

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Course Descriptions Booklet

### 2023-2024

## FULL YEAR ~ REQUIRED COURSES

### LANGUAGE ARTS

Using novels and our state standards, 7th grade Language Arts students will work to increase their reading, writing, thinking, and speaking skills. Students should expect a program that helps them grow and work at grade level, through discussions, group projects and individual work.

### HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS

The middle school honors program is for a student who wants to be challenged by accelerated and advanced work. Using state standards, students will write extensively, participate in group discussions, and have ample opportunities to engage with compelling texts. Students should be comfortable working on both group and individual projects, sharing their work with others, and giving and receiving feedback. A strong work ethic is essential for Honors Language Arts. **Please refer to the Honors info page.**

### WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY

The course will examine tribal Native American history, follow exploration and statehood formation and continue to present-day Washington State. It will require students to become familiar with different concepts, ideas, groups and institutions that have had an impact on both the history and the contemporary situation of Washington State. Washington State History focuses on the development of the State and the interactions of its peoples. Study includes the political, social, economic, cultural and geographical conditions of Washington State and the surrounding regions and seeks to understand our relationship with the nation and the world. Emphasis is put on inquiry-based research.

***This course is a High School graduation requirement. In order to fulfill the requirement, students must pass at least one semester.***

### 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCIENCE

This class is an integrated science class based on the Next Generation Science Standards. This will give students a basic understanding of the relationships between organisms in ecosystems, natural resource availability, basic chemistry concepts, cycling of matter through living and non-living things, and how humans change the landscape.

### MATHEMATICS

All incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are initially placed into Math 7. Placement in Advanced Math or Algebra is based on their achievement as measured by a two-part math placement test given in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, STAR Test and SBA scores.

**Math 7** - Students will study ratio and proportion, percent, graphing, probability, measurement, integers and linear proportions. SBA preparation is addressed.

**Accelerated Math 7/8** - This course is an acceleration course that will prepare the student for Algebra the following year. It is based upon vital 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Common Core State Math Standards:

Rational numbers and number theory; linear equations and functions; proportionality and similarity; properties and relationships in geometric figures; probability and data; and additional key contents. *Course pace is rigorous to accommodate all necessary concepts and requires entrance recommendations and testing.*

**Algebra 1** - This course introduces fundamental operation of equations and formulas, studies of ratio, proportion, variation, indirect measurements, polynomial operations, factoring and operation with radical expressions. Students will solve equations (linear, quadratic and systems) and inequalities using graphing, substitution and/or addition. The student is also introduced to principles governing system and set theory. *Course pace is rigorous to accommodate all necessary concepts and requires entrance recommendations and testing.* This course provides one high school math credit upon successful completion (see note on transcript policy).

**Transcript policy for high-school-credit math courses taken during 7th & 8th grades.**

Regarding high-school-credit math courses (Algebra & Geometry) taken during 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Grades will be posted to the students' middle school transcript.
- Grades will be posted to the students' high school transcript.
- When posted to the high school transcript, the grades:
  - ✓ will accurately indicate when the class was taken
  - ✓ will be included in the student's high school graduation credits and GPA

## SEMESTER ~ REQUIRED COURSES

**FOUNDATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY AND CHARACTER - One semester**

The goal of this class is to give every student the opportunity to learn foundational skills of being a successful student with strong character. One quarter of this semester long class will focus on student leadership, ensuring all students understand, and practice following through on what it means to have character and be a member of an academic and professional community. The other quarter of this class focuses on teaching students core concepts related to digital technology, focusing on applications, skills and habits that students will be asked to rely on throughout their academic and professional career.

**HEALTH AND FITNESS - One semester**

This course is designed to improve the student's overall physical skills and knowledge by the presentation of both individual and team activities. Opportunities are provided to develop physical fitness, sportsmanship, recreational skills and appreciation for good health habits. Health curriculum is integrated into the weekly physical activities for students to identify what they can do to achieve their healthiest self.

# SEMESTER ~ ELECTIVES

## **INTRODUCTION to ART - One Semester**

In this introductory course, students will gain an understanding and appreciation for the visual arts! We focus on the elements of art and explore basic art techniques and mediums. We will explore art history, movements in art, as well as contemporary art as they relate to our own projects. This class is perfect for the beginner artist!

## **DIGITAL PRODUCTION - One semester**

In this class you will learn to produce content in a digital space. You will have choice over what you learn in this class and be able to pursue your passions as they relate to creating creative content in digital space. You can learn to create games, virtual reality spaces and games, beats and songs, websites and blogs, the basics of photography and photo editing, how to make animations, how to create digital art, coding and much more. This course will be done through Canvas, which will allow you to learn at a pace that is right for you. You will also have as much choice as possible when it comes to the topics you use as the basis for the work you do. Examples of some of the content previous students have produced in this class can be found at <http://snocode.weebly.com> on the [Virtual Travel](#), [Advocacy Sites](#), [Student Websites](#) and [Virtual Reality](#) pages. **This class is a mix of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 7<sup>th</sup> grade.**

## **DRAMA - One semester**

Welcome to the world of theatre! Over the course of this semester, we will look at various aspects of performance including characterization, movement, voice, articulation, scene work, monologues, Improvisation and play production. This is a great class for students who already have a love of drama as well as those who want to feel more comfortable speaking in front of people. The culminating project is a full play production with an evening performance. Memorization and participation are required.

**This class is a mix of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and may have a lunch opposite of your grade.**

## **EXPLORING ENGINEERING 1 - One Semester**

This 18-week exploratory S.T.E.M. course incorporates project-based learning with a focus on the engineering cycle. Students will learn about a variety of topics including power tool safety & operation, measurement, robotics, CNC manufacturing, transportation, and computer aided drafting & design (CADD). Projects include mousetrap racers, EV3 robots, bridges, gumball machines, and more.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES 1 - One Semester**

In this class students will have hands-on, project-based learning in the following areas: All about Me, "How to" do all those things we should know how to do but have never been taught! Interior Design, Sewing (by hand and on a machine) and Basic Cooking/Nutrition, as well as gardening in the spring semester. At the end of each unit, students will walk away with a project that demonstrates their personal likes and interests as well as the skills and techniques to use in the future. This is a fun, fast paced class where students learn with hands on activities and real-life application.

### **FORENSICS - One Semester**

Forensics will be a one-semester investigative science and technology course. Using Scientific Inquiry Skills, students will learn how to observe, collect, analyze and evaluate evidence found at crime scenes. Included: Hair analysis, DNA analysis, Blood analysis, Forensic anthropology (bones), Chromatography, Impression evidence (tire tracks/shoe prints/tool marks), Arson investigation, Chemical analysis. **This class is a mix of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 7<sup>th</sup> grade two days per week.**

### **PERSONAL FITNESS - One semester**

This class is designed to motivate and inspire students to set and accomplish their own fitness goals. The exercises will mostly involve bodyweight exercises, with an emphasis on pushups, sit-ups or crunches, 400m dash, speed/agility T-drill and the one-mile. Students who take this course will see amazing personal fitness progress.

### **TEAM SPORTS - One semester**

This course will include various sports with an emphasis on skills, strategy, and game play. Activities may include but are not limited to: Flag football, softball, volleyball, badminton, soccer, and basketball.

**Students may only take one semester of fitness electives.**

## **FULL YEAR ~ CHOIR or BAND ~ ELECTIVE**

### **CHOIR (Grades 7 and 8) - Full year**

Choir is for 7th and 8th grade students who love to sing and perform. Choir members learn to sing in three-part harmony, with boys singing baritone parts and girls divided into sopranos and altos. Students will also learn to read a music score and to sight sing. This group takes three field trips a year, including one to an adjudicated Choral festival in May. There are also three required evening concerts and occasional assembly performances. Solo opportunities are available for students who are interested.

**This class is a mix of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 7<sup>th</sup> grade.**

### **CADET BAND (Grades 7) - Full year**

This band is offered to 7th grade students with one or more years' experience on a band instrument. Beginners who are self-motivated learners and committed to regular, daily practice are also welcome. At a typical Cadet Band rehearsal we do warm-ups, sight reading, technique exercises and work on concert music. This group performs in four required evening school concerts and takes a field trip in March to participate in the MPMEA band Festival. Individual band members will also have the opportunity to participate in the MPMEA Solo-Ensemble festival in May. Students are required to provide their own instrument for this class, although some larger school-owned instruments like French horns, baritone horns and tubas may be available for checkout. Contact Mr. Wilkinson at 360-563-4554 or [lane.wilkinson@sno.wednet.edu](mailto:lane.wilkinson@sno.wednet.edu) for more information, or if you need help selecting or acquiring an instrument.

### **JAZZ BAND (Grades 7 and 8) - Full year**

- AUDITION REQUIRED
- PREREQUISITE: ENROLLMENT IN BEGINNING, CADET, CONCERT BAND OR CHOIR
- ZERO HOUR CLASS (6:30-7:25 am)

Instruction focuses on jazz concepts such as improvisation, big band swing, jazz, rock, Latin styles and funk. This is a performance-oriented group that takes three field trips to regional jazz festivals, plus required evening school concerts and one Saturday festival.

Auditions are held in early fall, and private music instruction is highly recommended for interested students. For information about auditions, contact Mr. Wilkinson at 360-563-4554 or [lane.wilkinson@sno.wednet.edu](mailto:lane.wilkinson@sno.wednet.edu). **Students must arrange their own transportation to this class.**

### **BEGINNING BAND (Grades 7 & 8) - Full year**

Beginning Band class offers individualized instruction designed to meet the needs of students with no previous band experience, students with some band experience, or those who may wish to learn a new instrument. Did you try band in 6th grade and not complete it? Did you want to participate in band but couldn't get a ride to school? Did remote learning make it impossible for you to attend? This is the right class to get you involved in band. Instruction is offered on flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet family, sax family, trumpet, french horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. Percussionists will learn and practice bells as well as snare drum. Some instruments are available for loan. Contact Mr. Wilkinson (360-563-4554) or [lane.wilkinson@sno.wednet.edu](mailto:lane.wilkinson@sno.wednet.edu) for more information, or if you need help selecting or acquiring an instrument.



## Middle School Honors Courses Process for Appropriate Placement for Student Success

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### GOAL: Student access to and success in honors courses

#### Interest, Motivation, and Perseverance Indicators

##### *Students who are successful in honors courses:*

- Demonstrate a high level of interest, academic engagement, and an innate curiosity to learn in specific courses of interest (Language Arts, Social Studies, and/or Science)
- Are highly self-motivated, take responsibility for their own learning, attend class regularly, complete quality assignments on time, and recognize that effort is important for success
- Maintain a high standard in academic integrity
- Successfully complete complex tasks that require extra time, thought, and perseverance
- Examine and learn from errors, demonstrate a willingness to try different approaches, problem solve, make revisions to work throughout the learning process, seek help, and access available resources
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led)

#### Academic Indicators

##### *Students who are successful in honors courses:*

**English Language Arts:** Have demonstrated the indicators for academic success as indicated below.

- Has a history of curiosity around language, reading, and writing
- Reads two or more years above grade level
- Demonstrates advanced reading and communication skills
- Reads and writes beyond required assignments. Has a history of creating own reading and writing projects
- Consistently shows interest in the details of language (word origins, grammar, sentence structure, etc.)

Middle school data teams will review data (SBA, Star, teacher input, grades) and above-mentioned indicators to confirm appropriate placement. Any changes necessary will be communicated.