

## Fairfield Junior High School Course Descriptions Grade 7 Classes (2019-2020)

**Students who receive Special Education services may enroll in classes as indicated by their IEP: Specific class registration questions should be addressed to Mrs. Jen Pool, Special Education Department Head, at 402-7000.**

### The following core classes are required for all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students

**English 7:** This course is designed in compliance with the Common Core State Standards and the Davis School District DESK standards. The objective of this course is to continue to refine the basic language skills taught in elementary school and to help students develop the skills to become life-long learners. The course focuses on literacy: reading, literature, study skills, communication, and effective writing. Emphasis will be placed on the practical conventions of written communication: proper spelling, punctuation, and usage in the writing of complete and correct sentences and paragraphs. Independent reading (outside of class) is required, and students are expected to carry a reading book at all times.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math:** The Grade 7 Mathematics instruction will focus on five 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; (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples; (5) investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models. Honors questions / content will be presented to all students in the Grade 7 Math classes. These questions will require the use of more complex skills, application of concepts to other situations, the ability to argue and interpret answers, etc. Questions will be designed to challenge the minds of high-ability students. Only students desiring an Honors designation on their final grade will need to complete the honors requirements. The honors requirements are completion of any honors questions assigned each chapter and/or test with an average accuracy of 80% and a B- or higher class grade.

**Foundations of Social Studies:** This class is the introductory course for social studies with curricular content consisting of the key themes and concepts drawn from the social sciences of geography, history, economics, and government. Each concept is explored through the use of Utah specific examples. Literacy, historical thinking, and spatial skills are developed through the study of concepts in the abstract and real-world. The course focuses on the reading of both informational text and primary source materials through the study of approximately forty concepts drawn from the social sciences.

**Integrated Science 7:** Seventh Grade Integrated Science is a foundation course which emphasizes basic science concepts with real-life applications. Topics of study include: forces and motion, Earth's environment, structure and function of life, reproduction and inheritance, and changes in species over time. Students will be taught to observe, inquire, question, formulate and test hypotheses, analyze data, report, and evaluate findings. The students, as scientists, should have hands-on, active experiences throughout the year. *Lab Fee: \$8.00 covers the cost of yearly lab equipment and lab supplies.*

**College and Career Awareness:** This class allows students to utilize technology, develop beginning skills, and explore careers through activity-centered lessons. Students will explore concepts in business and marketing, family and consumer sciences, technology and engineering, agriculture, health science, and information technology. This course also provides information regarding additional courses and training related to each student's career field of interest.

**Beginning Fitness 7 (Semester):** This class helps students develop lifetime attitudes regarding physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Emphasis will be on skill development, lifetime activity attitudes and fitness. *Uniform available for purchase in the Main Office.*

**Keyboarding 1 (TECHNOLOGY): Highly Recommended, but not Required** In this beginning semester keyboarding course, the student will master touch operation on a computer keyboard. Correct fingering by touch and good techniques will receive primary emphasis; speed and accuracy will be given secondary emphasis. The fourth row number and symbols and 10-key pad will also be taught. The student will use basic word processing functions on a variety of document types. *\$5.00 lab fee*

**Students may be placed into the following class based on reading proficiency test data:**

**Read 180:** This course will be required for students who need help with basic reading skills as identified by academic testing data. Emphasis is placed on decoding, vocabulary, syntactic understanding and comprehension skills and strategies. The objective of this course is to enable students to read grade-level materials and texts fluently. A research-based reading program – *Read 180* – will be used to help students acquire these skills.

**The following class is offered to qualified ESL students:**

**ESL English:** ESL English is for students with limited English proficiency. The course is focused on helping students address concepts in the language arts core curriculum, as well as helping them better understand reading and writing in the English language. Placement in this course is at the discretion of the school administration only.

**The following classes are FULL-YEAR electives**

**French or Spanish 1 (CORE ELECTIVE):** This course emphasizes the development of conversational skills. The class will be conducted in the target language. *Students need to have above average scholastic aptitude to succeed in this course, and should be able to read at grade level.* It is designed for non-native (French/Spanish) speakers who want to learn a second language. *Native speakers will be moved to a more appropriate course.* There will also be an introduction to basic reading and writing. It is not recommended for students struggling with English skills to take this course.

**Spanish for Spanish Speakers (CORE ELECTIVE):** This course is designed for students who already speak Spanish either through home life or a Spanish immersion program. This course will help students to be able to have the proficiency needed to take the AP test later in high school. Students will read and write daily to develop literacy in Spanish. They will learn the conventions of Spanish grammar and usage, increase vocabulary, read literary and informational texts in Spanish. (If this course does not fill, the students will be given one of their alternates.)

*Este curso está diseñado por los estudiantes que hablan español en la casa o por un programa de inmersión. Esta clase va a ayudar estudiantes para obtener la proficiencia que necesitan para presentar el examen AP en la escuela secundaria. Los estudiantes van a leer y escribir diariamente para desarrollar la literacia en Español. Aprenderemos la gramática, mejorar el vocabulario y leer literatura y textos informativos. (Si no tenemos suficiente estudiantes es esta clase, ellos van a recibir una clase alternativa)*

**French 3 DLI Honors (CORE ELECTIVE):** This course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the native country are taught through reading selections. **For dual immersion students only** (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

**Beginning Band (Brass or Woodwind) (FINE ARTS):** *This is a full year class.* This class is for students with little or no experience. The class will be split into two – Brass – (Trumpet, Baritone, Tuba, Trombone); and Woodwind – (Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, and Bassoon). Basic playing techniques will be stressed with emphasis on tone production and rhythm. Students will be in the Excellence in Music Program that is designed to prepare them for success for playing in any high school band organization. Woodwind students will be allowed to choose between clarinet, flute, oboe and bassoon. (For oboe and bassoon, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that these students take private lessons.) If Saxophone is the desired instrument it is expected that they will play clarinet for ½ the year and then audition for Saxophone. Brass students will be allowed to choose between tuba, baritone, trombone and trumpet. (If a student wishes to play French horn, they are expected to begin playing the trumpet for ½ the year, demonstrating pitch matching, then will have the opportunity to audition for French horn at mid-year). All 7<sup>th</sup> graders and beginning 8<sup>th</sup> /9<sup>th</sup> graders will be in this class. If a beginning player has previous experience, that student may audition for the intermediate group after approval from the teacher. Some public performances are **required**. Home practice is expected and required. *This class is open to students with little to no experience (7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome)*

**Intermediate Band (FINE ARTS):** Mainly made up of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students, this group is made up of winds, brass and percussion instruments. Intermediate playing techniques will be stressed with emphasis on playing harmony, all twelve Major scales and arpeggios. There will be some public performances required as well as district intermediate band festival. Home practice is required and expected. ***Pre-requisite: Beginning Band (brass or woodwind)I, Percussion I, or previous experience equivalent, audition and teacher approval.***

**Percussion I (FINE ARTS):** This class prepares percussion players in concert percussion techniques. Snare drum, mallet percussion and tympani will be the core focus. This class is for first year percussion students. An entrance test is required before being admitted into this class. Open to **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders** only. First year players will play primarily bells. Some public performances required. At home practice is expected and required. Percussion I students will be the percussion section for the beginning band (Band I). *Two years of piano instruction HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you are interested in this class you must come and take a percussion placement test. See the band website for times.*

**Intermediate Orchestra (FINE ARTS):** This course is for students who have taken 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra or have had at least 1 year of private lessons. Available instruments are violin, viola, cello and upright bass. Beginners may join if they have taken piano lessons or are willing to find a private instructor. Students will refine skills in playing, listening to, reading, creating and evaluating music, and will develop valuable life skills such as teamwork, goal-setting, proper social skills, personal responsibility and integrity. It is a full year class. All students are required to pay the \$10 participation fee and provide all black dress clothes for performances. Optional class fees are \$95 school instrument rental, \$10 method book, \$26-\$30 personalized orchestra class hoodie and \$12 SmartMusic Access: Although a SmartMusic home subscription is not required, all tests in the class are submitted through this software program and students are accountable. SmartMusic will be available at the school for those choosing not to purchase SmartMusic, but only during intervention time. Depending on the quality of your computer's microphone, there may be a one-time microphone purchase of \$19.95.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir (FINE ARTS):** This class is for young women (S/A) or young men (T/B) who want to learn choral skills. The curriculum includes singing parts, music fundamentals, and performance.

### **The following classes are ONE SEMESTER electives**

**Foundation Art 1 (FINE ARTS):** This introductory course offers instruction in various art media and the elements and principles of art. Each student will have the opportunity to develop a general knowledge and understanding of basic art terms, styles, skills, and techniques. *Lab Fee: \$15.00*

**Advanced Art 1 (2-D Art) (FINE ARTS):** This course is designed to provide an enhanced experience with the artistic issues of Foundation Art I through traditional, two-dimensional art media. There is a continuing emphasis on studio production as the application of the elements and principles of art are used to assist the student in expressing him/herself through the creation of works of art. In this course, traditional 2-D art media may include such things as drawing, painting, and/or printmaking. The term "traditional" is used to refer to the materials used in the creation of artworks and not to the subjects portrayed. *Pre-requisite: C or better in Foundation Art 1. Lab Fee: \$15.00*

**Theater Foundations I (FINE ARTS):** This course introduces students to the basic elements of drama and develops their public speaking ability through activities such as storytelling, voice/diction exercises, readers' theater and scene performance.

**Theater Foundations I Advanced (FINE ARTS):** This course is designed for those students who have taken Theater 1 and would like to explore acting technique more fully. Students will focus on performance techniques such as pantomime, lip syncing, physical acting, characterization, monologues, oratory, scenes and one acts. Prerequisite – Theater Foundations 1.

**Music Exploration (FINE ARTS):** Students in this class will be introduced to the world of music through a variety of experiences including listening, performing, creating, and analyzing music.

**Foreign Language Survey:** This class is for students who are not ready to commit to a full year of French or Spanish, but would like to experience both languages at a beginning level. One term will be spent in each language learning basic conversational phrases and exploring contemporary culture. At the end of the semester, the student will be ready to transition into French or Spanish I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Creative Coding (TECHNOLOGY):** The course is designed to attract and reach a broad and diverse range of students, including those who may have never considered programming. Students learn how to code by working in a real software development environment to design, program and publish mobile apps and games. Learning to code by creating real products, students discover how to make amazing things and have an impact on their world. \*Prerequisite – Keyboarding 1 or testing out of Keyboarding 1.

**Exploring Computer Science I (TECHNOLOGY):** This course is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. The goal of Exploring Computer Science I is to develop in students the computational thinking practices of algorithm development, problem solving and programming within the context of problems that are relevant to the lives of today's students. Students will also be introduced to topics such as interface design, limits of computers and societal and ethical issues. \*Prerequisite – Keyboarding 1 or testing out of Keyboarding 1.