

7th Grade

Course Descriptions Booklet

2024-2025

FULL YEAR - REQUIRED COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS

Using a variety of texts and in congruence with grade level English language arts standards, language arts students will work to increase their reading, writing, thinking, speaking, and listening skills. Students should expect a learning experience that helps them grow their literacy and analytical skills through a variety of activities, including small-group and student-led discussions as well as independent and collaborative work.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS

This class is designed for students who are motivated to engage in a curriculum that is accelerated and advanced. The goal for this program is to prepare students for high school Honors, Pre-AP, and beyond. Honors ELA students are expected to:

- proactively engage in the accelerated pacing of an honors curriculum
- participate at a higher level of critical thinking and analysis with at/above grade-level texts
- have strong foundational skills in narrative, argumentative, and explanatory writing
- engage in independent research and self-guided units of study
- self-advocate with teachers and peers; communicate needs and ideas voluntarily

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.

7th 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 7th grade students are initially placed into Math 7. Placement in Advanced Math or Algebra is based on their achievement on 6th grade, STAR Test and 5th and 6th grade SBA scores and teacher

recommendations. Big Ideas Math, which is aligned to the Washington State Learning Standards, is the district-approved curriculum for all middle school level students. In all math classes, students will continue to evolve as mathematicians as they learn to use the Eight Mathematical Practices as outlined in the Washington State Learning Standards.

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. Accelerated Math is a rigorous, fast-paced course, and entrance into this course is dependent upon qualifications listed above. Students in Accelerated math must maintain a B- grade, and may be moved to Math 7 if necessary. Accelerated Math will cover vital 7th and 8th 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 content.

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.

Students must earn a B- or above to be recommended to take Geometry the following school year.

*****Algebra 1 is a rigorous, fast-paced course, and entrance into this course is dependent upon qualifications listed above. 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 and Geometry) taken during 7th or 8th 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 7th and 8th grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 7th 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 7th and 8th grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 7th grade two days per week.**

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 7th and 8th grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 7th 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 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 a.m.)

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. **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 at 360-563-4554 for information.



Middle School Honors Courses Process for Appropriate Placement for Student Success

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.