

7th Grade Course Descriptions

YEARLONG ELECTIVE

Intermediate Band (year-long course) (*Prerequisite-6th grade Band*) This class is a continuation of the skills taught in Beginning Band with further development of tone production, breath support, and music reading. Students are introduced to performance skills and techniques. They are encouraged to perform as individuals and as members of an ensemble.

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

Spanish Beginning – Less than 1 year - This course delves deeper into language and culture. This course is intended as a link between the elementary programs or as an initial introduction to the language. This course is a prerequisite if you plan to take Spanish for high school credit in 8th grade.

Chorus Students apply correct singing technique and various elements of musical expression through developmentally appropriate and historic vocal literature. Students learn how to use traditional notation in order to learn music, and to respond correctly to conductors' gestures both in rehearsal and public performance. Students will study vocal music and its relationship to other cultures, eras, and geographical locations.

QUARTER-LONG ELECTIVES

Dramatics Students develop specific skills that allow them to study and create characters for the stage. Activities include stage directions, simple set and costume design, prop collection, and play production.

Visual Composition 1 (Art) Students will engage in deep study of the elements and principles of art centered on the curriculum set forth in the North Carolina Essential Standards for Visual Art. Two and three-dimensional techniques will be taught using a variety of media. Students explore various cultures, art history and learn to think and write critically about master work as well as their own.

Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing (*for students that didn't have keyboarding in 6th grade*) This course is composed of instructional modules designed to allow students to learn the touch method of keyboarding, digital literacy and computer knowledge, and basic word processing and document formatting skills. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced.

Introduction to Office Productivity: (Prerequisite: Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing) This course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction using software common in the workplace. The software applications include word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, database, and desktop publishing. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced.

Computer Science 1 (Prerequisite: Keyboarding and Basic Word Processing recommended) This course introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem-solving, communication, and personal expression. As a whole, this course focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science and encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression.

Exploring Business, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship: This course is designed to explore the nature of business, entrepreneurial skills, and to study related careers in fields such as financial services, information technology, marketing, office systems technology, public relations and promotion, and travel and tourism. Emphasis is on using the computer while studying applications in these careers along with problem solving and thinking skills. English language arts, mathematics, and social studies are reinforced.

Invention and Innovation: Students will be exposed to existing technology and explore the evolutionary nature of technology. We'll talk about ethics and the patent process. Students use Scratch to create simple games and use the micro:bit platform to solve challenges that require systems thinking.

Exploring Engineering and Design: Students will use the engineering design process to solve constraint based problems in a cooperative environment. Example problems include the classic CO2 Dragster and Balsa Wood Bridges. A strong focus is placed on collecting and analyzing data related to the problem.

Exploring Childcare: This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide instruction on basic Family and Consumer Sciences foundation and skills. Students learn the basics of childcare and babysitting. CPR is taught and students earn their American Red Cross Babysitter certifications.

Exploring Nutrition and Wellness: This course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide instruction on basic Family and Consumer Sciences foundation and skills. Students learn nutrition and how to live a healthy lifestyle through the hands-on process of cooking in classroom kitchen stations.