https://www.dogonews.com/>  
<https://newsela.com/>  
<https://www.timeforkids.com/>  
<https://newsforkids.net/>  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/?utm\\_term=.6e517e58d4fc](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/?utm_term=.6e517e58d4fc)

#### **Study websites**

[www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)

#### **Science websites**

<https://scienceworld.scholastic.com/> Login Password: Locke7  
<https://www.brainpop.com/> Login: Locke 7 Password:Locke211  
<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/>  
<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/science/>

### **Additional Grade Level Information**

#### **What can I do to prepare my child for 7th grade?**

**Math :** Your child should login at least twice a week to the above Math Websites and spend at least 1 hour to calculate and solve the given math problems. These websites will help your child to review and practice math skills that they already learned and prepare them for the upcoming school year.

**Reading:** Go to the library and check out books you will enjoy reading. Volunteer at the library, they will have you help younger children with activities and listen to them report on books.

**Individuals and Societies:** Stay up to date on current events by clicking on the above news websites and reading articles throughout the summer.

**Study tips:** Quizlet is a great resource to create an account at or at least explore. It will keep your vocabulary skills in check!