Tres Volcanes Community Collaborative School
Course Catalog

7th grade			
Required Courses:			
Language Arts	Mathematics		
Social Studies	Science		
Electives: 2 full-year electives			
Art I	Band (Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced)		
Theatre	Choir (Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced)		
eSports	Leadership I	Navajo/Dine	Yearbook

7th Grade Language Arts-Full Year

The 7th grade language arts program offers a variety of standards-based learning experiences. The program is based on 7th grade Language Arts Common Core State Standards. These standards offer a focus for instruction to ensure an adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is infused through reading and studying the components of literature with increasingly complex text, both fiction and nonfiction. Students will improve their skills in English grammar, writing, vocabulary development and reading strategies, along with speaking and listening skills. Writing a correct sentence, organizing and expressing ideas clearly in all genres of writing are emphasized. This course is intended to help acclimate all 7th graders to the high academic expectations of the language arts programs at TVCCS.

Variations of Language Arts

- **Language Arts/ELD** - This class is aligned with the general education 7th grade curriculum; however, English Language Learners are supported with WIDA strategies and the course English Language Development. These strategies will empower the students through differentiated instructional methods.
- **Gifted Language Arts**- Students with an IEP for gifted may be enrolled in this class.
- **Language Arts – Special Education** – Students with a demonstrated need indicated on their IEP with a goal in Language Arts may be enrolled in this class.

7th Grade Math-Full Year

This course is designed to provide a strong mathematical foundation as students transition from the concrete world of elementary mathematics to the more abstract understandings needed for algebra. There is a strong focus on developing problem-solving skills and strategies, as well as the ability to effectively communicate their mathematical thinking. In addition to learning arithmetic concepts and computational skills in ratios, fractions and decimals, students will use estimation, mental computation and applications of geometry and measurement. The course also incorporates an introduction to arithmetic operations with integers and an introduction to solving simple linear equations and inequalities.

Variations of Math

- **Accelerated Math** - This course is an alternative to regular 7th grade mathematics. It is designed for students capable of investigating mathematics in a challenging, in-depth fashion. The material addressed in this course is fast-paced, covering 8th grade standards in a single year-long course in preparation for Algebra I.

Selection Process

Students will be selected based on current teacher recommendation, proficiency on district assessments, and an "A or B" in 6th grade accelerated math will also be considered in the decision-making process. Administration has final decision making authority.

*If students struggle in accelerated math, a conference will be held with the student's family to discuss options. Students may be moved out or into this class as needed.

- **Gifted Math** - Students with an IEP for gifted may be enrolled in this class
- **Math – Special Education** – Students with a demonstrated need indicated on their IEP with a goal in Mathematics may be enrolled in this class.
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7th grade Social Studies – New Mexico History - Full Year

The focus of this course is devoted to the history, cultures and geography of the Western Hemisphere with emphasis on New Mexico. Students will have the opportunity to learn how people and events have influenced the development of New Mexico. There is an emphasis on physical geography, atlas skills, interpreting and reading maps, charts and graphs. The course incorporates the use of a Chromebook, google applications and online resources.

7th grade Science - Full Year

This is a lab based course focusing on the following topics:

- Biomes, habitats and ecosystems and the interactions between the living and non-living elements, food webs and communities,
- Cycles of matter in living systems, energy flow in ecosystems
- Resources and conditions needed to sustain life and effect of limited resources on living systems
- Classification of organisms (kingdoms, phyla/divisions, classes, order, family genus, species)
- Reproduction in species - sexual and asexual, essential for survival
- Heredity, genes, chromosomes and traits
- Evolution, diversity between and within species and adaptations that favor survival of a species, natural selection and genetic variation
- Fossil records of life forms, extinction of life forms
- Cells, tissues, organs and organ systems
- Cell processes: reproduction, respiration, photosynthesis

We also incorporate some Earth Science and Physical Science.

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ELECTIVES:

Beginning Band: Full year

This course is for students with no previous band experience. Students will learn to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion). The focus will be on gaining individual proficiency of their instrument as well as group performance skills. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year.

Intermediate Band: Full year

This course is for students who have had one or two years of instruction. Students will continue to work on their technique and group performance skills. The students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year and will perform at District VII Band Festival. Students will also have the opportunity to spend a weekend at Hummingbird the music camp in the spring.

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Band/Band Teacher Recommendation

Advanced Band: Full year

This course is for students with no previous band experience. Students will learn to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion). The focus will be on gaining individual proficiency of their instrument as well as group performance skills. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year.

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Band/Band Teacher Recommendation

Beginning Orchestra: Full year

This course is for students with less than one (1) year or no previous experience playing the violin, viola, cello or bass. Basic string concepts and note-reading are introduced. Students will perform in evening concerts, assemblies and festivals as part of the course requirements. Eighth grade students may enroll for this class only with instructor approval. Previous musical experience on piano, guitar or other instruments is welcomed, but not required.

Intermediate Orchestra: Full year

This course is for students who have had one or two years of instruction. Students will continue to work on their technique and group performance skills. The students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Orchestra/Orchestra Teacher Recommendation

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Advanced Orchestra: Full year

This course is for students who have advanced experience and had two or three years of instruction. Students will continue to work on their technique and group performance skills. The students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year.

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Orchestra/Orchestra Teacher Recommendation

Chorus: Full year

Students will learn basic vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk and pop traditions. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered an extension of the instructional process and are required.

- There is a lab fee of $25 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities may be provided.

Intermediate Chorus: Full year

Students will learn basic vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk and pop traditions and have one to two years of instruction. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered an extension of the instructional process and are required.

- There is a lab fee of $25 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities may be provided.

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Chorus/Chorus Teacher Recommendation

Advanced Chorus: Full year

Students will learn vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk and pop traditions and have one to two years of instruction with two to three years of instruction. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered and extension of the instructional process and are required.

- There is a lab fee of $25 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities may be provided.

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning or Intermediate Chorus/Teacher Recommendation

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AVID-Full Year

AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID is designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. At Tres Volcanoes Community Collaborative MS, the goal of AVID is to ensure that all students find their confidence and have academic success while on their journey of building their skills for college and career readiness:

* will succeed in rigorous curriculum,
* will enter mainstream activities of the school,
* will increase their enrollment in four-year colleges, and
* will become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society.

Navajo/Dine: Full year

This course supports our Native American students through language acquisition and development. Students will gain basic vocabulary and conversational language skills, and will participate in cultural events, celebrations, and field trips to gain a better understanding of Navajo/Dine culture.

Art I/II: Full year

Art 1 is a year-long course for 7th graders. Art 1 is meant to deepen the students' understanding of Art concepts, as well as build on techniques and skills and introduce new media (such as acrylic paint, and paper mache).

Drama I/II: Full year

Drama introduces skills necessary to be successful in middle school. Drama students read and write simple scripts using informational text, as well as practicing strategies to be a good public speaker. Reader's Theatre and drama games teach students to focus and develop trust with their peers.

Leadership I: Full year

The Middle School Leadership Program (MSLP) is presented to provide and inspire MS Students to become better citizens through leadership theory and practical application, discipline, and service to the community while improving core literacy skills.
Our vision is to produce strong leaders with practical experience in academics, communications, life skills, challenging MS competitions, and teamwork/team building among their peers. Providing problem solving skills that demonstrate strong leadership principles using moral and ethical decision making, contributing to their service to community and country.

MSLP engages Cadets in the practices of leadership, citizenship, physical fitness, and self-discipline. Cadets also participate in Drill and Ceremony, Color Guard and life skills such as First Aid, CPR, Physical Fitness, Archery, and Community Service Projects.

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Yearbook: Full year

The goal of this class is to create a product that represents and captures every moment, individual, and team during the school year. We strive to create a product that tells the story of the school year by conducting interviews, taking photos, creating digital spreads, and being a valuable member of the yearbook team.

Selection Process: To be a part of the yearbook team, these requirements must be met:

- Teacher Recommendation
- Strong social skills - able to conduct interviews and talk to students
- Responsible behavior - good standing with teachers and school
- Advanced writer - creative and capable writing skills
- Cooperation - works well with others and in unison
- Reliable - committed and determined to create a great product

Esports: Full Year

In this course, students will explore the exciting world of esports, learning about its various aspects and the opportunities it offers for teamwork and future careers. This hands-on course is inspired by the idea of experiential learning championed by John Dewey. Through engaging activities, students will develop skills crucial to the esports industry and apply them in practical scenarios, building a digital portfolio along the way to showcase their achievements for secondary, college, and career pursuits. As the course progresses, students will gain experience organizing and supporting or hosting middle school esports events, both in-person and online. These opportunities will foster leadership skills and promote responsible digital citizenship among students. Following the standards set by ISTE and drawing from resources on Global Professional Skills (GPS), the course will equip students with essential soft skills necessary for effective teamwork, problem-solving, and creative thinking in diverse settings.

Selection Process: To be a part of the Esports team, these requirements must be met:

- Teacher Recommendation
- Strong social skills - able to conduct interviews and talk to students
- Responsible behavior - good standing with teachers and school
- Advanced writer - creative and capable writing skills
- Cooperation - works well with others and in unison
- Reliable - committed and determined to create a great product

Creative Writing/Journalism: Full year

A middle school Creative Writing course for grades 7–8 integrates Common Core English Language Arts standards with New Mexico social studies content to develop students' skills in narrative, informational, and argumentative writing. Students explore elements of storytelling, poetry, memoir, historical fiction, and creative nonfiction while strengthening research, revision, collaboration, and presentation skills. Writing projects may include historical narratives, oral history-inspired memoirs, place-based poetry, character development rooted in

New Mexico history, and multimedia storytelling. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, evidence-based research, effective communication, and the appreciation of multiple perspectives, helping students become thoughtful writers and engaged citizens while meeting grade-level literacy and social studies standards.