

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 Academic Maintenance Criteria found on the back of the registration card.

Reading: (Full Year):

Seventh grade students 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-Advanced Placement Math 7 will include 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 qualification requirements and the Academic Maintenance Criteria for this course found on the back of the registration card. Students will **not** be enrolled in this course unless they meet **all requirements**.

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 Academic Maintenance Criteria found on the back of the registration card.

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 that contributed to the state's history. Significant events, heroes and places are studied, and the state's geography is examined.

Physical Education Courses**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 CANNOT 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. 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 semester 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 second semester. All players not chosen for the Intermediate class will be placed in a PE class the second 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.

Strength and Conditioning Class for P.E. Credit

You don't really want to join the Athletics Program, but you do want to work out. The commitment to competition in Athletics doesn't intrigue you, but you do have a commitment to staying fit and in shape. In this class, you will learn the basic lifts to promote muscle growth and tone, agility drills to increase coordination, and conditioning activities that help maintain one's conditioning level.

Course Objective: Students will learn lifts, drills, and activities that belong in a well-rounded total body workout program.

Target Student: This course was designed for the student who is not interested in competition or sports, but is interested in maintaining a certain level of fitness.

Performance-Based Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Learn basic lifts, agility/coordination drills, and conditioning activities
- Have a basic understanding of lifts, drills, and activities that help maintain a level of fitness

Elective Courses**Orchestra****Beginning Orchestra (Full Year):**

Beginning Orchestra 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).

Intermediate Orchestra (II) (Full Year)

Intermediate 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 Intermediate Orchestra will combine on two or more occasions with other performing groups to present concerts for the parents and public. The Intermediate 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.

Choir (Full Year)

Choir is open to all 7th or 8th grade students who would like to further their musical knowledge and sing in a performing ensemble. ***No prior singing 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. The Concert Choir will perform as a non-varsity choir for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest.

NOTE: Students with previous choir 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 A Cappella Choir.

Band

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.

Jazz Band (Full Year):

This course is designed as an enrichment of the Symphonic and Concert Band curriculum. Students will study and participate in the uniquely American art of jazz and improvisation, while extending their technical proficiency and musical maturity on their instrument. From early blues and New Orleans jazz to swing, bebop and avant-garde, students will study jazz styles, standards, theory and performers, as well as the political and cultural climate surrounding and influencing the various genres of jazz. In this sense it is truly a laboratory course in which students actively participate in the course material.

Jazz Band is open to seventh and eighth saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion students currently enrolled in Symphonic or Concert Band, and is open to eighth graders outside the band program on guitar, string bass (double bass or electric), and piano **by audition only**. Students outside the band program should contact the band directors to set up an audition. Select flute and clarinet students are also eligible if invited to audition. Students enrolled in Concert Band or Symphonic Band who wish to audition on guitar, bass, or piano may do so as well.

Theatre Arts I (Full Year):

Theatre Arts I is designed for any student who is interested in an introduction to acting and the theatre. 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 Theatre is introduced.

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.

***Spanish 1A (Full Year):**

Student success in core classes is essential to the acquisition of a foreign language. 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. This course has a challenging curriculum requiring an extra time commitment from students, as well as the ability to work independently. Following the successful completion of two years of instruction, Spanish I credit is given toward high school graduation requirements. Please be sure to read the Spanish Maintenance Guidelines found on the back of the registration card.

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

This course will introduce students to the basics of video production and multimedia. This course is recommended for students who are interested in taking Animation as an 8th grader.

Robotics (Full Year):

Students will learn to design, build, program and run NXT robotic brick using LEGO Mindstorms Kits for Schools. Students will download programs created in an exciting program developed by Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy. Students will make their "robot" perform, successfully solving assigned, specific tasks.

Skills for Living (One Semester) / Food and Nutrition (One Semester):

Skills for Living: This course is designed to give students a comprehensive look at the field of family and consumer sciences. The students will have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and learn new skills for successful living. Course content emphasizes personal management skills, responsible decision-making, goal-setting, career exploration and organizational skills. This course helps prepare students to begin their journey toward becoming independent, productive citizens.

Food and Nutrition: This course is intended for students who are specifically interested in learning more about food, food science, careers in the food service industry, food preparation and using current kitchen technology. The class is designed to provide "hands-on" experiences in content areas emphasizing proper nutrition, diet and health related issues, essential nutrients, and healthy food selection. Units include an in-depth study on multi-cultural cuisine, eating disorders, food preparation techniques, recipe reading skills, table manners, napkin folding, meal service, grocery shopping and meal planning, the food guide pyramid, and kitchen safety.

Yearbook (Full Year): APPLICATION REQUIRED

Students must apply for admission to this course. Students enrolling in Yearbook should exhibit a high degree of responsibility, tenacity and maturity. As a part of the curriculum, students will be required to attend and cover events before and after school. A strong English and/or Art background will be helpful, as this course involves production of the Scoggins Middle School yearbook. This course teaches basic journalism and printing terms, layout designs, and copy preparation.

* The State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education are currently considering changes regarding the calculation of GPA for the freshman class of 2009 as of print date. These changes have not been finalized. More information will be shared as it becomes available. The proposal includes counting grades from high school courses taken in middle school (Algebra, Health, and Spanish) towards the student's overall High School G.P.A. (Grade Point Average).