



7th Grade Course Descriptions 2019-2020

Seventh grade students are assigned to a team of teachers for their core classes of English, geography, math, reading, and science. Each grade level has two teams. Students are required to take the following explore classes: art, computer, family and consumer sciences, French, industrial technology, physical education and Spanish. In addition, students will choose band, choir, or orchestra.

Athletic programs for seventh graders are Cross Country and Wrestling.

ENGLISH Seventh grade English is a literature-based curriculum with required reading that includes short stories and several novels. Extensive vocabulary study is provided through the reading selections, as well as through Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Grammar, sentence structure, and mechanics are also taught. In addition, students will work on a research paper in which appropriate sources are cited. A portion of their grade is determined by reading and testing using the Accelerated Reader program.

GEOGRAPHY Seventh grade geography focuses on the study of Earth by building and expanding a variety of geographic skills and applying those skills to an in-depth study of the world, including the whole of North and South America and selected regions of Europe, Africa, and Asia. Studies include map skills, the Earth in space, climate and vegetation types, landforms, and the economic, cultural, and political traits of each region or country studied.

Accel Math This class is for identified students. Students will create expressions and solve equations and inequalities to help them determine solutions related to real world situations. Students will use ratios, rates, proportions, percents and basic probability reasoning to make sense of mathematical situations. Students will gain a better understanding of integer and rational number operations (adding / subtracting / multiplying / dividing). Students will work with angle relationships and geometric formulas for perimeter, circumference, area, surface area and volume. **Accel Math 6 is a prerequisite for this class.**

MATH Seventh grade students will use the Eureka Math curriculum. Students will create expressions and solve equations and inequalities to help them determine solutions related to real world situations. Students will use ratios, rates, proportions, percents and basic probability reasoning to make sense of mathematical situations. Students will gain a better understanding of integer and rational number operations (adding / subtracting / multiplying / dividing). Students will work with angle relationships and geometric formulas for perimeter, circumference, area, surface area and volume.

READING This class focuses on teaching students appropriate and helpful strategies for the reading of both nonfiction and fictional texts. By learning, practicing, and independently demonstrating their mastery of reading comprehension strategies as well as elements of literature, students will improve their ability to fluently read and comprehend both nonfiction as well as fiction. Students will also work with vocabulary through the various reading selections.

SCIENCE Amplify Science is our resource for middle school science. The curriculum includes hands-on activities, print materials, and powerful digital tools to support online and offline learning. In each unit, students take on the role of a scientist or engineer to investigate a real-world problem. These problems provide relevant contexts through which students investigate phenomena. Students will engage in collaboration and discussion, and develop models or explanations in order to arrive at solutions. Topics covered include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, inter-dependent relationships in ecosystems, matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems, earth systems, and history of earth.

ART AS PERSUASION Works of art can be more than a visually pleasing experience; it is also an effective means of communicating ideas. Students will explore how they, as artists, use their visual senses to interpret what they see and manipulate materials to symbolically express ideas and opinions. This artistic awakening will distinguish differences between fine art and graphic design as both occur in the environment.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS & CAREER EXPLORATION This class is designed to improve keyboarding skills and introduce or refine computer application skills. Word processing, spreadsheets, presentation and internet search engines will be addressed. Students will match their career assessment results to the 16 career clusters, explore the occupations of their interests and match their results to the education and training required after high school. Students will be introduced to the Nebraska Career Readiness Standards.

FCS I This course provides students with opportunities for creative thinking and involvement in problem solving. Students participate in three 9-day module rotations that apply basic living skills, along with concepts, skills, and technology needed to solve real life problems. The modules encourage hands-on experiences, student responsibility, and cooperation. Areas of focus are foods and nutrition, basics of sewing, and family life.

FRENCH Students are introduced to the countries and regions that speak the French language. Some topics students will cover are: days of the week, months, seasons, alphabet, classroom vocabulary, greetings, numbers, and colors in the context of conversational vocabulary. Cultural aspects, geography and holidays will also be included. Hands-on learning activities will reinforce the importance of French in today's economic and business world.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY Students have the opportunity to explore three to four of the 18 level-one technology modules which include robots, lasers, computers, mechanical trainers, CAD programs, audio and video equipment and prototypes in real life simulations.

SPANISH Students are introduced to a more detailed view of the Spanish language. Some of the topics students will cover are: greetings, alphabet, numbers, colors, weather, food, classroom objects, days, months, cultural aspects, and holidays. Hands-on activities will reinforce the importance of Spanish in our world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Physical education is a required class which meets every other day. The class exposes students to a wide variety of activities which helps to provide the appropriate amount of vigorous physical activity that is vital for the maintenance of good health and fitness. Physical fitness testing, team sports, recreational games, rhythms, aerobics, cardiovascular training, strength enhancement, and other activities emphasize teamwork, social development, and a positive self image. In order to participate safely, students are required to dress in appropriate P.E. attire (e.g. T-shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes). **Padlocks are furnished. A \$5.00 fee will be charged if the lock is not returned at the end of the school year.**

BAND Seventh grade band continues to promote higher level thinking and helps develop organizational and social skills. Students learn to play a wind or percussion instrument in both group and sectional settings. Students are encouraged to supply their own instrument (we have a limited number available to rent from the school for those that qualify). The Tradition of Excellence Book 2, and reeds (if playing a single or double reed instrument) are supplied by the student. Students in this class will have a year of experience on their instrument, so students that wish to begin in 7th grade are encouraged to take private lessons to help them catch up! All students are encouraged to attend summer band camp the first week in August. Students are required to perform in 3 concerts throughout the school year.

CHOIR This is a choral based music class where students develop vocal skills as well as music reading skills. General music opportunities such as learning many of the elements of music, listening and analyzing music from America and different cultures around the world are also stressed. Students have the opportunity to audition for Singing Youth of Nebraska as well as regional, state, or national honor choirs. **Concert performance is required.**

ORCHESTRA Seventh grade orchestra students will continue developing technical and fundamental skills on their instruments through large group rehearsals and sectionals. Students are encouraged to provide their own stringed instrument. **Essential Elements for Strings Book 2** is used as a general reference. Students are required to complete weekly practice assignments in Google Classroom and will participate in three concerts throughout the school year. **Students must have previous string experience.** For more information, visit our website at www.kpsorchestra.org.