7th Grade
Valley View Middle School
Course Description Booklet
2026 - 2027

REQUIRED COURSES

7th GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS (2 Semesters)

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.

7TH GRADE ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS (2 Semesters)

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:

1. Proactively engage in the accelerated pace of an honors-level curriculum
2. Demonstrate strong foundational writing skills across multiple genres
3. Participate in sophisticated critical thinking and text analysis
4. Conduct independent research and complete self-guided units of study
5. Work effectively both collaboratively and independently
6. Self-advocate and communicate ideas, needs, and questions voluntarily
7. 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.

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY (1 Semester)

The course will examine tribal Native American history, follow exploration and statehood formation and continue to present-day Washington State. It will require students to become familiar with different concepts, ideas, groups and institutions that have had an impact on both the history and the contemporary situation of Washington State. Washington State History focuses on the development of the State and the interactions of its peoples. Study includes the political, social, economic, cultural and geographical conditions of Washington State and the surrounding regions and seeks to understand our relationship with the nation and the world. Emphasis is put on inquiry-based research. ***This course is a High School graduation requirement.***

7th GRADE SCIENCE (2 Semesters)

This class is an integrated science class based on the Next Generation Science Standards. This will give students a basic understanding of the relationships between organisms in ecosystems, natural resource availability, basic chemistry concepts, cycling of matter through living and non-living things, and how humans change the landscape.

MATHEMATICS (2 Semesters)

All incoming 7th grade students are initially placed into Math 7. Placement in Advanced Math or Algebra is based on their achievement as measured by STAR Test and SBA scores.

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. It is based upon 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 contents. *Course pace is rigorous to accommodate all necessary concepts and requires entrance recommendations and testing*.

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. *Course pace is rigorous to accommodate all necessary concepts and requires entrance recommendations and testing*. 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

FOUNDATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY (1 Semester)

The goal of this class is to give every student the opportunity to learn foundational skills of being a successful student and citizen. This class will focus on student leadership, building one's character, ensuring all students understand and practice following through on what it means to be an effective citizen and member of an academic and professional community. This class also 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.

7th PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 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.

7th HEALTH (1 Semester)

This 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.

SEMESTER – EXPLORATORY ELECTIVES

(All elective courses are subject to change)

INTRODUCTION to ART (1 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!

DRAMA (1 Semester - Grades 7 and 8)

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of theatrical performance through creative exploration, collaboration, and self-expression. Students will build confidence and communication skills as they engage in improvisation, scripted scenes, character development, voice and movement exercises, and basic stage techniques. Through ensemble work, theatre games, and performance projects, learners will explore storytelling, empathy, and problem-solving while developing an understanding of stage directions, blocking, and simple production elements such as costumes and props

EXPLORING ENGINEERING I (1 Semester)

This 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, CNC manufacturing, transportation, and computer aided drafting & design (CADD). Projects include mousetrap racers, electric dragsters and more.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (1 Semester)

Students will have introductory experiences in multiple independent living areas in this semester-long course. They will learn the basics of babysitting, interior design, food safety and simple cooking skills in team and individualized settings. Through these experiences, this course will begin to equip students with the essential life skills and confidence to thrive independently.

FITNESS ELECTIVE (1 Semester – Grades 7 and 8)

This class is designed to motivate and inspire students to be active. Activities will include participation in both individual sports where students will learn about setting personal fitness goals and team sports where students will learn and develop skills, strategy and key concepts for a variety of team sports.

VISUAL ARTS – YEARBOOK (Grades 7 and 8; May be taken 2 semesters)

In this student media class students will learn the basics for photography using cameras to take pictures for the yearbook, learn how to find and share important stories, write captions, stories and headlines for the yearbook and collaborate with classmates to meet deadlines for creating a yearbook. Students will be using Walsworth Yearbook software for creating yearbook pages.

MUSIC ELECTIVES – ALL YEAR

CHOIR (2 Semesters - Grades 7 and 8)

Let your voice be heard! Choir is for 7th and 8th grade students who love to sing and perform. All students are welcome! Choir members learn to sing in three-part harmony, baritone, alto and soprano. This class will offer instruction in vocal technique, choral performance, ear training and music reading. Students will learn rehearsal technique and concert etiquette. Concert Choir takes two field trips a year, including one to an adjudicated Choral festival in March. There are also four required evening concerts and occasional assembly performances. Solo opportunities may also be available to those students interested. Students unable to take first semester due to scheduling conflicts are welcome to join in second semester.

CADET BAND (2 Semesters)

Cadet Band consists of students with at least one year of band experience in elementary school and beginning band students. Students continue to learn basic instrumental technique, rehearsal technique and concert etiquette. We strive to develop young musicians who wish to make music a part of their everyday lives. Participation in the MPMEA Band Festival and some evening performances are required. Students are required to provide their own instrument for this class, however, there are some school-owned instruments available to check out. Contact Mr. Sackman at 360-563-3294 or nathan.sackman@sno.wednet.edu for more information.

SNOHOMISH SCHOOL DISTRICT	**Math Course Recommendation Process for Incoming 7th Graders**

Dear Parents/Guardians and Sixth Grade Students:

We are reaching out to inform you about the 7th Grade Math Course Recommendation Process, which helps us recommend the most suitable math course for your student as they enter middle school. This is an important step, as it ensures each student is placed in a course that meets their current needs and will foster their growth in mathematics, setting them on a strong path for future math education.

For 7th graders, three math courses are available:

7th Grade Math	A course covering 7th grade math standards.
Accelerated 7th Grade Math	A more challenging course for students ready to move at an advanced pace. This covers all of 7th grade math standards plus half of 8th grade standards.
Middle School Algebra	A rigorous course designed for students prepared for an accelerated high school-level experience. This course covers the other half of 8th grade standards plus all Algebra I standards.

7th grade Math Course Recommendation Process:

A middle school data team, including educators and administrators, will review each student's information to recommend the course they feel will best support their academic growth. This recommendation is made by looking at multiple types of data to create a well-rounded understanding of each student's abilities. The data includes:

- **4th and 5th Grade Math SBA Scores**
- **5th & 6th Grade STAR Math Scores**
- **Anecdotal Observations and Recommendations** from 6th-grade teachers who know your student's abilities and learning behaviors in the classroom.

By the end of May, we will send a letter with the 7th Grade Math Course Recommendation for your student. If you have any questions or concerns about the recommendation process or your student's course recommendation, please feel free to reach out to your student's middle school principal.

Middle School Math Class Content Descriptions

7th grade Math: This course will cover the core content as outlined by the Washington State Learning Standards which include ratios and proportional relationships, rational numbers operations, algebraic expressions and equations, angle measure/surface area/volume, statistics and probability. *This course has vital concepts that serve as a foundational basis for all future math courses.*

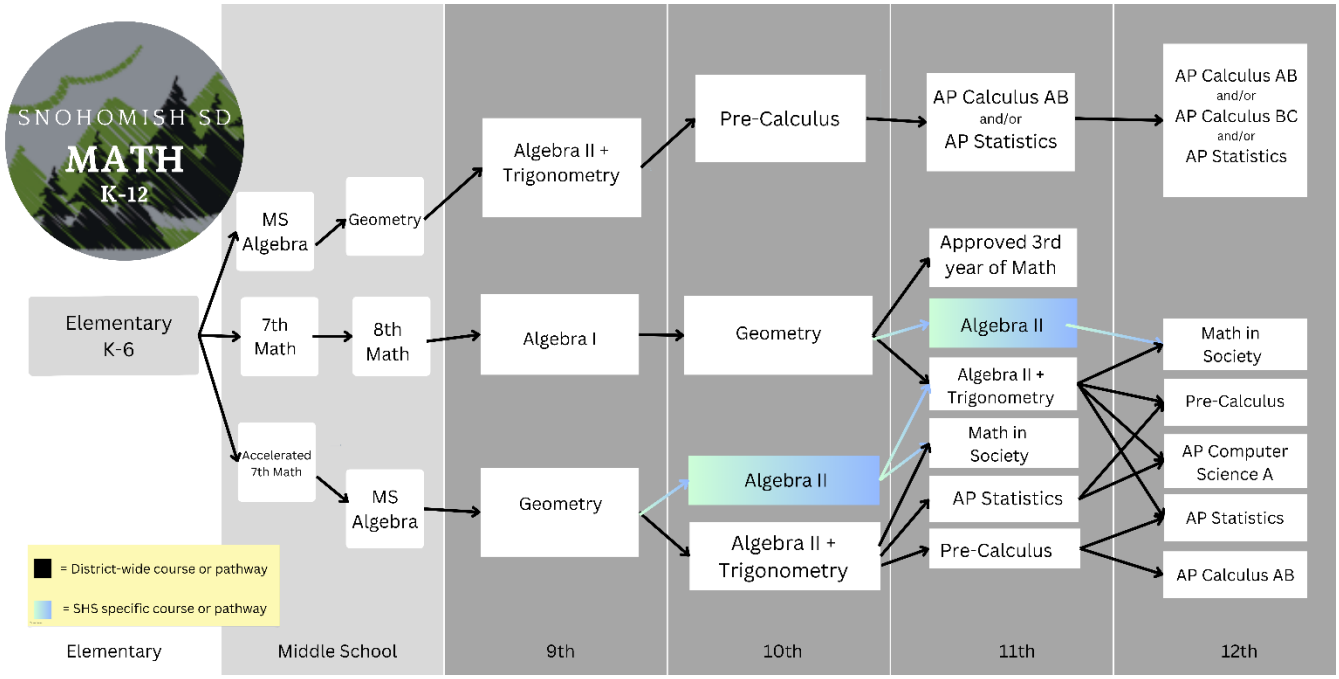
Accelerated 7th Math: This course is an acceleration course that will prepare the student for Algebra the following year. It is based upon vital 7th and 8th grade Washington State Learning Standards for Math. In addition to the 7th grade concepts, this course also covers the following 8th grade standards: linear equations, systems of equations and functions; properties and relationships in geometric figures; patterns of association in bivariate data.

Middle School Algebra: This course will cover the core content for the remaining 8th grade standards and all high school Algebra 1 standards. The topics for this course are outlined by the Washington State Learning Standards for Math: Exponents, rational and irrational numbers; linear, exponential and quadratic functions; polynomial operations; solving systems of equations/inequalities; interpret categorical and quantitative data.

- *This course has advanced rigorous academic content that qualifies for a high school math credit and will appear on the student's high school transcript.*

Secondary Mathematics Possible Pathways

The following is a table showing the possible pathways for math courses depending upon the levels of math taken in the middle school. **Each pathway satisfies the minimum standards for high school graduation and college entry.**



We value your partnership and look forward to supporting your student as they transition to middle school.