

2021-2022 7th Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses

Integrated Language Arts 7 (Full Year):

In 7th grade ILA, students strengthen knowledge and skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking. Students read, write, and communicate on a daily basis, engage in activities that build on existing comprehension skills through recursive exposure to multiple genres and types of writing. This course focuses on themes related to the effects of change on people's lives. Students continue to explore and develop the role of authentic voice in writing. Through consistent practice and application of learning strategies, students continue to hone their reading, writing, and communication development. Oral presentations and collaborative work provide opportunities to improve interpersonal communication skills as well as more formal presentation skills.

Integrated Language Arts 7 Advanced (Full Year):

ILA Advanced engages students in learning all the essential knowledge and skills of 7th grade ILA while providing greater depth and faster pace. Independent reading is structured to support students' interaction with a text through the application of close reading analysis, leading to an ability to independently analyze any new text.

GT Integrated Language Arts 7 Advanced (Full Year):

Students must be currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program.

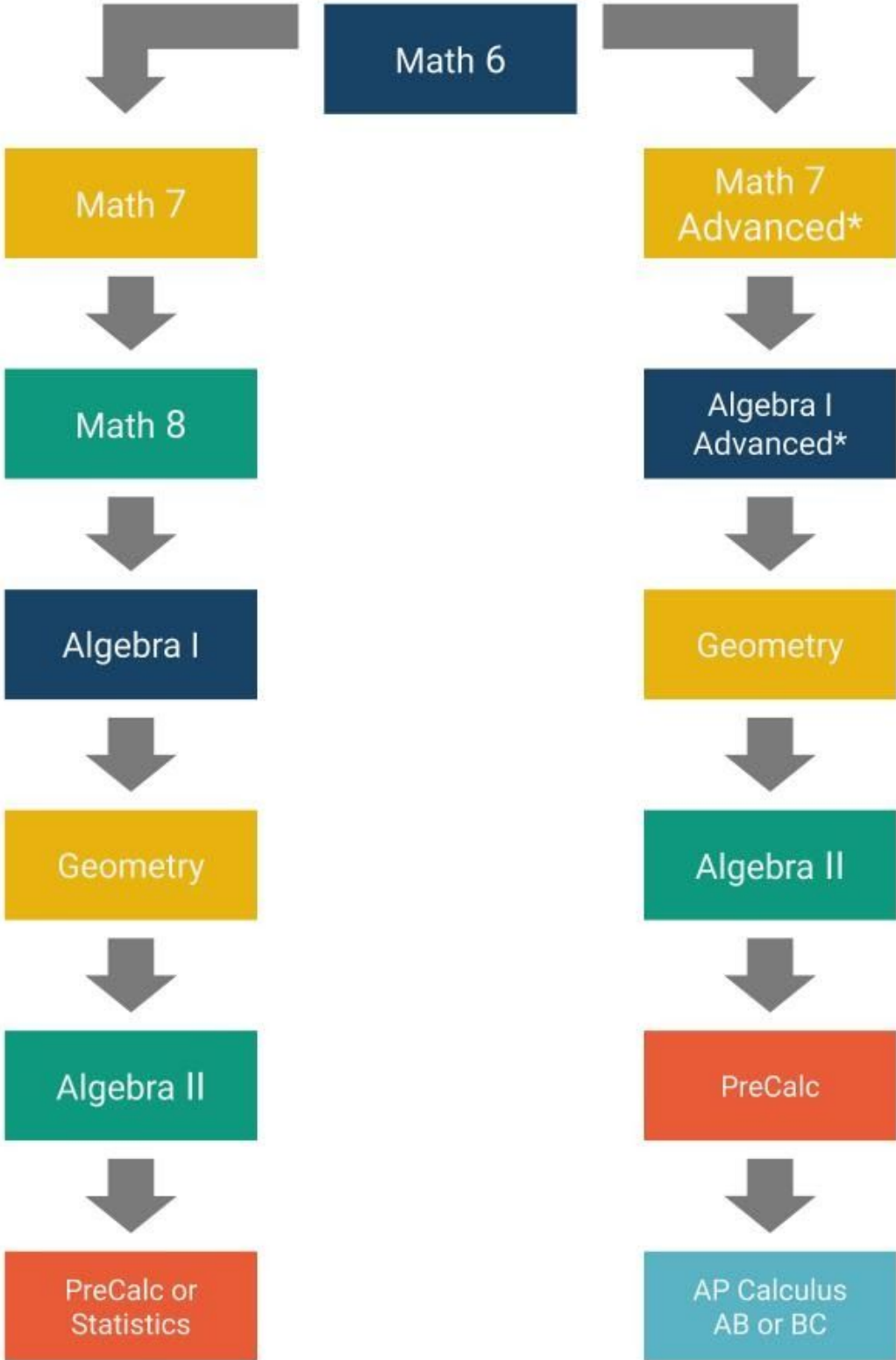
Students will be guided through a challenging course that will allow for their analysis of a variety of literature genres. Students will be required to read and analyze both classic and contemporary novels as well as non-fiction selections, participate in thematic units, conduct in-depth research, complete individual and group projects, and write extensively throughout the year. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

Reading Lab (Full Year or A/B Day):

This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level reading course and is taken in place of an elective.

Reading Lab is a one or two semester course for those students who struggle with basic reading competencies. Emphasis is placed on using specific reading strategies to increase skills in comprehension, vocabulary development, fluency, and reference usage. Instruction is differentiated and tailored to the individual needs of each student. The model includes experiences in whole and small group instruction, independent reading, and technology-based learning. This course is intended for intervention in reading.

Common Mathematics Pathways



*8th grade standards are distributed between these Advanced courses

Math 7(Full Year):

Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points at Grade 7 are developing fluency with rational numbers and operations to solve problems in a variety of contexts, representing and applying proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to describe relationships in a variety of contexts including geometric problems, comparing sets of data, and financial literacy.

Math 7 Advanced (Full Year):

Math 7 Advanced provides capable students with a foundation for future advanced placement coursework. In addition to the primary focal points of developing fluency with rational numbers and operations to solve problems in a variety of contexts, representing and applying proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to describe relationships in a variety of contexts including geometric problems and the Pythagorean Theorem, comparing sets of data and making inferences, and financial literacy, the curriculum will include a rigorous problem solving component as well as a portion of the Grade 8 math standards (the remaining Grade 8 standards will be addressed in the Algebra 1 Advanced course). Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently. Please note that enrollment in Algebra I Advanced in 8th Grade depends upon successful completion of either Math 7 Advanced or an 8th Grade Exam for Acceleration (EA).

Math Lab (Full Year):

This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level math course and is taken in place of an elective.

Math Lab provides a rich, supportive curriculum to assist students in mastering foundation concepts through problem solving, reinforcement of skills, and the use of small group instruction. This class will provide students with additional support to help ensure success through the use of individualized, targeted instruction and interventions.

Science 7 (Full Year):

Grade 7 Science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. Argument Driven Inquiry labs will be integrated into the course work The strands for Grade 7 include:

- A. Scientific investigation and reasoning- allows students to develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with modes scientific of inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world.
- B. Matter and energy- students concentrate on developing an understanding of how matter and energy are conserved throughout living systems.
- C. Force, motion, and energy- students will investigate the ways in which force, motion, and energy are observed in living systems and the environment.
- D. Earth and space- students will explore the ways in which both natural events and human activities can impact Earth systems and the characteristics of Earth and relationships to objects in our solar system that allow life to exist.
- E. Organisms and environments- students will understand that living organisms are made up of smaller units called cells, the relationship between living organisms and their environment, and how all organisms obtain energy, get rid of wastes, grow, and reproduce.

Science 7 Advanced (Full Year):

7 Science Advanced provides capable students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigor and depth of

the Advanced Placement program. In addition to the strand foci outlined in on level courses, advanced are differentiated through a combination of the following:

- the depth of content presentation
- greater student responsibility for his/her learning
- slightly faster pacing
- greater complexity of thought
- development of higher-level cognitive understanding, as demonstrated through discussion and essay writing

Science 7 Advanced curriculum also includes a wide variety of content-focused laboratory investigations. Argument Driven Inquiry labs will be integrated into the course work. Students will also participate in the Science Innovators Conference, completing a presentation or project.

Texas History 7 (Full Year):

In this course students will study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students identify regions of Texas and the distribution of population within and among the regions and explain the factors that caused Texas to change from an agrarian to an urban society. Students describe the structure and functions of municipal, county, and state governments, explain the influence of the U.S. Constitution on the Texas Constitution, and examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens. Students use primary and secondary sources to examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas as they identify the different racial and ethnic groups that settled in Texas to build a republic and then a state. Students analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of Texas in various industries such as agricultural, energy, medical, computer, and aerospace.

Physical Education Courses

Physical Education 7 (Full Year):

Students enrolled in this course will understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Students will continue to acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundations for enjoyment and continued social development through physical activity. Instruction is directed more toward encouraging the incorporation of physical activity into a daily routine and less toward fundamental skill development. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports and aerobic sports.

Strength and Conditioning (Girls and Boys) (Full Year)

Students enrolled in this course will learn the importance of resistance training and conditioning without extracurricular competition. This class is offered in place of PE or Athletics.

Athletics Courses

UIL Middle School Competitive Sports Information

Frisco ISD offers the following competitive sports to middle school students:

Football	Girls' Volleyball	Basketball
Cross Country	Track	Soccer
Tennis		

Athletic Class Period (Full Year):

UIL competition and off-season conditioning are the focus of our athletic programs. To be enrolled in the athletic class period boys must participate in either football or basketball and girls must participate in either volleyball or basketball. Participation in Cross Country, Track and Soccer will occur exclusively before or after the regular school day.

Students are required to maintain passing grades and outstanding behavior to participate in the athletic programs.

In order to meet the UIL age requirements for 7th grade athletics a student cannot have reached their 14th birthday on or prior to September 1st of the current school year.

In order to meet the UIL age requirement for 8th grade athletics a student cannot have reached their 15th birthday on or prior to September 1st of the current school year.

Tennis (Full Year*):

The middle school tennis class will develop players that are proficient in executing proper stroke techniques. Proper stroke techniques will be reinforced through instruction and participation in various drills. In addition, the middle school tennis players will be instructed on the rules and procedures needed to successfully participate in matches independently. Students involved in middle school tennis will be encouraged to play additional sets/matches outside of the school day.

*Students are enrolled in tennis a full year, but may not attend tennis class every day due to class size. They may rotate and attend PE part of the time.

Athletics - Tennis (Full Year):

Pending Coach Approval

UIL competition and off-season conditioning are the focus of our athletic programs. To be enrolled in the athletic tennis class period, students must be selected for the middle school tennis team through a tryout process. Middle school tennis athletes will compete against other Frisco ISD middle school tennis teams. Students participating as a member of the middle school tennis team must abide by UIL rules and meet all UIL requirements.

Elective Courses

COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE ELECTIVE AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR OMISSION DUE TO AN INSUFFICIENT 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.

Beginning Band (Full Year):

This course is designed to teach students the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion.) The course covers care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm, pitch, and tone production. Students will be placed into appropriate band classes upon taking an instrument assessment. Prior to enrollment, a "try the instrument night" is scheduled to allow the student to have a "hands on" trial time. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. (Instrument arrangements will be facilitated by program directors.)

Concert Band II (Full Year):

Concert Band II is an extension of beginning band with an emphasis on fundamentals of instrumental instruction. The course also covers care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music, and

awareness of rhythm, pitch, and tone production. Weekly sectionals are employed to strengthen instrument skills. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. Placement in this class is by audition.

Concert Band I (Full Year):

Concert Band I is designed to meet the needs of the intermediate band student. The course covers care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm, pitch, and tone production.

Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. Placement in this class is by audition.

Symphonic Band (Full Year):

Symphonic Band is designed to meet the needs of the advanced band student. The course covers 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. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. Placement in this class is by audition.

Beginning Choir (Full Year)

Male and female singers will build upon music fundamentals learned in elementary school. They will learn to further develop healthy vocal technique appropriate for different styles of music. Music reading skills and confidence in performance will be developed. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year.

7/8 Choir (Treble Choir, Tenor/Bass Choir, and/or Mixed Choir):

Male and female singers will continue to develop and master vocal technique and sight reading skills learned in previous years. Students will learn to perform more advanced music. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year, and may have the opportunity to participate in UIL or other music competitions.

Beginning Orchestra (Full Year):

This course is designed to teach students the basic fundamentals of string instruments. The course covers care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm, pitch, and tone production. 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. (It is strongly recommended that parents meet with the director *prior* to purchasing an instrument.)

Intermediate Orchestra (II) (Full Year):

Intermediate Orchestra (Level II) is open to all 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. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. Placement in this class is by audition.

Symphonic Orchestra (III) (Full Year):

Symphonic Orchestra (III) is designed to meet the needs of advanced middle school string students. This orchestra meets daily and focuses on continuing the development of musical skills in an advanced ensemble setting. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. Placement in this class is by audition.

Theater Arts I (Grades 7-8) (Full Year):

Theater Arts I is designed to introduce the student to the many performing and technical aspects of theater. Students will learn basic acting techniques (stage movement, developing voice, memorizing lines, etc.), improvisation, mime techniques, character development, basic scene study (group and individual), script analysis and performance critiquing. In small ensembles, duets and individually, students will prepare and perform scenes in class demonstrating these skills.

Theater Arts II (Grades 7-8) (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Theater Arts (Grade 6) or Theater Arts 1

Theater Arts II builds upon the skills learned in Theater Arts 6. 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. In small ensembles, duets and individually, students will prepare and perform scenes in class demonstrating these skills.

Theater Production (Grades 7-8):

Prerequisite: Theater Arts (Grade 6) or Theater 1 and AUDITION required

Students are required to audition and get parental consent to participate in this class as it requires a commitment different from the other theater classes. Unlike the other classes, this class requires rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours. These performances include the UIL One-Act Play Competition. Building on the skills taught in Theater Arts (Grade 6), the students will further their dramatic technique through play productions implementing the roles of actor, director and technician. This comprehensive theater study will encourage artistic discipline, sensory awareness and theater appreciation.

Technical Theater

Students will learn the basics of technical theater including the techniques to manage and implement lights, sound, props, costumes, and scenic elements in a production. They will learn the fundamentals of drawing and designing all the technical aspects for shows through individual and group projects in the classroom as well as on the stage. Students will also have hands-on experience in set, prop and costume construction as well as make-up/hair design application for characters (both regular and special effects). This class allows you to expand your creativity, build teamwork skills, and develop a greater appreciation of drama behind the curtain. (No previous theater class required.)

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 1

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.

World Language Offerings

Spanish I (Full Year)

Spanish I - (1 credit) Prerequisite: none

Spanish I focuses on developing students' ability to communicate using the Spanish language. The course is primarily taught in Spanish in order to improve comprehension skills. Students are also expected to participate fully in Spanish and use as little English as possible. As novice language learners, students will communicate using words, phrases, and simple sentences. Throughout the year students will participate in conversations on a variety of familiar topics such as their interests, family, school, and community. Assessments are aimed at determining students' ability to communicate with the language and are focused on listening, speaking, reading, and writing. High school credit (1.0) and high school GPA points will be awarded.

Technology Offerings

Computer Science (Full Year)

Computer science (CS) enables students to become proficient technology users, digital creators, problem solvers, and innovators. In this introductory course, students will learn the foundational concepts and skills of computer science and understand what it means to be “creators” rather than mere consumers of technology. Students will expand beyond block coding to begin exploring scripting languages such as JavaScript and/or Python. This course is designed to be fun, engaging, relevant, collaborative, and creative.

Digital Communications (Full Year)

Effective digital communication is the ability to create persuasive communications using different forms of media. In this course students will focus on creating and distributing valuable, relevant and consistent content to a clearly defined audience, utilizing different online platforms.

Students are motivated and engaged when they can customize their experiences and express themselves through choice. Students will personalize their learning by choosing a variety of digital communication applications to tell a story, while demonstrating their understanding of maintaining a positive digital footprint.

Students will learn storyboarding, scriptwriting, interviewing and writing techniques. Using media production equipment, and various software applications, students will demonstrate their understanding of producing quality projects.

Digital Graphics and Animation (Full Year)

This STEAM course combines art and technology. Students will learn basic animation and design techniques and terminology. Students will create an original character, design comic strips, study the principles and history of animation, and draw daily in a sketchbook. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of animation by using various 2D and 3D software applications.

Engineering Design & Innovation (Full Year)

Students are challenged and supported in developing their ability to grow as future ready learners with the opportunity to learn engineering design and problem-solving concepts necessary to cultivate skills into solutions that improve lives. Various fields of engineering, as well as the interrelationships with science, technology, and mathematics (STEM) concepts will be introduced.

Students will understand the engineering design process by working on a design team to develop a product or system in various fields of engineering. Using multiple software applications, students will prepare and present unit assignments (which include real-world builds, computer graphics, modeling, and presentations).

Other Elective Options

Skills for Independent Living I (Full Year):

Skills for Independent Living is a hands on course that allows students to gain knowledge in practical skills that are used in everyday life. Students will be given opportunities to improve communication skills, promote positive self-development, as well as explore areas such as family relationships, child care practices, meal planning and preparation, clothing care and construction, and planning for the future.

Yearbook (Full Year)

Application Required

This course is designed to give students the experience of digitally preparing a school yearbook for production. They will be involved in all aspects of the preparation such as planning, investigation, research, and layout. They will also be involved in aspects such as advertising, sales, and distribution. The emphasis will be on student-oriented activities and encourages a hands-on approach in those individual and cooperative activities. The layout will be done completely on the computer using Jostens online yearbook creation software. Photographs will be taken using digital cameras. Students' initiative, creativity, organizational skills, and ability to work in groups will be encouraged and challenged.

AVID 7th Grade (ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION)

Available only at Hunt and Staley Middle School

Prerequisite: AVID Application process

This course prepares students in the academic middle for college eligibility and success. Students receive instruction in writing, inquiry, collaboration and reading strategies in addition to note-taking and organizational skills that are necessary for academic success. AVID students must enroll in at least one Advanced course in addition to the AVID elective class. Tutors are provided during the AVID class to support student success in all courses.

Off Campus PE

Off Campus PE (OCPE) is a program designed to accommodate secondary students who are making a serious effort to develop higher level skills exceeding that which is offered by our school district. Students train at an approved facility, must apply and pay a fee for this program.

<http://www.friscoisd.org/departments/off-campus-physical-education/>