

7th GRADE CORE COURSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Language Arts curriculum, aligned with the Common Core State Standards, is composed of units that center on a theme. The units will include instruction on reading comprehension using an assortment of literary genres, including narrative and informational texts, poetry, and novels. Writing skills will be enhanced through a variety of learning based activities focusing on the 6 Traits of Writing.

ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Advanced Language Arts curriculum, which is aligned with the Common Core State Standards, will be composed of grade level academic content that requires higher-level critical and analytical thinking skills. These skills will be utilized while engaging with complex text that embraces a variety of literary genres, integrated writing activities, and independent projects.

MATH

In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

ACCELERATED MATH

This course differs from the regular 7th Grade course in that it contains content from 8th grade. While coherence is retained, in that it logically builds from the 6th Grade, the additional content when compared to the grade level course demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. Content is organized into four critical areas, or units. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

SCIENCE

7th Grade Science covers the following elements of science:

- Force and Motion
- Waves
- Sound
- Electromagnetic Spectrum
- Light
- Magnetism
- Cells
- Genetics

SOCIAL STUDIES

The 7th grade social studies program will be engaged in the geographic study of world regions as they examine major civilization development. The 7th grade curriculum is designed to allow students to observe societies dissimilar to their own in such a way as to broaden their understanding of people and places in an increasingly interdependent world. Students examine areas of the world having the longest record of human habitation and the richest diversity of human experience. These are regions within which the vast majority of the world's people live and regions that possess some of the world's most valuable resources. Students will trace the development of human society from its origin through the Renaissance Era. Students will explore patterns of change in continuity by focusing on the expansion of and the decline of civilizations, patterns of geography, and development of political, economic, and societal systems. Students will analyze and evaluate how foundations of society influence the modern era. This class will be interactive for students to enhance their understanding of global connections and their role in the world around them.

MULTI-PURPOSE PERIOD (MP²)

The multi-purpose period is a year-long 30-minute class for all students. This class includes a variety of lessons focused on our school's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) plan, Character Education, as well as enhancements for Math and Reading. Participation is required for this class and it is graded as Pass/Fail.

7TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course builds upon the 6th grade curriculum providing each student with the opportunity to learn about sports, health, and physical fitness. It is a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities. Health and nutrition topics are discussed on a regular basis before and after physical activity. This course promotes cooperation, leadership, and a positive attitude.

COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

The 7th grade computer and technology class provides students with an advanced curriculum that focuses on project based learning through the utilization of web based tools. Students will create a web- based electronic portfolio that will be used to demonstrate their proficiency in the curriculum topics that are covered. Students will be required to create a *Google Account* in this class. The purpose of this is to give the students a web-based working space, a space to collaborate, as well as to expose them to new and exciting Web 2.0 tools.

Topics covered in the 7th grade computer and technology curriculum include:

- Powerful & Web Based Presentation Tools
- Web Design
- Social Bookmarking
- Databases
- Mindmapping
- Social Networking
- Screencasting
- Building a Mobile App
- QR Codes

“WHICH WAY DO I GO?”

This ELA based course provides opportunities to read and reflect on real life issues facing today’s adolescents in an age appropriate format. At the seventh grade level, students will be focusing on the topic of peer pressure. Students will analyze the theme of peer pressure through the study of informational and narrative texts, music, and poetry.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

This class introduces students to civics, government, and the history of the United States. We will ask the questions “What is a citizen?” and “What rights do we have and what limits do we want to put on them?” We will look at how our government is set up, and learn about the Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

ART

During their time in Art, students will use a variety of media. They will work in pencil, colored pencil, clay, paper maché, oil pastel, tempera, and other materials. 7th Grade Art is an opportunity for students to build on what they have learned in the previous year, to work with new mediums, and to prepare for more challenging forms of artistic expression in 8th grade. Students are evaluated not only on the end product, but also on their effort and ability to attempt new things.

INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY IN SCIENCE

In this 10 week elective course students will become excited about science. Students will focus on various scientific inventions throughout history, and how they have affected our lives. They will also cover current events in science and what our future holds in this ever changing scientific world.

EI MUNDO LATINOAMERICANO

Where is the world’s largest rainforest? What country has not one, but two capital cities? Who is “Ratoncito Pérez”? To answer these questions and more students will learn about the countries to the South of the United States. The class will look into the geography, the history and some of the cultural aspects, such as music, dance, food, language, and stories, of these countries in Central and South America. We will travel from Mexico to Argentina and Chile to Cuba in an effort to gain some knowledge of our neighboring countries. The class will be taught in English, but also cover some of the official and indigenous languages spoken in these countries and how those words have been integrated into our own English language.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?

This required Math elective course focuses on concepts surrounding Probability and Statistics. In this course, students will understand that statistics and probability can be used to gain information, collect data, draw inferences based on the data, create generalizations regarding populations, and use measures of center to draw informal inferences. Students will need a pencil, a notebook and a folder specifically for this class.

7th GRADE FULL YEAR BAND

This is a class designed for seventh grade students who would like to have band for a full year. These are students who are committed to learning great music and musical skills. Students are expected to practice outside of class. Attendance at performances outside of the regular school day is required.

7th GRADE HALF-YEAR BAND

This class is designed for the seventh grade student who would like to be involved in band, but isn't sure if they want to take it for the full year. Students are expected to practice outside of class. Attendance at performances outside of the regular school day is required.