

7TH GRADE COURSE CATALOG



2021-2022

OUR MISSION

To provide a quality education in a caring atmosphere for students to attain the necessary skills and knowledge to become lifelong learners and contribute to a diverse, interdependent and changing world.



The teaching and learning at Rochester Community Schools is designed to develop innovative, self directed learners who think critically, communicate effectively and persevere to positively impact the world.

We challenge our learners through dynamic cultural experiences, to be empowered global stewards, and inspire them to take what they learn and have a positive impact on their community, country, and world.

All seventh grade students are scheduled to take the following classes:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Health
- Introduction to World Languages and an elective

English Language Arts

Language Arts 7 - #01007

Language Arts 7 is based on the Common Core State Standards (CSS) for seventh grade language arts. Students read narrative and informational text and analyze their structure and their literary and expository elements. Using the writing process, students write a narrative piece and a research report. Students learn and apply comprehension skills, vocabulary skills, spelling, grammar and usage in the context of improving their reading and writing skills. This course is designed to continue the development of language arts, to reinforce and expand on paragraph writing, and to have students read short stories and novels for structure and literary analysis. Students apply speaking and listening skills in large and small groups as they participate in discussions and present information to the class.

Mathematics

Mathematics 7 - #04007

Mathematics 7 is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for seventh grade mathematics. Students solve multi-step equations and inequalities and apply the principles of algebra to problems involving rational numbers, exponents, roots, percent, decimals and fractions. Students represent data

using tables, graphs and equations. Students identify patterns in geometry and use geometric concepts and properties to solve problems. Students compute ratios and proportions and determine the probability of events and how that information can be conveyed using statistics. Students are introduced to equations involving polynomials.

Accelerated Math 7 - #04018 Prerequisite: Successful completion of Accelerated Math 6

Students solve multi-step equations and inequalities and apply the principles of algebra to problems involving rational numbers, exponents, roots, percent, decimals and fractions. Students solve linear equations and inequalities and linear equations in two variables. Students compute ratios and proportions and determine the probability of events and how that information can be conveyed using statistics. Students are introduced to equations involving polynomials and nonlinear functions. Students identify angle relationships and perform transformations. Students find the area of parallelograms and trapezoids, the volume and surface areas of prisms, cones, pyramids and cylinders. Students solve problems using the Pythagorean Theorem, distance and midpoint formulas and special right triangles. (Students may be considered for Accelerated Pre-Algebra 7 based on a placement test.)

Science

Science 7 - #06007

The RCS middle school science curriculum utilizes Mi-STAR and Modeling Instruction Pedagogy. This science curriculum is motivated by a vision for the future in which science is taught and learned as an integrated body of knowledge that can be applied to address societal issues. The dimensions of NGSS are sequenced across each year and between years to create a coherent progression that builds on students' prior knowledge and skills. Each bundle in the sequence is connected to a 21st-century theme that will serve as the basis for a Unit Challenge— a problem or issue that the students attempt to solve or address throughout the course of a unit. As students' progress through the curriculum, they repeatedly use the disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts of the middle school grade-band. The units build on one another in a coherent fashion, assuming prior knowledge from previous units. The curriculum includes problems involving genetics/inheritance, mutations, transfer of thermal energy, and the capture and use of energy.

Social Studies

World Geography: Ancient Civilizations - #07007

The 7th grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient world history and geography, from the origins of early man, through the Middle Ages. Students will explore significant changes in every world region through a chronological organization. Mankind's journey will be investigated as it transitions from a nomadic lifestyle, to developed agricultural settlements, to the rise and eventual collapse of classical empires.

Required Elective Courses

One class period of each 7th grader's schedule is divided into two semester courses that consist of Physical Education and Health.

Health 7 - #06027

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

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.

Electives

Seventh graders have one hour of each day for an elective class. A student may choose either one year-long class or two semester classes.

Semester Long Electives

Art 7 - #05507

Length: 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 - #05107

Length: 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.

Introduction to World Languages - #02208

Length: 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.

Life Skills 7 - #08007

Length: 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. This is followed with a unit on clothing care and repair. Students apply skills of consumerism, clothing care and repair. The course concludes with 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.

Software Applications - #00437

Length: 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 (Formerly Design and Technology 7) - #08407

Length: 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

Length: Full Year

Students review what was learned in sixth grade instrumental music. 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.

Orchestra 7 (String Instruments) - #05227

Length: Full year

Students review what was learned in sixth grade orchestral music. 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

Length: 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.

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

Length: Full Year

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 taking a Level 1 World Language course receive one credit towards the high school World Language graduation requirement.)