7th Grade Course Descriptions= pages 1-3; Course Selection Sheet and Note= pages 4-5

REQUIRED COURSES – ALL YEAR

Language Arts
The seventh-grade language arts program develops and integrates the arts of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. High interest literature and informational selections from a variety of genres are provided, as is systematic instruction in writing, grammar, usage, and vocabulary. Students will also have many opportunities for choice reading. Writings will include argumentative essays, narratives, and a research project.

Mathematics
Meeting the standards of the Common Core, our seventh grade math courses offered are Math 7 and Math 7/8 (Accelerated Math). Some students will also be placed in Math Lab*.

*Math Lab is taken in conjunction with Math 7 (two math classes per day). This class is designed to support and pre-teach concepts and skills that are being taught in the Math 7 class.

Science
Students will continue to extend their knowledge of science with units on chemical and physical properties and changes, motion and energy transfer, weather patterns, and biological processes. Students work as scientists, using models, analyzing data, and constructing explanations as they investigate phenomena presented in class.

Social Studies
Seventh grade social studies is a present day geography course. It includes a geography foundations unit followed by the study of Canada and the United States, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, and Monsoon Asia. Case studies included such topics as the Great Lakes freshwater ecosystem, United States consumption patterns, land use conflict in the Amazon Rainforest, supranational cooperation in the European Union, and women micro-entrepreneurs in Africa.

Physical Education and Health (required one semester, or if taking Band, Orchestra or Choir it will be required every other day all year long)
The 7th grade physical education student will experience a higher level of skill development and play in lifetime sports such as football, basketball, volleyball, swimming, soccer, floor hockey, speedball, and ultimate frisbee. These skills will be used in both competitive and non-competitive activities and task related challenges. Physical fitness activities will also be incorporated into all units, as well as personal/social skills needed to be active for a lifetime. Health curriculum components that focus on social and emotional health, nutrition, tobacco, decision-making skills, substance use/abuse and reproductive health will be taught in a classroom setting in this course as well.

ELECTIVES – EVERY OTHER DAY ALL YEAR

MUSIC

Concert Band
Concert band is for wind and percussion players whose goal it is to be part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 7th graders who have taken band in 6th grade. Incoming 7th grade students without 6th grade band are welcome to join band, however, they must first see Mrs. Barclay. There will be two 7th grade bands made up of equal ability and instrumentation. The focus for these groups will be on the development of more advanced more technical musical skills and tone quality. Concert Band will perform several times during the year, including the Music in the Park competition in May and the MSBOA district Festival in March. Each band member also has the opportunity to perform at MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival as a soloist or in a small ensemble. The Derby Band program is recognized as one of the top band programs in the State of Michigan.

Chorale
Chorale is a mixed choir class for the 7th grade vocal students whose goal is to be part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 7th graders, regardless of whether you took choir the previous year. The focus for this group will be on the development of more advanced and more technical musical skills and tone quality. Choir will perform several times during the year, including two concerts. Skills learned in 7th grade include: musicianship skills, basic piano accompanying, and advanced vocal technique. The Derby choir consistently receives superior, outstanding, and excellent ratings at our choral competitions every year and is recognized as one of the top choral programs in the State of Michigan. Attendance is required at all performances.
*PLEASE NOTE: All students are welcome to join choir. If you would like to speak with the director, please contact John Hummel, Director of Choirs; JHummel@birmingham.k12.mi.us

Concert Orchestra
Concert orchestra is for string players whose goal it is to be growing as a performing group. This performing group is open to all 7 th graders who have taken orchestra in 6 th grade or elsewhere. The focus of this group will be on the development of more advanced technical and musical string playing skills (such as shifting and vibrato). Concert orchestra will perform several times during the year. Each orchestra member also has the opportunity to perform at MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival as a soloist or in a small chamber ensemble. For more information about the Derby Orchestra Program, please e-mail Mr. Jeroudi, Orchestra director @ SJeroudi@birmingham.k12.mi.us

ELECTIVES – ONE SEMESTER ONLY

The following courses are comprised of 7th and 8th grade students unless noted otherwise.

ART

Art by Design (7th and 8th Grade One Semester) Art by Design is a course focusing on digital Graphic Design, Digital Photography and Computerized Art using the Adobe Creative Suites programs. Students in this class will utilize Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop and will work with Digital SLR cameras. Students will work with the Elements of Design and the Principles of Art. This class will primarily focus on small and large scale two dimensional art. Some projects may include: Typography, Vector Drawing, Cover Design, Poster Design, Digital Photography and Editing, Computerized Layout, and more. The highlights of this class will include: Digital Portfolio Development, Digital Photography and Editing, Logo Design and Development, Advertising, and Magazine/Book/Game/CD Cover Design, Computerized Portraits, and Typography designs. Students will be able to take home professionally printed copies of the work they create in class.

Adventures in Art (7th and 8th Grade One Semester)
Students will be exposed to a variety of two and three dimensional art work in this class. Experiences in this class will increase creative thinking skills. Some projects may include: Tessellations, the study of Art History, the study of Color Theory focusing on Monochromatic Acrylic Painting, Digital Photography, Large Scale Rubber Carving, and Water Based Printmaking. The highlights of this class will include: Silk Screening, Magazine Bowls, Metals with Etching and Letter Stamping, Dry Point Etching with Oil Based Printmaking, a Graphic Design project using Adobe Creative Suites: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, and more.

Art Exploration (7th and 8th Grade One Semester)
The course will increase students' skill levels in art with each unit presented. Students in this course will be exposed to, and will work with two and three dimensional works of art. Some projects may include: Sketchbooks, Color Theory and Watercolor Painting, Large Scale Clay vessels, Glazing, Triptych Rubber Carving and Water Based Printmaking, and the refinement of Drawing skills. The highlights of this class will include: Metals with Etching and Letter Stamping, Digital Photography with Computerized Art, and an Andy Warhol style Graphic Design project using Adobe Creative Suites: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, and more.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Applied Engineering Technology
This course is for 7th & 8th grade boys or girls who would like to further apply their skills in the exciting field of engineering. Individually, students will design and manufacture a robotic gripper to apply their knowledge of simple machines. In teams students will use a VEX robotic system to be introduced to the world of robotics in an engaging manner. Students will research, design, and manufacture an automated robot to meet a specific challenge. Autodesk Inventor 3D CAD software is included with the VEX kits. This 3D software can be used by students to produce 3D mechanical designs, and to perform product simulations to test their design ideas before attempting fabrication of the actual model. This is a direct correlation to the real world; STEM is a prominent component of the entire process. No student is left behind, emphases is placed on the students' opportunity to work within their strengths to contribute to the team goal.

Computer Aided Design
This course is for 7th & 8th grade boys and girls interested in engineering drawing and design. Students will be exposed to a variety of drawing techniques and computer aided design programs (2-D, 3-D, pattern development software) to learn the fundamentals of communicating engineering ideas. Students will demonstrate their communication and engineering skills through the development of a Magnetic Levitation Vehicle.

Exploring Engineering Technology
This course is for 7th & 8th grade boys and girls who wish to continue the Engineering Technology experience. Students will enhance their knowledge of the engineering process through a variety of applications, including, but not limited to, computer drawing, CO2 car design and fabrication and biotechnology. Students' engineering skills will be demonstrated when they race their CO2 cars in a competition against others in the class.

LIFE SKILLS

Engage
The design and purpose of this course is to provide a collaborative space for students to inquire, design and create through inquiry-based learning. Students will explore questions, challenges, topics or technologies of interest, at their own pace, and in directions of their choosing with the guidance of the teacher. Students will plan and reflect on their creations, processes, successes and difficulties through multimodal learning. The goal of this program is to prepare students for global learning opportunities by engaging their interest and imagination in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Students will develop their cognitive processes of analysis, comparison, inference, evaluation, and synthesis applied to a range of academic domains and problem solving contexts.

Skills for Success
This semester course is designed to give students practical experiences in food preparation and management. There is an emphasis on kitchen safety, utilizing different types of equipment, and kitchen math and measurement. Lab experiences build upon this knowledge throughout the semester as students move from preparing simple snacks, to learning about the differences in quick breads and yeast breads, to demonstrating knife cuts and proper usage when preparing and making stir fry; just to name a few! Financial literacy and nutrition topics are infused throughout the semester as well. Financial literacy provides basic understanding of needs versus wants and budgeting through the use of online simulations. Communication, decision making, problem solving, and positive social skills are the building blocks to success in this course.

WORLD LANGUAGES

World Language
Students will continue their studies of French, Chinese or Spanish from the sixth grade. A lively and active conversational approach is used in speaking and understanding the language. Reading, writing, grammar, and culture is continued.

OTHER

Literacy RS 7 (Reading Specialist recommendation only)
Literacy is a small group reading intervention that provides students with an opportunity to strengthen their vocabulary skills, practice fluency and focus on using comprehension strategies (inferring, making connections, questioning, visualizing, etc.) within narrative and informational texts. Students also have an opportunity to strengthen their writing skills through writer's workshop sessions. Students who qualify for this course are typically less than one year below grade level in reading and would benefit from additional reading instruction. There is no additional homework in this class. A certified Reading Specialist, who is a member of the district reading department, will instruct this course.
**Note – Literacy 7 students meet for one semester of the school year.*

Directed Studies *(Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Needed)*
Directed Studies is a course that is designed to provide students with additional support in their core classes that will focus on organization, study skills, assignment completion, and time management that will promote student achievement. *Note — Directed Studies 6 students meet every other day for the whole school year. Directed Studies 7 and 8 students meet every day for one quarter, or one semester of the school year. *(The goal is to give students the skills/tools necessary to achieve and maintain passing grades at an independent level, so they can go into an available elective at the end of Q1, 2, or 3. The class is intended to be exited after one semester, or two at most.)*

AARI*(Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Needed)* AARI is a semester long, intensive intervention that accelerates reading comprehension and critical thinking in informational text. AARI emphasizes small group instruction that meets students where they are and accelerates their reading through instruction built around community, text-based inferencing and critical thinking, question/answer relationships, questioning the author and text structure. There is no additional homework in this class. This course is taught by a trained AARI instructor.

Reading Enrichment
This course is intended for already *strong readers* to enrich their reading skills through class discussions and inquiry-based projects about literature and topics of interest. Each of these inquiry-based projects requires students to read, write, research, and practice their critical thinking skills. Some of the projects that we have previously done include: creating book movie trailers, filming book character interviews, debating topics and books of interest, writing articles for the school newspaper after conducting research on a topic, etc. Students will be challenged to use critical thinking skills to dig deeper into texts in order to gain a greater understanding of what they are currently reading and/or have previously read. This course may require students to read additional novels/texts.

ASD/LRC LINKS
Students may elect to work with students in the ASD or LRC program during an elective hour. Students will assist in supporting the students during academic and social skills activities and engage with the students during the 55 minute class. If a student is assigned to an Adaptive PE class they are expected to: Engage with the students during the 55 minute class, swim in the pool, participate in gym activities. All students will need a counselor recommendation to take this course. All students will be graded on a rubric system that will be on a Pass/Fail system.

Revised 1/26/24

7TH GRADE COURSE SELECTION SHEET NAME_____

***Social Studies, Science and A2 have been pre-selected. Select your other courses by completing steps 1-5.*See note on back!**

Step 1

Choose One 7th Grade Language Arts Course

Choose Language Arts (LA7) or Individualized Language Arts (INDLA678) by recommendation only.

	Course Name	Number	Prerequisite Note
☐	INDLA678	INDLA678	Teacher recommendation is required.
☐	Lang Arts 7	LA7	

Step 2

Choose One 7th Grade Math Course

Please follow the recommendation of your current math teacher when selecting the math class for next year.

	Course Name	Number	Prerequisite Note
☐	Math 7/8	AMATH7	Accelerated Math.
☐	Ind Math 678	INDMA	Teacher recommendation is required.
☐	Math 7	MATH7	

Step 3

7th Grade Music Students Only (If not selecting music, go to Step 4)

Music students select **2 every other day year-long courses, of which one must be PE (PE7Eod).**

	Course Name	Number	Prerequisite Note
☐	Chorale 7 EOD	CHOREOD	This is an every other day class all year long.
☐	Concert Band	CBAND7	This is an every other day class all year long.
☐	Orchestra 7	ORCH7	This is an every other day class all year long.

Step 4

☐		PE7EOD	This is a required 7th grade elective, which meets every other day all year long.

Choose 7th Grade Elective Courses

Students must select **4 semester** courses, of which **one must be Phy Ed (PE7).** *Year-long electives count as 2 semester courses. Band, Orchestra or Choir students must select **only 2 semester** courses (not PE).*

	Course Name		Prerequisite Note
☐	Artbydesign	ARTDES	Graphic Design and computerized art.
☐	Applied Eng	AENGTC	Robots
☐	Adven In Art	ADVART	2 and 3 dimensional art
☐	Cad Design	ENGCAD	3D Printer and Maglev
☐	Chin 7	CHIN7	Should have taken Chinese 6 prior.
☐	Engage	ENAPP	Engage students' interests and imaginations in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.
☐	Explore Art	EXPART	Exploring different types of art
☐	Explore Eng	EENGTC	Co2 Cars
☐	Fren 7	FREN7	Should have taken French 6 prior.
☐	Learning Strategies	INDST7	Teacher recommendation is required. This is a year-long everyday class and counts as 2 electives.
☐	Literacy 7	LITRS7	Teacher recommendation is required.
☐	Math Lab 7	MTHLAB 7	Teacher recommendation is required. This is a **year-long** everyday class and **counts as 2 electives**.
☐	Reading Enrichment	RE78	Course for strong readers who want to enrich their reading skills through class discussion.
☐	Phy Ed 7	PE7	This is a required 7th grade elective.
☐	Skillsuccess	SFS	Cooking and career research
☐	Span 7	SPAN7	Should have taken Spanish 6 prior.
☐	Directed Studies	STRAT78	Teacher / Counselor recommendation required.

Step 5

Choose 7th Grade Alternate Elective Courses

All elective combinations are not possible, so please **carefully select 3 NEW alternates**. **DO NOT** include electives already selected. There is a high probability that one or more of these may be selected.

☐	Artbydesign	☐	Engage	☐	Skillsuccess
☐	Applied Eng	☐	Explore Art		
☐	Adven In Art	☐	Explore Eng		
☐	Cad Design	☐	Reading Enrichment		

Parent Signature: _____ Phone # and email: _____

1/30/25

Dear Dragon family/community,

Upon selecting 7th grade courses for next year on the sheet behind or above this one, please note the following as your signature on the next page is confirmation that you understand and are adhering to these guidelines:

1- Be sure to select your **next level/next year's** math and world language courses.

2- Be sure to **choose electives that you are curious about or interested in**. It's a good idea to try different classes in middle school to learn more about what you do/don't like, what you're good at, and maybe not-so-good at. This will help you to better know what courses and/or career path you might want to choose for high school and/or beyond.

3- If you had any support classes **(Literacy, Math Lab, or Directed Studies), sign up for these again** next year, **unless you exited out of it this year with teacher permission.**

4- **Please carefully follow ALL other guidelines on the page behind this one!**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.🙂 If you disregard any of the above, you might have to be placed in a class that's not preferred by you. 😕

Additionally, please note that **we <u>do not</u> do "schedule change requests"** at the beginning of the school year, nor when new semesters and quarters begin **for these reasons:**
***Friends in different classes** ***Wanting a different teacher** ***Wanting a different time of day for a class**

We <u>do</u> schedule changes if there has been an error, or if there is a hole in your schedule/ a missing class. **Please notify your school counselor if there is an error or hole in your schedule as soon as you notice it so it can be corrected!**

Lastly, if you would like to read paragraph descriptions of the courses, please scan the QR code below or visit the Derby home page and click on Student Life, Counseling, then 7th grade. Thank you! With gratitude, Mr. Miller and Ms. Kelly/Derby Counseling.