Golden West 7th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

7th Grade students can either take: • 1-year-long elective or • 2-semester electives. Semester courses have the (S) after the course title and yearlong courses have the (Y) after the title. *Electives are not guaranteed and are dependent on teacher and course seat availability

Semester Electives (S)

These courses are introductory and designed to provide students with an opportunity to explore different electives. Different combinations of 2 semester length electives are possible based on teacher availability.

- **Exp Art (S)**
  This course is an introductory course where students learn how to identify and organize the elements of Art in a creative way. It is a hands-on class with daily activities and projects in which students explore drawing, painting and sculpture mediums. Students will be provided with the materials to complete the curriculum.

- **Exp Woodshop (S)**
  Students will be introduced to basic hand tools and power hand tools, as well as stationary power tools. Safety will be covered in depth. Students will construct projects requiring the use of many tools, such as routers, drills, planner, drill press, jig saw, sanders, etc. Students will be provided with the material needed for the curriculum. Students have the option of paying for projects and materials that will be taken home.

- **Exp Conv Spanish (S)**
  In this course students will get a brief introduction to basic conversational Spanish. Students will learn basic phrases and vocabulary, study a Spanish speaking country and learn about the Hispanic world.

- **Exp Drama (S)** Introduces students to the basic skills and disciplines of acting and performance production. Students will learn techniques related to scene work, monologues, improvisation, movement, stagecraft, blocking, directing, and various aspects of production. Participants in the drama elective will also be exposed to and study various plays, basic theater history, and famous playwrights.

Yearlong Electives (Y)

- **Art Through the Ages (Y) (6,7,8)** This course will travel through time, looking at artwork from different periods. Each period of art that is introduced will have an art-making component. For example: Starting with the Paleolithic era of cave drawings, students will learn the art period, what art was being made, and why. Students will then create their own cave drawings representing contemporary times using similar materials (charcoal) on crumpled-up newsprint or paper lunch bags. Each art period that is studied will have an art-making component that represents the contemporary, enabling students to draw on their knowledge of the world, their identity, their culture, and the contemporary world they live in.

(S) – Semester course (Y) – Year course

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- **Computer Programming (Y) (6,7, 8)** This course introduces students to the fundamentals of computer programming with an emphasis on applications of math concepts and the use of code to control modular robots using the user-friendly C/C++ interpreter Ch. Students start with basics of how a computer works and then explore programming in Ch to solve real life problems, including robot control. Students write computer programs with graphical plotting and animation in an integrated development environment (IDE). Through computer programming-based problem solving and engaging activities, such as generating random numbers for applications in math and gaming, and challenges involving tasks for multiple modular robots working together, students develop critical and computational thinking skills. A grade of "C" or better is recommended in math and ELA.

- **Intro Robotics (Y) (6,7,8)** The Golden West Middle School Robotics teams, the RoboStangs, build and program their own robots to complete a specific task each year. Each team must work together through all stages of the process, from concept designs to competition. Within each team, students will be assigned to particular duties (which can sometimes overlap): designer, builder, programmer, or driver. If selected for the team, you will be notified and enrolled in the robotics elective. Robotics ALSO meets for an hour after school 2-3 times a week, therefore students and parents must arrange transportation (there is a late bus when robotics ends for bus riders). All parts, computers, and required materials will be provided to students.

<u>Performing Arts-Year Electives (Y)</u>

- **Beginning Guitar (Y)** Have you ever wanted to play along with your favorite band? Now you can learn how in GWs beginning guitar class. Explore the world of guitar by playing along with current recordings, reading music, and improvising your own solos! We will study Essential Elements for Guitar. School owned guitars will be available for student use. No experience required.

- **Beginning Piano (Y)** This class is designed for students who want to learn basic piano skills. Students will learn keyboard orientation, hand position, keynote names, treble clef, bass clef, grand staff, dynamics, intervals, basic scales, music notation and more. Students will study from the Alfred Basic Piano Library Complete Level 1.

- **Beginning Band (Y)** This course is for students who have no experience playing a band instrument. Students can pick from tuba, euphonium, trombone, horn, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, flute, oboe, bassoon or percussion. Home practice is required to be successful. There are some school instruments available for student use. Parents may also rent or buy an instrument. Students will learn basic music notation, instrument technique, scales, and working together to play in a band. We will prepare several evening concerts during the school year, attendance at concerts is required.

- **Concert Band (Y)** This band is for students with one or more years of experience. Students will be introduced to rhythm, tone production, articulation dynamics, and expression. The course will focus on the skills necessary for music reading. One year of experience required

- **Symphonic Band (Y)** This course is designed for students with one or more years of experience playing a wind or percussion instrument. Band instruments include tuba, euphonium, trombone, horn, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, flute, oboe, bassoon or percussion. Students will explore different styles of music and perform several evening concerts during the school year, **attendance at concerts is required.**

(S) – Semester course (Y) – Year course

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- **Concert Choir (Y) No Experience Required.** Concert Choir (Y) In chorus, you will learn how to read music using the Kodaly Solfege System while you prepare songs for performance. Students will perform in community concerts, festivals and school events.

<u>Application Required Elective (Y)</u> This course requires additional student commitment. Application and teacher recommendation are required.

- **Leadership-(Y)**
  Leadership is a yearlong, activity-based course designed to develop skills in planning, implementing, and evaluating projects for the school and our community as a whole. The goal of this class is to develop student leaders that positively represent the voices of the school, while selflessly serving the community, both on and off campus. Students will learn techniques to develop skills and behaviors of good leadership, including: goal-setting, time management, communication skills, human relations, managerial skills, project management, evaluation, and self-awareness. These techniques will be studied and applied in a real world setting as students carry out the business of student government, while promoting a positive school environment for all students, through various school projects such as dances, spirit days, rallies, and fundraising events.

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