

# Tres Volcanes Community Collaborative School

## Course Catalog

7 <sup>th</sup> grade		
Required Courses:		
Language Arts	Mathematics	
Social Studies	Science	
Electives: 2 full-year electives		
Art I	Beg Band	Beg Choir
Beg Theatre	Concert Choir	Esports
Leadership I	Navajo/Dine	Treble Choir
Yearbook		

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts-Full Year

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts program offers a variety of standards-based learning experiences. The program is based on 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts Common Core State Standards. These standards offer a focus for instruction to ensure an adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is infused through reading and studying the components of literature with increasingly complex text, both fiction and nonfiction. Students will improve their skills in English grammar, writing, vocabulary development and reading strategies, along with speaking and listening skills. Writing a correct sentence, organizing and expressing ideas clearly in all genres of writing are emphasized. This course is intended to help acclimate all 7th graders to the high academic expectations of the language arts programs at TVCCS.

#### Variations of Language Arts

- **Language Arts/ELD** - This class is aligned with the general education 7th grade curriculum; however, English Language Learners are supported with WIDA strategies and the course English Language Development. These strategies will empower the students through differentiated instructional methods.
- **Gifted Language Arts**- Students with an IEP for gifted may be enrolled in this class.
- **Language Arts – Special Education** – Students with a demonstrated need indicated on their IEP with a goal in Language Arts may be enrolled in this class.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math-Full Year

This course is designed to provide a strong mathematical foundation as students transition from the concrete world of elementary mathematics to the more abstract understandings needed for algebra. There is a strong focus on developing problem-solving skills and strategies, as well as the ability to effectively communicate their mathematical thinking. In addition to learning arithmetic concepts and computational skills in ratios, fractions and decimals, students will use estimation, mental computation and applications of geometry and measurement. The course also incorporates an introduction to arithmetic operations with integers and an introduction to solving simple linear equations and inequalities.

#### Variations of Math

- **Accelerated Math** - This course is an alternative to regular 7th grade mathematics. It is designed for students capable of investigating mathematics in a challenging, in-depth fashion. The material addressed

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in this course is fast-paced, covering 8th grade standards in a single year-long course in preparation for Algebra I.

### ***Selection Process***

Students will be selected based on current teacher recommendation, proficiency on district assessments, and an “A or B” in 6th grade accelerated math will also be considered in the decision-making process. Administration has final decision making authority.

***Required:*** Parent permission and current teacher recommendation/signature. Students must maintain an above average grade throughout the course. Any student who has below an 80% average at the end of the 1st 9 weeks will be placed on probation. If a student on probation has below an 80% at the close of a semester, he/she will be transferred to a regular math class.

Semester averages will be determined by the average of the first and second nine-weeks’ grades.

- **Gifted Math** - Students with an IEP for gifted may be enrolled in this class
- **Math – Special Education** – Students with a demonstrated need indicated on their IEP with a goal in Mathematics may be enrolled in this class.

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### **7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies – New Mexico History - Full Year**

The focus of this course is devoted to the history, cultures and geography of the Western Hemisphere with emphasis on New Mexico. Students will have the opportunity to learn how people and events have influenced the development of New Mexico. There is an emphasis on physical geography, atlas skills, interpreting and reading maps, charts and graphs. The course incorporates the use of a Chromebook, google applications and online resources.

### **7<sup>th</sup> grade Science - Life Science - Full Year**

This is a lab based course focusing on the following topics:

- Biomes, habitats and ecosystems and the interactions between the living and non-living elements, food webs and communities,
- Cycles of matter in living systems, energy flow in ecosystems
- Resources and conditions needed to sustain life and effect of limited resources on living systems
- Classification of organisms (kingdoms, phyla/divisions, classes, order, family genus, species)
- Reproduction in species - sexual and asexual, essential for survival
- Heredity, genes, chromosomes and traits
- Evolution, diversity between and within species and adaptations that favor survival of a species, natural selection and genetic variation
- Fossil records of life forms, extinction of life forms
- Cells, tissues, organs and organ systems
- Cell processes: reproduction, respiration, photosynthesis

We also incorporate some Earth Science and Physical Science.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Health-1 Semester in Length**

This course is designed to do more than merely provide information about human growth and development. It is intended to influence students to take positive actions about protecting and ensuring their own health. Students will have the opportunity to have an active and personal role in the learning process allowing them to become active partners in maintaining and improving their level of wellness. Students will participate in simple experiments, self-Inventories and

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projects that will help them to learn how to make healthy choices in all areas of their daily lives (physical, mental and social).

As students acquire knowledge and decision-making skills, they will also gain the confidence they need to take responsibility for their own health. Topics will include an awareness of body systems, stress management, drug education, human growth and development, human sexuality, first aid, nutrition, physical and emotional health and prevention of disease.

### **ELECTIVES:**

#### **Beginning Band-full year**

This course is for students with no previous band experience. Students will learn to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion). The focus will be on gaining individual proficiency of their instrument as well as group performance skills. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year.

#### **Intermediate Band-full year**

This course is for students who have had one or two years of instruction. Students will continue to work on their technique and group performance skills. The students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year and will perform at District VII Band Festival. Students will also have the opportunity to spend a weekend at Hummingbird the music camp in the spring.

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Band/Band Teacher Recommendation

#### **Adv Band-full year**

This course is for students with no previous band experience. Students will learn to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion). The focus will be on gaining individual proficiency of their instrument as well as group performance skills. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year.

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Band/Band Teacher Recommendation

#### **Orchestra-Full year**

This course is for students with less than one (1) year or no previous experience playing the violin, viola, cello or bass. Basic string concepts and note-reading are introduced. Students will perform in evening concerts, assemblies and festivals as part of the course requirements. Eighth grade students may enroll for this class only with instructor approval. Previous musical experience on piano, guitar or other instruments is welcomed, but not required.

#### **Intermediate Orchestra-full year**

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This course is for students who have had one or two years of instruction. Students will continue to work on their technique and group performance skills. The students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Orchestra/Orchestra Teacher Recommendation

### **Adv Orchestra-full year**

This course is for students who have advanced experience and had two or three years of instruction. Students will continue to work on their technique and group performance skills. The students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year.

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Orchestra/Orchestra Teacher Recommendation

### **Chorus – Full year**

Students will learn basic vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk and pop traditions. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered and extension of the instructional process and are required.

(TBD - There is a lab fee of \$50 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities will be provided.)

### **Intermediate Chorus – Full year**

Students will learn basic vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk and pop traditions and have one to two years of instruction. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered and extension of the instructional process and are required.

(TBD - There is a lab fee of \$50 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities will be provided.)

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Chorus/Chorus Teacher Recommendation

### **Advanced Chorus – Full year**

Students will learn vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk and pop traditions and have one to two years of instruction with two to three years of instruction. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered and extension of the instructional process and are required.

(TBD - There is a lab fee of \$50 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities will be provided.)

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Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Orchestra/Orchestra Teacher Recommendation

### **AVID-Full Year**

AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID is designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. At Tres Volcanoes Community Collaborative MS, the goal of AVID is to ensure that all students find their confidence and have academic success while on their journey of building their skills for college and career readiness:

- \* will succeed in rigorous curriculum,
- \* will enter mainstream activities of the school,
- \* will increase their enrollment in four-year colleges, and
- \* will become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society.

### **Navajo/Dine**

#### **Art I**

Art 1 is a semester-long course for 7th graders. Art 1 is meant to deepen the students' understanding of Art concepts, as well as build on techniques and skills and introduce new media (such as acrylic paint, and paper mache).

#### **Drama I/II-Semester**

Drama introduces skills necessary to be successful in middle school. Drama students read and write simple scripts using informational text, as well as practicing strategies to be a good public speaker. Reader's Theatre and drama games teach students to focus and develop trust with their peers.

#### **Leadership I**

The Middle School Leadership Program (MSLP) is presented to provide and inspire MS Students to become better citizens through leadership theory and practical application, discipline, and service to the community while improving core literacy skills.

Our vision is to produce strong leaders with practical experience in academics, communications, life skills, challenging MS competitions, and teamwork/team building among their peers. Providing problem solving skills that demonstrate strong leadership principles using moral and ethical decision making, contributing to their service to community and country.

MSLP engages Cadets in the practices of leadership, citizenship, physical fitness, and self-discipline. Cadets also participate in Drill and Ceremony, Color Guard and life skills such as First Aid, CPR, Physical Fitness, Archery, and Community Service Projects.

#### **MESA/STEM**

Students will work on various projects throughout the semester involving robotics, graphic design, coding, and other hands-on activities to expand their thinking of the world around them. This will all

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Subject to change

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be done while students work on collaborating and learning important skills and practices for the digital world.

(TBD - There is a lab fee of \$50 which covers the cost of projects. Fundraising opportunities will be provided.)

### **YEARBOOK**

The goal of this class is to create a product that represents and captures every moment, individual, and team during the school year. We strive to create a product that tells the story of the school year by conducting interviews, taking photos, creating digital spreads, and being a valuable member of the yearbook team.

Selection Process: To be a part of the yearbook team, these requirements must be met:

- Teacher Recommendation
- Strong social skills - able to conduct interviews and talk to students
- Responsible behavior - good standing with teachers and school
- Advanced writer - creative and capable writing skills
- Cooperation - works well with others and in unison
- Reliable - committed and determined to create a great product