

7th Grade Course Descriptions 2017-2018

Remember: A parent needs to sign the elective choice form, and if one is not turned in, your electives will be chosen for you.

7th Grade Core Courses

LANGUAGE ARTS 7: Emphasizes the four areas of language arts: writing, reading, speaking and listening. In writing, the primary skill areas are simple sentences, developing paragraphs, identifying and understanding parts of speech, basic punctuation, and usage. In reading, literary analysis introduces types of literature and encourages appreciation, comprehension, and vocabulary development. Speaking consists of effective oral communications. Listening skills are developed as a vital part of all learning. A multicultural perspective is included in this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7: This course provides a survey of world physical and political geography. It introduces students to various cultures and focuses attention upon people and their relationship to their environment. Nine to twelve weeks will be devoted to Alaska's history and geography.

SCIENCE 7: This is an integrated thematic program that teaches science as an interdisciplinary study of nature in which common principles operate in relationship to one another. Students explore areas of life science, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology. Emphasis is placed on scientific thought and reasoning as well as laboratory experiences.

MATH COURSES:

Math 7: A thorough review of basic skills in whole numbers, decimals, and fractions will be presented early in the year. The concepts of proportion, percent, basic geometry and introduction to variable operations will follow. This course is designed for students that have average basic math skills.

Pre-Algebra: An advanced course for students having attained proficiency in the basic skills at the elementary levels, and who have the motivation to excel in a course having a more demanding pace and more difficult concepts. A short review of basic skills will be followed by work with geometry, integers, rational numbers and variable concepts.

Algebra: This course reviews and extends the use and understanding of the fundamental operation on real numbers as well as expressing quantitative statistics in the language of algebra and solving equations and inequalities. The second semester covers factoring polynomials, the use of rational expressions in equations, coordinate graphing, irrational numbers and the solution of simple quadratic equations. Prerequisite for this class is the successful completion of pre-algebra or through testing.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: This course includes activities which encourage life-long skills. Units include soccer, basketball, volleyball, tumbling, strength training, table tennis, dance, orienteering, and aerobic fitness. Physical education classes also study basic sports physiology, anatomy, training programs, sports nutrition, and lifetime fitness. These are areas not covered in any other area of the 7th grade curriculum. PE is an "academics in action" program that confers upon students the

knowledge and skills to remain fit using the principles of modern sports

***Special Classes:** There are specialized courses available to those students who qualify for Special Ed. or Gifted Ed. services. You will be automatically registered for these courses if you are currently in one of these programs.

Core Electives (Year Long)

Band Intermediate: For students with one or two years experience in elementary school. This class helps students to continue to improve basic skills of tone production, posture, music notation reading, intonation, and ensemble playing. Two public performances will be given. Home practice is required.

Choir Advanced: Advanced Choir is designed for students who have considerable singing experience. A challenging class - this ensemble will be expected to perform multiple concerts throughout the school year which may involve several performances community wide. Open to audition for boys and girls, the Concert Choir is designed for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. Depending on current membership, the choir may also be made up of only the higher voices. Advanced Choir members will also be performing all songs prepared in the Intermediate Choir. Students wishing to join must audition and receive the instructor's signature.

Choir: This class is designed for students who wish to explore the art of singing or continue membership in a vocal performance ensemble. Emphasis will be the basics of proper singing technique: posture, breathing, pronunciation, quality tone production, and projection. Music theory and history will be introduced as well as song in multiple languages. Multiple performances will be presented in this yearlong course including festivals and special appearances. All singers have the option of participating in our annual out-of-state spring tour if and when a tour is approved. Students may participate in solo/ensemble with permission of instructor. Open to all levels of singing and both grade levels.

Orchestra Intermediate: This class is for those students who have had one or more years of experience but are not yet ready for the more advanced orchestra. Primary focus is on developing better tone production, good intonation, rhythmic accuracy, whole note reading, refinement of muscular coordination, and development of good practice habits. Elemental music theory is introduced. Public performance includes two evening school concerts and an area festival. Students should provide their own violins and violas. Cellos will be available for school use only. (Another cello must be obtained for home practice.) Private lessons are highly desirable and strongly recommended.

French A: Students are active participants in language learning experiences which assist in developing proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing of French. Vocabulary is presented in thematic topics such as greetings and health, body, classroom, calendar, weather, alphabet, colors, numbers, food, clothing, telling time, sports, leisure activities and

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family. Units of study introduce the culture of France and other Francophone countries and integrate basic grammatical structures to support linguistic competency in both French as well as English. This course will help prepare students to live in our increasingly diverse world by developing an appreciation for cultural and linguistic differences.

Spanish A: Students are active participants in learning experiences which assist in developing proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish. Vocabulary is presented in thematic topics such as greetings and health, body, classroom, calendar, weather, alphabet, colors, numbers, food, clothing, telling time, sports, leisure activities and family. Units of study introduce the Spanish language and culture and integrate basic grammatical structures to support linguistic competency in both Spanish as well as English. This course will help prepare students to live in our increasingly diverse world by developing an appreciation for cultural and linguistic differences.

Second Electives (quarter/semester)

Alaska Driver: In this class students will explore road and driving safety for various vehicles. The skills/knowledge acquired will support learner permit basics. Students will be expected to complete a series of written assignments on various topics. The Alaska State Division of Motor Vehicles Manual will serve as the "textbook." Final exam is administered at the end of the course.

Applied Tech: (semester) In this course students will learn about how to use technology to solve problems, design projects, and create products. Projects are assigned and students are challenged to design solutions by using information, teamwork, technology, and their creativity. Solutions will be constructed using a variety of materials, hand tools, power tools, and computerized equipment. Some examples of projects include CO2 dragsters, air foil design, bridge construction, egg drop design, computer aided drafting, power boat construction, and many, many more. Projects will be different for each semester.

Art Expanded: (semester) This class will expand upon simple drawings, ceramics, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and various art methods. Art History lessons are part of this broad exposure which this course provides. Students use existing techniques and develop their own interpretations to produce a variety of products from the art of various cultures of the world. For the serious art student.

Beginning Guitar: (semester) This class will introduce students to the traditional 6 string acoustic guitar. **This class is for the beginning guitarist.** In this class, the student will learn how to apply basic musical concepts, such as rhythm, harmony, and melody to the guitar. Concepts taught will include tuning, note reading, strumming, and chord reading. Student must provide his/her own **acoustic guitar**, set of strings and guitar picks.

Business Ed: GV Graphics (semester) Be a part of a small GV business! Learn the basics of running a business through business letters, interviewing skills, resume writing, accounting, advertising, marketing, and production. Students in this class will run the business of designing and producing team t-shirts and GV gear for the school and students.

Computers: This class is the same as Business Ed, but only lasts a quarter, and there will be less emphasis on writing business letters, and resumes for the job world.

Creative Writing (semester): This elective will provide opportunities for students to write in a variety of forms including: poems, essays, stories, letters, and magazine/newspaper articles. This class will periodically publish anthologies.

Debate (semester): If you are competitive and like to argue, this class is for you! Students in this elective will choose topics, research evidence and give persuasive speeches. The research, writing, and practicing will be done mostly during class, though some out of school time will be necessary. There are two (2) interscholastic debates per semester which take place on Saturdays at various locations. Students taking the class must commit to participate in one of the Saturday debate competitions. A willingness to research, write, and speak is necessary.

Family & Consumer Science: (semester) This course is designed for students to work in small groups and individually to explore all areas of the family and consumer sciences: food preparation and nutrition, care giving, textile creations and clothing care, living environments, personal finances, strictly personal issues and careers. Technology in the home and organizational management will be integrated into the studies. Students will complete activities that include research and a variety of hands-on and computer activities.

Film and Video: (semester) This elective provides the opportunity for students to become familiar with the process of taping, formatting, editing, sound, and text overlay. ***Application required**

Game Development: (semester) What is even more fun than playing a game? Making your own! In our Game Development course, you will learn the computer science behind building your own games, so you can unleash them on friends and family to play. Discover what goes into making a video game from building the computer, to developing the code, to playing the game. This project-based course will teach you programming languages professional developers use such as python, java, and HTML, all while playing through levels of an interactive game.

Law Studies: (semester) This course is patterned after the Anchorage Youth Court. Students will be trained in court procedure and specific positions. Enrichment field trips are scheduled for the crime lab and courthouse. With teacher approval this course may be taken for two semesters.

Literature Book Club (semester): Students who love to read for fun but are just too busy should sign up for this alternative elective. Book Club membership includes: being surrounded by a variety of exciting books, spending time in the library, seeing what's new in the publishing world via the Internet, talking about good books with others who love to read, writing a weekly journal entry, and participating in special literacy events. There is no outside homework in this class which makes it a relaxing way to end the day!

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Math Support: (semester) Problems and concepts that you encounter in your daily math classes will be explored further in this elective to improve achievement and understanding. You will be able to choose each day to work in small learning groups or alone on the math assigned in your core math class.

Outdoor Adventure: This course is the Official Hunter Education Program sanctioned by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Hunter Education course is divided into **five** main categories. These categories include: gun safety, wildlife conservation and management – including importance of good habitat, animal anatomy, outdoor survival and first aid, and hunting values and ethics. Successful completion of this course will result in a life-long certification for Hunter Education that is honored in all 50 states and Canada. It is now a requirement in all 50 states and Canada to show proof of successful completion of a Hunter Education course before being able to purchase a hunting license. **No** firearms are used or handled in this class! Course materials will be provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Percussion Ensemble (semester): Percussion Ensemble offers music students the opportunity to play traditional and non-traditional percussion instruments in a group setting. Basic drum rudiments will be taught in addition to mallet percussion techniques. A wide variety of instruments will be performed including the snare drum, drum set, xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, including non-traditional instruments such as trashcans, brooms, chairs, and wooden poles. This group is offered by teacher approval only. Students need to have prior music experience.

School Business Partnership- Suns Café: Learn how to run a real business! Students learn interviewing methods and are each given a specific job title; they fill out time sheets, are responsible for daily ledger entries, and actually work in the café before and/or after school. Revenues from sales are used for community service projects that the class selects, such as books for the homeless, funds for Science Olympiad, canned foods for one of the food banks, etc.

Science Projects (semester): This class is for you if you enjoy making things, working with others, and being a part of friendly competition! You will be given a task to do and materials to use for building your project. You and your talented partners will design and test your project then compete against other teams. Students will start by choosing which projects will be done each quarter, and then teams will be formed for each project. Come ready to share ideas and think creatively!

Science Seminar (Forensics) GV CSI Crime Lab! This class is primarily lab-based involving aspects of Forensic Science. Students will scientifically investigate crime scenes by collecting and analyzing data, performing experiments, determining the validity of tests, and forming conclusions based off of the evidence and facts collected. If you love science, experimenting, and solving mysteries, this class is for you! Lab fee involved.

Strategies of Success: (semester) This elective is designed to assist students who are struggling in their core classes. Through careful monitoring of daily assignments and assistance from a core team teacher, students will learn to organize, manage time more efficiently, prioritize daily work, and plan for long-term assignments. Students will also learn a variety of study skills to apply in all of their classes.

Student Government: School spirit! Community Spirit! This elective provides students with the opportunity to identify and implement projects that benefit the school and community. Each week students will be involved in a formal meeting to brainstorm, discuss and ultimately implement project ideas that will benefit our school and community. Come ready to get involved and bring ideas.

Video Productions/Announcements: (semester) This course will introduce students to a variety of broadcast technologies as well as communication skills. Students will be producing and anchoring not only daily school-wide announcements, but also video clips including interviews and human interest stories, and short documentaries. Skills being emphasized include: public speaking, interviewing, storyboard organization, video technology, and basic communication skills. Students will be selected for the class through an interview process. ***Application required.**