

THE PEMBROKE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE 7

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2022– 2023

**PEMBROKE
HILL SCHOOL**

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ALGEBRA I – YEAR 1

The seventh grade mathematics curriculum is Algebra I. Most students will take a two-year Algebra I sequence during the seventh and eighth grades. The Algebra I curriculum during the seventh grade year is focused on order of operations, algebraic properties, integers, graphing relations and functions, analyzing linear equations and solving linear inequalities. Emphasis will be placed on a step-by-step approach to problem solving and making connections of these skills to real world applications.

ALGEBRA I ACCELERATED

A select group of seventh grade students will be ready to take an accelerated Algebra I course. The intent of the course is to allow capable students the opportunity to complete the algebra curriculum in one year. Placement in this course will be determined by the student's performance in sixth grade mathematics (grades and work ethic), the recommendation of the sixth grade mathematics teacher, and the outcome on a placement test that all sixth grade students **will take at the end of the year**. The decision made by the mathematics department takes into consideration the best educational interests of the student.

This course is very fast-paced and has challenging expectations. Students should be able to handle the work without significant struggle and/or assistance. The main goal of the mathematics department is to be sure that each middle school student has a solid foundation in algebra. To be sure that the goal is met, we require students taking this course to maintain a B-average or better. If a student's mid-quarter or quarter grade is below B-, that student may not continue in accelerated algebra.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & CIVICS

Students will study the origins of the Constitution, the three branches of government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism. On the state and local levels, students will learn about the structure of Missouri and Kansas government as well as local city and county governmental organization. Students will learn about the responsibilities of citizenship through projects and activities.

ART

The seventh grader will build upon their knowledge of the elements and principles of design by experiencing more complex media processes in drawing, painting, ceramics, fiber, sculpture and printmaking. Students will learn to analyze their own and others artwork through written and verbal exercises.

DRAMATIC ARTS

Students will begin with acting foundations to use sense memories to create realistic acting techniques. Dramatic creative writing using the play building technique as well as advanced training of the voice are introduced. Students will perform scripted and original dramatic works in addition to learning the foundations of improvisational acting and scene building. Students will be exposed to many areas of theatrical design including lighting, make-up, directing and puppetry.

ENGLISH

Seventh Grade English further develops oral and written communication skills along with reading comprehension skills. The curriculum exposes students to a variety of literary genres, including the novel, historical fiction, fiction, the memoir, poetry and short stories. Composition skills complement the genres and focus on a wide variety of writing styles: expository, creative short stories, poetry, and memoir. In an effort to convey the inseparable boundary between social studies and art, many integrated units are utilized. The nuances of grammar are further studied, with an emphasis on application. Vocabulary is bolstered through vocabulary workshop exercises and assigned readings. Students also incorporate a variety of technologies across multiple platforms into many of the activities that they complete. Above all, the curriculum is set forth to develop a student's appreciation and interest in literature and writing.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The seventh grade physical education program objectives are to provide an environment conducive for the student to obtain an acceptable physical fitness level, to develop an appreciation of lifetime sports, and to enhance the skills and desire to continue with a healthy lifestyle as they progress through their middle school years. Students will also establish an understanding for the basic rules, strategies and skill set for each curriculum unit. The physical education staff will promote the concepts of good sportsmanship, leadership abilities, being a team player and character building skills throughout the seventh grade curriculum.

SCIENCE

Application of problem solving and inquiry skills is at the heart of 7th grade science. A focus of collecting, interpreting, evaluating and effectively communicating data will be implemented throughout the year. General topics to be studied are related to life and environmental science, while using scientific practices to address and explore a variety of real-world concepts. Students will discover that all fields of science are interrelated and affect the global community and environment.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

SEVENTH GRADE FRENCH

This course is the first half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of French I. Continuous development of oral skills and vocabulary, as well as an emphasis on both the spoken and written word, will accompany cultural studies of the Francophone world.

SEVENTH GRADE LATIN

This course is the first half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of Latin I. Students will develop their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and will continue to sharpen their reading and translating skills. English word study is a prominent feature of the course. Students will also study life in the Roman Empire, especially in Roman Pompeii. Mythological gods will be an additional focus for the year.

SEVENTH GRADE MANDARIN CHINESE

This course continues the development of the four major communicative skills begun in 6th grade: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will expand their vocabulary and be able to comprehend and participate in more extensive conversations, to read and write more complex sentences. The students will gain more understanding of Chinese culture.

SEVENTH GRADE SPANISH (Blue)

This course is the first half of a two –year program designed to complete one full level of Spanish I. Continuous development of oral skills and vocabulary as well as an emphasis on both spoken and written Spanish will accompany cultural studies of the Spanish speaking world.

SEVENTH GRADE SPANISH (Red)

This course is a continuation for the 6th grade Red course and will elaborate on skills developed in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and grammar. The course will use formal textbook and supplementary materials as well as novels, movies, and other culturally immersive materials. This class will primarily be conducted in the target language, by the end of the year students should feel confident and able to converse in Spanish in many varied real life situations. Students will begin the Level II textbook mid-year.

ENCORE COURSES

Encore Courses - all year, twice a week

CHORAL MUSIC

Choral Music is a year-long course and is open to any 7th and 8th grade student. Not only will the students be developing their singing and musical skills, but they will also be learning to make music together while developing many friendships along the way. Some invaluable life lessons such as cooperation, respect, teamwork, self-discipline, problem-solving, risk-taking, perseverance, sensitivity and self-expression will occur as they make music in the “room where it happens”. The first semester focus will be on building vocal foundational skills for performance of classical and seasonal choral music on the annual Holiday Concert. Second semester focus is on preparation for performing in the annual spring *Showcase*. *Showcase* is a full-scale musical production consisting of a variety of selections from Classical, Broadway, Jazz, and medleys featuring songs by popular musicians from today and yesterday. This musical production will include selections performed by the Treble, Bass, and Full Choruses while providing solo and small ensemble opportunities. The students will work with a professional choreographer and be accompanied by a professional pit orchestra for this traditional production.

CONCERT BAND

The middle school concert band is open to all instrumental music students in grades 6, 7, & 8. This year-long course provides a fun, creative, and educational environment for students to develop successful ensemble and music performance skills. The ensemble rehearses during the school day and studies/performs a variety of music that is stylistically and culturally diverse. Focus is rooted in developing music performance skills/concepts, self-expression, creativity, rehearsal etiquette, and ensemble/social skills. In addition to assemblies & school-related events, students are required to perform for two major concerts (winter and spring). Band members may also elect to support PHS by participating in the Raider Pep Band and Chamber Music Club.

GAME ON

In this class students will explore different sports and game opportunities for physical activity. Students will have the opportunity to be active in various sporting activities.

STUDIO ART

This course will involve all things Art!! Students will have the opportunity to take their knowledge learned in art class and continue to explore those techniques further. The options are endless... painting, printmaking, hand-building with clay, mixed-media collage and fibers. Students can create their own curriculum or have guidance by the instructor!