

MOUNTAINSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

**7th Grade Course Guide
2026-2027**



Mountainside Middle School
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Mountainside Middle School

7th Grade Courses

Seventh grade required courses

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Math | 2 semesters |
| English (see course descriptions for options) | 2 semesters |
| Social Studies | 2 semesters |
| Science | 2 semesters |
| Physical Education | 2 semesters |

Seventh grade elective courses (students choose one of the following)

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Band | Year-long class |
| Choir | Year-long class |
| Orchestra | Year-long class |
| Students choose from the following: | Two semester-long classes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Art 7● Design and Modeling● Robotics 7● Leadership 7 | |

Mountainside Middle School

7th Grade Course Descriptions

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH

English 7: The seventh grade English course focuses on reading, writing, speaking and listening, and research skills that are all taught and reinforced through our core curriculum program called *Collections*. Students read a variety of novels, fiction and nonfiction selections, and poetry. Reading comprehension and vocabulary study are foundational in all English classes. Writing is taught throughout the core curriculum and focuses on the three modes: narrative, informational and argumentative. Students learn structure, organization, word choice, idea development, and conventions as they deepen their understanding about how to communicate through writing.

Honors English 7: This course uses the same core curriculum program as English 7, *Collections*, but the activities take students deeper into the content. Students will also read more complex texts that may be above grade level. This course is designed to offer an enriched and challenging sequence of study for students who may be advanced in reading and writing. This is an advanced course that is open to all students; however, students should thoughtfully consider enrollment in an honors course.

Resource English 7: Students with IEPs will be placed in Resource or Inclusion English, depending on individual student needs. Inclusion English placement is based on Team decision and student performance/readiness. See description below.

MATHEMATICS

Math 7: Students will further develop their understanding of rates and ratios, using tables, graphs, and equations to solve real-world problems involving proportional relationships. Students will also work on quickly and accurately solving multi-step problems involving positive and negative rational numbers—any number that can be made by dividing one integer by another, such as $\frac{1}{2}$, 0.75, or 2. Additionally, students will expand their knowledge of geometry and apply the properties of operations to solve real world problems involving the measurement of multi-dimensional objects.

Advanced Math 7: Students will take their understanding of unit rates and proportional relationships to a new level. By connecting these concepts to points on a line and ultimately solving linear equations, students will apply algebraic reasoning and their knowledge of the properties of operations. Students will be evaluated for placement in this class.

Algebra I: Algebra I is foundational for all future math courses. Students explore algebraic problem-solving for linear, exponential and quadratic functions as represented in context or as a graph, equation and table. Areas of study include arithmetic and geometric sequences; linear systems and inequalities, polynomials and factoring; and modeling and statistics. This course is consistent with Washington State Standards. *A student earning a passing grade in this course will receive high school credit, which shall be applied to fulfilling high school graduation requirements, unless requested otherwise by the student and the student's parent or guardian by the end of the 11th grade year. (WAC 180-51-030)*

Resource Math 7: Students with IEPs will be placed in Resource or Inclusion Math, depending on individual student needs. Inclusion Math placement is based on Team decision and student performance/readiness. See description below.

For more information regarding the various Math pathways please see the links below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YEYXK4BK-larauByqAGxpq4E8fl1MbG6/view?usp=drive_link
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-EDMb6PF4oZ8lpJKq5YgJXZM8PuERZdz/view?usp=drive_link

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health and Fitness Education: This course emphasizes team and individual sports, lifetime activities, and health and fitness concepts. Students will participate in a wide variety of activities, as well as gain an understanding of how to plan their own lifelong health and fitness.

SCIENCE

Science 7: In 7th Grade Science, a Career Technical Education (CTE) life science class, students will explore chemical reactions, cells, body systems, matter cycling, photosynthesis, and genetics. Students will engage in team-based problem-solving, enabling them to interact, create, and develop solutions to real-world problems and current issues.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 7 (Pacific Northwest History): Seventh graders explore Washington state, from native and European contact to the present. They examine the state constitution and key treaties, including local and popular tribal sovereignty issues. Understanding of civics, economics, geography and history are developed while learning about differing cultural experiences as well as interactions between humans and the environment. This course fulfills a Washington State graduation requirement. In addition, students will explore current world and local issues and events that affect students' everyday lives.

CONTINUING MUSIC ELECTIVES (year-long courses)

Beginning Band: Beginning Band is for the student who has little or no band experience. There will be performances during the school year. Students will be graded on performance, preparation, participation in class and attendance at additional rehearsals and events.

Students are responsible for providing their own instruments. The band instructor will guide this process during the first week of school. Students will be placed in the appropriate band.

Cadet Band: This course is for students with band experience. Along with music fundamentals at the individual level, students will learn group techniques in an advanced band setting. This band has a number of performances during the school year. Students will be graded on performance, preparation, participation in class and attendance at additional rehearsals and events. Students will be placed in the appropriate band.

Symphonic Band: This course is for advanced students with band experience. Along with music fundamentals at the individual level, students will learn group techniques in an advanced band setting. This band has a number of performances during the school year. Students will be graded on performance, preparation, participation in class and attendance at additional rehearsals and events. Students will be placed in the appropriate band.

Jazz Ensemble I: Jazz I is an elective class for the most advanced students who have auditioned and been selected as members of the ensemble. Students in Jazz I are required to also have a concert band as their elective unless their instrument is piano or bass. The curriculum consists of advanced jazz techniques such as ensemble playing, style, feel, jazz theory and improvisation. This band has a number of performances throughout the year.

Jazz Ensemble II: Jazz II is a “zero hour” class for students who have auditioned and been selected as members of the ensemble. Students in Jazz II are required to have a concert band as their elective unless their instrument is piano or bass. The curriculum consists of developing jazz techniques such as ensemble playing, style, feel and improvisation. This band has a number of performances throughout the year. Jazz II rehearses Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 am to 8:00 am. Auditions are held at the beginning of the year.

Concert Choir: For all voices - sixth, seventh and eighth grade - no audition required. Students will learn and improve vocal skills by performing literature from many genres including American, sacred, jazz and contemporary. Students will perform in night concerts and travel to festivals. Students are graded on participation in class, skills-evaluations, and required performances as outlined in the Choral Handbook. This is not an audition-based choir. Required fees include ASB and uniform purchase.

Treble Choir: For Soprano, Mezzo Soprano and Alto voices, advanced singers in mostly seventh and eighth grade, by audition. Students will learn and improve vocal skills by performing challenging literature from many genres. Students will perform in night concerts and travel to festivals. Students are graded on participation in class, skills-evaluations, and required performances as outlined in the Choral Handbook. Required fees include ASB and uniform purchase. This is an audition-based choir and will be a year-long (two semester) commitment.

Symphonic Choir: For Tenor, Baritone and changing voices - sixth, seventh and eighth grade - no audition required. Students will learn and improve vocal skills by performing literature from many genres including American, sacred, jazz and contemporary. Students will perform in night concerts and travel to festivals. Students are graded on participation in class, skills-evaluations, and required performances as outlined in the Choral Handbook. This is not an audition-based choir. Required fees include ASB and uniform purchase.

Jazz Choir: For all voices including Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Baritone, mostly eighth grade advanced singers by audition only. Students will learn and improve classical and jazz vocal skills in particular, performing challenging literature from many genres including chamber and jazz music. Students are graded on participation in class, skills-evaluations, and required performances as outlined in the Choral Handbook. Required fees include ASB and uniform purchase. This is an audition-based choir and will be a year-long (two semester) commitment.

Beginning Orchestra: Beginning Orchestra is a year-long performance ensemble for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students with little or no orchestra experience. Instruments included in orchestra are: violin, viola, cello, and double bass. There will be after school performances during the school year. Students will be graded on performance, preparation, participation in class, and attendance (in class and performances). Students are highly encouraged to provide their own instruments. The orchestra instructor will help guide this process during the first week of school.

Intermediate Orchestra: This course is designed for the intermediate strings student with one or two years of playing experience. Students will receive further instruction on the music fundamentals, scales, rhythm, sight-reading and advancing their playing skills. Grade is based on performance, amount of time spent preparing and learning skills, and participation in class. Students will be placed in the appropriate orchestra by the instructor based on playing skills.

Advanced Orchestra: This course is designed for the advanced strings student with two or more years of playing experience, or those students with advanced skills on their instrument. Students will receive further instruction on the music fundamentals, scales, rhythm, sight-reading at more advanced levels. Grade is based on performance, amount of time spent preparing and learning performance skills, and participation in class. Students will be placed in the appropriate orchestra by the instructor based on playing skills.

ELECTIVE COURSES (Semester Long)

Art 7: This 18-week course teaches the various two-dimensional art forms, which may include: pen and ink, perspective drawing, character creation, sequential art, block printing, self-portraiture, and native formline design. No previous experience is required.

Design & Modeling: Design and Modeling is a beginning class to introduce students to engineering, design, sketching, 3D modeling, and problem solving skills. Students will practice using the Design Process and will use creativity to design, create, and test physical models.

Robotics 7: This course is a project-based learning environment where students use critical thinking and problem solving skills with one another using Fischertechnik and Vex IQ robotics materials. Students will be challenged to work productively using the design process in small groups to solve a series of project and programming challenges. Students will also be introduced to the use of gears, mechanisms, compound machines, and system interactions.

Leadership 7: Leadership class focuses on the way students can help improve our school.

Students enrolled in this class will be responsible for taking part in school-wide activities. This course will be hands-on and provide an excellent opportunity to gain leadership skills.

SUPPORT COURSES

Reading Enrichment: This course focuses on reading comprehension and vocabulary. Students learn different reading strategies each week that can immediately be implemented in their core classes to help build reading comprehension. Weekly attention is also given to reading fluency and reading rate, as necessary. However, the focus is on reading strategies and vocabulary development to improve understanding of all different types of texts. Students will be assigned to this class.

SPECIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Students must be qualified through the Mead School District's Special Services Department. Each student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) services will be determined on a case by case basis. A continuum of services will be provided for each individual student's needs.

Inclusion Class: The purpose of the Inclusion Class is to provide instruction using general education curriculum and individual instruction in the basic skills of reading, written expression, mathematics, and other areas as determined by the IEP team. Inclusion classes are co-taught by a general education teacher and a special education teacher.

Resource Room: The purpose of the Resource Room is to provide specially designed curriculum and individual instruction in the basic skills of reading, written expression, mathematics, and other areas as determined by the IEP team.

Life Skills: The goal of Life Skills is to teach the functional skills necessary to become a productive and independent member of society. Students will be taught how to participate in a variety of vocational and leisure time activities.

Developmental Learning Center: This is a Mead School District program for middle school students who qualify for special education services and who have an Individualized Educational Program (IEP). The curriculum is highly individualized and based on each student's IEP. The program's focus is on functional academics, communication skills, and the development of social and adaptive skills. This is a non-graded program for middle school students.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Mead School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.