

7th Grade Courses

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*.

Life Science 7 Students will explore multiple topics in the area of science. The year will start with an introduction to science; including, the scientific method and classifying life. The students will then learn about the cell as the basic unit of life, cell division and the cell processes; such as, chemistry, photosynthesis and respiration. An introduction of heredity and an application of genetics will be discussed as well. The course will then transition to cover the human body systems. All systems will be covered at an introduction level to spark interest and supply a basic human knowledge platform. The human body systems will include; Skeletal, Muscular, Skin, Immune, Circulatory, Digestive, Respiratory, Nervous, and much more. Students will use multiple learning techniques to prepare them for 8th grade science and the PSSA assessment the following year.

Math 7 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 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.

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 be doing the following activities: National History Day competition (participation is voluntary), readings, short educational films, discussion questions, Power Point presentations, a research paper, and a hands-on history project. In doing these activities students will enhance their reading, writing, and oral presentation skills. Additionally, skills in the use of technology and research will be developed as well.

Physical Education Physical education classes are required of all students in 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12th grades and is offered every day 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 8 BLOCK CLASSES – ONE FOR EACH 9 WEEKS:

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.

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

Design Process This 9-week course, required for all 7th graders, focuses on problem solving in teams. Since teamwork and cooperation are essential job skills, students will learn how to work in teams and to delegate tasks, all while tackling a problem solving challenge. Challenges range from making the tallest tower, to making the strongest bridge, or making the farthest travelling glider.

Health 7 Health is a required class that meets every day for one marking period. Students will understand the impact certain decisions can have on their overall health. Topics for discussion include: Introduction to Health / Physical Fitness, Decision Making, Self-Esteem, Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drugs, and Reproduction.

Life Skills Life skills is a course which students examine the fundamentals of communication, cooperation, and decision-making. We look at each item in detail by using examples in the classroom and from everyday life. By completing this course, students will have a better understanding of the techniques that are used to benefit them the most in their education.

Music 7 This 9-week music course will focus on the ways that student's lives are affected by music. Students will have an opportunity to learn about and listen to many different musical styles. They will experience playing a musical instrument with an introduction to guitar playing, and will study the following topics: sound science, traditional and world instruments, and music preferences. This is a required course for all 7th graders.

STEAM 7 This is a 9-week course modeled from Project Lead the Way's Energy and the Environment course. Students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

Transition Math This is a 7th grade supplemental math class designed to help with preparation for the 7th grade PSSA test. 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.

ELECTIVES:

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.

Jr. High Chorus (T,Th) 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.

Junior High Small Chorus (M,W,F) This semester long course is for chorus students, enrolled in Full Chorus (T, Th) but who do not play in the band. 7th graders meet in the fall and 8th graders in the spring. The class will focus on three main areas: vocal production, music notation and sight-singing. Other special topics including musical theater, vocal health, and other areas of student interest may also be covered.