

COURSE OFFERINGS: MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Grade Seven

ENGLISH Credit: 1/YEAR

Students in Grade 7 English will focus on quality reading, writing, and speaking skills through the school year. Twice a year students will complete a book of choice project to prove understanding of targeted skills. Students will read two core novels, *The Outsiders* and *Walk Two Moons*. Students will complete an author study, complete a MLA research paper, write paragraphs routinely, complete an end of the year creative writing project, and work to master the persuasive essay format. Students will participate in debate, complete oral presentations, and participate in classroom discussion on a regular basis. Students will come to use a working knowledge of literature terms throughout the year as they study short stories, poems, novels, and plays. Grammar and writing structure will continue to be addressed within each unit.

ADVANCED ENGLISH..... Credit: 1/YEAR

The goals of this course are to develop students' skills in literary analysis and interpretation, persuasive writing, linguistic competency and oral communication, as well as to strengthen reasoning skills and understanding of the concept of change. The units engage students in exploring carefully selected, challenging works of literature from various times, cultures and genres, and they encourage students to reflect on their readings through writing and discussion. The units also provide numerous opportunities for students to explore interdisciplinary connections and to conduct research around issues relevant to their own lives. Students will complete a MLA research paper on a topic related to the 1940's with a bibliography and present their findings to the class. Advanced vocabulary comprehension and usage will be emphasized. Students will be expected to work independently and be able to read and perform at a level which is at least two grade levels higher in order to achieve success within this class.

GLOBAL STUDIES..... Credit: 1/YEAR

This course covers Greek and Roman Civilizations, the continents of Europe, South America and North America-focusing on the countries of Germany, the United Kingdom, Russia, Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico and the United States. We will also be learning about World War I and World War II. These units will be covered from a historical, ethical, cultural, geographical and socio-political perspective. Students will be applying their knowledge in a variety of ways including writing, projects, presentations and assessments.

ADVANCED GLOBAL STUDIES..... Credit: 1/YEAR

This course is an accelerated class which focuses on critical thinking skills, concept development and analysis to increase a student's understanding of geography, cultures and history in Greek and Roman civilizations, Europe, South America and North America.

Students will specifically look at the countries of Germany, United Kingdom, Russia, Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico and the United States; there will also be a section of study on World War I and World War II. Students will develop skills in the areas of discussion, writing and research. Students will be required to do a variety of assignments, for example, but not limited to, maps, worksheets, note-taking, reading for comprehension. Class participation is emphasized and the use of analytical devices is introduced. Students will use memorization, analysis and writing skills to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of units. Students will also be expected to do research projects during the course of the year. These projects will require research, writing and oral components.

TRANSITION MATH..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Open to students who have not acquired the basic skills needed to succeed in Mathematics 7. Enrollment is based on test data, classroom performance, and teacher recommendation only. This is a self-paced computer class using the Renaissance Math computer program. Students will be *assigned* to this class.

MATHEMATICS..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Seventh grade mathematics helps students develop the skills necessary to advance into pre-algebra. The course units cover rational numbers (fractions, decimals, percents, integers); algebraic concepts (expressions, equations and inequalities); geometry (two and three-dimensional shapes and working with formulas); probability and statistics.

PRE-ALGEBRA..... Credit: 1/YEAR

This class prepares students for algebra. Topics include: operation with rational numbers (fractions, decimals, percent, and integers); algebra expressions and properties; solving linear equations and graphs; proportions; analysis of geometric shapes and formulas; statistics, graphs, and simple probability. Students will be expected to participate in class and a considerable amount of time on homework is expected outside of class.

SCIENCE..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Students will explore life science topics from the cellular to the biosphere level. Topics include cell structure, function, division, and transport; photosynthesis, respiration, and fermentation; protein synthesis, genetics, evolution, and ecology. Various online and laboratory investigations/explorations will lead to an increased understanding of how the scientific method and the nature of science apply to students' personal lives

ADVANCED SCIENCE..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Although topics studied in this course are similar to those covered in the regular-level science class, the vocabulary, reading, writing, and discussion about specific content are presented at a higher level of comprehension which may include High School level critical thinking. The more specific detail covered in each of the content areas will require a significant effort on the student's part to independently complete the assigned readings and online investigations. Participation in class discussion, asking questions, and making inferences about those readings and investigations will be an essential part of mastering the target learning goals for advanced science students.

HEALTH..... Credit: 1/2 /SEMESTER

Explore a wide variety of health-related topics and adolescent issues and concerns. Key topics include: communication, practicing healthy behaviors, analyzing influences, accessing valid information, mental and emotional well-being, healthy relationships and sexuality, substance use and abuse, and first aid. Students will receive a solid foundation of health information equipping them with life skills to best handle the decisions and pressures adolescents face in today's world. Heavy emphasis is placed on healthy decision- making and healthy choices.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION..... Credit: 1/2 /SEMESTER

This course focuses on the development of skills and knowledge of movement that provides a foundation for enjoyment, continued social development, and access to a physically active lifestyle. Student's ability to manage their own behavior is reinforced to support safe practices and individual development. Appropriate active wear for both warm weather (t-shirts, shorts) and cool weather (second layer of sweats/wind suits) are required, as well as athletic shoes and socks.

EXPLORATORY WHEEL:

ART..... Credit: 1/4 /QUARTER

Hands-on activities provide students an opportunity to practice creative and critical problem-solving by developing skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking and more. They will have the opportunity to experiment and refine skills using a variety of art media and styles. Elements and principles of design will be emphasized in each project

BIZKIDS..... Credit: 1/4 /QUARTER

This course will review the alphabetic keyboard and correct keyboarding skills, which will be reinforced throughout the course. Students will learn various Business and Marketing concepts while learning computer basics in MS Word and MS Publisher. Students will also learn to use their network drive for file management and will use the Internet to conduct meaningful searches.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES (FACS)..... Credit: 1/4 /QUARTER

This nine-week course gives students a taste of what Family and Consumer Sciences (Facs) is all about. Students will have the opportunity to explore all aspects of Facs, including: food safety and sanitation, cooking, kitchen math, nutrition, fast- food comparison, goal setting, career exploration, hand-sewing and much more. This hands-on course allows for creativity and fun while learning what it means to be a productive student.

GATEWAY DESIGN AND MODELING..... Credit: 1/4 /QUARTER

This Project Lead the Way course offers middle school students the opportunity to use science, technology and mathematics in a new way to solve everyday problems. This hands on, minds on course allows students to apply skills as they learn them utilizing the design approach. They are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. They will use research, brainstorming, and the creation of models to better understand the design process. Students will use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Grade Seven

ADVANCED ART Credit: 1/2 /YEAR EVERY OTHER DAY

Students will continue their excellence in two and three-dimensional studies in preparation for Advanced Art 8 and studio electives at the High School level.

7TH GRADE BAND..... Credit: 1/2 /YEAR EVERY OTHER DAY

Seventh grade band is a fun and exciting musical experience. Technical and musical skills that were learned through 6th grade will be built upon and expanded. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the solo-ensemble festival, advance their skills with regular lessons, practice with other classmates, and show off their talents at the winter and spring band concerts. Students with no band experience must contact the band director before enrolling.

7TH GRADE CHOIR..... Credit: 1/2 /YEAR

This class is for all students who love to sing and perform. Join with your fellow classmates to explore vocal harmony and choral performance. The choir has three concerts per year. All interested singers are welcome!

**7TH GRADE ORCHESTRA..... Credit: 1/2 /YEAR
EVERY OTHER DAY**

Advance your string playing skills by being a member of the middle school orchestra program. Orchestra offers a learning package that coordinates physical movement with world languages, math, literature, science and reading. Be a part of an organization that encourages self-confidence, team effort and an appreciation of the arts. Music, the universal language, can offer a lifetime of positive experiences. If you have no previous orchestra experience, please contact the orchestra director before enrolling.

EXPLORING AGRISCIENCE..... Credit: 1/2 /SEMESTER

Investigate plants, animals, and the environment in a hands-on manner. Grow your own plants to take home. Learn about wildlife and their relationship to the environment. Join FFA and participate in the club's many fun activities and competitions.

EXPLORING FRENCH & SPANISH..... Credit: 1/2 / SEMESTER

Survey French and Spanish by spending nine weeks on each language. Speak and write common words and phrases as well as glimpse the culture and customs of target countries.

PERSONALIZED WORLD LANGUAGES..... Credit: 1/2 /SEMESTER

This class offers every child a world-class, student-centered education through competency-based, blended and online learning, providing learners with powerful personalized learning experiences. This is a semester course surveying a variety of languages which may include, but not limited to Mandarin/Chinese, Russian, Italian, Latin, and German. Students will be allowed to choose one language they would like to learn in greater depth with guided assistance. Students need to be independent learners.

COURSE OFFERINGS: MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Grade Eight

ENGLISH Credit: 1/YEAR

Using a range of texts of varied lengths, students will build skills in reading, writing, vocabulary acquisition, literary terminology application, and grammar/sentence structure.

ADVANCED ENGLISH..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Using a range of texts of varied lengths, students will build skills in reading, writing, vocabulary acquisition, literary terminology application, and grammar/sentence structure. Pacing moves more quickly than English 8 Regulars and students are expected to perform the above skills at an advanced level.

GLOBAL STUDIES..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Global Studies will explore the cultural and physical geography of Africa and Asia. The themes of economics and government systems will also be covered.

ADVANCED GLOBAL STUDIES..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Advanced Global Studies will explore the cultural and physical geography of Africa and Asia. The themes of economics and government systems will also be covered. The pace, depth, breadth and complexity of the advanced curriculum is different from that of the regular class with the goal of preparing the students for the rigors of high school Advanced Placement work.

TRANSITION MATH..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Eighth grade transitional math helps students develop the skills necessary to advance into a more abstract study of mathematics. It is a direct instruction class for students who struggle in math class. The course work includes: rational numbers (fractions, decimals, percent's, integers); algebraic concepts (expressions, equations and inequalities); and geometry (two dimensional shapes and working with formulas).

PRE-ALGEBRA..... Credit: 1/YEAR

This class prepares students for algebra. Topics include: operation with rational numbers (fractions, decimals, percent, and integers); algebra expressions and properties; solving linear equations and graphs; proportions; analysis of geometric shapes and formulas; statistics, graphs, and simple probability

ALGEBRA 1..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Completion of pre-algebra or acceptable performance on an algebra readiness test is the prerequisite for algebra. This class prepares students for geometry and advanced algebra. Topics include: algebra expressions and properties; solving linear equations, systems, and inequalities; graphing linear equations; polynomials; square roots; geometric formulas; quadratic equations. Students will be expected to participate in class and a considerable amount of time on homework is expected outside of class.

SCIENCE..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Start the year exploring the aspects of the scientific method. The remainder of the year is divided between introductory chemistry and physics. Significant time is spent in a hands-on environment.

ADVANCED SCIENCE..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Begin the year exploring aspects of the scientific method. Move on to an in-depth look at the 5 states of matter, the periodic table, chemical bonding, and the physical properties of light and sound. Students should possess advanced math and writing skills.

CAREER QUEST..... Credit: 1/YEAR

Identify and evaluate life and work choices while planning realistic career goals. Hands-on activities will be offered in Business and Information Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Technology Education. Students will utilize decision making and problem-solving skills while exploring a variety of career choices. The Guidance Department will facilitate large groups related to high school and post-secondary career choices, development and completion of the Individual Learning Plan, Career Cluster Inventory and Creating My Future Portfolio.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION..... Credit: 1/2 /SEMESTER

This course focuses on the development of skills and knowledge of movement that provides a foundation for enjoyment, continued social development, and access to a physically active lifestyle. Student’s ability to manage their own behavior is reinforced to support safe practices and individual development. Appropriate active wear for both warm weather (t-shirts, shorts) and cool weather (second layer of sweats/wind suits) are required, as well as athletic shoes and socks.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Grade Eight

ART 8..... Credit: 1/2 /SEMESTER

Express yourself! This is a hands-on multimedia class. Work with materials ranging from acrylic paint to clay. Learn applied science through ceramic glazes. Show your ideas and interests in a wide variety of styles and media. Exhibit your work in city wide art exhibitions.

ADVANCED ART 8..... Credit: 1/2 /SEMESTER

Advanced Art students from 7th grade continue their expressive media explorations as they prepare for high school studio art courses. Techniques taught include: ceramic casting, acrylic painting, slab rolling, artist sketching techniques, art history, and guided independent projects. Students who complete this course are able to directly take sophomore level classes (i.e. ceramics, jewelry, watercolor, drawing, etc.) when registering for 9th grade.

8TH GRADE BAND..... Credit: 1 /YEAR

Eighth grade band will challenge and excite those who choose to take this course. In addition to the advancement of musical and technical skills through daily rehearsals and regular lessons, students will have the opportunity to show their talents through the solo- ensemble festival, winter and spring band concerts, jazz band, and the annual 8th grade “Pops” concert. Students with no band experience must contact the band director before enrolling.

8TH GRADE CHOIR..... Credit: 1 /YEAR

Do you love to sing? Join your classmates in performing a wide variety of music in four concerts throughout the year. All interested singers are welcome, regardless of experience.

8TH GRADE ORCHESTRA..... Credit: 1 /YEAR

Advance your string playing skills by being a member of the middle school orchestra program. Orchestra offers a learning package that coordinates physical movement with world languages, math, literature, science and reading. Be a part of an organization that encourages self-confidence, team effort and an appreciation of the arts. Music, the universal language, can offer a lifetime of positive experiences. If you have no previous orchestra experience, please contact the orchestra director before enrolling.

EXPLORING AGRISCIENCE..... Credit: 1/2 /SEMESTER

Investigate plants, animals, and the environment in a hands-on manner. Grow your own plants to take home. Learn about wildlife and their relationship to the environment. Join FFA and participate in the club's many fun activities and competitions.

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FRENCH I..... Credit: 1 /YEAR

Learn to read, write and listen to the French language while enjoying an introduction to France and other French speaking countries. The class focus is on developing French conversational skills. Enjoy learning about the French culture through class activities which include music, videos and the always enjoyable French cuisine. Passing French I is an entry into French II and beyond to 5th year AP.

SPANISH I..... Credit: 1 /YEAR

Enjoy the expression of conversation in Spanish. Work on oral practice and listening comprehension, as well as the development of reading and writing skills. Introduce yourself to the culture of Spain, Latin America and the Hispanics living in the United States. Passing this course will allow you to take Spanish II as a freshman and continuation through high school would enable you to enroll in Spanish AP as a senior.

GATEWAY INNOVATION AND ROBOTICS..... Credit: 1/2 /SEMESTER

This Project Lead The Way course builds on the skills and experiences of Technology 7/ Gateway Design and Modeling and is the next step in helping students prepare for a technological world. Skills such as problem solving and teamwork will be stressed allowing students to make connections far beyond the classroom. Students will utilize VEX® Robotic Systems to design, build, and program solutions to challenging problems well exploring the development and influence of automation and robotics. Class activities will also push and inspire students to be innovators as they create and explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems.

ADVANCED COURSE APPLICATION PROCESS

Students should possess high level thinking skills, be willing to work at an accelerated pace, be an independent learner, self-driven, and have a high interest and motivation in the subject area. These courses move quickly and require extended time outside of the scheduled class to complete research, projects and assignments. Applicants should consider the above factors when deciding placement in an advanced course. Current grade of a B+ or better is recommended to ensure academic success.

To register for an advanced course the following steps must be followed:

- Students entering grade 7 must have a completed teacher recommendation on file from their 6th grade teacher (s). A letter will be sent home to all students' parents who have been recommended to enroll in advanced placement courses. No student will be registered if not on this list.
- Students entering grade 8 will automatically be placed in advanced classes that they were enrolled in during their seventh-grade school year. However, if a 7th grade teacher does not recommend a student continue in an advanced course, the student will be moved to the regular class. Students in regular courses during their 7th grade year wishing to enroll in advanced classes in grade 8, must have a completed teacher recommendation on file from their 7th grade teacher (s).

MATH PATHWAYS FOR GRADES 7-12

Technical College Preparation

Technical College, Strong Preparation

7-Math 7
8-Pre-Algebra
9-Algebra 1 R/H
10-Geometry R/H
11-Algebra 2 R/H
12-Math 105/110 or Technical Math

Technical College, Typical Preparation

7-Math 7
8-Pre-Algebra
9-Essentials 1
10-Essentials 2
11-Algebra 1 R
12-Geometry R

Technical College, Minimum Preparation

7-Transition Math 7
8-Transition Math 8
9-Essentials 1
10-Essentials 2
11-Advanced Math Applications or Algebra 1
12-None

These pathways are examples of the sequencing of math classes, and are intended as a guide in planning course selection. Other pathways are possible. Please consult a guidance counselor or math instructor if you have questions.

Four Year University Preparation

Four Year University, Strong Preparation-Option 1

7-Pre-Algebra
8-Algebra 1
9-Geometry R/H
10-Algebra 2 R/H
11-Pre-Calculus H AB/BC
12-AP Calculus H AB/BC or Statistics H

Four Year University, Strong Preparation-Option 2

7-Math 7
8-Pre-Algebra
9-Algebra 1 R/H
10-Geometry R/H and Algebra 2 R/H
11-Pre-Calculus H AB/BC
12-AP Calculus H AB/BC or AP Statistics

Four Year University, Typical Preparation

7-Math 7
8-Pre-Algebra
9-Algebra 1 R/H
10-Geometry R/H
11-Algebra 2 R/H
12-Pre-Calculus H or Technical Math or Math 105/110

Four Year University, Minimum Preparation

7-Math 7
8-Pre-Algebra
9-Algebra 1 R/H
10-Geometry R/H
11-Algebra 2 R/H
12-None*

*post-secondary schools recommend 4 years of high school math