



Home of the Blackhawks
Vista Heights Middle School
Counseling Department

7th Grade Course Descriptions 2015-2016

REQUIRED CLASSES

ENGLISH 7 Year (Fee)

This course is an overview of language, literature, oral work, reading and writing.

ENGLISH 7/READ 180 Year (Fee)

This is a specialized reading class for students in 7th grade. The class is a regular 7th grade English class but is mixed with a reading curriculum designed to help improve students' reading levels and comprehension more than a typical English class. If you feel like your student might be a good fit for this class, please make a note on your registration form and contact Mrs. Webb in the counseling office. *Teacher approval required.*

INTERMEDIATE MATH I/INTERMEDIATE MATH II Year

In Intermediate Math 1 students will focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three- dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

INTERMEDIATE MATH IAC (Accelerated) Year

In Intermediate Math IAC students will focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples. This class is accelerated and move at a faster pace.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE 7 Year (Fee)

Topics from physical, earth, and life science are integrated in this course to illustrate the nature of "structure" as a property that is common to all sciences. Students observe that all substances are made of smaller parts and are themselves part of larger wholes, and that when parts come together the whole often has properties that are very different from its parts. Hands-on, inquiry-based instruction is used to help student's value science as a process for obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence.

CTE-CAREERS, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION Year (Fee)

Core concepts help students to explore life's work through interactive, hands-on activities using current technology in a laboratory environment. Students are involved in discovering self, viewing future life options within the context of work and family settings, developing the positive relationships required for communication and teamwork, and identifying the skills required for life's roles. Students are expected to develop skills in decision making, planning, and preparing life's work. CTE is a coordinated exploratory course that includes three cluster areas of Technology/Agriculture, Business/Marketing, and Family and Consumer Sciences/Health Science. This course is designed for all students by the Utah State Board of Education.

UTAH HISTORY Semester

Students will be introduced to the significant events, people, cultures, and issues that have influenced Utah from its earliest beginnings through the present day. The first focus is devoted to history and events leading up to 1847 including Native Americans, Spanish, mountain men, explorers, Mormon influences, and the westward movement. The second focus includes conflicts that led to statehood and the integration of Utah into the nation including the early development of mining, railroad, industry, and agriculture, the move from territory to statehood and the new century, structure of state and local government, and the progressive

period. The third focus will be on events leading to the present, including World War I, the Nineteen Twenties, Great Depression, World War II, post-war Utah, modern Utah, and local issues.

PE BOYS & GIRLS BEGINNING FITNESS Semester

This course emphasized the beginning fitness. An appreciation for activities in relation to physical well-being is stressed. A continual fitness development program with testing is also included in the course.

STUDENT SUCCESS Semester

This course, which provides students with lifetime learning and living skills, is designed to lay the foundation for success for all other courses offered in high school. The curriculum will focus on learning styles, multiple intelligences, research skills, time management skills, Covey's Seven Habits, cultural literacy, goal setting, project planning, critical thinking, creative thinking, and presentation skills.

ELECTIVES

LANGUAGES

SPANISH IMMERSION 7 Year (*Pre-requisite, prior immersion programs students*)

In level 2, students develop further communication skills and are able to satisfy most survival needs and limited social demands. They can initiate and sustain a short conversation on factual topics. They can give autobiographical information and discuss leisure time activities. Students are able to present information and ideas to an audience. They can describe characteristics and behaviors of everyday life in the target culture and they can identify the expressive forms of the culture, such as art, literature, music, and dance.

INTRO TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE Semester (Fee)

An introductory course to American Sign Language with basic aspects of language taught as well as a variety of cultural topics and norms. Historical aspects of Deafness included. This course will introduce the learner to the concept of deafness and its implications as it relates to Culture, Community, and Individual. Some parts of this course are taught without using voice.

INTRO TO CHINESE Semester (Fee)

An introductory course designed to give the student an experience with the Chinese language and culture.

INTRO TO SPANISH Semester (Fee)

An introductory course designed to give the student an experience with the Spanish language and culture.

FINE ART

ART FOUNDATIONS 1 Semester (Fee)

The student will learn more advanced principles of art through drawing, painting & sculpturing.

MUSIC

BEGINNING GIRLS CHOIR Semester (Fee)

Students receive experience in rehearsal and performance of suitable music for SSA (soprano, 2nd soprano, alto) voices.

BEGINNING BOYS CHOIR Semester (Fee)

Students receive experience in rehearsal and performance of suitable music for TB (tenor and bass) voices.

BEGINNING BRASS Year (Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential through learning to play a brass instrument. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. An ensemble directed toward building music performance skills in percussion. Curriculum includes 2-4 performances per year including introduction to music theory, history, and composition.

BEGINNING WOODWINDS Year(Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential through learning to play a brass instrument. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society; an instrumental ensemble directed toward building music performance skills. Curriculum includes 6-8 performances per year including adjudicated music festivals, introduction to music theory, history and composition.

INTERMEDIATE BAND Year (Fee)

A greater degree of musical awareness will facilitate the playing of more demanding music. Much more will be expected of students to independently play their parts.

BEGINNING PERCUSSION Year (Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play percussion instruments. Study includes the building of proper technique on all percussion instruments, the ability to read music, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *Two years piano or previous instrument experience and audition.*

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA Year (Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral string instruments. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA Year (Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral string instruments. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *Pre-requisite course is Beginning Orchestra, or audition. Teacher Approval required.*

DRAMA

DRAMA FOUNDATIONS Semester

This course introduces the student to the beginning elements of theatre and performance with emphasis of self-improvement in performance and public communication. Mime, oral interpretation, scene and monologue study are taught along with production criticism and dramatic and comedic literature. The students will study audition techniques, scene performance, cinema appreciation and criticism, and an introduction to acting.

DANCE

DANCE I Semester (Fee)

In this introduction to dance, beginning dance techniques and movements will be taught. This beginning level class will explore rhythms, style, and techniques of modern and jazz dance, emphasizing the basic elements of choreography.

CTE

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY Semester (Fee)

Students will be introduced to the technological systems of aerospace, communications, construction, energy/power/transportation, manufacturing, and biotechnology. The course emphasis is on exploration activities using computers, technology equipment, and manufacturing tools.

KEYBOARDING Semester (Fee)

In this beginning semester keyboarding course, the student will master touch operation of a computer keyboard. Correct techniques including fingering, key strokes, posture, and the development of speed and accuracy will be stressed. The student will learn to format simple reports, personal and business letters, and tables. The acquisition of business communication skills will be integrated throughout the course.

OTHER CLASSES

CREATIVE WRITING Semester (Fee)

This class is designed to provide experiences and activities which will enhance the communication of ideas through written expression.

READING SKILLS Semester (Fee)

This course will cover basic reading skills, comprehension and vocabulary development.

PEER TUTOR .5 credit

Students will be involved in peer tutoring students in special education and resource classes in math, English, reading, life skills and other academic areas. This class would be most helpful to students considering a career in teaching, coaching, etc. This course involves working with disabled students. It is extremely important that the students chosen for this class have a very good attendance record. During the school year this class goes on a number of community trips, a few of them may require the student to bring a dollar or so. *Application Required.*

P.E. ELECTIVE

AEROBICS Semester (Fee)

This total body fitness class involves cardiovascular exercises as well as body toning exercises. Exercise routines will be choreographed to music. Basic principles of fitness will be taught and applied in class. *This class does NOT fill any PE credit.*