

7th Grade Course Descriptions

SEMESTER CLASSES

Topics in Art: Animation - (Semester Class) This class meets every other day. Students will learn how to express ideas through sequential art making to create flip books, animated cells, claymation characters, stop motion movies, and basic cartoons. Students will develop characters and stories through pencil & paper, ink, and use computers to animate movies. Students should be able to work well with others, as a major portion of this class will be a group stop-motion video. We will be using chromebooks everyday for written warm-ups and other assignments.

Topics in Art: Ad and Logo Design - (Semester Class) This class meets every other day. Students will learn graphic design techniques to create ads and logos. Some projects will include designing posters, mouse pads or t-shirts, and the school yearbook cover. Students will use a variety of art materials such as colored pencil, marker, paint, and some technology. We will be using chromebooks everyday for written warm-ups and other assignments.

Ukulele 1 (Music Appreciation w/ Ukulele) - (Semester Class) This class meets every other day. Students are required to sing and play the ukulele at the same time. Students will practice as a group, in partners, and individually. They will be asked to read music (Chords and TABS) and memorize finger positions. In order to be successful students will need to be able to coordinate both their left and right hands. Students who like hands on learners and are not afraid to ask for help will do well in this class. (All learning takes place in class. Therefore students do not need to purchase a ukulele for this class.)

Ukulele 2 (Advanced Music History Appreciation with Ukulele) - (Semester Class) This class meets every other day. Advanced Ukulele is for 7th and 8th Grade students who have successfully completed Ukulele 1. Ukulele two will reinforce previously learned concepts and teach students advanced playing techniques such as barre chords, finger picking, and how to play with a capo. Students will take what they've learned and apply them in real world situations such as creating a mock youtube video and performing at a local venue. (Purchasing a ukulele is highly encouraged at this level!)

PLTW-App Creators - (Semester Class) This class meets every other day. Students will explore computer science by analyzing and developing solutions to problems through mobile app development. Students learn blocks-based programming while completing activity challenges. Students are able to relate the solutions they are developing to applications they currently use on smartphones and tablets. Students will sharpen their collaboration and communication skills as they progress through the curriculum with partners. Content is primarily delivered via myPLTW with the teacher's role being that of facilitator. This permits students to hone their ability to read and follow written instructions with the added benefit of allowing students to progress through the activities, to a great extent, at their own pace.

Spanish- (Semester Class) This class meets every other day. This class teaches basic vocabulary and grammar structures related to numbers 0-100, school, family, and telling time. This class continues to teach basic speaking and listening skills in Spanish as a foreign language.

PLTW-Automation and Robotics - (Semester Class) This class meets every other day. Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as spinning signs, traffic lights, toll booths, robotic vehicles, and robotic arms. The engineering field is heavily focused on, with an emphasis on problem-solving and teamwork.

FULL YEAR CLASSES

Band – (Full Year Class) This class meets every other day. Band is a year-long course that meets every other day 1st semester and every day second semester for 7th grade students. Concerts are held in the winter and spring. Students have opportunities to perform in solo-ensemble festival and band contests. Multiple sections will be offered based on skill-level. Beginning students are welcome to enroll in band in 7th grade. Returning students will be appropriately placed in a section based on skill level.

Chorus - (Full Year Class) This class meets every other day. Students in choir are expected to actively participate in singing and other group activities. Students will sing songs from a variety of genres, historical periods, and cultures. Students will be expected to use the online program SmartMusic to assist them in learning how to read music and sing with technical accuracy. Students are required to purchase a polo and perform at three concerts a year. Students will be expected to demonstrate appropriate performer and audience behavior at each event. Additional performance opportunities include ILMEA, NCJC, Solo and Ensemble, field trips, collaborative events with the BSMS choir, and other community events.

INTERVENTION CLASSES

Students may be placed in MAP, RAP, or AAP based on standardized test scores and/or teacher recommendation. These are not elective choices.

Math Assistance Program (MAP)- (Full Year Class) This class meets every other day. Enrollment in this class is based on data and student need. In the Math Assistance Program, students can expect to receive additional instructional time and support for the current math content. The math assistance teacher communicates regularly with the core math teacher about content covered in math class and student's progress in that core math class. The intervention teacher will determine student's progress based on observations, discussions and review of work from the intervention class and from the core math class to determine what areas the student needs additional support. (*MAP is NOT a study hall for students to complete homework. Homework should continue to be completed at home*) Student's grade in MAP class is mainly based on their level of effort/participation rather than mastery of the math content. Student are graded on their math performance in their core math class. Student/teacher ratio is not to exceed 15:1.

Reading Assistance Program (RAP)- (Full Year Class) Enrollment in this class is based on data and student need. In the Reading Assistance Program students can expect to work on a variety of language arts/reading skills such as (but not limited to): word work, affixes, comprehension, literature skills, informational text, text features. These skills will NOT necessarily be the same skills that students are working on in their language arts classroom. Instead, the skills will be personalized for each student. While all students may be working in the same program, each student will be working at their individual level. Learning is achieved through hands-on and interactive activities. This is a non-traditional classroom setting in which students will not have time constraints, there is no homework, and students will be allowed to continue with skills until mastery is achieved. Grading is based mainly on participation, attitude, and effort. This grade is not a reflection of a student's core language arts class. This is a self-paced class which also allows for student choice in learning. Student teacher ratio is not to exceed 15:1.

Academic Assistance Program (AAP) - (Full Year or Semester Class)
This class meets every day or every other day based on student need.