

7th Grade Course Catalog (2009-2010)

LANGUAGE ARTS

7th Grade Language Arts (Standard)

Students in standard language arts work on reinforcing grammar skills and developing better writing techniques. Along with reading literature selections from the textbook, students also complete outside reading assignments (class novels and independent reading selections). Vocabulary enrichment is also an integral part of the curriculum.

7th Grade Language Arts (Advanced)

Students in advanced language arts work on application of grammar knowledge, and fine tuning writing techniques. Students in advanced language arts move at a more rigorous pace, and use a more accelerated vocabulary program. Along with reading literature selections for the textbook, students also are expected to read more demanding class novels and independent reading selections.

Read 180 (Open to all Grade Levels)

Prerequisites: Read 180 Assessment and Administrative Approval

Read 180 is a unique program which continually adjusts instruction to meet the needs of struggling readers. The program offers continuous support and immediate feedback as the students build practice in word study, vocabulary, fluency, spelling and comprehension. The program consists of Read 180 software, whole group instruction, small group direct instruction, and modeled as well as independent reading. By following specific prompts in the software, skill development follows a logical progression.

Lang! (Open to all Grade Levels)

Prerequisites: Language! Assessment and Administrative Approval

This research-based curriculum helps those students who have language-based learning disabilities or who have not developed grade level literacy. The instruction in this program is based on mastery of skills and instruction is delivered explicitly and intensely. Curriculum-based measurement is given to students regularly to determine growth and hone instructional needs for each student.

MATHEMATICS

7th Grade Math

Prerequisites: Successful completion of 6th Grade Math (Course 1)

In 7th Grade Math, students will use problem solving manipulatives, and technology to master TCAP skills and state standards for the 7th grade. These skills include working with rational numbers and percents, solving equations, and working with exponents, understanding geometric figures, and using techniques of measurement. In this class, students will also be introduced to many Pre-Algebra concepts that will help them prepare for 8th grade and future higher-level math courses.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra

Prerequisites: Successful completion of 6th Grade Math (Course 2) with an average of 80%.

Pre-algebra is a course designed to provide students with a good foundation of algebraic concepts and problem solving before entering Algebra 1. The concepts presented in this course range from statistics and probability to graphing linear equations. Students are able to see the connections between algebra and geometry. Concepts emphasized in this course: statistics and probability, geometry, expressions and the real number system, percents, solving equations and inequalities, linear equations and functions.

7th Grade Honors Algebra 1

Prerequisites: Successful completion of 6th Grade Math (Course 3) with an average of 85%.

Algebra 1 is a high school level math course that uses problem solving situations, physical models and

appropriate technology to extend algebraic thinking and engage student reasoning. The course begins with the study of sets and logic and ends with solving rational expressions. Word problems are deeply embedded within the course and students use algebraic concepts in order to solve them. Students must keep an honors portfolio during the course. Problem solving and making mathematical connections to real world problems are just two of the many components students use to complete their portfolio. Concepts emphasized in the course: solving equations and inequalities, solving linear equations and inequalities, writing equations and graphing linear equations, systems of equations and inequalities, statistics and probability, factoring, quadratic equations, radical and exponential equations and rational expressions.

SCIENCE

7th Grade Science

Students will be introduced to the study of cells, photosynthesis, respiration, heredity, the rock cycle, plate tectonics, and motion. Students will sharpen their scientific inquiry skills and explore technology and engineering.

SOCIAL STUDIES

7th Grade World Geography

Geography is so much more than map skills and capital cities. In seventh grade, students explore different cultures, recognize basic economic concepts, and use visuals such as graphs and population pyramids to interpret information. They examine physical characteristics of regions while focusing on the way people interact with their natural environment. Students compare and contrast different governments. They research current issues and global events to understand various perspectives and examine how geographic and historic events have shaped regions the world.

RELATED ARTS OPTIONS

Art

In seventh grade art, students delve into the mysteries of linear perspective, start their first look at graphic arts, experiment with watercolor, pencil, oil and regular pastels, and work with a variety of sculptural media. Students also begin serious critiques of art through different art periods, not only describing what they see, but how the artists' choices of media influence what the artist has expressed. **(9 Weeks)**

Band

Open to all seventh grade students with at least on year prior instrumental experience on the instrument chosen to play in band. (Special permission must be granted by the director if a student wishes to join the ensemble with no previous experience on the chosen band instrument.) This class will concentrate on developing tone production, rhythmic proficiency, individual and ensemble intonation and technical accuracy, as well as preparation and performance of intermediate band literature. This ensemble will perform at least four performances—one in December, two in April, and one at the annual M.T.S.B.O.A.* Adjudicated Concert Festival held in March. During a year with a band trip planned, this ensemble will also perform at the Festival site for adjudication. There will be a minimum of four extracurricular afternoon rehearsals in preparation for festival performances. **(Year)**

Drama

The seventh grade dramatic presentations class will study voice and diction, speech presentation skills, oral interpretation, and storytelling. The main objective of this class is for students to develop presentation skills, allowing for more self-confidence in preparing and delivering a speech. During the class students will understand the basics of speech presentation including organization, presentation skills, and types of speeches. They will also study voice and diction topics including, projection and

volume; pitch and tone; enunciation and articulation; and rate of speech. Throughout the class students will give impromptu speeches, entertaining speeches, oral interpretations, and tell a variety of stories. **(9 Weeks)**

General Music

The goal of all levels of general music is to broaden the student's base of knowledge and appreciation for a variety of styles of music through singing, listening, playing, moving, reading and creating music. In the seventh grade, musicianship and note-reading skills are continued with Orff instruments and beginning handbells. Students study American music styles including ragtime, blues, jazz, and pop. **(9 Weeks)**

Health

Health students will learn the concept of self-awareness and how to reduce personal health risk factors, in addition to understanding how healthy behaviors impact life-long health and wellness. Students will learn how the choices they make affect their optimal health and help them develop a lifestyle of highest potential for well-being. Health will teach students that healthy living is a process, developing awareness that there is no end point, but that health and happiness and learning are all possible through healthy living. **(9 weeks)**

Leadership

Seventh grade students will learn how to work with others in a group. In this class students will learn the 80/20 rule. This rule states that out of 100% of the people in any situation, 20% of the population makes a difference. Who are these top 20 and what do they do? We will study how these Top 20 think, learn and communicate. Students will also develop skills in public speaking and communication and an understanding of personal image. They will study emotional intelligence and the skills it measures, which include self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation, and social skills. **(9 weeks)**

Multimedia Applications

This class is designed to explore multimedia and the Internet. Students will study topics such as ethical use, Internet safety and copyright issues as they apply to multimedia. The creation of graphics, the use of animation, the modification and creation of audio clips, and the use of camera shots and angles to improve video are all topics that will be addressed. This class will also assist seventh grade language arts teachers with the teaching of their new standard on media. **(9 weeks)**

Physical Education

This course is designed to encourage high levels of fitness and teach students how to maintain fitness levels for their entire lives. The course will help students attain an understanding of, and a commitment to, health and fitness. The program will allow students to implement quality fitness programs that emphasize the learning and practice of life-long skills. This will create a culture that reinforces positive health habits that can maintain them throughout their lives. **(9 weeks)**