

REQUIRED COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS 7

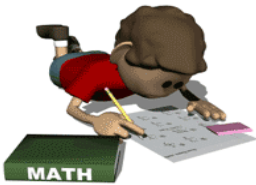
Full Year

The 7th grade English Language Arts class is aligned to the Common Core Standards and focuses on analysis, argumentation, fluency, and other literacy based skills. These skills are achieved through a format where students are regularly engaged with authentic reading and writing processes. Teachers utilize the MAISA (Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators) Units of Study to support the comprehensive and sequenced development of skills and strategies needed for students to become college and career ready in both reading and writing. A variety of texts are read and discussed in a reader's workshop approach, wherein teachers immerse students in close reading and talking about texts, thus helping students to analyze how these texts are written. A writer's workshop approach to teaching writing helps support students' development as writers. This approach provides students with continuous evaluation of their work and the work of other writers. *



MATHEMATICS 7

Full Year



Our curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The Common Core places equal emphasis on Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practices. The Mathematical Practices describe various skills mathematically proficient students should exhibit, such as problem solving, reasoning, communication, procedural fluency, and conceptual understanding, to name a few.

The 7th grade content standards focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. *

**** Students will be placed into Advanced Language Arts and Pre-Algebra based on test scores, previous grades and teacher recommendations. Families will be notified by letter.***

SCIENCE 7

Full Year

The 7th grade science course is an integrated curriculum, which includes four units of study: Living World Around Me; Energy Effects; Chemical Change and Weather, Climate and Me. Students will progress logically from the concrete to the abstract as they explore the relationship of the three branches of sciences to one another, to other subjects, and to experiences outside the classroom. Students will be asked to make observations and ask questions about the natural world, as well as participate in laboratory exercises, small group activities, web-based investigations, class discussions, projects and research.



SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Full Year



The 7th grade social studies course concentrates on geographical/cultural regions of the Eastern Hemisphere, with an examination of ancient history among those regions. The Five Themes of Geography method will be used to help students master the content. Students will continue to develop and broaden their understanding of economic concepts. Students are required to use a variety of resources and means to acquire, process, and communicate information. This will include the analysis and application of primary sources, such as original documents and objects which were created at the time under study, and secondary sources, such as accounts or interpretations of events created by someone without firsthand experience. Examining primary sources gives students a powerful sense of history and the complexity of the past. Helping students analyze primary sources can also guide them towards higher-order thinking and better critical thinking and analysis skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

One Semester

Physical education is a sequential, developmentally appropriate program that provides students with the knowledge, skills, fitness and attitudes needed to live a healthy, productive life. The focus is on building skills with numerous opportunities to practice in competitive and non-competitive settings. This course is aligned with Michigan state standards for physical education.



The units could include fitness, basketball, soccer, team handball, softball, volleyball and racquet sports.

HEALTH 7

10 Weeks



The health course is a 10-week required class for all 7th grade students. This course is aligned with the Michigan Health Education Content Standards. The course includes the following strands/units: Personal Health and Wellness, Social and Emotional Health, Nutrition and Physical Activity, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention and Sexuality Education.

During this course, students will: 1) Comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health; 2) Analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology and other factors on health behaviors; 3) Demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health; 4) Demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks; 5) Demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health; 6) Demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting to enhance health; and 7) Demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.

Parents must OPT IN or OPT OUT students in to the sex education portion of the class. This form will be attached to the syllabus at the beginning of health class.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY 7

10 Weeks

This course is intended to ensure that students have basic computer skills. These include, but are not limited to keyboarding, an understanding of the computer system, and the use of an integrated software package (Microsoft Office). The student will utilize software programs to develop basic word processing (Word), presentation (PowerPoint), and spreadsheet (Excel) skills. The student will learn proper Internet protocol and the advantages of using the Internet as a research tool. Employability skills will be integrated into the curriculum. By the end of the course, students will be expected to complete a performance task that assesses their ability to format and save a word-processed document, insert a graphic, and create a simple spreadsheet, which will be used to develop a chart. In addition, students will take a state assessment demonstrating their level of technology competency.



ACCELERATED PLACEMENT COURSES

The Accelerated Language Arts and Math courses are programs specifically designed for students with an aptitude that would benefit from a curriculum that moves at an advanced pace with increased depth and complexity. The structure of the class requires students to utilize an array of high-level critical thinking skills. Students should also expect homework every night to reinforce the concepts studied in class each day. Accelerated students are selected on several criteria, including the CogAT scores, teacher recommendation and overall performance.

The first semester of accelerated classes are probationary in nature. Students are expected to maintain an average of B- or better in their coursework. Should the student, parent, or teacher feel the student is unsuccessful, transfer to the general program will be necessary. The selection process begins in late May and candidates will be chosen for advanced placement by the end of the school year.

Please feel free to contact the Department Chairs if you have further questions regarding this process.

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ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS 7	Full Year
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Prerequisite: By invitation only.

This class is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional skills in reading and writing. The course encourages independent learning and in-depth exploration of the content. Learners will be engaged in a process that relies heavily on an array of critical thinking skills through the analysis of themes and inferences inherent of literature. Students will read complex texts with sound understanding and exhibit an ability to write with a richness and complexity to communicate effectively with a mature audience.

Writing assignments will include those that enable experiencing literature such as informal journal responses and free-writes, those that encourage interpreting literature such as expository and analytical essays, and those that require evaluating literature such as argumentative essays.

PRE-ALGEBRA 7 (accelerated)	Full Year
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Prerequisite: By invitation only.

This class is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional mathematical ability, along with the ability to read and comprehend at or above grade level. Students are selected for this class based upon a combination of standardized test scores and teacher recommendations from the upper elementary school.

This accelerated course teaches all of the 7th grade math content standards and approximately half of the 8th grade content standards in one year in order to prepare students for an accelerated 8th grade Algebra 1 course. Topics of study include proportional relationships, rational numbers, integers, solving linear equations, inequalities, statistics, probability, two- and three-dimensional geometry and problem solving.

Our curriculum is aligned with the **Common Core State Standards for Mathematics**. The Common Core places equal emphasis on Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practices. The Mathematical Practices describe various skills mathematically proficient students should exhibit, such as problem solving, reasoning, communication, procedural fluency, and conceptual understanding, to name a few.

FULL YEAR ELECTIVES/SEMESTER ELECTIVES

CONCERT BAND

Full Year

Comprised of both 7th and 8th graders, concert band is the starter band for people who are new to middle school or even new to music entirely! Learn new skills on your instrument and play a variety of music, including rock, themes from movies and shows, marches and more! We perform at regular Holmes concerts, *Bandorama* and *Collage*. Solo and small ensemble performance opportunities are available and encouraged.



CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Full Year



Orchestra is a mixed 7th and 8th grade ensemble, which gives everyone the chance to learn from each other and become a close knit group. Advanced orchestra students will also form a chamber ensemble that performs at festival.

Think Orchestra is just about playing 14th century dance music? Think again! In the Holmes orchestra, we play everything from Bach to rock! We perform at regular Holmes concerts, String Fling and Collage. Solo and small ensemble performance opportunities are available and encouraged.

CHOIR 7

One Semester

Do you like to sing? Do you have singing experience? Do you have no singing experience at all, but are interested? If you answered yes to any of these questions, Choir is for you! Choir students will be introduced to many different types of choral music. Emphasis will be on performance, but students will also learn how to read music by sight, become familiar with common musical terms and symbols and practice the techniques of healthy singing. There will be at least one performance opportunity during the semester. Whenever possible, this performance will take place at Stevenson High School, giving the students the opportunity to perform on a professional stage and the chance to hear and sing with the high school choirs.



SHOP: TOOLS 7 MATERIALS PROCESSING

One Semester

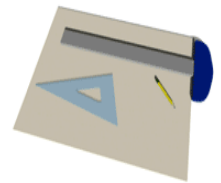


This NEW activity-based “hands-on” shop class is open to all 7th and 8th grade students. It will give students knowledge of various hand and power tools with an overview into working with woods, plastics, and metals that are commonly used in industry today. Students will apply what they learn into building various hands-on class projects, such as making aluminum rings, jigsaw puzzle, wood airplane, metal candle holder, belt buckle or paper weight, hockey board, etc. (projects are subject to change). Emphasis is placed on safety, organization, time management and responsibility. This is an excellent LIFE-SKILLS class for ALL students and will give insight towards related technologies and skilled-trade careers. This intro class can be continued into various high school programs.

DRAFTING: INTRO TO ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE

One Semester

This NEW drafting course is open to all 7th and 8th grade students interested in exploring various areas of Engineering or Architecture. The class will have a hands-on content working with basic drafting tools and materials. Students will apply what they learn into creating 3D sketches, multi-view drawings, computer 3D drawings, designing and building a CO2 car, learning about interior and exterior home design, and creating a house floor plan (projects subject to change). Emphasis will be placed on learning terminology, basic drawing skills, graphic lettering, measurement and scale sizing, and experience traditional and computer drafting. This entry level class will give insight towards related career pathways and can be continued into several related high-school or career center programs.



DIGITECH: DIGITAL CREATION AND EXPLORATION

One Semester



The world has gone DIGITAL! Are students today ready? **DigiTech** is designed for ALL students who want a technology course, in addition to the 7th Grade Computer Tech requirement. With an emphasis on SAFETY, students will utilize the internet, computers, and other digital devices to create, gather, display, and share information. It will also explore the ever growing world of digital and social media. The course will employ Google’s 80/20 principle where students will be given 20% of the time to research/design/create a project based on his/her technological interest (approved, monitored, and assessed by teacher). You are creating a digital footprint every day.....learn how to make it the RIGHT one!

WORLD LANGUAGE ADVENTURES

One Semester



Fasten your seat belts, adventurers! Take the role of a world explorer as you journey through four different languages and cultures: French, German, Japanese and Spanish. Earn your passports as you learn basic words and phrases while engaging in games and projects. Interact with your classmates in other languages while having the time of your life!



This course will introduce you to the four world language options while providing the essential building blocks for success to meet the world language graduation requirement. Please be aware that this class will not earn a credit towards the requirement. Discover the traveler in you in this exciting exploration of world languages and cultures!



VISUAL ART

One Semester

Unleash the artist within!

Come and discover new ways to showcase your creativity and express who you are. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to work with a wide variety of media and produce quality two and three-dimensional works of art.



Drawing, painting, and sculpture will be explored with emphasis on the principles and elements of art. Media may include pencil, colored pencil, scratchboard, paint, clay and paper mache.

Remember....art fosters creativity and problem solving techniques that are beneficial in other classes and essential in life.

ART AND DESIGN

One Semester

Did you realize that art is all around us? Behind the images and objects in our everyday world is an artist who had an idea and turned it into reality. You can be that artist!



In this imaginative course, students will use drawing, painting, sculpture, and other techniques to create art with a purpose. Projects may include designing, building and/or advertising new products. In addition, illustrating book covers, designing t-shirts, cartooning, and photography may be explored.

An emphasis will be placed on the principles and elements of design, which will guide you to create eye catching and well-crafted works of art!

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

One Semester

7TH and 8TH grade students in this course will experiment with different genres in writing. Students will explore the reading – writing connection as it applies to the creative writing process. Students will be given many opportunities to create a variety of writing products based on student interest and need. Various writing styles and genres will be explored, along with imaginative ways for the writers to display their final written pieces. Examples may include video productions, school newscasts, and digital storytelling.



FOODS AND FABRICS

One Semester

Want to have an opportunity to experience creative satisfaction? Learn new skills in the areas of food preparation and sewing in this divided 20-week course.



The 10-week sewing portion of this class will focus on basic sewing skills. The students will work on various projects such as a gym bag, pillowcase, boxers or pants and a novelty pillow. There is a materials fee for these projects.

The food portion of the class will focus on food/kitchen safety and sanitation, proper measuring, correct use of kitchen tools, basic cooking procedures, team work and consumer skills. Various cooking units will be covered, such as breads, soups, eggs, pastries and creative food days with a nutritional focus throughout.



EXPLORING FOODS

One Semester



Are you a foodie? Are you looking to make more than a bowl of cereal for a snack? This course may be something you will enjoy. The emphasis in this class will be on food/kitchen safety and sanitation, proper measuring, correct use of kitchen tools, basic cooking procedures, teamwork and consumer skills. Various cooking units will be covered, such as breads, soups, eggs, cakes, fruits and vegetables, along with creative food days with a nutritional focus throughout.

Students will use technology to explore the relationship between good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle.