

7th Grade Courses 2018-2019

REQUIRED COURSES

English 7 English 7 encourages students to improve their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to prepare them for 8th grade English and for PSSA assessments. The literacy focus will include such PSSA concepts as structure, word choice, imagery, and tone, plus the impact the culture might have on the reader and the author. Students will write a variety of short compositions including description, classification, process analysis, comparison/contrast, as well as informative, persuasive, and narrative essays. Other course content includes grammar, usage, and mechanics; essential writing skills; writing workshops; and communicating in the information age. Some of the novels that may be explored include *The Outsiders*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *The Giver*.

Math Course II This course reviews the same topics as a general math course but moves at a much faster pace and develops some of the concepts at a much deeper level. The content in this course is based upon the PA Core Standards and we will be working throughout the year to prepare for the State Test in April 2017. In addition, we will incorporate pre-algebra concepts in preparation for Algebra during their 8th grade year. This course develops the use of ratio and proportion and applies it to more algebraic type situations. Calculations involving perimeter, area, circumference and volume; the integration and use of scale drawings; understanding properties of 2 and 3 dimensional shapes; the comparison of similar versus congruent shapes; and the study of geometric terminology and properties rounds out the geometry topics. Translating expressions and equations; simplifying algebraic expressions; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of integers; and solving multiple step equations and inequalities provides a more in depth study to algebraic concepts.

Developmental Reading 7 Developmental Reading is a course taken by all students in 7th grade. This course uses the elements of literary forms to teach genre, reading comprehension and vocabulary consistent with Pennsylvania's reading standards.

World History 7 Students will learn World History from the beginnings of mankind to the Middle Ages. Students will study such concepts as the development of ideas, the role of individuals, the influence of religion, the impact of science, and technology over the course of time. Students will also supplement their learning through the use of cooperative learning projects. Projects will require research, the incorporation of art, technology, and teamwork.

Life Science 7 Students will explore the following topics: the cell as the basic unit of life, cellular processes such as photosynthesis and respiration, systems of the human body, environmental ecology, and animal diversity.

Geography 7 The study of geography helps to increase knowledge and understanding of physical and political aspects of the world, as these aspects relate to geography. Students learn to use maps to locate features, such as landforms and water bodies, natural and political boundaries, and capitals. The study of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres emphasize its regions, geography, history, citizenship, and the humanities. Students write essays, complete internet based research activities, develop magazines, discuss current events, and make class presentations as part of this course.

Physical Education Physical education classes are required of all students in 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12th grades and is offered everyday for half a year. Physical education classes provide opportunities for students to participate in a variety of individual and group physical activities and sports. Students are required to wear blue athletic shorts, a plain white t-shirt, and sneakers that tie. Students are evaluated on dressing and participation, skills, following class routine and rules, effort, initiative, cooperation, and attitude. Failure to follow any dress code regulations or evaluated measures will result in a non-dress (ND). The grading scale is as follows: 1 ND = 98%, 2 ND = 95%, 3 ND = 90%, 4 ND = 85%, 5 ND = 80%, 6 ND = 75%, 7 ND = 70%, 8 ND and beyond = Failing Grade, per marking period. A student who fails physical education for the school year will be required to take physical education every day the following school year if not made up during summer school. Students are required to pass physical education classes in 9th- 12th grade to earn required credits for graduation. Each class is worth .5 credits.

THE FOLLOWING 4 BLOCK CLASSES – ONE FOR EACH 9 WEEKS:

Computer 7 Students will learn basic keyboarding skills, improve accuracy, and increase typing speed. Students will also be introduced to Microsoft PowerPoint

Music 7 Students in 7th grade music will focus on the study of music concepts in relation to everyday life. Students will have an opportunity to learn about and listen to many different styles of music. They will experience playing a musical instrument with an introduction to guitar playing, and will study the following topics: Music preferences, properties of music: (Pitch, Duration, Intensity, and Timbre), and traditional and world instruments.

Critical Reading This marking period class emphasizes the development of critical reading skills. This course provides instruction in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Common Core State Standards as reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. This course is designed to build on knowledge and skills through close reading of texts, learning to combine elements of different kinds of writing in support of analysis and reflection, and class discussions. Through close reading, critical writing, class discussions, and presentations, students deepen their ability to analyze, evaluate, and critique text independently. Students actively seek to understand other perspectives through reading and listening.

Transition Math This is a 7th grade supplemental math class designed to help with the transition from elementary to junior high. It involves a brief discussion regarding problem solving and thinking strategies and highlights how critical thinking can help in preparation for the 7th grade PSSA test. The mathematical focus in the course revolves around Domain 4 Geometry of the PA Core Standards. This course takes an in depth look at triangle relationships, angle relationships, examining cross-sections of 3D figures, calculating area of circles and complex shapes and calculating surface area and volume of 3D shapes.

STEAM 7: The STEAM 7 class is a collaboration of topics from Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math concepts in a hands-on project-based learning environment. Students will utilize the Engineering Design Process to problem solve through numerous real-world applicable projects. Students will be exposed to topics such as computer coding, architecture, projectile motion, etc.

Study Skills 7 This 9 week course is designed to help 7th grade students adjust to learning at the middle school and high school levels. There will also be several career exploration lessons covered throughout the marking period. Students will use the book *The Middle School Student's Guide to Study Skills*. **Topics to be covered this school year include:** Metacognition, learning styles, active listening skills, organization skills and various other study skills.

Art 7 Students will experience the world of art through creating 2D and 3D works. They will explore units of portraiture, landscape, still life, abstract, sculpture and ceramics.

Tech. Ed. 7: The basics of industrial trades and materials will be studied. Processes to form and fabricate materials into functioning components will also be studied and hands on activities will be demonstrated (pending on available materials). Machine and tool safety will be demonstrated.

ELECTIVES:

Jr. High Chorus This course is for students in grades 7 and 8 who enjoy singing and performing in a large group setting. Students will prepare music in unison, two, and three part harmony and will learn the basics of reading choral sheet music. Music will vary in genre from popular to classical. Teamwork, cooperation, and gaining self-confidence through performing will be emphasized, as well as individual and group vocal techniques. Students will be graded on cooperation, self-discipline, participation, and attendance at concerts. Other extra-curricular opportunities will be offered such as festival participation and an annual trip. This class meets every day or Tues & Thurs if shared with band.

Junior High Band (M,W,F) This course is designed for students to continue their study of a band instrument. Students will gain a better understanding of music through small group lessons, practice, cooperation and dedication. The band presents several concerts throughout the year. Students without prior experience on a band instrument may join with instructor permission.