

7th Grade Core Curriculum

Core Content Area Classes: Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts are all aligned with state benchmarks. MA and LA reflect Grade Level Content Standards (GLCE).

Language Arts 7

This course is an integrated approach to teaching reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students are exposed to a variety of texts throughout the school year.

Students write for a variety of purposes. This includes both fiction and nonfiction texts: autobiographies, research projects, stories, reviews, and poetry. Students' writing progress is assessed holistically three times to document growth and development according to the six traits of writing. Portfolios are utilized to enhance assessment and allow students to reflect on past accomplishments. Portfolios are kept K-8 with portfolios being sent home at the end of eighth grade.

Mathematics

Suggested Tracks:

7th Grade: Most Students - Course 2
Advanced Students - Pre-Algebra I

8th Grade: Most Students - Pre-Algebra
Advanced Students - Algebra

Course2

A seventh grade course offering. It is similar to Pre-algebra in content, but more emphasis is placed on measuring, Geometry, data analysis, percent, proportion, and probability. Order of operations, graphing, equations, and the study of functions are also emphasized. Students who complete Course 2 will be placed in either Algebra, or Pre-Algebra in 8th grade. This will be at the discretion of the teacher and end of year test.

Pre-Algebra

An 8th grade course offering as well as our Advanced Math for 7th grade. Greater depth of order of operations, functions, algebraic expressions and equations is emphasized. Other topics include: fractions, exponents, area and volume, ratios, and nonlinear functions and polynomials. Students who successfully complete this course will take Algebra I at the HS.

Algebra I

This is offered for 8th grade advanced students, and is an 8th grade course offering. It is all Algebra in content. The major topics include: the use of variables, patterns, graphing,

functions, solving equations, expressions, and solving systems of equations. Successful completion of this course will allow students to earn HS credit, and earn placement into the Geometry course at the HS.

Science 7

Seventh grade science covers a multitude of topics including physical science, life science, Earth Science, and chemistry. The curriculum is hands-on and inquiry-based which provides students the opportunity to make real world connections on a daily basis.

World Studies

The World Studies curriculum offers an introduction to Ancient History from the beginnings of human society to the emergence of pastoral societies up through the development and spread of early civilizations. Students engage in a year-long study exploring the changes that occurred within each civilization. They will explore the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, and Mesoamerica. They will analyze how innovations and social, political, and economic changes developed. Students will use the “History Alive!” to explore and investigate the societies through a variety of assignments and projects utilizing many different learning styles.

Physical Education 7/8 – One Semester Required

Students will have experiences in several sports and activities while in PE class. Our goal is to broaden student knowledge of different team games as well as to add variety to the physical education experience. Our units include volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, team handball, lacrosse, softball, flag football, soccer, sand volleyball, and lifetime fitness skills. Students are expected to dress and participate on a daily basis.

Computers 7/8 – One Marking Period Required

Students will learn how to perform Internet searches and how to evaluate the validity and appropriateness of website information. Students will also explore Internet safety and discuss methods of keeping personal information safe. Additionally, students create an EDP (Educational Development plan) and begin the career exploration process. Included in this course are elements from various programs: word processing, keyboarding, publishing, PowerPoint, CareerCruising, digital cameras and photo editing.

Elective Class Descriptions

Please note all students will have the opportunity to enroll in one nine-week exploratory class regardless of a band, choir, or Spanish class selection. Depending on student counts, a student may not get his/her first choice selection.

Band – (Elective Class)-one full year

Students who choose this class will continue developing instrumental music skills begun in earlier grades. Students will participate in concerts and MSBOA sanctioned festivals.

The emphasis will be on refining individual and ensemble performances while playing music of a serious and challenging nature.

Choir—(Elective Class)-one full year

Vocal music students will learn music appreciation, music theory and sight reading as well as perform pieces during concerts throughout the school year. This class does not require students to have prior involvement in vocal music. Students will be given instruction and placed based on range, knowledge, and interest.

Spanish 1- (Elective Class)- one full year

Spanish 1 is a year-long introductory course to the Spanish language. The course covers a broad overview of both the language of Spanish as well as the cultures whose primary language is Spanish. A student can earn high school credit for successful completion of this course. This class will focus on many components including:

- a) Basic vocabulary
(Food, time, days of week, introductory greetings, places, activities, activities/sports, colors, expressions, numbers, etc.)
- b) Spanish grammar
(Present tense conjugations of verbs, the present progressive, male and female nouns, sentence structure, adjectives, articles, etc.)
- c) Cultural lessons
(Geography, religious customs, daily life, understanding of time, last names, word associations, etc.)
- d) Pronunciation
(Alphabet, vowel sounds, consonant sounds, etc.)
- e) Speaking/Comprehension
(Developing the ability to listen and speak basic Spanish sentences in real life situations)

Exploratories – (Elective Class)-four one-quarter classes

- Art: drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics along with some integrated historical relevance of the specific art style.
- Computer Applications (Digital Photography): Using digital cameras, students will learn the basics of photography. They will develop an eye for photography by practicing the elements of composition. They will also learn how to manipulate the camera to produce different effects, upload and transfer files.
- Cultures of South America:
The study of the basics of Spanish. A nine-week taste of Spain, its different cultures, people, customs, food, and ways of life.
- Service Learning Leadership Class:

By developing and implementing service learning opportunities, students will learn leadership skills. The course offers a hands-on approach to learning as students collaborate with many community organizations.

Availability depends on demand by students.