



**ROCHESTER**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

# 7TH GRADE COURSE CATALOG



**2024-2025**

---

# 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
- 1 full year or 2 semester electives

## **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, reinforce and expand on paragraph writing, and 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 seventh-grade Michigan Math Standards. Students deepen their understanding of rational number operations, equivalent expressions, solving equations, and solving inequalities with the use of negative and positive numbers. Students analyze and graph proportional relationships. Students use their knowledge of proportions and equations to solve percent problems. In

their study of geometry, students investigate angle relationships and find the surface area and volume of prisms and pyramids. While studying statistics, students compare data and make inferences about two populations.

### **Accelerated Math 7 - # 04018**

Accelerated Mathematics 7 is based on the seventh and eighth-grade Michigan Math Standards. Students solve multi-step equations and systems of equations. Students graph linear equations to model relationships between quantities. Students evaluate powers with integer exponents. Students discover and apply the Pythagorean theorem to solve problems. In their study of geometry, students investigate congruence and similarity. Students also find the volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres. In their study of statistics, students investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

**When determining placement into Accelerated Math 7, families should consider a student’s m-step score, iReady percentile score, mastery of 6th-grade content with portions of 7th-grade content, and mathematical dispositions.**

## **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, and basketball. Students learn and apply positive behaviors that enhance teamwork.

### Unified PE - #73009

Length: Semester

This Physical Education course combines 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students of all abilities to create an inclusive environment for students with and without disabilities. This class is intended to help students develop fitness and sports skills in a non-competitive setting. Students will participate in developmentally appropriate activities including lifetime skills and activities, physical fitness, and sports. Students will work together to increase competence and confidence in a variety of physical activities. Through ongoing leadership opportunities, members of this course will be empowered to help create a more inclusive and accepting school environment for all students.

## Electives

**Seventh graders have one hour 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 a 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-long course. Students prepare simple breakfast and snack items with an emphasis on nutrition. This is followed by 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.

## **Multimedia 7 (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, WeVideo, Scratch, Canva, 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 coding, CAD (computer-aided design), architecture and construction, transportation, biomechanics, cybersecurity, and electrical engineering. Through demonstrations, discussion, and hands-on activities, students will imagine, plan, create, test, and redesign solutions to a variety of STEM challenges. Students work individually and collaborate in groups to solve problems and exercise their critical thinking skills as they gain a deeper understanding of how STEM 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 genres, 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 genres, 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.)*