ELECTIVE OFFERINGS FOR RISING 7TH GRADE STUDENTS
Albemarle County Public Schools

As our students progress through middle school, we design our offerings to provide opportunities for students to identify and develop personal interests.

Below is a list of all elective classes we may offer next year.

7th Grade Elective Offerings: Please think about the following course offerings and place a mark beside any of interest. You will use this to help make your decisions on SchooLinks.

_____ Art 7
_____ AVID 7
_____ Band 7
_____ Broadcast Journalism
_____ Business and Entrepreneurship
_____ Chorus 7
_____ Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration
_____ Creative Writing
_____ Debate
_____ Drama 7
_____ French Exploratory
_____ Guitar
_____ Humanities
_____ Leadership Exploration
_____ Media, Arts, and Design Exploration
_____ Mixed Media Art
_____ Orchestra 7
_____ Photography
_____ Sculpture 7
_____ Spanish Exploratory
_____ STEM Investigations
_____ Yearbook

Please note: We do our best to schedule students into their highest-ranked elective course(s); However, there are times when we are unable to do so. If we do not have enough students register for a class, we may not run it for the next school year.

----------Seventh Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions----------

Art 7: In this course, you'll get to explore lots of different types of art! You'll learn about different cultures and art styles from around the world, which will help you appreciate art even more. You'll develop your own artistic skills and try out different activities like drawing, painting, sculpting, and crafts. As you work on these projects, you'll become better at understanding and creating art. You'll also learn how art connects to other subjects you're studying and develop your own unique artistic style. Specific course content conforms to any existing state standards for grade 7.

AVID 7: AVID is a nationally recognized program for students who have the capability to achieve in rigorous, college preparatory courses but may currently be underachieving. The AVID elective is a year long elective that provides students with academic support and motivational activities. Students must apply for AVID and meet national and local requirements for participation.

Band 7: Band courses help students develop techniques for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and their ability to perform a variety of concert band literature styles. These courses may emphasize rehearsal and performance experiences in a range of styles and also include experiences in creating and responding to music.

Broadcast Journalism: Speech Communications/Drama courses enable students to express themselves through dramatic play and storytelling. Course content typically includes the use of movement, language, character, plot, and spectacle to portray imaginary or real experiences. As appropriate, students may focus on acting techniques and traditions, other aspects of drama (staging, lighting, costuming), or both.

Business and Entrepreneurship: This course introduces students to the exciting world of creating, owning, and launching their own business. Students will learn concepts and techniques for planning an innovative business and marketing their ideas and creations. Students design, establish, and operate a small group or class business, producing a service or product that meets an identified school or community need. Emphasis is placed on the introduction and application of business terminology, basic entrepreneurship concepts, and fundamental business principles.

Chorus 7: Chorus courses develop students' vocal skills within the context of a large choral ensemble in which they perform a variety of styles of repertoire. These courses are designed to develop students' vocal techniques and their ability to sing parts and include experiences in creating and responding to music.

Coding, Cyber, and IT Exploration: Students are introduced to the world of business using the computer as a problem-solving tool. Students engage in using computational thinking as a problem solving tool, use programming concepts and methods while creating digital artifacts, and retain their interest in computing as a relevant and exciting field. Learning opportunities are presented in ways that are active, connected, and relevant to them, and promote the perception of themselves as proactive and empowered problem solvers, creators, and innovators capable of changing the world. Collaborative learning experiences at this level prepare students to work in teams and to build supportive partnerships.

Creative Writing: Creative Writing courses offer students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose. The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft. Although most creative writing classes cover several expressive forms, others concentrate exclusively on one particular form (such as poetry or playwriting).

Debate: Forensic Speech—Debate courses offer students the opportunity to learn how to use oral skills in formal and informal situations. In these courses, students are able to develop such skills as logic and reasoning, research and analysis, organization of thought and supporting materials, argumentative style and skill, and effective presentation of one's voice and body. Often linked to an extracurricular program, these courses introduce students to the methods, aims, and styles used in various kinds of debates (formal debate or Lincoln-Douglas). Participation in competition is encouraged, but not always required.

Drama 7: Introduction to Theater courses provide an overview of the art, conventions, and history of the theater arts. Although the courses sometimes include experiential exercises, they emphasize learning about theater processes rather than theatrical production and performance. Course topics include one or more of the following: basic techniques in acting, major developments in dramatic literature, major playwrights, the evolution of theater as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of the art and craft of the theater profession.

French Exploratory: Designed to introduce students to French language and culture, French Exploratory begins to prepare 7th grade students to the introductory skills needed to beginning learning how to authentically communicate in French by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on a variety of topics. French Exploratory introduces the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of French-speaking cultures.

Guitar: Guitar courses provide students an introduction to, and refine the fundamentals of music and guitar literature and techniques.

Humanities: Humanities courses examine and evoke student responses to human creative efforts and the world in particular historical periods and cultures. Course content includes exploration, analysis, synthesis, and various responses to cultural traditions, including viewing, listening, speaking, reading, writing, performing and creating. The courses may also examine relationships among painting, sculpture, architecture and music.

Leadership Exploration: Prepares students to be leaders in their schools, families, communities and careers through project-based learning. The course offers students the opportunity to practice the lifelong learning and leadership skills necessary to be responsible self advocates, effective communicators and collaborators, responsible citizens, creative thinkers and problem solvers. Students explore concepts of human development, interpersonal relationships, community and resource management, nutrition and wellness, decision making and leadership.

Media, Arts, and Design Exploration: In this course, you'll get to use cool digital tools and technology. You'll learn about programming, coding, game design, creative design, photography, animation, and film. You'll discover how to use different types of media software and learn how to create and design digital projects.

Mixed Media Art: This course lets you explore different types of art all in one place! You might try drawing, painting, sculpture, or two and three-dimensional design. You'll learn how to look at art carefully, understand what it means, and express yourself visually. You'll explore different materials, techniques, and styles. As you get better, you'll develop your own artistic style and learn about famous artists and different art movements.

Orchestra 7: Strings courses provide students the fundamentals of music and bowed-string instrument literature and techniques and may include more advanced techniques. These courses teach students the appropriate care, handling, and maintenance of musical instruments. Formal and informal performances are included as part of string instrument instructional programs as well as experiences in creating and responding to music.

Photography: In this course, you'll learn all about taking great photos. You'll discover different techniques and ways to develop your skills as a photographer. You'll explore how to compose your shots and work with photos in creative ways. The main goal is to help you make meaningful pictures that show your personal style and creativity. You'll learn how to use photography as a way to express your ideas, feelings, and what matters to you.

Sculpture 7: Sculpture courses promote creative expression through three-dimensional works. You will explore sculpture through carving, modeling, and assembly techniques in one or more media. Visual Arts - Sculpture courses typically include the production of representational and abstract sculptures while incorporating elements of art and principles of design, along with a study of historical and contemporary sculpture and sculptors from a worldwide perspective. These courses also provide instruction in the process of responding to art through analysis, critique, and interpretation for the purpose of reflecting on and refining work.

Spanish Exploratory: Designed to introduce students to Spanish language and culture, Spanish Exploratory begins to prepare students to the introductory skills needed to beginning learning how to authentically communicate in Spanish by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on a variety of topics. Spanish Exploratory introduces the relationships among the products, practices, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking cultures.

STEM Investigations : Students investigate STEM and technical fields by using tools, data, testing, and problem-solving processes to understand how systems work and how decisions affect outcomes. Students evaluate results, troubleshoot problems, consider tradeoffs, and refine their work using evidence in a variety of technical fields including robotics, engineering, coding, biotechnology, healthcare technologies, and manufacturing.

Yearbook: Publication Production courses provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to produce the school newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, or other printed publication. Students may gain experience in several components (writing, editing, layout, production, and so on) or may focus on a single aspect while producing the publication.