

GRADE 7

CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ADVISORY

All students meet for this brief course once a week. In this program students will learn and build positive character traits including: leadership, respect, responsibility, perseverance, team work, and fair play. They will develop deep relationships with a small group of peers and an adult advisor which will form a support structure for them as they undertake their studies. Additionally, students will develop skills to help them interact in a positive and polite manner with others, discuss issues important to the development of pre-teens and teenagers, as well as learn how to become productive global citizens who impact the world in a positive manner.

INTERVENTION

Intervention is 25 minutes of time set aside each Tuesday and Thursday morning during advisory. This is dedicated time for students to get help from teachers if they do not understand an assignment, to make up work from an absence, or to retake a test if they have a completed Success Ticket. It is also during this time that students are able to take part in silent sustained reading which promotes completion of literacy goals.

LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Throughout the year, we will be reading various forms of literature and Informational texts, including novels, short stories, poems, dramas, biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. Much of the work will be done in class, although occasionally, students will be expected to complete work at home, and sometimes on the computer. Additionally, continuous independent reading will be expected. Students will be expected take quizzes and create projects upon completion of their independent novels. Students will also learn about and produce a variety of writing pieces including, narrative, informational, and argumentative essays, focused paragraphs, and poems. Assignments and projects will be focused on the following areas of study: Inquiry and research, academic vocabulary and literary terms, technology, and reading and writing strategies. Learning to work collaboratively is essential, so small group and partner work will be a routine occurrence.

UPWARD BOUND LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Co-taught LA 7 follows the same curriculum as all other 7th grade ELA classes. Even though Instruction is delivered at a slower pace and less material is covered, students are still expected to show growth and meet all of the listed learning objectives. This class is co-taught which means that there are two teachers to provide instruction and assistance to the students. Assignments, assessments, and projects are adjusted accordingly to meet the needs of each individual student. Throughout the year, we will be reading various forms of literature and Informational texts, including novels, short stories, poems, dramas, biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. Much of the work will be done in class, although occasionally, students will be expected to complete work at home, and sometimes on the computer. Additionally, independent reading will be expected continuously throughout the year. Students will be expected to take quizzes and create projects upon completion of their independent novels. Students will also learn about and produce a variety of writing pieces including, narrative, informational, and argumentative essays, focused paragraphs, and poems. Assignments and projects will be focused on the following areas of study: Inquiry and research, academic vocabulary and literary terms, technology, and reading and writing strategies. Learning to work collaboratively is essential, so small group and partner work will be a routine occurrence. Lexia Power up program is used 140 minutes per week to enhance word study, grammar, and reading comprehension skills. The pace of the class will be adjusted to ensure student understanding. This class includes a co-teacher and placement is determined by Individualized Educational Plan and teacher recommendations.

RESOURCE ROOM LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Resource Room Language Arts 7 follows the same curriculum as all other 7th grade ELA classes. Instruction is delivered at a slower pace and less material is covered. All students are expected to show growth and meet all of the listed learning objectives. This class is taught by a Special Education Teacher and supported by a paraprofessional. This means that there are two adults to provide instruction and assistance to the students. Assignments, assessments and projects are adjusted accordingly to meet the needs of each individual student. Throughout the year, we will be reading various forms of literature and informational texts including novels, short stories, poems, dramas, biographies, autobiographies and memoirs. Most of the work will be done in class. If a student is absent, all work is posted on Schoology and the student is expected to complete the work from home. Additionally, independent reading will be expected throughout the year. Students will be expected to take quizzes upon completion of their independent reading. Students will also learn about and produce a variety of writing pieces including, narrative, informational and argumentative essays, focused paragraphs and poems. Assignments and projects will focus on the following areas of study: Inquiry and research, academic vocabulary and literary terms, technology, reading and writing strategies. Learning to work collaboratively is essential. Small group and partner work will be a routine occurrence. Lexia Power Up is a program used 3 days a week (typically Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) to enhance word study, grammar and reading comprehension skills. This class includes a co-teacher and placement is determined by Individualized Educational Plan and teacher recommendations.

READING INTERVENTION 7

READING INTERVENTION 7 is an intensive reading, writing, and vocabulary intervention program that directly addresses individual needs through differentiated instruction, adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading, writing, and vocabulary skills.

ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Advanced LA 7 focuses on all of the above objectives, but there is an emphasis on using higher level thinking skills to evaluate the literary techniques of the author and interpret the themes of a literature and text listed above. Students learn literary terms and academic vocabulary associated with selections being read and apply these in both verbal and written analysis. Students are expected to master the following areas of writing: focus and coherence, voice, conventions, depth of thought, and conventions. Students also learn to view art and other visual representations to determine an image's connection with the themes of the text. Students develop speaking skills to express ideas clearly and effectively. Students refine their listening skills to better participate in lecture, classroom discussion, and cooperative group activities.

MATH 7

This course will teach students the 7th grade Common Core Math Standards. Topics covered include angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, surface area, volume, integers, solving equations, solving inequalities, rates, proportions, percents, statistics, and probability.

UPWARD BOUND MATH 7

This course will follow the same curriculum as the Math 7 course. Students in this class are significantly below grade level. This class will be a co-taught class. A small ratio of students to two teachers will be used along with teaching techniques and accommodations to try to bring students skills closer to grade level. Students will be selected for this class based on assessment scores and teacher recommendation. Parents will be notified of this placement. A contract must be signed to be part of this class. The pace of the class will be adjusted to ensure student understanding. This class includes a co-teacher and placement is determined by Individualized Educational Plan and teacher recommendations.

ADAPTED MATH 7

This course will follow the same curriculum as the Math 7 course. Teaching techniques will be used to help accommodate for skills that are lacking and students learning needs. The pace will be adjusted to ensure understanding. Students will be selected for this class based on assessment scores and teacher recommendation. Parents will be notified of this placement. A contract must be signed to be a part of this class.

RESOURCE ROOM MATH 7

This course will follow the same curriculum as the Math 7 course. Students in this class are significantly below grade level. This class has a small ratio of students to a teacher and will be using teaching techniques and accommodations to try to bring students skills closer to grade level. Students will be selected for this class based on having an Individualized Education Plan that the team has determined as the appropriate placement based on the students current academic level.

ADVANCED MATH 7

This course will teach students the 7th grade Common Core Math Standards. It is designed for advanced math students. Additional Pre-Algebra topics will be covered to prepare students to take Algebra 1 as an 8th grader. Students will be selected for this course based on assessment scores. Parents will be notified of selection. A contract must be signed to be in this course.

SCIENCE 7

The study of science processes is continued in 7th grade. Students use the Inquiry Process to further their skills in observation and scientific reasoning by formulating questions, undertaking investigations and developing solutions to problems. Students will continue to develop their skills in making and interpreting data tables, graphs and charts. Technology is used to extend research opportunities and further aid in developing critical thinking skills to include areas of scientific inquiry that affect society. Physical science covers energy, its transmission by waves and transfer by means of conduction, convection and radiation. Chemistry is introduced. The periodic table, elements and compounds and their physical and chemical properties are explored. Within Life Science, the students will study heredity and the organization of living things at a cellular level. In Earth Science, students will study weather and climate patterns.

ADAPTED SCIENCE 7

This course covers the same science standards set by the State as the Science 7 course. Teaching techniques will be used to help accommodate for skills that are lacking and individual student learning needs. The pace will be adjusted to ensure all students have understanding of the concepts taught. Students will be selected for these classes based on assessment scores and teacher recommendations.

UPWARD BOUND SCIENCE 7

This course covers the same science standards set by the State as the Science 7 course. Teaching techniques will be used to help accommodate for skills that are lacking and individual student learning needs. The pace will be adjusted to ensure all students have understanding of the concepts taught. Students will be selected for these classes based on assessment scores and teacher recommendations. The pace of the class will be adjusted to ensure student understanding. This class includes a co-teacher and placement is determined by Individualized Educational Plan and teacher recommendations.

WORLD HISTORY 7

This course incorporates the themes of geography (physical and human), history, economics, and civics. Each of these themes will be applied to the study of the ancient civilizations and major world religions found in the Eastern Hemisphere.

ADAPTED WORLD HISTORY 7

This course incorporates the themes of geography (physical and human), history, economics, and civics. Each of these themes will be applied to the study of the ancient civilizations and major world religions found in the Eastern Hemisphere. Teaching techniques, such as co-teaching, will be used to help accommodate for skills that are lacking and student's learning needs. The pace of the class will be adjusted to ensure student understanding.

UPWARD BOUND WORLD HISTORY 7

The course incorporates the themes of geography (physical and human) history, economics and civics. Each of these themes will be applied to the study of the ancient civilizations and major world religions found in the eastern Hemisphere. Teaching techniques will be used to help accommodate for skills that are lacking and student's learning needs. The pace of the class will be adjusted to ensure student understanding. The pace of the class will be adjusted to ensure student understanding. This class includes a co-teacher and placement is determined by Individualized Educational Plan and teacher recommendations.

GRADE 7 EXPLORATORY CLASSES

BEGINNING WOODWINDS and PERCUSSION

This course provides all interested students with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of playing a woodwind instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe and saxophone) or Percussion (snare, bells). Members are expected to show dedication to the group and to practice regularly. Each student should have an instrument in good playing condition, preferably using the rental program provided by the school. Private lessons are highly recommended. Members are required to attend all performances. ***Due to the progression of instruction, Students who successfully complete the course will be promoted to Concert Band.***

CONCERT WOODWIND AND BRASS BANDS

This band provides students with the opportunity to study and perform a wide variety of music. The focus will be on the continued development on a student's chosen instrument. Members are expected to show dedication to the group and to practice regularly. Private lessons are highly recommended. Members are required to attend all performances, festivals and extra rehearsals that may be necessary. Students are expected to have had at least one full year of band instruction and recommended by the director to join this class. ***Due to the progression of instruction, Students who successfully complete the course will be promoted to Symphonic Band.***

CHOIR 7

Seventh Grade Choir is for the person who likes to sing and would like to continue improving their vocal and musical skills. This choir will perform a variety of musical styles in 2 or 3 part music. They will also learn how to sight-read music at an intermediate level. During the course of each term, the choir will take a field trip to perform a concert. These performances are required to receive credit for the class. Seventh graders are also eligible to participate in private voice lessons and perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival. Singers in choir also have the option of attending our field trips to see a Broadway Musical and go on an 'end-of-the-year' trip to Cedar Point.

ESCHOIR (7th and 8th grade bass clef singers)

ESCHOIR stands for ~~Eighth—Seventh--~~**CHOIR**. It is the chorus comprised of 7th and 8th grade singers whose vocal range is in the bass clef or will transition to bass clef. One of the first things we will learn is how to tie a proper knot for our black tie uniform. This choir will perform a variety of musical styles in unison to 4-part music. They will also learn how to sight-read 3 part music at an intermediate level. During the course of each term the choir will take a field trip to perform a concert. These performances are required to receive credit for the class. ESCHOIR singers are eligible to participate in private voice lessons and perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival. They are also able to audition for one of many choir scholarships to summer music camps like Interlochen and Blue Lake. Singers in choir also have the option of attending our field trips to see a Broadway Musical and go on an 'end-of-the-year' trip to Cedar Point.

NOTE – Singers in ANY choir may also audition for the Northwest Middle School Honors Choir—an extra-curricular choir for highly motivated and talented students. This choir meets one day a week after school. 6-10 Singers from Honors Choir will be selected to audition for State Honors Choir.

SPEECH 7

Students are introduced to a variety of forms of both verbal and nonverbal communication. The concept of what it means to be a competent communicator is introduced and students learn how to effectively communicate with any and every one they may meet. Students learn outlining and organizing, voice control, and the basic elements of oral communication. They will perform various speeches in class including: informative, persuasive, impromptu and debate. All students will learn what it takes to become a more respectful and competent communicator.

ART 7

Come to Art and learn how to create watercolor landscapes. In this class there is the possibility to experience making masks using plaster and decorating them using different styles and techniques from around the world.

Advanced Art 7

This is an advanced class for highly motivated students. Students will explore more sophisticated drawing and painting techniques. Using a variety of media and methods. Students will engage in long term assignments that will further strengthen their advanced skills and techniques.

SPANISH A

This one-trimester class emphasizes the beginning development of fluency in the language especially in the understanding, speaking, reading, and writing using the Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. Cultural topics are presented and reviewed. Criteria for success includes: positive attitude, active participation in classroom activities, and a sincere effort made to use the target language in the classroom.

SPANISH B

This one-trimester class continues the development of fluency in the language especially in the understanding, speaking, reading, and writing using the Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. Cultural topics are presented and reviewed. Criteria for success includes: positive attitude, active participation in classroom activities, and a sincere effort made to use the target language in the classroom.

HEALTHY LIVING 7

The objective of this course is to provide students an opportunity to examine their basic knowledge of healthy living. A major goal is for each student to take personal responsibility for their health and well being while attempting to make positive lifestyle changes. Learning activities are related to nutrition and food preparation as well as conflict resolution and communication techniques, identification and management of feelings, choices and influences, peer pressure and substance abuse, body image, HIV/AIDS/STI prevention and fitness. This is a state required course.

FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE 7

This class is based on two units that can increase and improve necessary skills for living: Foods/Nutrition and Consumer Economics. Students will learn the basics of cooking and nutrition as well as learning the basics of Economics. Each student will have a job, budget, balance and write checks and do a simulation of living on your own.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING 7

This course will introduce Middle School students to the Career Pathway of Manufacturing and Engineering and Skilled Trades. The purpose of this course is to ignite interest in manufacturing and engineering careers in middle school students by allowing students to design, innovate, build and potentially market a product from beginning to end. The students will learn to use a Laser Engraver, CNC mill, 3D Printer, Welder and other machinery to create and design their products. Northwest Community Schools will partner with Jackson Area Manufacturing Association, Shop Rats, and local Manufacturing businesses, Jackson Area Career Center, Baker College and Jackson College.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

Physical education class will be a combination of fitness and sports. During each trimester you will learn skills and rules for a variety of sports. Along with sports you will also be involved in a variety of physical activities to help you become more physically fit.

DIRECTED STUDY

Directed Study focuses on study skills/test taking skills and learning strategies, math remediation, and homework support. Technology used in this class includes Study Island and Math Facts in a Flash. Grades are based on daily student performance and completion of assignments. *This is not an elective class; students are placed in this course.*

CINEMATIC STORIES 7

In Cinematic Stories students will learn the history of film. Students will learn the following: Filmmakers' Terminology, The Talkies, The Golden Age of Hollywood and much more. Students will learn material in slides presentation format and have access to these slides during formative and summative assessments. When the work piece is finished, students enjoy relaxing and viewing some PG movies from a variety of genres.

YEARBOOK

The yearbook course has been designed to provide students with the journalism skills and the ability to apply those skills to the actual production of the yearbook. Units of study include teamwork, responsibility, brainstorming, content, coverage, concept, reporting, writing, headlines, captions, editing, photography, typography, design, graphics, finances, yearbook campaigns, advertising and distribution.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 7

The course teaches a wide range of computer science and STEM concepts by covering topics such as programming, 3D printing, design, and engineering. Students engage with computer science and STEM as a medium for creativity, communication, problem-solving, and entertainment. They choose who they work with and whether they work alone or collaboratively. This choice and interest-centered environment help all students find Challenges to inspire learning and engagement.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Weightlifting is a non-impact conditioning course designed to enhance muscular fitness (muscular endurance and muscular strength), balance, and improve body composition by sculpting and defining muscles through the use of resistance equipment, core training, calisthenics, and flexibility exercises.

Minecraft 7

Minecraft Coding is a trimester long course where students will learn the basics of coding using the MakeCode for Minecraft editor. MakeCode allows coding with visual blocks, based on a drag and drop interface for beginners, as well as in text with a JavaScript interface for the more experienced learners. Coding with blocks or text, MakeCode teaches the 101 of programming languages, including variables, control flow, if statements, loops and functions. More advanced users smoothly ramp up to more complex concepts such as recursion, fractals and object oriented or distributed programming. Along with coding concepts students will also be exposed to the engineering design process. During this unit students will use an industry/manufacturing standard Computer Aided Design (CAD) software called SolidWorks. To teach this software students will design a keychain that they then will 3D print when it is completed. This course is perfect for any student that enjoys playing Minecraft but also would like to learn basic programming language and principles along with problem solving, and teamwork skills while at the same time having fun doing it since the course is such a hands-on experience.

