

ALDERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIRED CLASSES - 7TH GRADE

ENGLISH

English 7

English Language Arts focuses learning on all areas of communication: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be inspired to think critically about text to develop analytical thinking, utilize the writing process to write in a variety of forms, practice reading strategies to enhance comprehension, and interact with literature to expand knowledge and improve skills.

ELA/Reading Support

The Edmonds Reading Intervention Course is designed to identify reading difficulties and provide systematic, targeted Reading instruction in the areas of phonics & decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students will participate in daily and weekly activities to obtain the necessary skills to achieve grade level reading proficiency. Students are identified and placed in this course using the State (Smarter Balanced Assessment) outcomes from prior academic years, the district (i-Ready) results, and Acadience Reading Program data. This course is taken in addition to English 7 and may replace the student's Elective or Health and Physical Education class.

SOCIAL STUDIES

7th Grade Social Studies is divided into two-semester courses; one semester is Washington State History and the other semester is Medieval History. For WA State history, students will learn about and demonstrate mastery of WA State civics, geography, economics, and history. Successfully passing the WA State History portion is a High School graduation requirement. For the Medieval portion, students will study at least two of the following groups: Europe during feudalism, Meso-America, Japan, China, West Africa, or Islamic Empires. Both classes will place a heavy emphasis on reading, writing, and listening skills that students will need to master throughout the year. Near the end of the year, all students will be expected to complete the CBA or Classroom-Based Assessment.

MATHEMATICS

Math 7

Math 7 is available to all 7th grade students. Students will extend prior learning on a variety of topics in preparation for pre-algebra. These topics include: proportional relationships, rational numbers (positive and negative numbers), numerical and algebraic expressions, equations, 2- and 3-dimensional shapes (area, surface area, and volume), statistics, and probability. Students will be required to communicate their mathematical knowledge through problem-solving, reasoning, writing and class discussions.

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is available for 8th grade students as well as highly-motivated 7th grade students. The course covers understanding the real number system, solving two-step and multi-step equations, including exponents, patterns of linear equations, and geometric congruence. Seventh grade students taking this course need to be self-motivated and able to adjust to the pace of the course. Students will be required to communicate their mathematical knowledge through problem-solving, reasoning, writing and class discussions. This course will prepare students to take Algebra in the following year.

Algebra

Algebra is available for students who have a qualifying score on their spring i-Ready diagnostic as well as an invitation based on their past assessments. Algebra is a high school level course, and if requested, the grade and credit will be posted on a student's high school transcript. Topics include: generalizing the algorithms of arithmetic to learn how to develop equations that will model different situations and other functions, inequalities and systems of equations. Students will be required to communicate their mathematical knowledge through problem-solving, reasoning, writing and class discussions.

Fundamentals of Math

Math support is offered to students who do not meet math standards taught in the previous year. Students are not able to self-select this course. This course is taken in addition to the student's grade-level math course and may replace the student's elective class for one quarter.

SCIENCE 7

Edmonds School District's science curriculum is Amplify Science. It blends hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive digital tools to empower students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers. 7th graders learn Earth Science: plate motion, rock cycle; Chemistry: atoms, molecules, phase change; Astronomy: Planets with a focus on Mars, Sun/Earth/Moon system, moon phases; Ecology: ecosystems, matter and energy, populations and resources.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills to enable them to lead a healthy, happy and active lifestyle. The students will participate in a wide variety of activities, which include, but are not limited to cardiovascular exercise (running, rope jumping, and aerobics), individual and team sports, weight training, cooperative games, team-building activities, and the study and application of various health topics. Due to the active nature of this class, students are expected to be prepared for PE and AMS follows the Edmonds School District policy for dressing down. The policy states that students need to be dressed in clothing they can move freely in, this eliminates things like jeans, dresses/skirts, and any shoe that is not a tennis shoe that laces up.

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Students who have goals on their IEPs that require minutes in Interpersonal Relationships or Learning Strategies may have that as their elective. Please inquire with your student's case manager.

**** Counselors are available to assist students with concerns around course fees ****

DRAMA (Full Year)

Drama is a yearlong class which focuses on improvisation, theater games, comedy skits, commercials, monologues, pantomime, conflict scenes, special effect makeup, movie producing, musical theater choreography, Shakespeare, one-act plays and more! The class will focus on developing characters, stage movement, rehearsing and performing a play before a live audience. Students will also learn tech skills like: lighting, sound, graphic design, rigging, and terms. The class produces 2 shows each year. Come with your creative ideas, energy, and talent! Required class materials: Ben Nye Personal Creme Kit, Ben Nye Bruise Wheel, and Ben Nye Monster Wheel. Fee: \$20 for entire year

Elective Wheel

Students who take the Elective wheel are enrolled in the following four courses: Conversation Spanish, Introduction to Art, Leadership, and Technology Exploration. Each course lasts for one quarter. The order in which students take each class in the Elective Wheel is randomly assigned during registration.

Conversational Spanish: This class is designed for students who want to experience Spanish language and culture. Various communicative activities will be used to learn useful phrases and vocabulary. We will play games, sing songs, cook food, draw pictures, perform skits, and use technology to learn to speak Spanish.

Introduction to Art: 7th graders will learn the basic 7 elements of art and how they can be used and identified in their own art and the art of others.

Leadership: The AMS Leadership course is a quarter-long, hands-on course that will help students become impactful and meaningful community leaders and helpers. This is a great opportunity for students who are interested in the Associated Student Body (ASB) and Alderwood Student Council. As part of this course, students will explore what it means to be a servant leader and then apply these leadership skills to help others by performing school, local and international improvement projects. Some of the skills addressed in the class include character development, task-management, team planning, making presentations, problem-solving, peer mediation, and public speaking.

Technology Exploration: In this an introductory class for any 7th grade student who wants to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through project-based learning. Projects in the past have included building and launching rockets, creating objects for self or gifts for others using CNC laser cutters or 3D printers, and building structures to meet different challenges. How to use various computer programs, laser cutters, 3D printers, wood shop equipment and other tools safety is an

essential part of this class. Students in this class are invited to participate in our competitive after school club, Washington Technology Student Association (W TSA).

MUSIC

Bands - Alderwood has 3 bands. Placement will be determined by the director.

[See Band Video](#)

Wind Ensemble/Jazz Band (Full Year)

Open to highly qualified seventh and eighth graders. Admission is by audition only and openings are limited. Students in Jazz Band must also be members of the symphonic/concert band, choir or orchestra. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic band literature, jazz band literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, phrasing and improvisation. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the band performs. Performances are quite frequent so all members must remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration.

Fee \$20 for entire year.

Symphonic Band (Full Year)

Open to students with one to three years of experience or the equivalent. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic band literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, and phrasing. There is an increased emphasis on public performance. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the band performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration. Fee \$20 for the entire year.

Concert Band (Full Year)

Open to students with zero to two years of experience or the equivalent. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic band literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, and phrasing. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the band performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration. Fee \$20 for the entire year.

Orchestra - Alderwood has 2 orchestras. Placement will be determined by the director.

Symphonic Orchestra (Full Year)

Open to students with 3 years experience or the equivalent. Admission is by director approval. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic orchestra literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, and phrasing. There is an increased emphasis on public performance. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the orchestra performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration.

Fee \$20 for entire year

Concert Orchestra (Full Year)

Open to students with zero to two years of experience or the equivalent. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship. Instruction will focus on proper instrument positioning and posture, basic sound production, and reading notes. A broad range of musical styles will be explored throughout the year. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the orchestra performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration. Fee \$20 for the entire year.

Choir - Alderwood has 1 Choir.

CONCERT CHOIR (Full Year)

The Concert Choir is open to all who like to sing and would like to learn more about singing. Students will sing a variety of songs in many different styles. This class will participate in 7 concerts, 5 field trips, 5 assemblies and will get to have master clinicians work with them. You don't have to be a great singer to join, but joining will make you a great singer! Required class materials: black tailored shirt, black pants, music department shirt, folder, pencil.

Fee: \$20 for entire year

Student Assistants

Library Assistant (1 Semester or Full Year)

Library Assistants are responsible for helping with daily duties in the library, as well as larger projects. AMS students who take on this leadership role are reliable, dependable, and highly motivated. Some daily duties include checking library materials in and out, assisting other students in locating library materials, updating/refreshing displays, and straightening shelves and books. Students also partake in larger projects throughout the semester, including adding/removing books from the computer system, covering books, taking inventory, and creating displays.

Course Fees

Some classes require the student to pay a fee for consumable materials. If a student does not pay the course fee, a fine in the dollar amount of the course fee will be assessed to them, or a payment arrangement can be made. If it is not possible to work out satisfactory arrangements for payment of these fees, the following waiver procedure shall apply:

1. The student and the student's parents are responsible for initiating a request for the waiver.
2. The present income guidelines established by State and Federal agencies for qualifications for free lunches will serve as a qualification for waivers. These income guidelines are subject to change by the Federal Government.
3. Students or guardians must provide the district-generated "Eligibility Notification Letter, School Foods Services Office" to the Main Office or counselor to obtain the waiver. The Food Services phone number is 425-431-7077.
4. Counselors are available to assist students with concerns around course fees.