

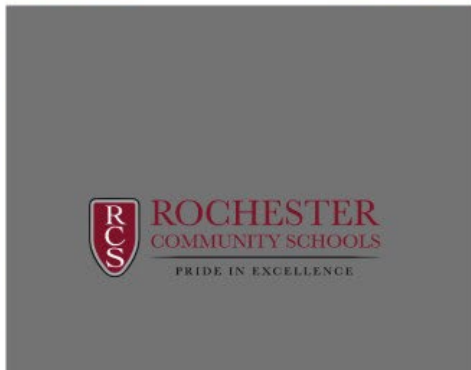
7TH GRADE COURSE CATALOG



2026-2027

OUR MISSION

To provide a quality education in a caring atmosphere for students to attain the necessary skills and knowledge to become lifelong learners and contribute to a diverse, interdependent and changing world.



The teaching and learning at Rochester Community Schools is designed to develop innovative, self-directed learners who think critically, communicate effectively, and persevere to positively impact the world.

We challenge our learners through dynamic cultural experiences to be empowered global stewards and inspire them to take what they learn and have a positive impact on their community, country, and world.

All seventh-grade students are scheduled to take the following classes:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Health
- 1 full year or 2 semester electives

English Language Arts

Language Arts 7 - #01007

Language Arts 7 is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for seventh grade. This course develops and implements interactive units of instruction that frame problems or questions to provide authentic purposes for students to read and write. Instruction is designed to continue the development of language arts by providing increasingly complex texts and by moving beyond simple paragraphs to develop multi-paragraph essays. Integrated reading and writing units explore literary analysis, argument, and research. Intentional efforts to build vocabulary and conceptual knowledge encourage students to identify, analyze, and use new vocabulary. Throughout the writing process, students write narrative and expository pieces, including a personal narrative, a literary analysis, an argument, and a research project. Writing mechanics—sentence structure, spelling, and grammar—are taught and reinforced through writing and revision. Students apply speaking and listening skills in large and small groups as they participate in discussions and present information to the class.

Mathematics

Mathematics 7 - #04007

Mathematics 7 is based on the seventh-grade Michigan Math Standards. Students deepen their understanding of rational number operations, equivalent expressions, solving equations, and solving inequalities with the use of negative and positive numbers. Students analyze and graph proportional relationships. Students use their knowledge of proportions and equations to solve percent problems. In their study of geometry, students investigate angle relationships and find the surface area and volume of prisms and pyramids. While studying statistics, students compare data and make inferences about two populations.

Accelerated Math 7 - # 04018

Accelerated Mathematics 7 is based on the eighth-grade Michigan Math Standards. Students solve multi-step equations and systems of equations. Students graph linear equations to model relationships between quantities. Students evaluate powers with integer exponents. Students discover and apply the Pythagorean theorem to solve problems. In their study of geometry, students investigate congruence and similarity. Students also find the volume and surface area of three-dimensional figures. In their study of statistics, students investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

When determining placement into Accelerated Math 7, families should consider a student's m-step score, iReady percentile score, mastery of 7th-grade content, and mathematical dispositions.

Science

Science 7 - #06007

Science 7 follows the Michigan Science Standards for grades 6–8, using the Mi-STAR curriculum to engage students in problem-based learning that connects science to real-world issues. The course builds students' scientific knowledge and skills through hands-on investigations, collaboration, and critical thinking. Each unit begins with a real-world challenge that students explore through inquiry, reading, writing, and discussion. They are encouraged to draw on their own experiences, ask meaningful questions, and discover how science and engineering relate to their daily lives and communities. Through authentic investigations and design cycles, students learn to think, communicate, and problem-solve like scientists and engineers. Units focus on engaging topics such as genetics/inheritance, mutations, transfer of thermal energy, and the capture and use of energy.

Social Studies

Early World History - #07007

The seventh-grade social studies curriculum explores human history from early civilizations to around 1500 CE. Students study major historical changes through a chronological lens, investigating early humans, migration, and the rise of farming and settled societies. Using evidence from archaeology, anthropology, and geography, they examine how agriculture led to the growth of empires, trade, and cultural exchange. Students also explore the development of belief systems in their historical context, as well as the rise of empires in the Americas and the global connections formed through expanding trade and the spread of ideas.

Required Elective Courses

One class period of each 7th grader's schedule is divided into two-semester courses that consist of Physical Education and Health.

Health 7 - #06027

Length: Semester

Seventh Grade Health is a semester-long course that promotes positive behaviors, attitudes, and knowledge with an emphasis on life-long commitments to wellness and optimal health. Students explore positive health-related decision making, goal setting, Interpersonal skills, relationship building among friends and family, internal/external pressures, safety, alcohol/drug abuse prevention, and growth and development.

Physical Education 7 - #03007

Length: Semester

The seventh-grade physical education program is a semester class that continues to build on the skills learned in sixth grade and enables students to apply the skills in controlled situations. Students learn the benefits of participating in physical activities both now and in the future. A continuation of the fitness program reinforces positive behaviors while allowing students to manage their own progress and goals, aiming to meet the standards for their age group. Students participate in activities that improve overall fitness such as jogging, strength training, and aerobics. Students learn skills, movements, and rules to participate in games such as kickball, tennis, and basketball. Students learn and apply positive behaviors that enhance teamwork.

Unified PE - #73009

Length: Semester

This Physical Education course combines 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students of all abilities to create an inclusive environment for students with and without disabilities. This class is intended to help students develop fitness and sports skills in a non-competitive setting. Students will participate in developmentally appropriate activities including lifetime skills and activities, physical fitness, and sports. Students will work together to increase competence and confidence in a variety of physical activities. Through ongoing leadership opportunities, members of this course will be empowered to help create a more inclusive and accepting school environment for all students.

Electives

Seventh graders have one hour each day for an elective class. A student may choose either one year-long class or two-semester classes.

Semester Long Electives

Art 7 - #05507

Length: Semester

Through the introduction of the design process, students will conceive or fashion in their mind a concept, leading to the construction of a tangible, successful, art show ready product. Students will continue to be exposed to basic art foundations through experimentation in drawing, digital design, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. Students begin to recognize the value of seeing the connection of art to designing, crafting, engineering, solving complex problems, [deep learning](#) concepts, and everyday life. Come build skills that contribute to the two trillion dollar a year industry of the creative sector.

A variety of materials and techniques will be used as students create more advanced works of art.

Choir 7 - #05107

Length: Semester or Full Year

Students may elect to take this class for either a semester or for the full year. Students develop the vocal skills needed for group choral singing and performance. Proper choral literature for all voice ranges is studied. Music history and theory are also studied. Students are strongly encouraged to sign up for the full-year commitment in order to facilitate the continual learning process of choral singing. Public performance is a course requirement, and students are expected to participate in concerts.

Introduction to World Languages - #02208

Length: Semester

Introduction to World Languages is a 20-week class that provides positive exposure to language learning with emphasis on listening comprehension, speaking on a limited but meaningful basis, and learning about the cultures of the people who speak Spanish, French, and German. Students explore the role of World Languages in career choices and build readiness for language. Students expand their understanding and application of basic vocabulary, basic conversation, general pronunciation rules, the writing system, and cultural information. Students reflect on the similarities and differences among the three languages studied and English. Students develop a vocabulary of terms such as days of the week, months of the year, and personal descriptions. Students practice conversations involving greetings, introductions, leave-takings, courtesy expressions, and asking and answering simple questions.

Life Skills 7 - #08007

Length: Semester

Three major areas of Family and Consumer Sciences are emphasized in this semester-long course.

Students prepare simple snacks and meals with an emphasis on nutrition, kitchen safety, equipment and organization. This is followed by a unit on clothing care and multi-functional hand sewing skills. Students apply skills of consumerism, fabric care and creativity. The course concludes with a unit focusing on money management. Working cooperatively and independently, students practice communicating, making decisions, solving problems, and using time productively in all areas of their lives.

Multimedia - #08808

Length: Semester

Students will identify various media formats and the importance of targeting an audience and delivering an intended message. Proper rules of online etiquette, ethics, and copyright law will be embedded into the curriculum. Students will utilize applications such as Google Workspace for Education and other web-based tools to work collaboratively to design and create a variety of multimedia presentations based on research topics of choice. Students will broaden their research strategies and skills while acquiring video, audio, and photography editing skills to enhance presentations. Students will be exposed to current presentation formats as they become available. Presentation formats may include slides, video, websites, podcasts or podcasts or blogs with the option to utilize technology resources such as stop motion animation, interactive video and audio, and green screen technology in addition to the creation of printed materials.

Introduction to Theater - #01509

Length: Semester

This class introduces students to the skills and techniques used by actors. Beginning with charades, students explore how meaning is conveyed through both oral and body language. Students learn how to speak with clarity and proper enunciation. Students learn and practice voice projection and how to breathe more effectively through the diaphragm. Students explore how voice and intonation convey meaning by reading poems aloud, participating in storytelling, and creating simulations that promote characterization and mood. Students practice memorization techniques by memorizing short skits and presenting them to the class. The semester culminates with students presenting a one-act play.

STEM 7 - #08407

Length: Semester

This STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) course exposes students to contemporary technologies in such areas as coding, CAD (computer-aided design), architecture and construction, transportation, biomechanics, cybersecurity, and electrical engineering. Through demonstrations, discussion, and hands-on activities, students will imagine, plan, create, test, and redesign solutions to a variety of STEM challenges. Students work individually and collaborate in groups to solve problems and exercise their critical thinking skills as they gain a deeper understanding of how STEM systems apply to their everyday lives.

Peer-to-Peer (Anchors) - #09610

Length: Semester

PREREQUISITE: Must complete an application and receive approval from a counselor/classroom teacher. This class will be graded as Credit (G) or No Credit (H).

Classroom peer mentor students will participate in a hands-on classroom experience to help increase inclusion opportunities in the general education setting for students with special needs. Peer mentors will model positive communication, socialization, participation, and behavior strategies that help to engage students in a variety of school settings which may include, the general education core academic courses, elective area courses, lunch experiences, and after school social activities. Peer (Anchors) will receive ongoing training and support to ensure a successful experience for themselves and for the students in which they will be supporting. Peer (Anchors) will be required to complete assignments assigned by the teacher that may include, but are not limited to: reflective journal and article writing, reflective personal journal entries, meeting with the teacher to learn about various disabilities and research based strategies, creating projects that promote social interaction with students, and a project. This class may be taken more than one semester with approval.

Supervised Study – #09597 or #09599

Length: Semester

Supervised Study is a course in place of an elective that supports students with academic and executive functioning deficits. Students are placed in the course based on the previous semester's data. An individual plan is created to increase math, ELA, and/or executive functioning skills through small group/whole group instruction and support.

Full Year Electives

Band 7 - #05007

Length: Full Year

Students review what was learned in sixth-grade instrumental music. Students perform musical ideas using phrase lengths of at least four measures. Students perform selections that demonstrate their ability to blend tone within their section and the entire band. Students develop an awareness of the musical tones being sharp or flat and ways to correct this through pitch matching. Students complete compositional activities of greater complexity. Students begin to shape a musical phrase. Students learn and apply articulations in legato, staccato, and marcato. Using a variety of genres, students perform, create, listen, describe, and read music. Students learn and apply vocabulary to critique their own performance and the performances of others. Students are evaluated on performances that take place during class and after school.

Orchestra 7 (String Instruments) - #05227

Length: Full year

Students review what was learned in sixth-grade orchestral music. Students perform musical ideas using phrase lengths of at least four measures. Students perform selections that demonstrate their ability to blend tone within their section and the entire band. Students develop an awareness of the musical tones being sharp or flat and ways to correct this through pitch matching. Students complete compositional activities of greater complexity. Students begin to shape a musical phrase. Students learn and apply articulations in legato, staccato, and marcato. Using a variety of genres, students perform, create, listen, describe, and read music. Students learn and apply vocabulary to critique their own performance and the performances of others. Students are evaluated on performances that take place during class and after school.

Choir 7 - #05107

Length: Semester or Full Year

Students may elect to take this class for either a semester or for the full year. Students develop the vocal skills needed for group choral singing and performance. Proper choral literature for all voice ranges is studied. Music history and theory are also studied. Students are strongly encouraged to sign up for the full-year commitment in order to facilitate the continual learning process of choral singing. Public performance is a course requirement, and students are expected to participate in concerts.

World Language Level 1 (French #02314, German #02414, Spanish, #02814)

Length: Full Year

In this introductory course, students will comprehend and interact at a survival level in everyday contexts with other people in and from other cultures using the target language and appropriate rehearsed behaviors. Students will develop basic proficiency across the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. By the end of the course, students are able to inform, narrate, and express preferences and opinions to communicate using a variety of practiced or familiar words, phrases, and simple sentences through written or spoken language. Students will identify typical products and practices to help understand perspectives of native and other cultures using the target language. Upon successful completion of this course, students will reach the Novice-mid proficiency level on the [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines](#).

(Students taking a Level 1 World Language course receive one credit towards the high school World Language graduation requirement.)

English Language Development

Language Arts 1 - #41015EL

This English Language Arts class is designed for multilingual students at the overall WIDA proficiency level 1.0-2.0. This course interweaves the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards with the

Common Core State Standards and offers sheltered instruction, allowing students to focus on ELA concepts and language acquisition content. Students receive direct instruction pertaining to all four domains of language development: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students participate in group discussions with support, write simple sentences and paragraphs, develop high-frequency and academic vocabulary, and read narrative and expository texts. This course takes the place of the general education ELA course, and students will be in this course for an entire academic year.

Language Arts 2 - #41016EL

This English Language Arts class is designed for multilingual students at the overall WIDA proficiency level 2.0-3.0. This course interweaves the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards with the Common Core State Standards and offers sheltered instruction, allowing students to focus on ELA concepts and language acquisition content. Students receive direct instruction pertaining to all four domains of language development: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students participate in group discussions with support, write compound and complex sentences and longer paragraphs, develop academic vocabulary, and read narrative and expository texts. This course takes the place of the general education ELA course, and students will be in this course for an entire academic year.

Language Arts 3 - #41017EL

This English Language Arts class is designed for multilingual students at the overall WIDA proficiency level 3.0-4.0. This course interweaves the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards with the Common Core State Standards and offers sheltered instruction, allowing students to focus on ELA concepts and language acquisition content. Students receive direct instruction pertaining to all four domains of language development: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students participate in group discussions and argumentation, write compound and complex forms of sentences and multi-paragraph essays, develop academic vocabulary with context clues, and read narrative, expository, and argumentative texts. This course takes the place of the general education ELA course, and students will be in this course for an entire academic year.

Academic Support - #41011EL

This course emphasizes academic support for multilingual students who are taking content courses. Students receive support in academic vocabulary relevant to their content area, along with content-specific reading and writing instruction. Students also develop focused literacy skills through mini-lessons designed to enhance their comprehension and communication abilities. Additionally, students are provided with extra time to complete classroom assignments and assessments, ensuring they can engage fully with the material. Finally, this class integrates cultural studies into the class through readings, videos, and classroom discussions. This course replaces an elective. This course may be repeated with instructor approval.

Special Education

Math 2 - #21002R

This course provides systematic, explicit instruction based on conceptual development, procedural skills, and fluency practice aligned to grade-level Common Core Standards based on student need. Students are engaged in hands-on learning, differentiation, and extension opportunities. Students are directly taught strategies to build math reasoning, algebraic thinking, and problem-solving, which accelerates math learning.

Language Arts 2 - #21005R

Language Arts 2 is based on the Common Core State Standards for seventh grade. This course integrates listening, speaking, writing, and reading. With a blended approach, instruction reinforces the literacy foundation students need while strategically using authentic narrative and informational text to engage readers. This intensive instruction integrates the key foundational literacy skills necessary for both reading and writing. Vocabulary strategies are taught and reinforced through a variety of literature. The mechanics of writing, including sentence structure, spelling, and grammar, are explicitly taught and reinforced through student writing. Acquisition of rich comprehension, language, and vocabulary skills occurs by exposing students to complex text and collaborative discussions. The development of skills necessary to effectively express ideas orally and in writing are explicitly taught. This course is offered for each grade level of middle school with increasing focus on literacy and writing skills.

Learning Strategies 7 - #21047R

Middle School Learning Strategies classes focus on five pillars: executive functioning skills, supporting core content, intervention, test taking/study skills strategies, mindfulness, and real-world application. Through a series of mini-lessons and work with current assignments, students acquire strategies to become life and career-ready. Grades are based on pass or fail.

Categorical - #39001/#79001

This course provides explicit instruction for students who are working on English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies skills that align with state alternate standards (Essential Elements). Guided reading, self-selected reading, writing, and working with words are integrated into reading instruction, using a balanced literacy framework. Emphasis will be placed on building individual basic skills, as well as the practical application of reading and writing as it relates to daily living, community participation, and personal enjoyment.

Using a multisensory, systematic progression of instruction, with a problem-solving focus, math instruction allows students to be successful math learners. Emphasis is on building individual skills, as well as the practical application of mathematics as it relates to daily living and community participation. Student learning is reinforced with accessible math routines that build on the math concepts taught in class.

Life Skills incorporates a range of skills that rotate on a daily basis with the focus on building pre-employment skills (cooking, campus/classroom jobs, assembling items, and health lessons).

Science and Social Studies unit lesson plans define three levels of differentiated tasks to accommodate diverse learners. Instruction is both systematic and with a progressive learning process. The thematic units for both science and social studies are themed and include comprehensive activities for all five core competencies: reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.