

Gower Middle School Seventh Grade Course Selection 2024/2025

Seventh Grade Band:

Seventh grade band students will participate in Concert Band. Concert Band students will have a variety of performance opportunities throughout the school year. Performances include: the high school marching band showcase, parades, festivals, school events, concerts, and the solo and ensemble contest. Seventh grade Concert Band members will also have the opportunity to participate in Jazz Band with additional performance opportunities throughout the year. Seventh grade percussion and mallet students will have the opportunity to participate in Drumline and Percussion Ensemble. Band curriculum includes concert material and the introduction of the Essential Technique book. Supplemental materials will be available as necessary.

Seventh Grade Foreign Language:

Spanish I and II are an introduction to the Spanish language and are teacher driven courses. *Realidades 1* is the textbook used for this class along with additional curricular and cultural resources. Students will develop listening and speaking skills. Reading and writing exercises will also be a part of this foreign language class. Students will be introduced to actively speaking Spanish through many oral exercises. Technology is an additional tool used to enhance classroom instruction.

The customs and cultures of Spanish speaking countries are a central element in this class. Three consecutive years of Spanish classes (Spanish I, II, and III) are offered to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Students must take these courses in order, but may begin to take them in 6th, 7th, OR 8th grade.

High school Spanish placement: Hinsdale South and Central High Schools will place students in the appropriate level of Spanish based on a writing sample (and possibly a multiple choice skills test). They will recommend that students who took Spanish in 6th and/or 7th grade, but are not enrolled in any Spanish class during 8th grade would choose a language other than Spanish as freshmen. They currently offer French, German, and Latin as alternatives.

German, French, Mandarin Chinese

Students can also choose to take German, French, or Mandarin Chinese (full year, online course through partnership with Middlebury Interactive Languages).

- **Online**~Students have a foreign language class period scheduled every day with a Gower staff member who is expected to serve as a facilitator as the student progresses at their own pace through the program. This course entails listening, speaking, writing, working with a Middlebury online instructor and access to an interactive community board. This course will be taken as an independent study and is student driven. The grade received in this online course will not be reported on the student's quarterly report card. Parents will have access to the Middlebury website in order to check their child's progress and grade in this course.

Seventh Grade Cycled Specials (students will take all four classes, one per quarter):

Digital Music & Guitar 1: Seventh Grade Music is broken up into three major components: History of Rock & Roll, Introduction to Guitar, and Music Technology. Students will use the book *Essential Elements for Guitar, Book 1* as they learn the basics of the parts of the guitar and learn a variety of chords, as well as playing melodies and bass lines. Students will look at how rock & roll music changed and evolved from the early 1950s to the late 1970s and beyond through performance of different songs on the guitar, as well as classroom discussions and use of other materials. They will end the quarter by exploring music composition and arranging with a variety of web-based programs, including Soundtrap, Incredibox, and Beepbox.

Family and Consumer Science: Students in seventh grade are able to explore many of the areas that fall under the FACS discipline. Units of study in the seventh grade curriculum consist of Child Development, Design, Consumer Purchasing and Nutrition Facts, Convenience Foods, Organics and Farm to Table exploration and Foodborne Illness. Food labs will be incorporated into each unit consisting of smoothies, brownies, organic meals, quesadillas and more.

STEM: Students will learn about sensing robotics as they assemble and code robots capable of sensing and reacting to their surroundings. They will experiment with different sensors—touch, reflectance, ultrasonic, sound, and infrared. After integrating sensors, students will develop coding skills by programming the robot to solve challenges focused on object detection and avoidance, as well as line following. They will incorporate motions and light into the robot's reactions.

Art: Seventh grade students will continue to learn and build on their techniques. They will continue to learn techniques used with drawing pencils, chalk pastel, oil pastel, clay, tempera paint, and watercolor paint to implement those skills into a successful artwork. Students' projects will promote independence, decision making, problem-solving, and creativity. Students will use a variety of materials and continue to build on their knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design.

Study Hall

Year long study hall period supervised by a Gower staff member. Study hall may be selected as an elective period in cases where a student has chosen not to enroll in Band, Foreign Language, or the Quarterly Cycled Classes previously described. Students/Parents are encouraged to consider selecting an academic course in place of a study hall to increase a student's exposure to a variety of content areas prior to middle school graduation.