

# TEAM KUTZTOWN

Nitschmann Middle School  
1002 W. Union Blvd  
Bethlehem, Pa 18108  
<http://basdwpweb.beth.k12.pa.us/nitschmann/>  
610-866-5781



"Nitschmann is committed to cultivating a respectful community of innovative learners who are socially competent citizens ready to meet the challenges of their future."

Team Kutztown Parents,

This week your children began their 7th grade year. They are now part of Team Kutztown! The teachers listed below are the teachers on this team, and we will be collaborating throughout the next few months to make it a great school year for your child. The following pages list pertinent information such as teacher contact information, 7th grade curriculum information, grading policies, classroom expectations, behavior interventions, and more. Please take some time to read over this information. Thank you for your prompt attention. We are looking forward to a great year with your child!

Sincerely,

Team Kutztown Teachers

## Team Contact Information

- Charles Falteich - Language Arts  
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Phone Ext: 41542
- Norma Gomez - Reading  
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- Jeremy Hess - World Geography and Team Leader  
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- Bob Pearson - Science  
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- Lory Van Woert - Math  
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# CURRICULUM AND GRADING POLICY

## SCIENCE (MR. PEARSON)

Seventh grade Life Science includes topics such as the scientific method, metric system, laboratory equipment & safety, characteristics of living things, cell theory, cell division, genetics, classification, ecology and a major emphasis on diversity of organisms and their adaptations to a variety of environments. In order to meet the various standards, students will interpret data, formulate hypotheses, and design and perform experiments. Students will also produce reports which are organized, present ideas thoughtfully, and use appropriate vocabulary and sentence structure. The primary resource that we will be using this year is the Discovery Education Techbook.

Grading Policy:

Tests/Quizzes - 50%

Classwork/Labs/Warm-ups - 40%

Homework - 10%

Late assignments will lose 10% of the total points per day late.

No assignment will be accepted after it is ten days late.

There will be one formal lab report assigned per semester. The grade for this assignment will be equal to one test grade for that particular marking period.

## MATH (MRS. VAN WOERT)

Text/Workbook EnVision 2.0

Students are required to complete homework daily. It is expected that these assignments will be completed each day. Homework will be checked everyday. NO LATE homework will be accepted for full credit. Late homework will be accepted up to 3 days late. Maximum grade will be 70%. Tests and Quizzes must be made up within 5 school days of an absence. (Exceptions are excused absences and family emergencies.) Students will be required to supply their **own calculators** to use during class. We will spend time learning how to use calculators and their functions. Extra calculators are not available in the classroom.

### Sections Covered in Math

Decimals and Integers  
Exponents, Factors, and Fractions  
Operations With Fractions  
Algebra: Equations and Inequalities  
Ratios, Rates, and Proportions  
Percents  
Geometry  
Measurement (Area and Volume)  
Right Triangles in Algebra

### Grading Policy:

All classes are graded on a total points system. The points values below are approximate. Students can expect a weekly quiz and/or assessment.

Homework - 10%

Classwork - 25%

Assessments - 65%

## ENGLISH (MR. FALTERICH AND/OR MRS. GOMEZ)

All students in seventh grade English classes will learn speaking, listening, writing, vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension skills using the BASD's StudySync curriculum.

## SOCIAL STUDIES (MR. HESS)

The course of study for 7th grade Social Studies is World Geography. We will explore and analyze the Earth using the Five Themes of Geography. The class will begin with the mastering of map skills. We will then move on to the Five Themes of Geography, which are Location, Place, Human-Environment Interactions, Movement, and Regions. Next we will spend time on the U.S. and then a comparative unit on the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. After that student take a deep dive into applying each theme of Geography to the entire world. Throughout the year, we will also discuss current events.

Textbook: Discovery Education Techbook

My website is <https://sites.google.com/a/basdschools.org/hess/> or check Schoology

Grading Policy:

40% - Quizzes and Tests

40% - Projects and Classwork

10% - Homework

10% - Warm Up/Notebook/Being Prepared

\*Late assignments will not receive full credit.

## CLASS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Expected Classroom Behavior

Be Here...Be Ready

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Actively Engaged in Learning

Follow Instructions the First Time

## INTERVENTIONS

Verbal Warning

Teacher Detention

Code of Conduct Referral

## HOMEWORK

Homework is designed to be meaningful and reinforce classroom concepts. Homework will be given as the teacher feels necessary. Some core subjects need constant reinforcement, and therefore, homework will be given almost every night. Points will be deducted from a student's homework average if an assignment is late or incomplete. The student is responsible for obtaining and completing any missed assignments. Up to one six day cycle will be given to students to make up assignments missed during absences. In the case of an extended absence, arrangements between the student and teacher can be made.

## EXTRA HELP

After school tutoring with academic subject teachers is available for any student who is interested. Most teachers are available Tuesday - Friday. Tutoring takes place from 3:05 to 3:25 P.M. in the teacher's assigned classroom. Due to Mrs. Van Woert's coaching schedule in the Fall and Winter, she will be holding extra times in the morning before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Some teachers are also available at 7:30 A.M (by appt with prior notice).

## COMMUNICATION

Communication is a key element to your child's success this year. If you have any concerns, questions, or problems, please contact us through phone or e-mail. Email is the easiest way to contact us. You do have access to your child's records and performance on the district "Parent Portal." Also, teachers publish their grades on Schoology. This is an excellent way to quickly obtain information on your child's current academic performance. Several teachers have class websites that are updated daily. The easiest way to find these is to go to Nitschmann's website, click on "Staff Directory," locate the teacher's name, and click on the word "Website."

Of course, parents play an equally important role in a child's school success. Encourage your son/daughter to come to class prepared to work. Provide them with support at home and a place to study. Remind them of what is acceptable behavior and what is not. Please check your child's due dates (found on Schoology), and assist with assignments and study if necessary. All of these things will help to maintain a good learning environment and help us all to have a great year! By working together, we can make this a better year for your child. Thank you for your cooperation!

## TEAM IDENTITY

Throughout the year, we will be doing many team activities as a large group and in smaller groups. We even have a team field trip to Kutztown University planned.

Our first whole group activity is focused on our team identity. We are going to be tie-dyeing T-shirts. We will be using the Kutztown University colors of maroon and gold. Students will be asked to wear these shirts for different activities throughout the school year. Students will be provided the opportunity to purchase a Team Kutztown tee-shirt for our project or to bring one of their own from home. Look for more information about that coming soon!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME! WE  
ARE EXCITED FOR THE YEAR  
WITH YOUR CHILD(REN)!!