

HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL

7th GRADE - COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH 7.....full year

Students will study various forms of literature, develop writing skills, and continue their study of language conventions. Activities that drive these studies will challenge students to work individually and cooperatively. The course is an integrated program consisting of library, grammar, composition, literature, and speech. The students develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, studying and researching.

GLOBAL STUDIES WESTERN HEMISPHERE 7.....full year

“The Western Hemisphere” is a course that examines Antarctica, Mexico, Central America, South America, West Indies, United States and Canada. This course also places emphasis on political and economic systems, as well as religious and cultural differences and similarities. It is an explanation of historical events and how those events apply to world conditions today.

LIFE SCIENCE 7.....full year

This is a year-long introduction to biology. The course covers the scientific method and correct laboratory methods. Emphasis will be placed upon cell structure and function, protists, plant structure and reproduction. An overview of simple organisms and their relationship to human structures will also be included.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7.....1 semester (extended over the school year, rotates with Health)

Physical education is a required course. All units are co-educational. Physical fitness testing occurs each semester. In the seventh grade, soccer, traverse wall climbing, softball, jogging, physical fitness, frisbee golf, mat ball, floor hockey, snowshoeing, badminton, circuit training, basketball, volleyball, winter sports-sledding/ice skating/broomball and aerobics/weight training, are for all students.

HEALTH 7.....1 semester (extended over the school year, rotates with Physical Education)

This course is designed to give students factual information concerning both emotional and physical health with the goal of helping students to develop and make healthy choices in their lives. Topics covered during health include chemical dependence, planning your future, stress and mental health, nutrition, human sexuality and death education.

COMMUNICATIONS 7.....1 semester

Communications 7 is designed to build self-confidence as students collaborate, communicate, create, and critically think. Eye contact, strong voice, confident poise & proper language are the foundational skills emphasized for speaking and listening (SL 1-6 and L 6). In addition, this course will serve as a support to the overall social, and emotional well-being of students and will incorporate digital literacy and cyberspace standards.

COMMUNICATIONS LAB 7.....1 semester

This course promotes skills and attitudes that increase students' social and school success and prevents violence, bullying, and substance abuse. It provides a foundation for creating a safe, respectful learning environment. Students will learn and apply the skills, attitudes, and behaviors taught in the course by participating in service learning projects in the community and/or school.

MATH 7.....full year

The choice for most 7th grade students, Math 7 is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Students extend their understanding of fractions and decimals to solve problems involving all rational numbers, including those with negative signs. Proportions, percent, multi-step equations, surface area and volume are also studied.

*** OR ***

MATH 7 ACCELERATED.....full year

Students in this course learn at an accelerated pace in order to study a combination of 7th grade and 8th grade standards in preparation for Algebra I as an 8th grade student. In addition to the 7th grade topics, students study linear functions, exponent rules, similarity, radicals, and the Pythagorean Theorem.

FULL YEAR - ELECTIVE CHOICES

MATH AND/OR READING STRATEGIES1 or 2 semesters

In addition to core math and ELA classes, students may have the opportunity to take either Reading or Math Strategies. Each are full year intervention courses that are designed to meet the needs of students whose math and/or reading achievement is well below the proficient level. It is the goal of each course to provide strategic, targeted instruction to help students in reaching proficiency in math and/or reading.

AVID 7.....full year (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

AVID is an elective course which provides students with an intensive preparation for higher education. AVID focuses on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading (WICOR). Students also learn strategies in organization, note taking, and goal setting to enhance skills in preparation for college. Students participate in group tutorials, college visits, team building, service learning and research. AVID is for students who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum with support and utilize AVID to fulfill their own potential.

Enrollment in AVID requires an application, interview, and contract. If interested in AVID, please contact your counselor.

BAND 7.....full year *percussion fee School instrument (when available) rental fees

Band meets daily. Emphasis is placed on ensemble playing, music performance and music fundamentals. The band performs throughout the year at concerts and festivals. All instrumental musicians are invited to participate.

CHOIR 7.....full year

Students learn the basic concepts of proper singing techniques and practice them daily. They are given the opportunity to prepare audition tapes for middle school All-State Choir. Students are also introduced to many styles of music and singing styles, including musical theater. They are also exposed to various eras of music history and various composers from each era. Music reading, vocalizing, and harmonizing are stressed. This group performs mostly at concerts.

ORCHESTRA 7.....full year

Orchestra is for sixth, seventh, and eighth, grade students. String music, music reading, orchestral playing, and technique are stressed. The orchestra performs at concerts and other functions.

SEMESTER - ELECTIVE CHOICES

ART 7.....1 semester

**Lab Fee*

This course instills an appreciation for Visual Art through a variety of media and techniques. Students will learn the Elements and Principles of Art while exploring drawing, painting, color theory, ceramics, printmaking and multi-cultural projects. In addition, students learn fascinating facts about Art history and other cultures.

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 7.....1 semester

If you enjoy doing hands-on projects in class, this is the class for you! Exploring Agriculture is an introduction to the agriculture industry. We will cover a wide range of agricultural topics, including plant and animal science, production, and processing; agricultural mechanics, including tool and machine operation and repair; business operations and management; and the careers available in the agricultural industry. Weekly lab activities will include building projects, creating simulations, caring for plants, and observing live animals. FFA and Leadership is an integral component of this course.

EXPLORING WORLD CULTURES 7.....1 semester

This course explores cultures around the world through project-based learning and authentic learning experiences.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY 7.....1 semester

**lab fee – depending on project selections*

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of Technology & Engineering concepts. The class is taught using Synergistic Modular Labs. The labs consist of the following: Computer Graphics and Animation, Electricity, Engineering Bridges, Flight Technology, CNC Manufacturing, Robotic Applications, CADD, Rocketry and Space, Tools & Machines – (small woodworking projects), Future Fuels, and CNC Lathe. The students will also complete the following activities related to solving technical problems and STEM concepts: Introduction to 3D design and 3D printing, Prosthetic hand project, aviation project, Tetrix robotics, catapult challenge, and a GPS geocaching unit.

FACS 7 (FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 7).....1 semester

2023-24

This course allows students to explore many topics of Family & Consumer Sciences, such as food preparation skills, childcare basics and babysitting, as well as creating a hand made project utilizing either hand sewing or machine sewing skills. This “hands-on” class focuses on activities that reinforce measuring skills, build gross motor skills, and strengthen teamwork among peers.

**Lab Fee*

FRENCH EXPLORATORY 7.....1 semester

French Exploratory is designed to introduce students to the French Language. The emphasis of this class is on building vocabulary. There is also some discussion on French culture. Students can also expect to learn some basic conversational exchanges.

GERMAN EXPLORATORY 7.....1 semester

German Exploratory is designed to introduce students to the German language. The emphasis of this class is on building vocabulary. There is also some discussion on German culture. Students can also expect to learn some basic conversational exchanges.

LIFETIME FITNESS AND RECREATION 7.....1 semester

This class offers exposure of choices for recreational and leisure lifetime activities. The course will identify how to maintain life-long fitness through physical activity. Students will participate in a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational activities, team sports, and lifetime sports.

SPANISH EXPLORATORY 7.....1 semester

Spanish Exploratory is designed to introduce students to the basic grammar and word order of the Spanish language, general vocabulary and expressions, and cultural insights. In addition to daily work, quizzes and tests, students participate in listening activities, oral activities, and vocabulary-based projects

STEM 7 (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATH 7).....1 semester

This course will empower students to become innovators in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Students will follow the Engineering Design Process to create projects related to energy, robotics, computer science and more. Sample projects will use Lego Robotics, digital science sensors, and online coding platforms. Students will also explore STEM careers.