

Wm. Mendenhall Middle School
7th GRADE COURSES

Required Courses

COURSE	TYPE OF COURSE	DESCRIPTION
English	Required Course	This is a systematic literature-based course that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for seventh grade English/Language Arts. The course integrates reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language skills using StudySync (a complete ELA online and print curriculum), core novels, and more.
Social Studies	Required Course	This course is aligned with the California State Standards for seventh grade social science. The course covers world history and geography: AD 500-1789.
Honors English and Social Studies	Optional Course in lieu of regular English/Social Studies	The honors core classes cover the same material as regular core, but examine the concepts in greater depth. Additionally, the honors core classes will require a rigorous analysis of literature, additional written work, and more in-depth class discussion.
Mathematics	Required Course	Math courses at Mendenhall are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Please refer to the "Math Course Selection Sheet" to choose the appropriate math course. STUDENTS - please discuss with your current teacher and your parents/guardians about which class you feel is most appropriate for you.
Science	Required Course	This course is aligned with the California State Standards for seventh grade science. Students will be doing group and individual assignments focusing on life science. Students will learn about cell biology, genetics, evolution, earth and life history, structure and function in living systems, physical principles in living systems, and investigation and experimentation.
Physical Education	Required Course	This course follows the California State Standards for seventh grade Physical Education. Students will participate in a program emphasizing active participation, fitness, and motor development. Appropriate physical education attire is required.

Elective Course

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Spanish 1A	Elective Course	This course is an introduction to the Spanish language. Students will begin learning the Spanish language through listening, speaking, writing, and reading in the language. This is the first half to a two-year course. If students are successful in the two-year program, they will be recommended to take Spanish 2 when they go to high school.
STEM 1	Elective Course	STEM stands for Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics. STEM 1 exposes students to various aspects of Design and Modeling as well as Automation and Robotics.
STEM 2	Elective Course	STEM stands for Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics. STEM 2 exposes students to various aspects of Green Architecture, Energy and Environment, and Flight and Space. NOTE - it is not necessary to take STEM 1 prior to taking STEM 2.
Yearbook	Elective Course	During the school year students work on the publication of the Mendenhall Yearbook. Class curriculum will include desktop publishing using computer technology, and photography using digital cameras. Students will have an opportunity to select the yearbook theme and serve as editor or assistant editors. In the spring semester, students will finish the yearbook and then have an opportunity to complete technology projects. Some of these include the use of digital camcorders and video editing equipment.
Leadership	Elective Course	Students in this class organize many campus activities. These activities include dances, noontime activities, community service projects, dress-up days, staff appreciation projects, campus improvement, and fundraisers. By participating in this class, each student's basic leadership skills will be improved and the school as a whole will benefit. Students must complete an application process. Space is limited.
Advanced Band	Elective Course	Students will be playing woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The school may provide instruments for students playing French horn, baritone horn, or tuba. All other instruments should be provided by the student. Two years of instruction on a band instrument is required of each student taking the course. Attendance at all performances is required.
Advanced Orchestra	Elective Course	Students will be playing a stringed instrument. The school may provide instruments for students playing viola, cello, or bass. All other instruments should be provided by the student. Two years of instruction on a string instrument or teacher approval is required of each student taking the course. Attendance at all performances is required.

Spectrum	Elective Course	This course exposes students to three different courses: Art, Woodshop, and STEM. Each of the courses will last for one trimester. In Art students will create a variety of two dimensional art using pencil, pen, tempera paint, water color, and acrylic paint. Additionally, students will have fun making three dimensional art projects using wire, clay, soapstone, and paper-mache. The STEM portion of Spectrum will explore engineering, the engineering design process, and 3-D modeling. In Woodshop students will be taught the basics of industrial technology: safety, woodworking, and mechanical drawing.
Vocal Music	Optional Course (Students will be required to take a "0" period class)	This is an elective course designed to introduce students to the musical concepts of tone, pitch, rhythm, and music reading. This course will offer students the opportunity to learn the basics of vocal production. As members of a choral ensemble students will be exposed to a variety of music styles. Attendance at all performances is required.