7th Grade SSP Course Selection Information

Course Descriptions 2025-26

These are brief descriptions of the classes for more detailed information go to the Junior High Course Catalog.

Grade 7 Core Classes

English 7 is a full-year daily course. Seventh graders will examine literary and informational texts through in-depth analysis and frequent writing. They will also develop written pieces across a variety of modes and will demonstrate an understanding of standard English, including usage, mechanics and sentence structure. Students will develop vocabulary skills to help their reading and writing processes, and they will practice independent reading.

English 7 Advanced is a daily, full-year course designed to provide a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Arkansas ELA standards. At the advanced level, students move at an accelerated pace and grapple with literary analysis of more complex texts. Students also complete collaborative and independent writing tasks and project assignments that allow for critical thinking and foster the communication skills needed for higher-level courses.

Math 7 is a daily, full-year course. The focus of Math 7 instruction will include: developing understanding and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings; and working with two and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Math 7 Advanced is a daily, full-year course designed to prepare students for Pre-AP Algebra I in the 8th-grade and high school Advanced and AP math courses. All of the 7th-grade Arkansas Math Standards and more than half of the 8th-grade Arkansas Math Standards are included in this course. The focus of Advanced Math 7 instruction will include developing an understanding and applying proportional relationships; formulating and reasoning about expressions, equations, and inequalities; exploring linear relationships and equations; solving problems involving scale drawings; working with two and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area and volume; drawing inferences about populations based on samples; and analyzing two-dimensional figures using angle, similarity and congruence.

Science 7 is a full-year course based on Arkansas Science standards. The course utilizes a variety of hands-on, minds-on activities that require students to continually build on and revise their knowledge of the structure and properties of matter, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems, chemical reactions, earth's systems, the history of earth and human impact. Students will apply the engineering design process in different contexts throughout the year and utilize science and engineering practices. Students will also make connections with crosscutting concepts to work and think like a scientist.

Science 7 Advanced is a full-year course designed to increase the critical thinking, analytical reading and targeted communication skills necessary for higher-level courses. In addition to mastering the regular Science 7 curriculum, students participating in this course will engage in rigorous activities, while meeting the content standards expressed in the content framework. Students enrolled in 7th Grade Advanced Science will be expected to approach science with skills that support increased depth and rigor. Students will work within flexible groupings, experience an accelerated pace in areas of strength and be provided learning experiences that lead to advanced level products and/or performances.

US History 7 builds on the foundational knowledge of civics, economics, geography and history, gained in Grades K-6. Social studies skills move from basic to more sophisticated and are used in combination to access and comprehend social studies content. Students develop foundational knowledge regarding patterns of change over time and the ways people view, construct and interpret history. 7th Grade US History focuses on US History from the pre-1492 beginnings through the pre-Civil War era. The course is chronological with the civics, economics and geography strands correlating to the historical eras.

US History 7 Advanced builds on the foundational knowledge of civics, economics, geography and history, gained in Grades K-6. Social studies skills move from basic to more sophisticated and are used in combination to access and comprehend social studies content. Students develop foundational knowledge regarding patterns of change over time and the ways people view, construct and interpret history. Seventh grade US History focuses on US History from the pre-1492 beginnings through the pre-Civil War era. The course is chronological with the civics, economics and geography strands correlating to the historical eras.Advanced courses are designed to increase the critical thinking, analytical reading and targeted writing skills necessary for higher-level courses. In addition to mastering the regular 7th Grade US History curriculum, students participating in this course will engage in rigorous activities while meeting the content standards expressed in the content framework. Students enrolled in Advanced 7th Grade US History read challenging primary and secondary texts and analyze and synthesize their conclusions through writing.

Physical Education / Health and Safety is a one-semester or full-year required course exposes students to a wide variety of activities with an emphasis on physical fitness and lifetime skills and learning about basic health behaviors to determine the importance of assuming responsibility for personal health. Topics include personality, human body systems, growth and development, nutrition, fitness, alcohol and tobacco, illegal drugs, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, conflict resolution and basic first-aid and safety. Students will participate in drills, games and other activities of the sport or skill being taught. Students are expected to participate every day. Written work will also be requested. Periodically, students will take part in a physical fitness test.

Athletics requires students to maintain the current athletic requirements set by the Bentonville School District. Students must have coaches' approval before enrolling. Athletics requires dedication and hard work every day, including practices before and/or after school. Students must be sure they have the available time. Students who enroll in athletics must remain in that class and participate the entire time the athletic course is scheduled unless the coach or a building administrator removes them for discipline or grades.

Football **Basketball** **Volleyball** **Cheer** **Dance** **Cross Country** **Track**

Grade 7 Electives

Visual & Performing Arts

Theatre Fundamentals can be taken as a one-semester or year-long course that engages students in the study and application of theatrical performance and production. Students will learn and develop skills in the areas of acting, writing, dramaturgy, design and production. Students will also contribute to the realization of a school theatre production. Students may repeat this course to further their mastery of these skills and processes.

Introduction to Competitive Speech: Debate is a one-semester course focused on research, analytical thinking and listening. Through active performance activities and analysis, students will gain an understanding of the basics of competitive argumentation and oral advocacy

Introduction Competitive Speech: Forensics is a one-semester acting and public speaking course that helps develop skills for a future in competitive speech. Through active performance activities and textual analysis, students will develop the abilities needed for future academic and career work with a strong focus on soft skills (speaking, listening, empathy, interpersonal, organizational and textual literacy skills).

Visual Art 7 is a one-semester course designed to introduce students to secondary-level concepts in studio art. Students will view artists and artworks from different periods in history. Through lectures, demonstration, and hands-on projects, students will focus on both the concrete and abstract nature of art. The curriculum will be centered on the elements of art and principles of design. There is a $10 art fee for materials due the first week of class. Students will also be required to provide a sketchbook for the class.

Band 7 is a full-year course that provides students the opportunity to study in similar instrument groups and in large concert band. Students will continue to learn the basics of instrument fundamentals, reading music/rhythmic notation and independent musical performance. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day are required. Students will participate in regional competitions. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Prerequisites: Students must have completed two full semesters of band the previous year and have director approval. Transfer students need to meet with the band director on an individual basis.

Orchestra 7 is a full-year course, in which students who already play an orchestral stringed instrument will continue the study of the performance fundamentals, re-emphasizing technique, note reading, and rhythms. Students will participate in regional competitions. Students will need to have their own instrument, or parents should be prepared to rent an instrument. Please see the orchestra teacher if you have questions about instrument rentals. This program may have additional fees associated with participation. Prerequisites: Students must have completed two full semesters of orchestra the previous year and have director approval. Transfer students need to meet with the orchestra director on an individual basis.

Open-enrollment Choirs are full-year or semester courses exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the beginning voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation.

Advanced Audition Women's/Men's Choirs are a full-year course exploring a wide variety of music arranged for the female/male voice. Students will present concerts, which are open to the public. Literature is selected from reading clinics, regional and national conventions and professional choral recordings. This program may have additional fees associated with participation.

World Languages

Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture is a one-semester course, students will learn the benefits of learning a second language and studying various cultures. Students will have the opportunity to explore different Spanish-speaking countries and learn about various cultural practices from the Spanish-speaking world. Students will also learn basic Spanish pronunciation and conversational skills and will have opportunities to practice these skills in class with their peers and teacher. Completion of this course will help to prepare students for more structured exploration and mastery of the Spanish language in Spanish I at the junior high or high school level. There is a $2 fee for materials associated with this course.

Career and Technical Education

Business Innovation is a one-semester course that dives into the world of entrepreneurship and explores the American business enterprise system. In this course, students discover what it takes to own and manage a small business, while gaining essential knowledge

in areas like risk management, the power of technology, and the legal, ethical, and social responsibilities of business. Students will participate in district, regional, and state pitch competitions.

Gateway to Technology courses are one-semester courses open to 7th and 8th graders. These are semester courses. Through hands-on projects, students explore how science has affected technology throughout history by applying concepts to STEM activities and projects. Students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, collaboration and innovation.

Design & Modeling
Students will learn the uses of solid modeling. They will be introduced to the design process and shown how this technology has influenced their lives. Using design briefs or abstracts, students create models and documentation to solve problems. Students use tools such as the design process, a dynamic mathematics software, a computer-aided design program, computer simulations, an engineering notebook, and possibly a 3D printer to design, model, and build objects.

Automation & Robotics
Automation and Robotics Technology gives students a hands-on opportunity to explore computer science and robotics. Students will dive into the design, programming, and analysis of various robotic systems, applying computational thinking to solve real-world challenges. From understanding robotics architecture to coding intelligent systems, this course offers a deep dive into the intersection of robotics and automation technology.

Family and Consumer Science Investigation is a one semester course that emphasizes introductory competencies related to personal development, communication, relationships, home environment, nutrition and wellness, food safety and preparation, resource management, child development and clothing. Upon completion of this course, students will gain skills that will enable them to function more effectively as a family member, community leader and productive citizen. Students will have an opportunity to participate in the activities of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America.

Introduction to Culinary Careers is a one semester course that provides a hands-on environment where students are encouraged to have an adventurous tasting experience. Students engage in numerous cooking labs, practice knife-cuts, learn baking measurements and work collaboratively within groups of fellow student-chefs. Students also explore careers in the culinary field.
ONLY offered at GJHS & WJHS

25-26 Junior High Course Catalog

Junior High School Bell Schedule

subject to change for the 2025-2026 school year

**times could vary between junior high schools*

Time*	**A Day**		**B Day**	
8:35-9:55 a.m.	1st Hour	English 7	5th Hour	History 7
10:00-11:20 a.m.	2nd Hour	Math 7	6th Hour	English 7
11:20 a.m.-1:20 p.m.	3rd Hour *Lunch*	Science 7	7th Hour *Lunch*	PE 7 sem/1 sem elective *(or 1 year long PE/Ath or Elective)*
1:25-2:10 p.m.	Seminar		Seminar	
2:15-3:35 p.m.	4th Hour	Electives *(2 sem courses or 1 year long course)*	8th Hour	Math 7

Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
A Day	B Day	A Day	B Day	A Day or B Day

Friday will alternate between A Day and B Day schedules.

7th and 8th Grade Required Courses

Course	**7th Grade**	**8th Grade**
.5 = semester course, 1 = year long course, 2 = course is double blocked		
ELA	**2**	1
Math	**2**	1
Science	**1**	1
Social Studies	**1**	1
PE	**.5**	.5
Fine Arts	**.5**	.5
Career Development		.5
Electives	**7th graders have 7 required classes (see above) out of 8 total classes. Students select electives from Fine Arts, Career and Technical courses and/or, additional PE/Athletics to complete an 8 period schedule.**	8th graders have 5.5 required classes (see above) out of 8 total classes. Students select electives from Fine Arts, Career and Technical courses and/or, additional PE/Athletics to complete an 8 period schedule.
Total	**8 Periods**	8 Periods

7th Grade Selection Worksheet

Core Classes: Choose one for each core class

English 7:	___ Regular	___ Advanced
Science 7:	___ Regular	___ Advanced
Math 7:	___ Regular	___ Advanced
US History 7:	___ Regular	___ Advanced
PE 7**:**	___ Semester	___ All Year

Fine Arts: Choose one class as your required fine art class

___ Concert Choir (All Year open enrollment choir)

___ Introduction to Choir (Semester open enrollment choir)

___ Introduction to Competitive Speech: Debate (Semester)

___ Introduction to Competitive Speech: Forensics (Semester)

___ Theatre Fundamentals (Semester)

___ Visual Art 7 (Semester)

___ Band 7* (Year)

___ Orchestra 7* (Year)

**Prerequisite: Students must have completed two full semesters of band/ orchestra the previous year and have director approval.*

List your instrument for band/ orchestra: _____

Electives: Choose 5 electives to complete your schedule in order of preference. You can choose fine arts electives in this section, but do not repeat a choice from above.

___ Business Innovation (Semester)

___ Concert Choir (All Year open enrollment choir)

___ Family Consumer Science Investigations (Semester)

___ GTT: Automation and Robotics (Semester)

___ GTT: Design and Modeling (Semester)

___ Introduction to Choir (Semester open enrollment choir)

___ Introduction to Competitive Speech: Debate (Semester)

___ Introduction to Competitive Speech: Forensics (Semester)

___ Introduction to Culinary Careers (Semester) **** ONLY offered at Grimsley and Washington**

___ Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture (Semester)

___ Theatre Fundamentals (Semester)

___ Visual Art 7 (Semester)