



OJHS 7TH GRADE COURSE INFORMATION

7TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Read through the elective course descriptions below before selecting your top 3 choices. *No one is guaranteed placement in their top choice, you may be placed in any of your 3 choices.* Please note if there is a **prerequisite** requirement (ex: application). If you select one of those courses and the requirement is not met you will not be placed in that course and an alternate choice may be selected for you. All elective classes are yearlong unless otherwise stated. *There will be no mid-year elective changes.*

Band 1 (Woodwinds/Brass)

Band 1 is the next step from elementary music. Students are either continuing their musical study from the elementary level, beginning musical study on a new instrument, or are playing an instrument for the first time. Students can choose to learn flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, euphonium, trombone, and tuba. Students will develop their musical abilities in reading music notation, tone production, rhythm, and performing (three performances throughout the year), with performance attendance being part of students' grades. The Band 1 program consists of two separate classes focused on woodwind sections and brass sections in order to provide an enriched musical learning environment with a smaller teacher-to-student-ratio.

Choir

Choir is a non-auditioned elective. Students will learn the fundamentals of basic singing technique along with the basics of sight-reading. Students will explore a diverse range of repertoire meant to perform at our three concerts (December, March, May) throughout the year. Performance attendance (all held at the high school theater) will be mandatory and considered part of the students' grades. This is a great class to take for those interested in singing in Concert Choir or Show Choir at the high school level.

Computers

This is a semester course that will cover computer applications using the Google Suite of products (Drive, Gmail, Drawings, Docs, Forms, Slides, Sites, Sheets) to create projects showcasing their use of these programs. Students will work to improve their keyboarding skills throughout the semester. Code.org will also be introduced for students to learn to create computer programs, develop problem-solving skills, and work through fun challenges! A culminating project will be made where students code their own screens to create a study guide or favorite topic application for one of their current classes. Students will also be making a website to showcase their work in an organized manner throughout the semester.

Design & Robotics

Design and Modeling is a STEM unit of study designed by Project Lead the Way (PLTW). Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

Automation and Robotics is a STEM unit of study designed by PLTW. The focus of this unit is the development of automation and robotics and their use to improve daily life. Students will investigate mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX® Robotics platform, students will design, build, and program real-world devices such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Drama

This is an introductory course to Theatre Arts, which includes all aspects of theatre, including acting, directing, costuming, set design and all aspects of theatrical performance. A study of dramatic literature and theatre history is included. Each semester culminates with a public performance and does require some rehearsals and performances outside of the regular school day.

Drumline 1

Drumline 1 is an introductory course to the world of drum corps style percussion. Students will learn basic technique skills, teamwork and beginning to intermediate level music notation. Prior experience playing percussion or any other instrument is not required. Students with experience on other instruments such as winds, brass, piano, etc. can easily apply their previous skills to percussion.

Health

Health is a comprehensive class covering the four sides of health: mental, emotional, physical, and social. Topics such as nutrition, infectious diseases, anatomy and physiology, teens and drugs, decision making, and stress management are only some of the topics that make the class perfect for any teenager. This is a semester course.

Intro to Guitar

This is a non-auditioned course, open to all students, including those with little or no musical experience. This course focuses on the basics - starting with how to hold the guitar, how to hold the pick, and what the different parts of the guitar are. Throughout the year, students will learn: note reading, chords, strumming patterns, how to read tablature, fingerstyle techniques, picking patterns, commonly used guitar techniques, and will learn how to play basic pop/rock songs. By the end of the year, students will be able to research their favorite songs online and figure out how to play the chords, and possibly will even learn how to write their own songs.

Leadership

The Leadership class is open to 7th and 8th grade students who desire to develop leadership skills and work toward a positive school climate. This will be accomplished by involvement in classroom lessons and activities, student government, student and staff recognition programs, student activities and school service.

Prerequisite: Application required to be considered ojhs.ojUSD.org/parents-students/balloting-info (must be signed into school email to access).

Yearbook

Members of the yearbook staff are the leaders and decision-makers of the OJHS yearbook. Students will learn a number of journalism and photography skills and complete the many tasks to create a high-quality yearbook that reflects the pictorial and written history of the campus activities and the lives of Oakdale students for the year. This course requires students to take part in all aspects of production of the yearbook including: interviewing other students, creating a theme, designing the cover and layout, taking photographs, and writing articles. Students must be willing and able to work after school, attend games and other school events on their own time.

7TH GRADE ACCELERATED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Read the course descriptions below if you are considering taking one or more accelerated courses. Please note the ***prerequisite*** requirement of current teacher signature for all accelerated courses.

Accelerated English 7

Accelerated English 7 is a dynamic and fast-paced course where students engage in hands-on learning, alongside in-depth reading and analysis of novels and text. They will practice public speaking skills, engage in extensive writing, and enhance critical thinking skills through discussions. We'll focus on English conventions, grammar, literary terms, and fictional texts, and eventually move into nonfiction text, creative writing, and advanced group discussions/readings. Students need to quickly learn to be prepared, organized, and responsible for advanced learning. In addition, the curriculum will challenge students above the seventh-grade level, promoting both independent and collaborative work. Our primary goal is to prepare students for the rigor of Advanced Placement courses in eighth grade and beyond. **Prerequisite:** Teacher signature required.

Accelerated World History

7th grade Accelerated World History is a rigorous course that covers the same material as a standard 7th grade social studies course, but at a faster pace and more challenging work. The curriculum will include more group projects, collaborations and deeper analysis through discussions. Students will learn to be organized, responsible and learn skills that will aid them in advanced placement classes. Extended learning activities will require students to increase their use of critical thinking skills to include synthesis and problem solving to show their knowledge of history, geography, religion, diverse cultures and themes of social studies in more dynamic ways. **Prerequisite:** Teacher signature required.

Accelerated Math 7

This course covers both 7th grade and 8th grade math standards in one year. Success in this course will require working at a faster pace, depending less on review and guided practice during class time, and more independent practice assigned as homework. This course will prepare students to take Math I. A letter will be mailed home before the end of the current school year notifying parents that their student will be placed in Accelerated Math 7. **Prerequisite:** Meet minimum proficiency on District Math Assessment. Teacher signature required.

Accelerated Life Science

This is a full year program based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Students will study chemical reactions, plate motion, ecosystems, populations and resources, rock transformation and phase change. Students can expect a more accelerated pacing and depth of information in this class, in addition to participating in the science fair. **Prerequisite:** Teacher signature required.