

7th Grade Course Descriptions 2019-2020

Vista Heights Middle School

REQUIRED CLASSES

BEGINNING BOYS & GIRLS PE Semester (\$3.00 Fee)

This course emphasizes beginner skills in a broad spectrum of activities in order to develop a foundation for future physical education classes. The course content is developmentally appropriate for seventh grade students who, in most instances, will be experiencing a formal physical education class for the first time.

COLLEGE & CAREER AWARENESS Year (\$6.50/Semester Fee)

CTE is a coordinated exploratory course that includes five cluster areas of Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, Business/Marketing, and Family and Consumer Sciences/Health Science. This course is designed to provide students with career awareness, self-development, and career decision making skills.

ENGLISH 7 Year (No Fee)

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

ENGLISH 7/READ 180 Year (No 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.*

INTEGRATED SCIENCE 7 Year (\$5.00 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. Hands-on, inquiry-based instruction is used to help student's value science as a process for obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence.

INTERMEDIATE MATH I Year (No Fee)

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.

UTAH HISTORY Semester (No Fee)

Students will be introduced to the significant events, people, cultures, and issues that have influenced Utah from its earliest beginnings through the present day.

ELECTIVES

DANCE

DANCE 1 Semester (\$3.00 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.

MEN'S DANCE Semester (\$3.00 Fee)

This is a beginning to intermediate dance class for males only. The emphasis will be placed on technique and composition through studying modern, jazz, and hip-hop dance. Students will develop a self-concept and awareness, improve fitness level, increase technical skills, and improve creative capacity.

DRAMA

DRAMA FOUNDATIONS Semester (No Fee)

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. Students will study audition techniques, scene performance, cinema appreciation and criticism, and an introduction to acting.

DRAMA & FILM Semester (No Fee)

This course focuses on the elements of film both behind and in front of the camera. Students will study the elements of film and learn how to analyze techniques of cinematography, direction, acting, film, etc.

FINE ART

ART FOUNDATIONS 1 Semester (\$8.00 Fee)

This course will introduce students to the basic elements and principles of art through drawing in various media. Students will explore the basics of drawing, focusing on the 7 elements of art, using graphite, ink, and color media. It is a prerequisite to all other art classes at Vista Heights.

LANGUAGES

CHINESE CULTURE & MEDIA: IMMERSION PROGRAM ONLY Year (No Fee)

Course builds skills in cultural-linguistic necessary for successful communication with native speakers (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students utilize media and authentic texts to learn about diverse cultural products, practices and perspectives. A student in Immersion should take one semester of Chinese culture in 7th grade, and one semester in 8th grade.

CHINESE DL 3 HONORS: IMMERSION PROGRAM Semester (No Fee)

This 7th grade course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and dialogue. Culture and geography of the native country are taught through reading selections.

SPANISH CULTURE & MEDIA: IMMERSION PROGRAM ONLY Semester (No Fee)

**Prerequisite, prior immersion programs students*

A semester class focusing on comparing the history, culture, and media of the different Spanish speaking countries. A student in Immersion should take one semester of Spanish culture in 7th grade, and one semester in 8th grade.

SPANISH DL 3 Honors: IMMERSION PROGRAM ONLY Year (No Fee)

**Prerequisite prior immersion programs students*

A year long course for students who participate in Spanish Immersion. The curriculum and language instruction will help students understand the 6 AP language themes. Heritage language speaking students interested in participating in the Immersion program, will need to have an interview with an Immersion teacher. Parents will also need to talk with an Immersion teacher to learn about program expectations.

MUSIC

BEGINNING CHOIR Semester (\$2.50 Fee)

Students receive experience in rehearsal and performance of suitable music.

BEGINNING BRASS Year (\$2.50/Semester Fee)

Students will learn the fundamentals of music performance, tone production and technique on a brass instrument. This class is 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 (\$2.50/Semester Fee)

Students will learn the fundamentals of music performance, tone production and technique on a woodwind instrument. This class is an instrumental ensemble directed toward building music performance skills. Curriculum includes several performances per year.

CONCERT BAND Year (\$2.50/Semester Fee)

This intermediate instrumental ensemble is directed toward building music performance skills while developing and refining core concepts and fundamentals introduced in Beginning Brass and Woodwind classes.. This course develops and refines core concepts and fundamentals introduced in Beginning Brass and Woodwind classes. Curriculum includes several performances per year. *Teacher approval required.*

BEGINNING PERCUSSION Year (\$2.50/Semester Fee + \$17.50/Semester Instrument Rental)

** Two years piano or previous instrument experience and audition.*

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.

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA Year (\$2.50/Semester 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 cultivation of tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA Year (\$2.50/Semester Fee)

**Pre-requisite course is Beginning Orchestra, or audition. Teacher Approval required.*

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral string instruments. Study includes the cultivation of tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits.

OTHER CLASSES

AEROBICS Semester (\$3.00 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.*

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY 1 Semester (\$6.00 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 woodworking tools.

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 7 Semester (No Fee)

Exploring Agriculture Education analyzes the different aspects of the agricultural industry. This course is designed to introduce students to the vast opportunities available in Agricultural Education. Students will be given the opportunity to learn how agriculture affects their daily lives. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in FFA activities.

CREATIVE WRITING Semester (\$5.00 Fee)

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

MYTHOLOGY Semester (\$5.00 Fee)

Study of Greek, Roman, Scandinavian, and American folklore and mythology will help students learn to appreciate the impact they have on our literature.

JOURNALISM A Semester (\$5.00 Fee)

Journalism A is an exciting, fast-paced orientation into the highly competitive field of journalism. This course will give students a chance to work in improving writing, interviewing and photography skills.

READING LITERATURE 7 Semester (\$5.00 Fee)

This course is designed for the advanced and avid reader. The class will emphasize the short story and the novel. Advanced reading strategies will be taught.