

Hardin Middle School

7th Grade

Course Descriptions

2021-2022



Core & Required Classes for 7th grade

MATH 7: This is a yearlong course. Students study the structural characteristics of mathematics with attention devoted to increasing proficiency in arithmetic and the use of mathematical concepts in problem solving. Topics covered include the language of pre-algebra, problem solving, properties of real numbers, integers, solving equations, fractions, ratios, proportions, percent, formulas, functions, exponents, graphing, geometry, and an introduction to coordinate geometry providing a foundation for the study of Introduction to Algebraic Concepts and the exploration of the other branches of mathematics.

ACCELERATED MATH 7: This is a yearlong course taught at the 7th grade level with students *meeting the accelerated criteria*. Students will be exposed to 8th grade material. Students study in a rigorous mathematics class with high expectations. Topics covered include a preview of algebra, properties of real numbers, signed numbers, solving equations and inequalities, graphs, slope, formulas, functions, systems of equations, exponents, sentences, radicals, polynomials, factorings, proportions, rational equations and quadratics. ***Students must have teacher permission to enroll in this course.***

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA): 7th Grade English Language Arts is a sequential course within the 5-8 programs utilizing Reader's & Writer's workshop. Students will develop skills in the following areas: grammar, composition, literature, speaking/listening, library skills, critical thinking skills, & vocabulary. The course is designed to familiarize the student with the communication skills, which are central to both cognitive & social development. The course expands the student's knowledge of the human experience through exposure to quality literature, sharpen the student's ability to communicate through writing, oral, & visual means, develop the student's skills to gather manipulate data & information using current technology, & intensify the student's ability to utilize higher-level critical thinking skills.

WORLD HISTORY: This Social Studies course will explore how the civics and cultures of ancient Greece and Rome influenced western civilizations. This course also covers how the Renaissance, Reformation, and European Exploration influenced western civilizations. Students will also learn about European exploration in the Americas and the impact that played on Native American cultures and civilization.

LIFE SCIENCE: Students will have the opportunity to study animal & plant life from the one-celled forms to the most complex. Specific topics to be covered include the study & use of the scientific method as well as the study of the metric system, microscopic life, classification & study of animal & plant life, cells, genetics, & ecology, which will include man's impact on the natural world. In addition, current issues in various branches of science will be discussed.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH: The Physical Education Middle School program consists of a variety of team sports, individual sports, and fitness related games. Participation, sportsmanship, skill development, and team building are the major components of these activities. Lifetime wellness concepts are included to enable students to make informed decisions in regards to their own personal health.

COMPUTERS: This course is designed to introduce students to integrated software package used to teach word processing, spreadsheet & presentation applications. Students will also continue to develop research skills through use of the Internet. Students receive immediate benefits, which will be utilized in other courses throughout their educational career. They will use the skills learned to prepare reports & presentations for other classes & retain skills learned for future personal use, education, & careers.

ACADEMIC LAB: Every student is purposefully placed in academic lab based on the review of MAP scores, Galileo scores, summative course assessment scores, and teacher recommendation. During this time Leader in Me concepts are taught and reinforced throughout the school year.

Remedial Coursework

READING: Students who are identified as needing extra support in Reading may be enrolled in this class. During the class, students receive extra help to strengthen skills & knowledge in core areas. This placement will be determined based on MAP scores, Galileo scores, summative course assessment scores, and & teacher recommendation. (Not all 7th graders are required to enroll in this class).

MATH STRATEGIES I: Students who are identified as needing extra support in Math may be enrolled in this class. During the class, students receive extra help to strengthen skills & knowledge in core areas. This placement will be determined based on MAP scores, Galileo scores, summative course assessment scores, and & teacher recommendation. (Not all 7th graders are required to enroll in this class).

Exploratory Classes

CONCERT BAND 7: (Pre-requisite - 6th Grade Band) This class is for students who play at a 7th grade level & have at least one year of experience in band. The focus of this class will be on the further development of fundamental music skills & techniques learned in beginning band, as well as gaining an appreciation for music as a form of artistic expression. Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to participate in school concerts, music festivals, Jazz Band & other types of performances.

JAZZ BAND: (Pre-requisite - 6th Grade Band) This class is for students who play at an intermediate or advanced level & are interested in an introductory course on playing & performing in a Jazz Ensemble. The focus of this class will be on Jazz styles & techniques, as well as the history & culture of Jazz as an American art form. Any student selected to play in this ensemble must also be enrolled concurrently in Concert Band 7 , with the exception of pianists, guitarists, bass guitarists or string bassists, & vocalists (although these instruments/vocals need instructor approval for enrollment). Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to participate in school concerts, music festivals, & other types of performances.

ORCHESTRA: Students must have one year of recent experience or permission of the instructor to enroll. Violin, viola, cello & string bass are taught. Students are responsible for providing an instrument, method book, & various supplies needed for participation. Supplemental materials & sheet music will be provided. Orchestra performance & small group skills are stressed with advanced playing technique being developed. At-home practice will be expected. Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to participate in school concerts, music festivals, & other types of performances.

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA: Students must have two years of recent experience or permission of the instructor to enroll. This class meets daily. Violin, viola, cello & string bass are taught. Students are responsible for providing an instrument, method book, & various supplies needed for participation. Supplemental materials & sheet music will be provided. Orchestra performance & small group skills are stressed with advanced playing technique being developed. At-home practice will be expected. Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to participate in school concerts, music festivals, & other types of performances.

7TH GRADE TREBLE CHOIR: (Prerequisite: approval from instructor)

This course is a choral music performance class comprised entirely of female voices. Emphasis will be placed on the choral experience through individual vocal development and choral skills. Students will study music notation and develop sight-reading skills through daily sight-singing activities. Students will study two and three-part choral literature from all historical and cultural periods of music. Students will also study vocal technique and practice performing skills, including staging and movement. Students will be required to perform for a live audience at least two times during the academic year. Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to participate in school concerts, music festivals, & other types of performances.

MEN'S CHOIR: (Prerequisite: approval from instructor)

This course is a choral music performance class comprised entirely of male voices. Emphasis will be placed on the choral experience through individual vocal development and choral skills. Students will study music notation and develop sight-reading skills through daily sight-singing activities. Students will study two and three-part choral literature from all historical and cultural periods of music. Students will also study vocal technique and practice performing skills, including staging and movement. Students will be required to perform for a live audience at least two times during the academic year. Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to participate in school concerts, music festivals, & other types of performances.

A.P.E.X. – Advanced Program for Exploration: A.P.E.X. is the third GATE in the Gifted & Talented Education Studies (G.A.T.E.S.) program. This program is offered to identified gifted & talented students at the 7th & 8th grade level. The A.P.E.X. program builds upon knowledge & skills presented in the elementary & 5-6 grade programs. The A.P.E.X. program is designed to promote research skills, problem solving, critical thinking & affective awareness in gifted students. The units for the middle school program are interdisciplinary in nature & offer elements from the four core education areas, along with creative & fine arts elements. The Units are theme based & focus on real world questions & problems. Technology is used extensively, providing students access to computers, digital, still & video cameras & smart board technology. Students have access to computer programs such as Microsoft Word, Power Point, Publisher, Excel & Movie Maker along with a multitude of open source programs offered on the internet. Prerequisite: Must be currently enrolled in the gifted program. Students enrolled in APEX will attend for ½ of a school day during the week.

EXPLORATION OF WORLD CULTURES AND LANGUAGES: In this semester class students will experience all three language offerings: German, French, and Spanish. Students will get an introduction to each language including phonics, basic conversation, numbers, colors, and geography. Upon successful completion of this class students may choose to take Level 1 German, French or Spanish for high school credit in 8th grade.

DRAMA: 7th grade drama is an introduction to the fundamental acting skills. Students learn movement, vocal control & characterization skills. Students will participate in various activities that may include plays, improvisation, reader's theatre, pantomime, & short scenes. Through these activities, they will learn physical & vocal presentation skills & develop basic knowledge of theatre arts. Evaluation will be based primarily on in-class performances.

ART: Students will have the opportunity to draw, paint, sculpt as well as create graphic designs in a variety of media. The class provides experiences to grow in the areas of art making, art history & art criticism. This class is rich in written & visual resources with each project designed to develop technical skill & promote creative interpretation.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS): The seventh grade FACS program is an exploratory life skills semester course in which students examine units in textile management, kitchen management, and caring for children. Hand and machine sewing will be practiced during the construction of a sewing project. Clothing care and repair concepts will also be addressed during the sewing unit. The kitchen management unit includes learning skills required for safe food production while in a lab setting. Cooperation, problem solving, time management and evaluation skills are enhanced while working to prepare and serve simple foods. The child care unit is designed to help students learn skills needed to keep children safe and establish the knowledge to become an effective caregiver. Students will examine the various developmental stages of children and create play activities.

EXPLORATORY TECHNOLOGY: This program is an 18 week course exploring industrial technology. The curriculum revolves around three major areas of study: communication, production, and transportation. This program responds to the needs of all students undergoing rapid physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth of this middle school age group. This course is designed to provide active learning situations in technology emphasizing problem solving, creativity, and cooperation. Lab fee of approximately \$20 for upgraded materials for projects.

****PEER HELPERS 7th & 8th Grade:** This course is designed to further develop communication & leadership skills. Students will learn how to reach out to help & encourage others. Skills developed include empathy, decision making, assertiveness, & problem solving. As trained peer listeners students may serve as conflict mediators, tutors, tour guides, & peer buddies while assisting students at Blackhurst Elementary.

COMPETITIVE PE: This 7th and 8th grade course introduces skills, strategies and rules associated with team sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, team handball and flag football, in a highly competitive environment. This course will also provide an opportunity to officiate and to enhance skills in team sports strategies. Students in this course will be constantly moving and involved in game play.

PLTW DESIGN & MODELING: Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

PLTW APP CREATORS: - App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as other disciplines, particularly biomedical science.

PLTW MEDICAL DETECTIVES: Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

****All classes are strictly based on enrollment numbers. In past years, these classes have not had enough requests by students to include the classes in the schedule.**

Virtual Learning

SCSD will offer virtual courses taught by district teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. Students interested in the SCSD virtual course offerings will need to fill out an application for Virtual Learning. This application can be found on the Hardin Middle School website. Each application will be reviewed to determine if virtual education is in their best educational interest. Criteria considered includes previous success in the virtual learning environment, attendance, and the ability to be self directed and complete work independently. The following will also be considered when applying:

Student Skills Necessary for Success in Virtual Courses

- Student has demonstrated time-management skills that indicate the student is capable of submitting assignments and completing course requirements.
- Student has demonstrated persistence in overcoming obstacles and willingness to seek assistance when needed.
- Student has demonstrated verbal, written, and technical skills that would allow the student to succeed in a virtual environment.
- Consideration of the student's previous success (or struggle) in virtual coursework.

Virtual courses are subject to availability. Depending on student enrollment and staffing, some virtual courses may be All-Access.

Virtual Course Offerings:

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COURSE SELECTION/SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY

The proper selection of courses is very important for all students and something that should be done with serious deliberation. To help in this process, students will receive course description guides well in advance of the time for which final choices must be made. It is strongly suggested that students confer with their counselors, other staff, and parents before making selections.

Changes in course selections will not be permitted after the school's master schedule has been entered into the computer due to the:

- Need to teach students to assume responsibility, to develop accountability, and to develop perseverance
- Extensive preparation the faculty and administration must make in hiring teachers, making assignments, balancing classes, preparing facilities, allocating budgets, ordering books, supplies, and equipment
- Efficient use of staff time

The exceptions to this policy are: (1) when a scheduling mistake has been made; (2) when there is a need to balance classes; (3) when classes must be canceled due to insufficient enrollment; or (4) where it is determined by school officials that a circumstance exists whereby the student has little chance to realize success. Students are encouraged to spend ample quality time studying the course descriptions before deciding upon course selections.

Student/Parent requests to withdraw from a class within the first 10 days of each semester must be approved by the counselor and building principal. After the first 10 days of each semester, no requests of changes will be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE: There may be occasions when your counselor needs to switch a second semester course selection with a first semester selection in order to have a workable schedule. In order to achieve more flexibility and fewer scheduling conflicts, second semester scheduling may result in students being scheduled for different teachers and/or periods than they had first semester in all-year classes