



7th Grade Course Descriptions Catalog 2020-2021

Please review course information as you prepare and register for a full year of 7th grade. The classes you select are important to your educational program and success in school. Remember, there is a **\$10.00 fee** for making changes after your registration is returned. This does not apply to changes as a result of computer error or changes made as a result of testing or teacher recommendation.

Please review the "Jr. High Honors Courses Indicators for Student Success" and consider the criteria as you make a decision about whether or not an honors course is the most appropriate placement.

There will be no class changes made after 1st week of Semester 1 & Semester 2.

The State of Utah requires that 7th grade students must take all of the following classes:

- *English (Full Year)
- *Math (Full Year)
- *Science (Full Year)
- *Utah Studies (Semester – ½ Year)
- *P.E. (Semester – ½ Year)
- *College and Career Awareness (Full Year)
- *Fine Arts (Full Year- Music/ Art OR Band OR Orchestra)

7th Grade Required Courses

COLLEGE and CAREER AWARENESS (Full Year)

College and Career Awareness (CCA):

College and Career Awareness offers exploration and preparation in college and career pathways focusing on jobs that are high skill and high demand, as well as satisfying and financially rewarding. The College and Career Awareness course is designed to help students identify their interests, abilities, and skills. With appropriate developmental information related to careers, educational pathways, and self-knowledge, students are able to begin to make college and career goals for the future. College and Career Awareness is designed to acquaint students with the Utah labor market and the employment opportunities for which they can prepare by defining a College and Career Ready Plan.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

ENGLISH (Full Year)

English 7:

This course helps students gain a greater facility with the language. Students will learn how to improve their writing through lessons based upon the writing process. As part of the process, composition lessons will include the application of mechanics and grammar. Students will produce expository, narrative/descriptive, poetic, research, and workplace written work. Reading will focus on teaching students a variety of comprehension strategies and introducing them to a variety of functional, informal, and literary texts. They will also work on listening, viewing, and speaking skills.

English 7 – Honors:

This is an accelerated version of English 7. Reading materials will be more difficult and writing assignments will be more in depth. More reading and writing will be required in school and at home. This course is intended to prepare students to enter future Honors English courses. Students in this course should be self-motivated and committed to work.

FINE ARTS (Full year required- one full year class or two ½ year classes)

Art Foundations 1 (Semester – ½ Year):

This course is designed to provide an overview of the elements of art, while also studying art history, and art criticism. Students must take ½ year of art and ½ year of music if they do not elect to take band or orchestra.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Art 2D (Semester- ½ Year)

This course is designed to provide further experience in the use of the elements and principles of art and assisting students in creative artistic expression in 2-dimensional art forms.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Art 3D (Semester- ½ Year)

This course is designed to provide further experience in the use of the elements and principles of art and assisting students in creative artistic expression in 3-dimensional art forms.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Band (Full Year):

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Most 7th grade students are beginners, but those who have more advanced skills may be placed in more advanced groups by the instructor. Students will need to be able to arrange for their own instrument. More details can be obtained from the band Director, Mr. Earl. Please refer to enclosed information for prospective band students for more details.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Choir Level 1 (Semester – ½ Year OR Full Year):

This course is an accelerated version of General Music. Students who have had previous music experience and would like to focus on vocal/piano performance are encouraged to take this class. Students will be required to sing in class as well as in evening school choir concerts.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Music Exploration (Semester – ½ Year):

This course will introduce students to the world of music through a variety of experiences including listening, performing, creating, and analyzing music. Students will learn the basics of music theory and history while also developing appreciation for a variety of music styles. Students will learn rhythm, music reading, and music notation.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Orchestra (Full Year):

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a string instrument. This is an intermediate course in 7th grade. Students who desire to participate should have had at least one year of previous instruction. Most students will need to provide their own instruments. However, some cellos and basses may be available from the school.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Theatre 1 (Semester -1/2 Year)

In this class, students will develop basic techniques of acting and gain a deeper appreciation of theatre as an art form. Students will explore various periods of theatre history through observation and performance. Students will be required to work in groups. The majority of the grade for this class is based on in-class participation and attendance.

MATHEMATICS (Full Year)

7th Grade Mathematics:

The 7th Grade Mathematics instruction 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. Success in this course may require 30 minutes or more of homework each night.

7th Grade Mathematics - Honors:

The 7th Grade Mathematics Honor course will cover the four critical areas listed in the 7th Grade Mathematics Course plus ancient number systems, use of different bases, codes, and patterns in nature, art, and mathematics that would interest an advanced junior high school student. Concepts will be explored to a greater depth with increased use of contextual situations. This course will have increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of high ability students. Success in this course may require 30 minutes or more of homework each night.

Accelerated 7th/8th Grade Mathematics - Honors:

This course is extremely rigorous and requires students to be highly self-motivated and competent in the four critical areas of 7th Grade Mathematics. Honors concepts will be taught throughout each semester and students will be expected to complete projects demonstrating their understanding of the topics. Since this course covers two grade levels of mathematics in one year, tests will be administered once a week to determine competency of Math 7 and Math 8 standards. Success in this course may require 45 minutes or more of homework each night."

Acceptance into this class is based on student's CogAT score.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Semester – ½ Year)

Beginning Fitness – P.E. 7:

Students taking P.E. in 7th grade will participate in many fitness activities including, but not limited to, team sports, running, calisthenics, weights, and cardiovascular exercises. Students will also be learning about the topic of cardiovascular fitness. Students will be expected to participate daily and to demonstrate cooperation and good sportsmanship. Students will be encouraged to practice good personal hygiene and change into P.E. clothes each day.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

SCIENCE (Full Year)

Integrated Science 7:

The 7th grade standards focus on cause and effect which enable students to pinpoint mechanisms of nature and allow them to make predictions. Students will explore how forces can cause changes in motion and are responsible for the transfer of energy and cycling of matter. Earth's environment provides conditions for life as we know it. Evidence for the evolutionary histories of life on Earth is provided through the fossil record, similarities in the various structures among species, organism development, and genetic similarities across organisms. Mechanisms shaping Earth are understood as forces affecting the cycling of Earth's materials. Questions about cause and effect and the ongoing search for evidence in science drive the course.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Integrated Science 7- Honors:

The same information will be covered as in regular science; however, the pace will be faster and the information will be more in depth.

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Fee set by Davis School District school board.

SOCIAL STUDIES (Semester – ½ Year)

Foundations of Social Studies/Utah Studies:

An introductory course for social studies in Davis School District. Curricular content consists of key themes and concepts drawn from the social science of geography, history, economics, and government. Each of the concepts is explored through the use of Utah-specific examples, or Utah Studies. Literacy, historical thinking, and spatial skills are developed through the study of the concepts in the abstract and real-world Utah examples. The course focuses on the reading of both informational text and authentic, or primary source, material.

Foundations of Social Studies/Utah Studies – Honors:

This course is designed to emphasize historic events from Utah's early history to statehood and modern-day Utah. The emphasis of this course is on Utah's quest from statehood to present day events. Our course will pursue a thematic approach by observing how the experiences, attitudes, values and government roles have shaped Utah. Students will be required to complete an assigned report on a founder of Utah, analyze and report on several outside readings related to Utah Studies and finally, visit and report on a historical site here in Utah.

7th Grade Electives

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY

Creative Coding (Semester – ½ Year):

This is a beginner programming course. Students will start with an accelerated intro to the core computer science and programming concepts used in block coding. Students will then learn JavaScript and Python commands, functions, and control structures by solving puzzles and writing creative programs. The class will culminate in a student chosen final project in VR, webpages, or more advanced JavaScript and Python.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Word Processing (Semester – ½ Year):

This course will introduce students to the basic functions and processes of the Microsoft Office Suite. Students will be able to identify basic terminology, create, format, and edit basic documents using simple Word, Excel, and Powerpoint tools. Students will also work on improving their keyboarding skills and typing speed using drills and timed activities.

Fee set by Davis School District school board

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French 1, Spanish 1 (Full Year):

This course develops a Novice Mid proficiency level in speaking, listening, reading and writing. It includes an introduction to the culture, geography, and history of the countries that speak this language. Students will learn common phrases, vocabulary and basic grammar through oral and written activities. A willingness to communicate orally in the classroom is a necessary skill for learning a foreign language. Spanish /French 1 & 2 taken in the 7th and 8th grades will fulfill the Foreign Language requirement for many colleges and universities.

Foreign Language Survey (Semester – ½ Year):

This course is designed to introduce interested students to a variety of languages and cultures such as French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic. Students who are not ready to commit to a full year of French or Spanish would benefit from this semester class. Many strategies will be used to help students express basic courtesies and appropriate conversation, basic physical needs, and opinions in these target languages. Activities and projects will help students begin to understand differences and similarities in cultural celebrations and ways of life. Other cultures and languages may be shared at the teacher's discretion.

French 3 DLI Honors (Full Year):

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 viewing, listening, and reading selections. **For dual immersion students only.**

French Culture and Media (Semester – ½ Year):

The Culture & Media course builds skills in cultural-linguistic competencies necessary for successful communication with native speakers. Students utilize media and authentic texts to learn about the diverse cultural products, practices, and perspectives of countries. The topics and tasks, along with careful support for students to reach proficiency targets, lead intentionally to the French AP Language & Culture course content. Must take class twice between 7,8, and 9 grades. **For dual immersion students only.**

READING AND WRITING

Read 180 (Full Year):

Read 180 is a program designed for students who have struggled with reading. English and Read 180 courses will be offered in a 2-period block. This will help students build fluency, word attack skills, comprehension, and the ability to summarize effectively. Students will build these skills and strategies by working in three different rotations: independent reading, Read 180 computer software, and group work. Students will be placed in a reading class if recommended by 6th grade teacher and/or if test scores reflect student is reading below grade level. Parents will be notified by mail if their student is placed in a reading class.

Creative Writing (Semester – ½ Year):

Creative Writing is a class for students who ALREADY EXCEL IN WRITING and are ready to take their writing a step further. Creative Writing 1 examines characteristics that make writing good. Students will also study exemplary writing models. Creative Writing directs students to explore, expand upon, and improve their possibilities as creative writers using a wide range of activities in a variety of genres. Students will write to a collection of short prompts and also work on longer pieces that go through the entire writing process. Students will also practice peer editing and revision techniques to improve their written work. Students will be expected to write and produce every class period. They will also create a portfolio by collecting their writing pieces from the semester.

ELECTIVES**Current Issues (Semester- ½ Year):**

This course will allow students to develop awareness while examining current issues on local, national, and international levels. Students will learn skills such as analyzing sources, surveying, interviewing, developing presentations, speaking, reading articles, argumentative writing, service activities, and working in groups. They will study issues and current events in many areas including civics, history, politics, economics, environment, demographics, and education, as well as school and community issues such as bullying, stress, homework, and respecting diversity.

National Academic League (NAL) (Fall Semester only – ½ Year)

NAL is a course offered in the fall for students at South Davis Junior High. After completing this course, students will have a set of critical thinking skills that they can use in a variety of experiences throughout their curricular and extracurricular lives. Students will learn about the history of NAL and why it was established. Students will learn how to participate in NAL competitions. Students will work on teamwork skills. They will also learn how to distinguish their strengths and weaknesses in order to figure out how they can best help the team succeed. Students would learn some public speaking skills. This course is designed for those students who would like to participate in the school's NAL team during second and third quarters.

Hacking STEM (Semester- ½ Year)

Hacking STEM is an enrichment course that prepares students to develop and improve critical thinking skills, creativity, collaboration skills, communication skills, and character. This also includes breadboarding, excel, circuitry, Arduino, real world data, real world problem solving and other engineering practices, as well as advanced technology resources. In this elective course students will participate in inquiry-based science and engineering processes by using hands-on activities and research experiences. These will aid in the development of relevant skills, which will benefit students in the classroom and beyond. This course is recommended for students who have prior experience with STEM classes, engineering, coding, etc.

***All school fees are subject to School Board Approval.

It is the policy of Davis School District and South Davis Junior High School to ensure that educational activities, employment, programs, and services be offered without regard to race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, age, or handicapped condition. If your child is an individual with a disability needing special assistance, please contact SDJH 504 coordinator at (801) 402-6400, and/or the District ADA