7th Grade
Course Descriptions Booklet
2026-27

FULL YEAR - REQUIRED COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS

Using novels and a variety of texts aligned with grade-level English Language Arts standards, 7th Grade Language Arts students will develop and strengthen their reading, writing, thinking, speaking, and listening skills. The course is designed to support students in working at grade level while growing their literacy and analytical abilities.

Students should expect a balanced learning experience that includes whole-class instruction, small-group and student-led discussions, independent work, and collaborative projects. Through consistent practice and meaningful engagement with texts, students will build the skills necessary for continued academic growth and success.

ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS

7th Grade Advanced Language Arts is designed for students who are motivated to engage in an accelerated and rigorous curriculum. This course prepares students for high school honors, pre-AP coursework, and advanced academic pathways beyond middle school.

Using state standards as a foundation, students write extensively across narrative, argumentative, and explanatory modes while engaging deeply with compelling, at- and above-grade-level texts. The course emphasizes higher-level critical thinking, analytical discussion, and meaningful collaboration. Students participate in both group and independent projects, share their work, and give and receive constructive feedback.

Advanced Language Arts students are expected to:

- Proactively engage in the accelerated pace of an honors-level curriculum
- Demonstrate strong foundational writing skills across multiple genres
- Participate in sophisticated critical thinking and text analysis
- Conduct independent research and complete self-guided units of study
- Work effectively both collaboratively and independently
- Self-advocate and communicate ideas, needs, and questions voluntarily
- Maintain a strong work ethic and commitment to academic growth

This program is intended for students who seek challenge, demonstrate initiative, and are prepared to take ownership of their learning.

7th GRADE SCIENCE

This class is an integrated science class based on the Next Generation Science Standards. 7th grade science will give students a basic understanding of the relationships between chemical reactions, matter and energy, metabolic reactions, matter cycling and photosynthesis, ecosystem dynamics, and earth's resources.

MATHEMATICS

***All incoming 7th grade students** are initially placed into Math 7. Placement in Advanced Math or Algebra is based on their achievement on 6th grade, STAR Test and 5th and 6th grade SBA scores and teacher recommendations.* Big Ideas Math, which is aligned to the Washington State Learning Standards, is the district-approved curriculum for all middle school level students. In all math classes, students will continue to evolve as mathematicians as they learn to use the Eight Mathematical Practices as outlined in the Washington State Learning Standards.

Math 7 - Students will study ratio and proportion, percent, graphing, probability, measurement, integers and linear proportions. SBA preparation is addressed.

Accelerated Math 7/8 - This course is an acceleration course that will prepare the student for Algebra the following year. Accelerated Math is a rigorous, fast-paced course, and entrance into this course is dependent upon qualifications listed above. Students in Accelerated math must maintain a B- grade, and may be moved to Math 7 if necessary. Accelerated Math will cover vital 7th and 8th grade Common Core State Math Standards:

Rational numbers and number theory; linear equations and functions; proportionality and similarity; properties and relationships in geometric figures; probability and data; and additional key content.

Algebra 1 - This course introduces fundamental operation of equations and formulas, studies of ratio, proportion, variation, indirect measurements, polynomial operations, factoring and operation with radical expressions. Students will solve equations (linear, quadratic and systems) and inequalities using graphing, substitution and/or addition. The student is also introduced to principles governing system and set theory. ***Students must earn a B- or above to be recommended to take Geometry the following school year.***

***Algebra 1 is a rigorous, fast-paced course, and entrance into this course is dependent upon qualifications listed above.* This course provides one high school math credit upon successful completion (see note on transcript policy).

Transcript policy for high-school-credit math courses taken during 7th & 8th grades.

Regarding high-school-credit math courses (Algebra & Geometry) taken during 7th or 8th grade:

- Grades will be posted to the students' middle school transcript.
- Grades will be posted to the students' high school transcript.
- When posted to the high school transcript, the grades:
  - ✓ will accurately indicate when the class was taken
  - ✓ will be included in the student's high school graduation credits and GPA

SEMESTER - REQUIRED COURSES

FOUNDATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY **One Semester**

The goal of this class is to give every student the opportunity to learn foundational skills of using digital technology in an academic and professional setting. This class focuses on teaching students core concepts related to digital technology, focusing on applications, skills and habits that students will be asked to rely on throughout their academic and professional career. Concepts covered will include career exploration and digital skills, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship and enterprise, digital media and graphic design, computer science fundamentals and keyboarding.

HEALTH **One Semester**

This semester-long course empowers students to develop essential health literacy skills while exploring critical wellness topics relevant to their lives. Students will investigate physical, mental, emotional, and social health concepts that support their growth and well-being during early adolescence.

Students will examine topics including nutrition and physical activity, personal safety, substance abuse prevention, mental and emotional wellness, disease prevention, and sexual health. The course emphasizes practical application of health knowledge to real-world situations students encounter daily.

PHYSICAL FITNESS **One Semester**

This course is designed to improve the student's physical skills and knowledge through participation in both individual and team activities. Opportunities are provided to understand and improve cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility in addition to the social-emotional aspects of sport in an effort to promote lifelong fitness.

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY **One Semester**

This course introduces students to Washington State's geography, history, cultures, government, and economy from time immemorial to the present. Students explore Indigenous histories and sovereignty, as well as exploration, migration, statehood, civic structures, and Washington's role in national and global contexts, while building skills in inquiry, critical thinking, and civic engagement.

This course is a HS graduation requirement. Students must pass this course to meet the requirement.

SEMESTER - ELECTIVES

ACTING **One Semester**

Welcome to the world of theatre! Over the course of this semester, we will look at various aspects of performance including characterization, movement, voice, articulation, scene work, monologues, and play production. This is a great class for students who already have a love of drama as well as those who want to feel more comfortable speaking in front of people. The culminating project is a full play production with an evening performance. Memorization and participation are required.

DIGITAL PRODUCTION **One semester**

In this class you will learn to produce content in a digital space. You will have choice over what you learn in this class and be able to pursue your passions as they relate to creating creative content in digital space. You can learn to create games, virtual reality spaces and games, beats and songs, websites and blogs, the basics of photography and photo editing, how to make animations, how to create digital art, coding and much more. This course will be done through Canvas, which will allow you to learn at a pace that is right for you. You will also have as much choice as possible when it comes to the topics you use as the basis for the work you do.

Examples of some of the content previous students have produced in this class can be found at http://snocode.weebly.com on the Virtual Travel, Advocacy Sites, Student Websites and Virtual Reality pages. **This class is a mix of 7th and 8th grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 7th grade.**

ENGINEERING 1 **One Semester**

This 18-week exploratory S.T.E.M. course incorporates project-based learning with a focus on the engineering cycle. Students will learn about a variety of topics including power tool safety & operation, measurement, robotics, simple machines, electricity & soldering, and computer aided drafting & design (CADD). Projects include candy dispensers, robotics, edge lit LED signs, magic 8 spinners and more.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES 1 **One Semester**

In this class students will have hands-on, project-based learning in the following areas: All about Me, "How to" do all those things we should know how to do but have never been taught! Interior Design, Sewing (by hand and on a machine) and Basic Cooking/Nutrition, as well as gardening in the spring semester. At the end of each unit, students will walk away with a project that demonstrates their personal likes and interests as well as the skills and techniques to use in the future. This is a fun, fast paced class where students learn with hands on activities and real life application.

FORENSICS **One Semester**

Forensics will be a one-semester investigative science and technology course. Using Scientific Inquiry Skills, students will learn how to observe, collect, analyze and evaluate evidence found at crime scenes. Included: Hair analysis, DNA analysis, Blood analysis, Forensic anthropology (bones), Chromatography, Impression evidence (tire tracks/shoe prints/tool marks), Arson investigation, Chemical analysis. **This class is a mix of 7th and 8th grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 7th grade two days per week.**

INTRODUCTION to ART **One Semester**

In this introductory course, students will gain an understanding and appreciation for the visual arts! We focus on the elements of art and explore basic art techniques and mediums. We will explore art history, movements in art, as well as contemporary art as they relate to our own projects. This class is perfect for the beginner artist!

TEAM SPORTS **One semester**

This course will include various sports with an emphasis on skills, strategy, and game play. Activities may include but are not limited to: Flag football, softball, volleyball, badminton, soccer, and basketball. **Students may only take one semester of fitness electives.**

FULL YEAR - CHOIR or BAND - ELECTIVE

CHOIR (Grades 7 and 8) - Full year

Choir is for 7th and 8th grade students who love to sing and perform. Choir members learn to sing in three-part harmony, with boys singing baritone parts and girls divided into sopranos and altos. Students will also learn to read a music score and to sight sing. This group takes three field trips a year, including one to an adjudicated Choral festival in May. There are also three required evening concerts and occasional assembly performances. Solo opportunities are available for students who are interested.
This class is a mix of 7th and 8th grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 7th grade.

CADET BAND (Grades 7) - Full year

This band is offered to 7th grade students with one or more years' experience on a band instrument. Beginners who are self-motivated learners and committed to regular, daily practice are also welcome. At a typical Cadet Band rehearsal we do warm-ups, sight reading, technique exercises and work on concert music. This group performs in four required evening school concerts and takes a field trip in March to participate in the MPMEA band Festival. Individual band members will also have the opportunity to participate in the MPMEA Solo-Ensemble festival in May. Students are required to provide their own instrument for this class, although some larger school-owned instruments like French horns, baritone horns and tubas may be available for checkout. Contact Mrs. Stout at 360-563-4554 or jenessa.stout@sno.wednet.edu for more information, or if you need help selecting or acquiring an instrument.

JAZZ BAND (Grades 7 and 8) - Full year

- **AUDITION REQUIRED**
- **PREREQUISITE: ENROLLMENT IN BEGINNING, CADET, CONCERT BAND OR CHOIR**
- **ZERO HOUR CLASS (6:30-7:25 am)**

Instruction focuses on jazz concepts such as improvisation, big band swing, jazz, rock, Latin styles and funk. This is a performance-oriented group that takes three field trips to regional jazz festivals, plus required evening school concerts and one Saturday festival.
Auditions are held in the Spring, and private music instruction is highly recommended for interested students. For information about auditions, contact Mrs. Stout at 360-563-4554 or jenessa.stout@sno.wednet.edu. **Students must arrange their own transportation to this class.**

BEGINNING BAND (Grades 7 & 8) - Full year

Beginning Band class offers individualized instruction designed to meet the needs of students with no previous band experience, students with some band experience, or those who may wish to learn a new instrument. Did you try band in 6th grade and not complete it? Did you want to participate in band but couldn't get a ride to school? Did remote learning make it impossible for you to attend? This is the right class to get you involved in band. Instruction is offered on flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet family, sax family, trumpet, french horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. Percussionists will learn and practice bells as well as snare drum. Some instruments are available for loan. Contact Mrs.Stout at 360-563-4554 or Jenessa.stout@sno.wednet.edu for information.

SNOHOMISH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Middle School Advanced Courses
Process for Appropriate Placement for Student Success

GOAL: Student access to and success in advanced courses

Interest, Motivation, and Perseverance Indicators

Students who are successful in honors courses:

- Demonstrate a high level of interest, academic engagement, and an innate curiosity to learn in specific courses of interest (Language Arts, Social Studies, and/or Science)
- Are highly self-motivated, take responsibility for their own learning, attend class regularly, complete quality assignments on time, and recognize that effort is important for success
- Maintain a high standard in academic integrity
- Successfully complete complex tasks that require extra time, thought, and perseverance
- Examine and learn from errors, demonstrate a willingness to try different approaches, problem solve, make revisions to work throughout the learning process, seek help, and access available resources
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led)

Academic Indicators

Students who are successful in advanced courses:

English Language Arts: Have demonstrated the indicators for academic success as indicated below.

- Has a history of curiosity around language, reading, and writing
- Reads two or more years above grade level
- Demonstrates advanced reading and communication skills
- Reads and writes beyond required assignments. Has a history of creating own reading and writing projects
- Consistently shows interest in the details of language (word origins, grammar, sentence structure, etc.)

Middle School data teams will review data (SBA, STAR, teacher input, grades) to recommend appropriate math placement. Letters with your student's math placement recommendation will be sent by the end of May.