

7th Grade

Course Descriptions

Required Courses

English (Full Year):

Seventh graders will strengthen their ability to communicate effectively through a program which stresses the importance of written communication. Sentence building, improved word usage and standard grammar skills will be emphasized. Students will learn how to compose several types of essays and apply composition skills to enhance their form and content. Students will explore various forms of literature to gain an understanding of literacy elements and an insight into themselves and others. Effective communication is the key to understanding!

Pre-Advanced Placement English (Full Year):

Pre-AP English provides qualified students with a foundation course designed to prepare them for the rigorous Advanced Placement program. Emphasis will be on literary analysis of classic and contemporary selections. Sophisticated research and writing processes will be introduced and applied extensively throughout the year. Students should expect an additional time requirement for this class and be willing to work independently. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance, standardized test scores and teacher recommendations. Please be sure to read the Pre AP Guidelines found on the back of the scheduling card.

Reading: (Full Year):

Seventh grade students will be assessed for their appropriate reading level, and then will be guided through a program that will integrate reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Applied vocabulary, comprehension strategies and critical thinking skills will be the emphasis of the program. Students will analyze literary genres and be given the opportunity to work on individual and group projects and research.

Gifted and Talented Reading and English (Full Year):

Seventh grade students who are currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program will be guided through a challenging course that will expose them to a large variety of literature. Students will be required to read and analyze both classic and contemporary novels, participate in thematic units, conduct in-depth research, complete individual and group projects and write extensively throughout the year. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for future advanced classes.

Mathematics (Full Year):

This course consists of a balanced program of problem-solving strategies and computation skills. It involves intensive study in the four fundamental operations with whole numbers, integers, rational numbers, decimals and percentages. Also included are the basic concepts of geometry and the metric system.

Pre-Advanced Placement Math (Full Year): (Pre-requisite: Pre-AP Math 6)

Pre-Advanced Placement Math 7 will included the following concepts: the number system and its development, geometric figures and their properties, math operations on whole numbers, fractions and mixed numbers, algebraic expressions, probability and statistics and conversion of U.S. customary and metric systems of measurement. This challenging class will prepare students for Algebra I. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance and standardized test scores. Please be sure to read the Pre AP Guidelines found on the back of the scheduling card. Students will **not** be enrolled in this course unless they meet **all requirements**.

If a student was in 6th grade Math (not Pre-AP) immediately prior and is requesting Pre-AP Math 7 in Grade 7, the following **MUST** be completed: (Note – this is so that the district has documentation that the child has earned mastery of the 7th grade TEKS without the benefit of instruction and remain in compliance with the legal requirements of providing instruction in all the TEKS)

- Score of 90% on both parts to a Credit-By-Exam for Grade 7

Science (Full Year):

Seventh grade science is a TEKS concept-based program (Texas Essential Knowledge Skills.) Topics include physics, chemistry, space and biology. The interconnection among these sciences and topics will be demonstrated throughout the year. Students also learn and practice scientific measurement, lab skills and scientific record keeping.

Pre-Advanced Placement Science (Full Year):

Pre-Advanced Placement Science provides qualified students with a foundation course designed to prepare them for the rigorous Advanced Placement program. Emphasis will be placed on chemistry, physics and biology. Lab experiences will be taught using an integrated math/science approach. Students should expect an additional time requirement for this class and be willing to work independently. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation. Please be sure to read the Pre AP Guidelines found on the back of the scheduling card. In accordance with advanced scientific thinking, students will be required to conduct an independent science project reflecting their interest in the sciences.

Texas History (Full Year):

Texas History is designed to provide an opportunity for students to appreciate and understand the heritage, value and traditions of the state. Emphasis is placed on the various cultural groups, which contributed to the state's history. Significant events, heroes and places are studied and the state's geography is examined.

Physical Education (Full Year):

The Physical Education program provides students with opportunities to develop skill and sportsmanship through a variety of team and fitness activities.

Athletics (Full Year):

UIL Athletic Competition and Off-Season Conditioning are the focus of our Athletics program. Participation sports for boys include Football, Basketball and Track; participation sports for girls are Volleyball, Basketball and Track.

Students are required to maintain passing grades and above average behavior to participate in these programs. Additionally, in order to meet UIL age requirements, students in Athletics CAN NOT have reached their 14th birthday prior to September 1st of the current school year.

Tennis

The Tennis program is designed to help students acquire and improve the skills needed for competitive tennis.

Beginning Tennis / PE Rotation (One Semester) will give students a chance to rotate into a tennis class from PE the 1st semester to focus on the basics and begin to build a foundation of fundamental skills. Our goal is to create an atmosphere of enthusiasm and interest for the sport for those who desire to make a serious effort to be a part of an athletic tennis program and potentially work towards becoming a competitive player. Beginning tennis is a 6 week long class. At the end of the first semester the tennis coach will evaluate all the beginning students and choose those that have shown ability and interest in going to intermediate tennis the 2nd semester. All players not chosen for the intermediate class will be placed in a PE class the 2nd semester. This system will allow the tennis coach to spend time with the intermediate group and also allow the other students to go back to PE and work on their basic athletic skills.

Intermediate Tennis (One Semester) will consist of athletes who have demonstrated the skill level of a potential intermediate player in the beginning basics. The top 15 – 20 students will advance to the Intermediate class for the 2nd semester based on the coaches' evaluations during the 1st semester Beginning Tennis class.

Advanced Tennis class (Full Year) will consist of a more diligent, higher skill level workout, focusing on competitive play. The athlete needs to be completely dedicated to a full year of tennis workouts and elevated ambitions. They should also be constantly broadening their skill level not only through school tennis but also outside competitions and lessons. Advanced athletes need to be able to demonstrate a forehand, backhand, volley and a serve or be a very versatile athlete setting themselves apart as far as coordination, anticipation and agility.

The advanced players are chosen by the tennis coach the previous spring during a tryout. The basic guide in choosing these advanced players is experience level. Any player not chosen for the advanced class will be placed in beginning tennis.

Elective Courses

Band Offerings

Beginning Band (Full Year):

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion.) The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Students will be placed into appropriate band classes upon taking an instrument test.

Concert Band (Full Year):

This course is an extension of beginning band. The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult.

Symphonic Band (Full Year):

Symphonic Band is designed to meet the needs of the advanced band student. The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult.

Theater Offerings

Theater Arts I (Full Year):

Theater Arts I is designed for any student who is interested in an introduction to acting and the theater. The course is designed to introduce the student to acting through exercises in body control, concentration and relaxation. The student will work on improvisation skills both individually and in groups. The primary objective is to develop the student's creativity and ability for self-expression. Technical Theater is introduced.

Theater Arts II (Full Year):

Sixth grade theater is the prerequisite for Theater Arts II. Theater Arts II builds upon the skills learned in 6th Grade Theater. Students will continue to strengthen their acting skills in a variety of theatrical experiences including reading and writing plays, as well as memorized and improvisational performance. Technical aspects of Theater are introduced.

Theater Production (Full Year):

This course is for the student who has a strong desire to excel in the theater arts. The students will have the practical, hands on experiences of producing various forms of theater production. Students will write, direct and act in their own productions. Theater Production students will also promote PHMS to the various feeder elementary schools by performing for them at least once a year. This class will assist in the production of all after school productions, and will be responsible for the Middle School One-Act Play. ***An audition is required for admission into this course. Auditions will take place in the spring of 2010.***

Art Offerings

Art I (Full Year):

Art I will emphasize drawing techniques and design principles while studying the elements of art and various artists. Students will also work with clay, paper collage and various painting media.

Art II (Full Year):

Teacher approval is required for students to take Art II. Students must have completed a semester of 6th grade in order to be placed in Art II. Art II will expand on the principles and elements, while spending more time on art history and techniques of drawing and painting. The focus for the first semester will be two-dimensional work and design; second semester will include ceramics, printmaking, sculpture and weaving.

Art III (Full Year):

Teacher approval is required for students to take Art III. Art III will follow the general outline of Art II except that different projects will be assigned and different artists will be studied. Also, perspective drawing and art criticism will be taught in depth. Higher order thinking skills will be emphasized. Students need to be mature with the ability to work independently. The advantage of taking this course is that you can move directly to *ART 1 intermediate* in high school and skip *Art 1 beginner*.

Foreign Language Offerings

Spanish 1A (Full Year):

Spanish 1A begins the development of the basic language skills: listening, reading, writing through the use of oral drills, vocabulary building, simple composition, reading assignments, dialogue and creative writing. The course also stresses cultural awareness/understanding of the Spanish-speaking world and its impact on the United States. Students must successfully complete Spanish 1A with a final grade of 70% or above in 7th grade to enroll in Spanish 1B in 8th Grade. Following the successful completion of two years of instruction, Spanish I credit is given toward high school graduation requirements. A student who earns below a 70% in two consecutive six week grading periods will be placed on academic probation and a committee including the student, parent and teacher will convene to develop a plan for future success. If at the conclusion of the six weeks of probation the student again earns below a 70%, the committee will reconvene to determine if Spanish is the appropriate placement. Students enrolled in this course should expect high standards and an additional time requirement.

Choir Offerings

Girl's Choir (Full Year)

Girl's Choir is open to all 7th or 8th grade female students who would like to further their musical knowledge and sing in a performing ensemble. ***No prior choir experience is required.*** Classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing good vocal technique, reading musical notation and performance skills. During the year, all choir students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. Members of the Girl's Choir may perform in the Spring UIL Contest.

Boy's Choir (Full Year)

Boy's Choir is open to all 7th or 8th grade male students who would like to further their musical knowledge and sing in a performing ensemble. ***No prior choir experience is required.*** Classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing good vocal technique, reading musical notation and performance skills. During the year, all choir students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. Members of the Boy's Choir may perform in the Spring UIL Contest.

Orchestra Offerings

Beginning Orchestra (Full Year):

Beginning Orchestra (strings) is open to all 6th, 7th or 8th grade students who would like to further their musical knowledge or begin instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. No prior experience is necessary. (*Students with prior string experience read NOTE below.*) These classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing basic musical and performance skills. During the year, all string students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. The students will also perform at one music contest. Students will be placed in classes according to instrumentation (i.e. violins/violas or cellos/basses). Prior to enrollment, a “try the instrument night” is scheduled to allow the student to have a “hands on” trial time. The director is always available to answer questions on instrument selection, instrument sizing, rentals, reconditioning of previously owned family instruments, instrument purchase and scholarship opportunities. (It is strongly recommended that parents meet with the director *prior* to purchasing an instrument.)

NOTE: Students with previous string experience or those students with previous musical experience (i.e. piano, band instrument) may elect to study privately during the summer and audition in early August for placement in Concert Orchestra (Level II) or Symphonic Orchestra (Level III).

Concert Orchestra (II) (Full Year)

Concert Orchestra (Level II) is open to all students (primarily 7th grade students) who would like to further their musical knowledge and continue instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. This orchestra meets daily and focuses on continuing the development of musical skills in an ensemble setting. During the year, the Concert Orchestra will combine on two or more occasions with other performing groups to present concerts for the parents and public. The Concert Orchestra will perform as a non-varsity orchestra for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest. NOTE: Students *may* be placed in this orchestra according to ability or scheduling conflicts rather than grade level.

Symphonic Orchestra (III) (Full Year)

Symphonic Orchestra (III) is an **auditioned** ensemble of serious middle school string students (mostly 8th grade students who study privately) who understand and are able to demonstrate correct bowing, hand positions, intonation, scales, shifting & sight-reading skills. Symphonic Orchestra meets daily and focuses on continuing the development of musical skills using a repertoire ranging from the classics to Broadway. The Symphonic Orchestra will perform as a varsity orchestra for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest. During the year, the orchestra will combine on two or more occasions with other performing groups to present concerts for the parents and public. NOTE: Students *may* be placed in this orchestra according to ability or scheduling conflicts rather than grade level.

Technology Offerings

Multimedia I (One Semester) and Video Production I (One Semester):

Multimedia I: Students will use Photoshop Elements photo editing software to create and manipulate digital graphics. Their graphics will then be integrated with PowerPoint to produce advanced animation techniques. VR Worx software will be utilized to create virtual reality tours of various locations.

Video Production I: This is a course designed for students to investigate and increase their understanding of producing a broadcast quality video. Using hands-on problem solving, the students will produce special edition videos over various topics, as well as acquire “in front of the camera” broadcasting experience. Students will learn to operate video equipment and iMovie editing software, utilize proper lighting techniques, and video/audio enhancements while sharpening their communication skills.

This course is required if a student plans on taking Broadcasting and is highly recommended if a student wants to take Animation as an 8th grader.

Robotics (Full Year):

Students learn to design, build, program and run an RCX robotic brick using LEGO Mindstorms Kits for Schools. Students download programs created in an exciting program developed by NASA scientists called ROBOLAB to make the “robot” perform successfully solving assigned, specific activities for their robots.

Other Elective Options

Skills for Independent Living (formally Skills for Living/Food and Nutrition):

Skills for Independent Living: This laboratory course will enable students to investigate concepts and career areas in clusters such as: early childhood development, family and consumer sciences, hospitality, business, culinary arts, personal finances, and human services.

Study Skills I(One Semester)/Study Skills II (One Semester):

Study Skills I: This course provides students with strategies for becoming more effective learners. Students develop strategies for improving study skills. Topics include note-taking strategies, study methods, test taking and vocabulary building. Students work with their own learning styles to increase comprehension, build vocabulary, master listening and note-taking skills and minimize test anxiety.

Study Skills II: This course provides students with the opportunity to explore different career options. Emphasis will be on researching jobs of choice, writing resumes and cover letters, the interview process and work place expectations.