

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Health 7 - #06027 – One Semester

Seventh Grade Health is a required semester class that promotes positive health behaviors, attitudes and knowledge. Students are introduced to the underlying theme of wellness and optimal health. Interpersonal skills, relationships among friends and family, external and internal pressures, safety, alcohol and other drug prevention, and growth and development are explored to enhance a life-long commitment to positive health-related decisions, behaviors and goals.

Physical Education 7 - #03007 – One Semester

The seventh grade physical education program is a semester class that continues to build on the skills learned in sixth grade and enables students to apply the skills in controlled situations. Students learn the benefits of participating in physical activities both now and in the future. A continuation of the fitness program reinforces positive behaviors while allowing students to manage their own progress and goals. Students participate in activities that improve overall fitness such as, jogging, strength training, and aerobics. Students learn skills, movements and rules to participate in games such as, kickball, tennis, basketball. Students learn and apply positive behaviors that enhance teamwork.

Semester Long Electives

Art 7 - #05507 – One Semester

This course builds upon the elements and principles of design that students have studied in *Sixth Grade Art*. A variety of materials and techniques are used as students create more advanced works of art. Creativity and problem solving are emphasized. Students create two and three dimensional works of art and critique their own artwork and the artwork of others.

Choir 7 - #05117 – One Semester OR Full Year

Students may elect to take this class for either a semester or for the full year. Students develop the vocal skills needed for group choral singing and performance. Proper choral literature for all voice ranges is studied. Music history and theory are also studied. Students are strongly encouraged to sign up for the full year commitment in order to facilitate the continual learning process of choral singing. Public performance is a course requirement and students are expected to participate in concerts.

Creative Communications - #01207– One Semester

This class focuses on effective oral communication. Students create three to five minute skits that demonstrate facial expression, body language, voice and articulation. Students also give a three to five minute impromptu speech and learn and apply techniques for preparing for and participating in a debate. Students develop research skills as they gather information for their speeches. Students learn and practice the attributes of effective oral interpretation and how to create mood, tone, and character through inflection, phrasing and body language. Students critique their own skits, speeches and oral readings as well as those of others in the class.

Introduction to World Languages - #02208– One Semester

Introduction to World Languages is a 20-week class that provides positive exposure to language learning with emphasis on listening comprehension, speaking on a limited but meaningful basis, and learning about the cultures of the people who speak Spanish, French, German and Chinese. Students explore the role of World Languages in career choices and build readiness for language. Students expand their understanding and application of basic vocabulary, basic conversation, general pronunciation rules, the writing system and cultural information. Students reflect on the similarities and differences among the four languages studied and English. Students develop vocabulary of terms such as days of the week, months of the year and personal descriptions. Students practice conversations involving greetings, introductions, leave takings, courtesy expressions and asking and answering simple questions. (*Students who took Introduction to World Languages in 6th grade may not repeat the course*)

Life Skills 7 - #08007– One Semester

Three major areas of Family and Consumer Sciences are emphasized in this semester course. Students prepare simple breakfast and snack items with an emphasis on nutrition. Students learn about consumerism, clothing care and repair. The course also includes a unit focusing on money management. Working cooperatively and independently; students practice communicating, making decisions, solving problems and using time productively in all areas of their lives.

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Software Applications - #00437– One Semester

This class reinforces keyboarding skills. Students learn how to improve speed and accuracy throughout the semester by taking timed writings and doing warm-ups. Students learn how to use software, including Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Publisher, Microsoft PowerPoint, Movie Maker, and Google. They apply their ability to use software and equipment to different projects that are either centered on themes, school events, or integrated into the core curriculum. Students investigate plagiarism laws and gain an understanding of copyright laws. Most projects are presented to the class throughout the semester.

STEM 7 - #08407– One Semester

This STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) course exposes students to contemporary technologies in such areas as communication and coding, construction, transportation, robotics and electrical technologies. In this course, students will be introduced to basic drafting concepts and three dimensional computer aided design (CAD). Through demonstrations, discussion and hands-on activities, students will design, layout and construct solutions to given technology related challenges. Students work individually and in cooperative groups to solve problems, develop teamwork and decision making skills as they gain a deeper understanding of how technological systems apply to their everyday lives.

Full Year Electives

Band 7 - #05007 – Full Year Only

Students review what was learned in sixth grade band. Students perform musical ideas using phrase lengths of at least four measures. Students perform selections that demonstrate their ability to blend tone within their section and the entire band. Students develop an awareness of the musical tones being sharp or flat and ways to correct this through pitch matching. Students complete compositional activities of greater complexity. Students begin to shape a musical phrase. Students learn and apply articulations in legato, staccato, and marcato. Using a variety of genre, students perform, create, listen, describe, and read music. Students learn and apply vocabulary to critique their own performance and the performances of others. Students are evaluated on performances that take place during class and after school.

Choir 7 - #05107– Full Year OR One Semester

Students may elect to take this class for either a semester or for the full year. Students develop the vocal skills needed for group choral singing and performance. Proper choral literature for all voice ranges is studied. Music history and theory are also studied. Students are strongly encouraged to sign up for the full year commitment in order to facilitate the continual learning process of choral singing. Public performance is a course requirement and students are expected to participate in concerts.

Orchestra 7 (String Instruments) - #05227 – Full Year Only

Students review what was learned in sixth grade orchestra. Students perform musical ideas using phrase lengths of at least four measures. Students perform selections that demonstrate their ability to blend tone within their section and the entire band. Students develop an awareness of the musical tones being sharp or flat and ways to correct this through pitch matching. Students complete compositional activities of greater complexity. Students begin to shape a musical phrase. Students learn and apply articulations in legato, staccato, and marcato. Using a variety of genre, students perform, create, listen, describe, and read music. Students learn and apply vocabulary to critique their own performance and the performances of others. Students are evaluated on performances that take place during class and after school.

World Language Level 1 (French #02314, German #02414, Spanish, #02814, Chinese #02614) – Full Year Only

Students learn to communicate in a variety of situations, such as: listening, conversing, reading, writing, viewing and presenting. Students use language to gain understanding of people and cultures.

(Students successfully completing a Level 1 World Language course receive one credit towards the high school World Language graduation requirement. Grades earned in Level 1 World Language courses will appear on the student's high school transcript. This high school class is a full year commitment and cannot be dropped once started.)