

# 7TH GRADE COURSE CATALOG



**2025-2026**

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# 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

Through the introduction of the design process, students will conceive or fashion in their mind a concept, leading to the construction of a tangible, successful, art show ready product. Students will continue to be exposed to basic art foundations through experimentation in drawing, digital design, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. Students begin to recognize the value of seeing the connection of art to designing, crafting, engineering, solving complex problems, deep learning concepts, and everyday life. Come build skills that contribute to the two trillion dollar a year industry of the creative sector.

A variety of materials and techniques will be used as students create more advanced works of art.

### **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.

## **Peer-to-Peer (Anchors) - #09610**

Length: Semester

PREREQUISITE: Must complete an application and receive approval from a counselor/classroom teacher. This class will be graded as Credit (G) or No Credit (H).

Classroom peer mentor students will participate in a hands-on classroom experience to help increase inclusion opportunities in the general education setting for students with special needs. Peer mentors will model positive communication, socialization, participation, and behavior strategies that help to engage students in a variety of school settings which may include, the general education core academic courses, elective area courses, lunch experiences, and after school social activities. Peer (Anchors) will receive ongoing training and support to ensure a successful experience for themselves and for the students in which they will be supporting. Peer (Anchors) will be required to complete assignments assigned by the teacher that may include, but are not limited to: reflective journal and article writing, reflective personal journal entries, meeting with the teacher to learn about various disabilities and research based strategies, creating projects that promote social interaction with students, and a project. This class may be taken more than one semester with approval.

## **Supervised Study - #09597**

Length: Semester

Supervised Study is a course in place of an elective that supports students with academic and executive functioning deficits. Students are placed in the course based on the previous semester's data. An individual plan is created to increase math, ELA, and/or executive functioning skills through small group/whole group instruction and support.

## 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

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

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.)*



## English Language Development

### Language Arts 1 - #41015EL

This English Language Arts class is designed for multilingual students at the overall WIDA proficiency level 1.0-2.0. This course interweaves the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards with the Common Core State Standards and offers sheltered instruction, allowing students to focus on ELA concepts and language acquisition content. Students receive direct instruction pertaining to all four domains of language development: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students participate in group discussions with support, write simple sentences and paragraphs, develop high-frequency and academic vocabulary, and read narrative and expository texts. This course takes the place of the general education ELA course, and students will be in this course for an entire academic year.

### Language Arts 2 - #41016EL

This English Language Arts class is designed for multilingual students at the overall WIDA proficiency level 2.0-3.0. This course interweaves the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards with the Common Core State Standards and offers sheltered instruction, allowing students to focus on ELA concepts and language acquisition content. Students receive direct instruction pertaining to all four domains of language development: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students participate in group discussions with support, write compound and complex sentences and longer paragraphs, develop academic vocabulary, and read narrative and expository texts. This course takes the place of the general education ELA course, and students will be in this course for an entire academic year.

### Language Arts 3 - #41017EL

This English Language Arts class is designed for multilingual students at the overall WIDA proficiency level 3.0-4.0. This course interweaves the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards with the Common Core State Standards and offers sheltered instruction, allowing students to focus on ELA concepts and language acquisition content. Students receive direct instruction pertaining to all four domains of language development: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students participate in group discussions and argumentation, write compound and complex forms of sentences and multi-paragraph essays, develop academic vocabulary with context clues, and read narrative, expository, and argumentative texts. This course takes the place of the general education ELA course, and students will be in this course for an entire academic year.

### Academic Support - #41011EL

This course emphasizes academic support for multilingual students who are taking content courses. Students receive support in academic vocabulary relevant to their content area, along with content-specific reading and writing instruction. Students also develop focused literacy skills through mini-lessons designed to enhance their comprehension and communication abilities. Additionally, students are provided with extra time to complete classroom assignments and assessments, ensuring they can engage fully with the material. Finally, this class integrates cultural studies into the class through readings, videos, and classroom discussions. This course replaces an elective. This course may be repeated with instructor approval.

## Special Education

### **Math 1, Math 2, Math 3 - #21001R, #21002R, #21003R**

This course provides systematic explicit instruction based on conceptual development, procedural skills, and fluency practice based on content standards. Hands-on learning, differentiation, and extension opportunities are provided to engage learners. This course uses strategies and direct teaching of mathematical skills to provide the foundation for math reasoning, algebraic thinking, and problem-solving, which accelerates math learning.

### **Language Arts 1, Language Arts 2, Language Arts 3 - #21004R, #21005R, #21006R**

This course is designed to provide an integrated approach to literacy instruction so students can access grade-level content. With a blended approach, instruction reinforces the literacy foundation students need while strategically using authentic text to engage readers. This intensive instruction integrates the key foundational literacy skills necessary for reading and making meaning. Acquisition of rich comprehension, language, and vocabulary skills occurs by exposing students to complex text and collaborative discussions. The development of skills necessary to effectively express ideas orally and in writing are explicitly taught. This course is offered for each grade level of middle school with increasing focus on literacy and writing skills.

### **Basic Language Arts - #21007B**

This course provides explicit instruction for students who are working on English Language Arts skills that align with state alternate standards (Essential Elements). Guided reading, self-selected reading, writing, and working with words are integrated into reading instruction, using a balanced literacy framework. Emphasis will be placed on building individual basic skills, as well as the practical application of reading and writing as it relates to daily living, community participation, and personal enjoyment.

### **Basic Math - #21008B**

This course provides explicit instruction for students who are working on mathematic skills that align with state alternate standards (Essential Elements). Using a multisensory, systematic progression of instruction, with a problem-solving focus, instruction allows students to be successful math learners. Emphasis is on building individual skills, as well as the practical application of mathematics as it relates to daily living and community participation.

### **Basic Life Skills - #21011B**

Basic Life Skills incorporates a range of skills that rotate on a daily basis with the focus on building pre-employment skills (cooking, campus/classroom jobs, assembling items, and health lessons).

## **Basic Science Social Studies - #21009B**

The Basic Science and Social Studies course is a modified, standards-based, curriculum aligned to alternate state standards (Essential Elements). The unit lesson plans define three levels of differentiated tasks to accommodate diverse learners. Instruction is both systematic and with a progressive learning process. The thematic units for both science and social studies are themed and include comprehensive activities for all five core competencies: reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

## **Study Skills 7 - #21047R**

Middle School Study Skills classes provide the foundations of executive functioning skills. Through a series of mini-lessons and work with current assignments, students acquire strategies to improve planning, time management, organization, flexibility, task initiation, self-monitoring and self-advocacy. The skills taught in this class prepare students to become life and career-ready. Students are given the opportunity to apply study strategies and other skills taught in class to their current assignments and assessments. Grades are based on pass or fail.