

7TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

YEAR-LONG PERFORMANCE MUSIC CLASSES:

BAND : This year-long class is designed to continue to develop skill in instrument playing, as well as increase musical understanding through performance. The main emphasis at this level is on continued skill development and ensemble advancement. Students enrolling in 7th grade band should have two years of playing experience through school classes or private lessons.

CHOIR: If you like to sing, Choir is the perfect place to develop your skills while enjoying the sound of voices in harmony together. This year-long class covers a variety of musical styles and increases understanding through musical performance. Students progress in vocal technique, the ability to sing independent harmonies, and proficiency at music reading.

ORCHESTRA: This year-long class is designed to continue to develop skills in instrumental playing as well as increase musical understanding through performance. The emphasis is on continued skill development and ensemble advancement. Students enrolling in 7th grade Orchestra should have two years of playing experience through school classes or private lessons.

TWELVE-WEEK ROTATION CLASSES:

ART 7: Students survey the basic artistic elements of drawing, painting, and color theory. Students learn to communicate at a basic level in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. Through hands-on work and study they design and produce basic analyses of works of art. Students are introduced to exemplary works of art from a variety of cultures and historical periods.

ART II.7: Art II is designed for students who enjoy art and want to enhance their skill with a community of similarly interested artists. Students learn to use various painting and drawing media and acquire the skills necessary to create works of their own. Students complete projects, which emphasize the specific design elements of line, shape, space, color, and value. Students also produce several projects in clay and sculpture through which they learn about form, function, and construction techniques.

CERAMICS 7 Ceramics class provides students with an experience in clay, both hand-built and wheel thrown. Students will explore throwing functional ware on the Potter's wheel coil method, slab construction and sculpting. In addition, students will learn proper studio use and maintenance. Students will study beginning glazing and firing techniques.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students learn general computer science topics, analyze the physical components of computers, and develop and apply computer coding skills. Students will become familiar with coding concepts such as variables, loops and functions, etc and will apply those concepts in numerous ways.

DRAMA: There is more to a production than acting! In this class, students will prepare a show from start to finish focusing on all aspects of production including directing, set and costume design, acting and lighting.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE 7: Healthy eating and nutrition are taught with a hands-on emphasis. Students learn basic cooking skills and how to make healthy food choices by preparing and eating healthy recipes. Managing money, making financial decisions, and career exploration are also taught. Class utilizes sewing machines to construct a project.

GLOBAL AWARENESS: This 12-week class is designed for students to become globally aware and gain understanding for diverse cultures of the world. Students will uncover the world and it's increasingly interconnectedness through technology, international trade, travel and career opportunities. Students will choose current events and examine them through various perspectives, examine the sources of information themselves and compare stories pulled from newspapers, online articles, magazines, blogs, and television.

TECH ED 7: (Engineering Design, Construction, and Web Page Design) Students continue design theory and CAD skills. Students are introduced to architectural design, basic construction topics, and use their knowledge to build a simple project using a set of pre-drawn plans. Students will be using power tools to build this project in a shop setting and safety topics are extensively covered and modeled for the students. Students will be using a research topic to explore systems (mechanical, electrical, etc.) and using the concept of energy transfer to explain how energy is utilized and transformed in a device. Simple HTML coding exercises will equip students with the skills they need to create simple multiple page websites.

VIDEO PRODUCTION & PHOTOGRAPHY : This course is an introduction to film making, and an introduction to graphic design using technology as a tool to learn and explore concepts related to both topics. Students will learn Photoshop skills and learn how to manipulate photos while looking at Photoshop as a tool for graphic design to create at least one short, 3 to 5 minute movie.

WORLD MUSIC 7: An active music class exploring the cultures of the world through music. Students play drums, percussion instruments, sing, dance, listen, read, and compose music through the study of Africa, Australia, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and Native North America. At the end of our instructional time together we have a performance and cultural potluck.

WORLD LANGUAGE: **French, German and Spanish** are offered in grades 6, 7, and 8. Students have the opportunity to study 1, 2, or all 3 of the languages in 6th and 7th grade. Students will develop communication skills, vocabulary, cultural knowledge and global awareness through songs, videos, games, readings, and hands-on activities.

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