

7th

GRADE

2026-2027

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

REQUIRED COURSES

Core Teams

Seventh graders will be assigned to a team of teachers for the core instructional subjects of **English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies**. Core teams share the same students, the same schedule and the same part of the building. This provides for close personal contact between the student and his/her teachers. Core team teachers have a daily common planning period which is used to discuss student academic and behavioral progress; to plan interdisciplinary units; and to meet with students, parents, the team counselor or the principals.

Wellness

The Seventh Grade Wellness Program covers the skills and objectives of physical education, fitness, and health. This year-long course will focus on teaching students how to develop an appreciation and responsibility for their own physical, mental and emotional health. In physical education, this is accomplished through team/individual sports, fitness training and conditioning, and establishing positive health behaviors. Students will fitness test quarterly in order to set fitness goals and mark progress throughout the year.

Health instruction is also a vital and integral part of the total school curriculum and is designed to help each child understand him/herself as a physical, mental, and social being. It provides the opportunity for students to develop attitudes and good health habits. Students will be in the health classroom for two 4-week rotations each year as part of their Wellness rotation. Seventh grade content strands are disease prevention and nutrition.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Encore/Core Extension

Seventh graders have 2 periods for Encore/Core Extensions. Students requesting Band/Orchestra and/or World Language will be enrolled in those classes. They will be scheduled in the remaining Encore/Core Extension(s) based on the availability of the highest ranked course.

7300	Art 7	7618	Great Outdoors
7500	Band 7	7614	History Thru Lit & Film
7311	Choir	7620	Intro to FACS
8429	Coding/Tech Time	8426	Leaders Among Us
7613	Creative Writing	8428	Mind & Body
7615	Debate	7310	Music
7320	Drama 7	8313	Musical Theater
7370	Engineering 7	7550	Orchestra 7
7330	French 7	7350	Spanish 7
7340	German 7	7616	Zoology

ENCORE ELECTIVE – FULL YEAR

7th Grade Band/Orchestra:

Seventh Grade Band/Orchestra members must successfully complete 6th grade Band/Orchestra and meet director approval based on musical aptitude and rehearsal skills prior to enrollment. Students will develop skills that lead to intermediate levels of proficiency in technique on their instrument. Students will gain an understanding of music theory as it pertains to their instrument and continue to experience a variety of literature for the modern band/orchestra. Members of the ensemble will have opportunities to perform solos and small ensemble literature as well as large ensemble selections to be performed at required concerts and festivals

ENCORE/CORE EXTENSION - SEMESTER

Art

The content of this semester-long course is derived from four art disciplines: aesthetics, art criticism, art history, and art production. The semester-long course focuses on building foundational artistic skills and exploring various art forms while encouraging creativity, self-expression, and an appreciation for different art styles. The basic elements of art and design will be reinforced through hands-on activities that involve various media techniques in both two and three-dimensional projects. An introduction to the principles of design will help students have a better understanding of their art, as well as art from other cultures. Students will deepen their artistic skills through projects including: drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, fiber arts, mixed media, and ceramics.

Choir

Students will develop skills in both performance and music literacy. They will learn the fundamentals of good tone production, rhythm, diction, musicianship, and ensemble. Students will have performance opportunities both in and out of the classroom, participate in competitions, and learn music from a wide variety of genres.

Coding & Tech Time

Students learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. Using microcontrollers with inputs and outputs, they develop code that brings their physical designs to life. It's time to become an innovator and maker using physical computing!

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing class is focused on the types of writing that are not heavily emphasized in the traditional ELA classroom. This class offers many opportunities for students to explore writing that strays from the academic assignments provided in the ELA curriculum. This class will expand upon previous writing techniques taught in the classroom, and it will deepen a student's knowledge and understanding of creative writing techniques. Classroom activities will include writing poems, a children's book, a short story, and various other types of writing that explore the boundaries of narrative and personal reflection. Students will ultimately embrace the creative process and learn the power of words while they work to find their own unique voice.

Debate

This Debate course focuses on the essential skills of research, evidence gathering, organization, and public speaking. Students will develop their abilities to construct and present arguments through structured debates, congressional simulations, and persuasive speeches. Students will enhance their critical thinking, research, and communication skills by engaging with contemporary issues and participating in various debate formats.

Drama 7

This course continues to develop acting and performance skills using more advanced scene work, improvisational exercises, and games. A wider variety of dramatic literature is studied using an active approach. Dramatic structure and character and script analysis are emphasized. Students study character history, motivation, and relationships using materials from a variety of genres and styles. Students advance their understanding of theatrical design by designing costumes, lights, and/or sets for a show.

Engineering 7

This is a class for students who like to use their hands and minds to investigate, create, program and build. Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design various projects and record their research and ideas in engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software students create a virtual image of their designs. Then they will face the challenge of building what they have envisioned. The construction of the projects will require familiarity with and the safe handling of hand and power tools, accurate measurement skills in both English Standard and Metric systems, an understanding of applied mathematics and physics, and excellent communication skills. This course is being offered in partnership with Project Lead the Way.

Great Outdoors

Great Outdoors students will read, examine and discuss human impact on the natural world. In addition to our classroom learning, students will have the opportunity to work with beehives, gardens, chickens, greenhouse, seed library, plant sale, vermicompost, birdhouse gourds, and pollinator hotels. Students considering this course should have a passion for the “Great Outdoors” and anticipate an academically and physically rigorous class.

History Through Literature and Film
In this skills-centered class, students choose which historical topics to explore through literature and film. Students will read short stories, poems, novels, and primary sources and view historical films, feature films, and documentaries to learn, explore, investigate, and discuss history from multiple perspectives.

Intro to Family & Consumer Sciences (Pending Board approval)
This course introduces students to the diverse topics within Family and Consumer Sciences. Through hands-on activities, they will develop important life skills while exploring career opportunities in fields such as nutrition, culinary arts, fashion, interior design, child development, and financial literacy.

Leaders Among Us
"Leaders Among Us" is a middle school course focused on leadership essentials. Students will explore different leadership styles, recognize their own traits, and learn how to work well in groups. Through service learning projects and discussions, they'll understand values like honesty and teamwork, and how leaders can make a difference in their communities.

Mind and Body
In Mind and Body, students will focus on physical and emotional wellness on a daily basis. They will engage in a variety of activities that will help them learn about self-care and overall wellness strategies to feel balanced physically, mentally and socially. We will explore the brain and body connection behind strategies like journaling, yoga, mindfulness, and meditation.

Music
Students will explore music as a form of communication through listening activities, instruments (voice, percussion, ukulele & guitar), movement, and technology. Students will learn songs from a variety of cultures, countries, and time periods, while theory and composition are examined.

Musical Theatre
This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of Musical Theatre, including acting, singing, and dancing through exploration of various musicals and performance techniques. Students will look at the history and evolution of musical theatre from its early beginnings to contemporary trends as they explore productions from different time periods, develop characters, and gain insight into

the behind-the-scenes aspects of stage production. Each unit will be tailored around a particular musical from the time period being studied, with a minimum of two performances per semester.

World Language (French, Spanish, German)

Seventh grade world language is an introductory course designed for students with little or no exposure to a foreign language. This course teaches basic language patterns and vocabulary. Repetition and comprehensible input are important components of this course. The focus is on all four language skills; reading, writing, speaking and listening as well as culture. Each unit will cover the vocabulary of a specific theme, (family, school, hobbies, food, etc.) and grammar concepts appropriate to level one. As students progress through each unit, they will build upon previously learned material and be given opportunities to strengthen their use of the language through all of the modalities.

Zoology

Zoology seminar will explore the amazing world of animals. This semester-long class will focus on the following items: animal taxonomy and classification, characteristics and structure of animals, animal behavior and adaptations, animal habitats, invasive species, and student topics of interest.