

7th Grade Course Offering

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

English Language Arts or ELA emphasizes four traditional components: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will read and analyze several pieces of young adult fiction and nonfiction, as well as study mythology, short stories, and poetry. Students will compose writing in a variety of lengths and modes. Also throughout the year, students concentrate on correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary growth.

ELL ENGLISH I, II

The English Language Learner courses strive to develop effective communication skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing English. The classes are available to limited English proficient students as determined by the Nebraska State ELPA21 Summative or Screener tests and teacher recommendations.

SCIENCE 7

Seventh grade science is an integrated curriculum. Classes are inquiry-based and will incorporate lab work, projects, group activities, and traditional instructional format. This class will be taught in conjunction with state standards and testing as required in Nebraska.

MATH 7

In this class students cover many topics including: Rational Numbers, Algebra, Geometry and Data. Emphasis is placed on solving one and two step equations and inequalities with integers. Other concepts that are stressed are probability, statistics and basic geometry. The students will continue to develop computation skills which include subtraction, addition, multiplication and division. Homework completion is an essential element to be successful. Students extend their work with fractions and decimals and apply these skills to solve single and multi-step problems in numerous contexts. Understanding the relationships of fractions, decimals and percents is a major focus. Other concepts that are stressed are probability, statistics and basic geometry. The students will continue to develop computation skills which include subtraction, addition, multiplication and division. Homework completion is an essential element to be successful.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Pre-Algebra is designed to help students prepare for the abstract thinking concepts presented in Algebra 1 and higher levels of mathematics. The topics covered in this course are the following: Real Numbers, Analyze and Solve Linear Equations, Investigate Bivariate Data, Congruence and Similarity, Pythagorean Theorem, Surface Area and Volume.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

This class focuses on world regional geography and explores the Eastern Hemisphere and its resources. With the use of maps, textbooks, and other resources, the world's culture, landscape, and people will be examined.

PE/HEALTH 7

Physical Education/Health is a required course intended to promote student wellness. The health curriculum teaches a balance in the five core areas of wellness: Mental, Social, Physical, Emotional, and Intellectual Health. Topics include: personality, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, exercise, nutrition, cardiovascular fitness, communicable disease, body systems, human growth and reproduction, and abstinence education. The Physical Education aspect of the class teaches the importance of developing a personal fitness plan while students are given opportunities for regular exercise. Students are taught motor skill development and social adjustments through participation in individual, team, and group activities. It is hoped that students will discover and develop success in physical activities and continue being physically active throughout their lifetime. Fitness testing is done in the spring and fall.

SEMESTER CLASSES:

Exploring Technology

In this 7th grade class, students will explore the world of technology. Students will become savvy digital citizens while exploring a variety of digital tools. Students will practice keyboarding skills while completing hands-on projects that incorporate G Suite and other cloud-based applications.

LIFE MANAGEMENT

Life Management is a semester Family & Consumer Sciences course. Each unit focuses on essential Life & Career skills such as: money management, food safety, nutrition, food preparation, food science, family relationships, issues facing teens, child care/safety, health and wellness, consumer skills, clothing care, and career exploration. Projects include: food safety labs, nutrition labs, preparing recipes, menu planning, nutrition evaluation, food science experiments, business cards, children's stories, budgets, checking accounts, debit /credit card simulations, calculating the cost of credit, investments, fitness plans, fashion merchandising, textile labs, clothing care, and career exploration. Guest Day! Our Guest Day is our final project that allows students to host an open house and work as a group to create presentations, prepare snacks, and communicate professionally with guests. You're invited!

LEARNING STRATEGIES READING/VOCABULARY BUILDING

This course is designed to assist students with reading and vocabulary strategies to enhance their comprehension of learning materials in their content classes. Throughout this semester long class students will be introduced to strategies such as SQ3R, Multipass, and Before/During/After Reading Strategies using Higher Order Thinking Skills. Students will learn that reading is more than just decoding and phonics. This course will also stress vocabulary using Marzano's 6 Step Process for Vocabulary Instruction.

LEARNING STRATEGIES WRITING I

New By Teacher Recommendation - This research based course from Kansas University is designed to help students who struggle with expressing their ideas in written form. Writing I helps students recognize and write 6 sentence patterns using simple and compound sentences. This course will help students better meet the writing demands in their classes for daily work and essay tests. Writing I helps students recognize and write 14 sentence patterns using simple, compound, complex and compound-complex sentences.

LEARNING STRATEGIES WRITING II

By Teacher Recommendation - This course incorporates the research based Paragraph Writing Strategy and Theme Writing Strategy from Kansas University. The Paragraph Writing Strategy is designed to be used by students to organize and write paragraphs and essays in order to be able to respond more efficiently to the complex writing demands in secondary and postsecondary settings. Students will learn how to list ideas related to a topic, plan the point of view and the verb tense to be used in the paragraph, plan the sequence in which ideas will be expressed, and write a variety of topic, detail, and clincher sentences. The Theme Writing Strategy will teach students how to use a set graphic organizer (TOWERS) to develop their writing in an organized sequential format **Writing Strategies I are encouraged first, but not required.**

QUARTER CLASSES:

ART

The seventh grade art class allows the students the opportunity to investigate and create original works of art through two-dimensional studio work. With the study and implementation of the elements and principles of design, students will create original works of art in the media of drawing, painting, photography and technology.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Seventh grade Industrial Technology is a nine week long course in which students will be exposed to application of measurement and experience skills needed to complete projects. Students will learn safe lab procedures and techniques as well as gaining an understanding of technical communications in the area. Students will also be exposed to the different career opportunities that this field has to offer.

SOAR

The idea behind this quarter-long class is making students **Strong, Organized, Active, and Respected** in our community. Through the 4 indicators of civic health (social connectedness, confidence in institutions, political involvement, and community engagement) we will use project-based group work to enhance our area of the world through our words and actions!

S.T.E.M. – Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

S.T.E.M. stands for science, technology, engineering, art, and math. In this project-based class, students will conduct hands-on math, engineering, science activities and games, build projects both individually and as part of a team and use many different forms of technology. The activities conducted in this class will introduce students to possible career opportunities that will capitalize on 21st century skills.

FULL YEAR CLASSES:

BAND

The concert band is composed of 7th grade students. Prior musical experience on a band instrument is required. It is expected that the students will be able to perform at an acceptable level any and all assigned music or lesson material. Concerts, festivals, ensembles, solos, and lessons are required class activities. Marching band is composed of all seventh and eighth grade band students. Marching band activities could include the Lions Club parade and selected home Junior High football games.

CHORUS

Chorus is a non-audition ensemble which is open to all 7th grade students. Literature is chosen from various time periods, languages and genres in order to provide students with a strong choral foundation. Students will explore basic concepts of music theory, tone color, and vocal production. Students will have the opportunity to perform in public concerts during the school year, including one competition. All performances require dress clothes and are a graded part of the class.

ORCHESTRA

This class is open to all string instrument players in the 7th grade. The group performs four times per year in concerts and at a contest festival. Solo and ensemble playing is encouraged. Instruction on string performance techniques and rehearsal of concert music are the major study areas. The "Essential Technique for Strings" intermediate level book is required. Wind and percussion players are occasionally selected from the band to rehearse and perform with the strings. Prior musical experience on a string instrument is STRONGLY suggested, but students who are beginning an orchestral instrument are encouraged to contact the teacher to make arrangements.