

Course Descriptions

Seventh Grade

Required Courses

Please note that students who do not meet the recommended standard for the TAKS Math and/or Reading test(s) will be required to take an accelerated class in place of ONE elective for each portion of the TAKS they did not master.

Integrated Language Arts (ILA) - Full Year

Seventh graders will strengthen their ability to communicate effectively with a curriculum that 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 literary elements and an insight into themselves and others. Effective communication is the key to understanding! Students will be assessed for their appropriate reading level, and will then 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.

Pre-Advanced Placement Integrated Language Arts (Pre-AP ILA) - Full Year

Pre-AP ILA provides capable students with a foundation course designed to prepare them for the rigorous Advanced Placement program. Sophisticated research and writing processes will be introduced and applied extensively throughout the year. Students who elect to take this rigorous course should expect high standards and time demands as set by any higher level course.

Maintenance Criteria (for all grade levels): *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 Pre-AP is the appropriate placement.*

GT Language Arts (Reading & English) (Full Year) *Must currently be a part of Frisco ISD's GT program*

Students who are currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program (Quest) will be guided through a challenging course that will expose them to a variety of literature genres. 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.

Texas History (Full Year)

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

Science (Full Year)

Seventh grade science is a concept-based program based on TEKS (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 will also learn and practice scientific measurement, lab skills and scientific record keeping.

Pre-Advanced Placement Science (Full Year)

Pre-Advanced Placement science provides capable 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 experiments will be taught using an integrated math/science approach. Students who elect to take this rigorous course should expect high standards and time demands as set by any higher level course.

Maintenance Criteria (for all grade levels): 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 Pre-AP is the appropriate placement.

Mathematics (Full Year)

This course is 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 basic concepts of geometry and the metric system.

Pre-Advanced Placement Math 7 (Pre-Algebra)-Full Year

Prerequisite: Pre-AP Math 6

Pre-Algebra will include the following concepts: the number system and its development, math operations on whole numbers, fractions, and mixed numbers, Algebraic expressions, solving equations, geometric figures and their properties, probability and statistics, and conversion of U.S. customary and metric systems of measurement. All students who plan to take Algebra I in 8th grade MUST take Pre-Algebra in 7th grade.

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Students **MUST** choose one of the following physical activities:

Athletics

Athletics involves UIL athletic competition and off-season conditioning. Students are required to maintain passing grades and above average behavior to participate in athletic programs. All sports have mandatory practice before or after school and night games during the week. It is an expectation that representing the school on a team will supersede participating in non-school athletic games and events.

Students who do not make a competitive team will remain in athletics and participate in off-season. The off-season program consists of daily running and weight training.

A Physical Exam is required before beginning Athletics. **Physical forms, as well as additional athletic policy handouts, are available in the front office.**

Sports Offered:

Boys sports include: Football, Basketball, Track

Girls sports include: Volleyball, Basketball, Track

(Soccer, cross-country and track are offered before or after school and students do NOT need to be enrolled in Athletics to be involved in these sports. However, a physical is required to participate)

Rams Strength & Conditioning – Girls & Boys Classes

The Rams Strength and Conditioning class will allow the 7th and 8th grade boys and girls, who choose not to be in PE and choose not to be in Athletics, a class in which they can enjoy the benefits of resistance training and conditioning without extracurricular competition. This offering can be taken **in place of** P.E. or Athletics. It **cannot** be taken in conjunction with either.

Tennis (Full Year)

An active participation course designed to help students work toward a higher competitive level. This offering can be taken **in place of** P.E. or Athletics. It **cannot** be taken in conjunction with either. Students are required to maintain passing grades, and exhibit above-average behavior in order to participate in tennis.

Physical Education (Full Year)

The physical education program provides students with opportunities to develop skills and sportsmanship through a variety of team sport skills, and lifetime wellness activities.

Elective Course Descriptions

Seventh Grade

Students who do not meet the recommended standard for the TAKS Math and/or Reading test(s) will be required to take an accelerated class in place of ONE elective for each portion of the TAKS they did not master.

Maus M.S. electives are subject to change depending on enrollment and staffing.

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, Prerequisite: Art I)

Art II will expand on the principles and elements of art, 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.

Band

Band is designed to meet the needs of the developing 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. ***Advanced classes are also available for students who have completed at least a year of instruction and are ready to expand their knowledge of band. Students will be placed into the appropriate band class based on ability level determined by the band instructor.***

All students will be placed into the appropriate band class based on ability level determined by the band instructor.

Orchestra

The orchestra program provides instruction in violin, viola, cello, and bass. This class is open to any student who would like to further their musical knowledge and begin instruction on a stringed instrument. These classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing basic musical and performance skills. During the year, the string students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. (Instrument arrangements will be made upon instrument selection.) ***Advanced classes are also available for students who have completed at least a year of instruction and are ready to expand their orchestral knowledge. Students will be placed into the appropriate orchestra class based on ability level determined by the orchestra instructor.***

Choir 7/8

This course is designed to extend the fundamentals of beginning choir courses and to concentrate more heavily on the artistic and expressive qualities of choral singing. Students will perform at least four concerts during the school year. At least one year of choral singing experience is helpful but not required.

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.

Career Investigations (Full year)

Achieving proficiency in decision making and problem solving is an essential skill for career planning and lifelong learning. Students use self-knowledge, educational, and career information to set and achieve realistic career and educational goals.

Teen Leadership (Full year)

Teen Leadership is a program in which students develop leadership, personal, and business skills. They learn to develop a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships, and learn to understand the concept of personal responsibility. Students will develop skills in public speaking and communication and an understanding of personal image. They will also develop an understanding of the effects of peer pressure and will develop skills to counteract those effects. Finally, they will develop an understanding of the need for vision in goal setting, both personally and professionally.

Video Production I & Multimedia I (Full Year)

An introduction to movie making using iMovie software, this course is designed for students to investigate and increase their understanding of producing a broadcast video. Using hands-on problem solving, the students will produce special edition videos over various topics according to specific campus needs, as well as acquire “in front of camera” broadcasting experience. Students will learn the following: to operate video equipment; computer video editing software; lighting techniques; interviewing, writing, and reporting skills. Multimedia I is an introduction to a state-of-the-art clay animation curriculum that allows you to create computer-animated projects. Students will also use Photoshop Elements to create and manipulate digital graphics. PowerPoint and Photoshop Elements will be integrated to produce advanced animation techniques.

Robotics

Students will learn to design, build, program and run a robotic brick using LEGO Mindstorms Kits for Schools. Students will download programs created in an exciting program developed by either Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy or NASA scientists. Students will learn basic programming concepts and apply them in successfully solving assigned, specific activities for their robots.

Spanish IA (1st of 2 Years)

Spanish IA begins the development of the basic language skills; listening, reading, and writing through the use of oral drills, vocabulary building, simple composition, reading assignments, dialogue, and creative writing. The course also stresses cultural awareness and understanding of the Spanish-speaking world and its impact on the United States.

Spanish I is offered in grades 7 and 8 for high school credit. Successful completion of both years, Spanish IA (7th grade) and Spanish IB (8th grade), with a final grade of 70% or above each year, is required in order to receive the high school credit. Upon successful completion of both Spanish IA and IB, students will receive foreign language credit toward high school graduation. Students who elect to take this high school level course designed to provide a solid foundation for success in Spanish II should expect high standards and an additional time requirement. Students may not retake Spanish I in high school if they receive credit for Spanish IA and IB in middle school.

Theatre Arts I (Full Year)

Theatre Arts I is designed to introduce the student to the many performing and technical aspects of theatre. Acting is introduced through individual and group exercises in improvisational and memorized performances. Basic theatrical knowledge, play reading, and playwriting are emphasized. The primary objective is to develop the student’s creativity and self-expression.

Theatre Arts II (Full Year, Prerequisite: Theatre I)

Theatre Arts II builds upon the skills learned in Theatre Arts I. 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.

Advanced Theatre Studies (Prerequisite: Theatre Arts I OR theatre teacher approval)

This full-year course is designed for the theatre student who wishes to continue in the theatre program to its highest level throughout 7th and 8th grade. Advanced acting and theatre production will be studied. The students who sign up for this class will be able to take it for both years and will be admitted to this class by audition only.

Beginning Technical Theatre

This class is designed for the theatre student who is interested in learning the backstage part of theatre. Studies will include all behind the scenes areas of theatre. This will include: design, painting, building, dramatic elements, makeup, costumes, lighting, sound, stage management, direction, and publicity. All students will work in all backstage areas.

*****COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE ELECTIVE AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR OMISSION DUE TO AN INSUFICIENT AMOUNT OF STUDENT REQUESTS, LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO TEACH THE CLASS, OR FUNDING. THE STUDENT WILL BE PLACED IN THE NEXT ELECTIVE CHOICE ON THE SCHEDULE CARD FILLED OUT BY THE STUDENT AND PARENT.**