

Jr. High Course Descriptions

7th Grade Required Classes

English

Course Description: 7th grade English is a study and practice of grammar, writing, vocabulary, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Students will discuss, summarize, and paraphrase. Students will write essays, critique literature, and make oral presentations. Novels that will be read include: The Outsiders and Tom Sawyer..

Math

Course Description: This course sets a strong foundation in working with fractions, decimals, and negative numbers. The course reinforces and expands on previous knowledge of proportional relationships in various representations. It introduces algebraic concepts such as variables, expressions, and solving algebraic equations. Students will also begin to work with shapes, as area, perimeter, surface area, and volume are introduced.

Social Studies

Course Description: 7th Grade Social Studies will focus chiefly on the broad study of Civics. In Civics we will cover units on citizenship, government, the legal system, and economics. In the fourth quarter of the year 7th grade students will be introduced to the study of Geography.

Science

Course Description: This course covers topics such as: life process cells, bacteria to plants, animal diversity, genetics, human body systems, and ecology.

Health (Quarter Class)

Course Description: Students will develop skills in decision making, acquire health information which will help identify and prevent health problems, along with developing a positive attitude for a healthy lifestyle.

Physical Education (Semester Class)

Course Description: Physical Education is an essential and basic part of the total education program. It is a process that contributes to the total development of every student through physical activity and recognizes the physical, mental, emotional, and social characteristics of students. The Physical Education program provides a variety of movement experiences to help all students develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to function effectively in society. The overall experience will include recreational and sport-specific activities that will incorporate skills development to play at a recreational level. The foundational principles of strength conditioning using body-weight and introductory weight training equipment will also be integrated into the curriculum to give students the opportunity to become comfortable in the weight room setting.

PLTW(Project Lead the Way) Design and Modeling (Quarter Class)

Course Description: Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Using design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

7th Grade Electives

7th grade Band

Course Description: 7th grade Band is designed for students entering their second year of music instruction. This class will include daily participation, concerts, and a performance test. In this class, students will dive into more detailed metric, rhythmic, and melodic concepts while working out of a method book as well as experiencing sheet music and extracurricular activities. Prerequisite is at least one year of prior band experience.

7th Grade Choir

Course Description: Middle School Choir is a place for students to express themselves through music and singing. They will learn vocal and choral technique, sight-reading, ear-training, and music theory while creating music together. Students will study a variety of music styles and there are several performance opportunities throughout the year including Crown Center in December and the Festival of Music at Worlds of Fun in the spring.

7th grade Art

Course Description: This class is semester long exploratory art class focuses on the elements and principles of art while improving students' basic art skills. We focus on art as a visual language and how we can use art to share ideas. We also current and past artists to see how they have used art to share their stories. This class is geared towards the beginner-advanced, all skill sets will be met. We will create paintings, sculptures, drawings, ceramics and more.

7th FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences)

Course Description: Exploratory FACS is a semester class. In this class the students will study a wide array of topics that include: learning their role in the family, values and character traits and how to apply them, how to communicate with others, how to take care of one's clothes, and basic sewing techniques.

7th Grade Industrial Technology (Introduction to Woodworking)

Course Description: This course is designed to teach the basics of woodworking; safe shop practices, correct machine and tool use, and measurement. Students will learn to read and follow a set of simple construction plans to build a project, as well as design and build a project of their own.

7th Grade Agriculture

Course Description: This course will cover topics such as: What is agriculture?, Life of a Farmer, Products from Agriculture and Farm Safety.

7th Grade Intro to Business

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to how business works in today's society and to provide a foundation for other business courses. Content includes business functions such as management, marketing, and other consumer issues regarding money management. We will be focusing a lot on learning how to use all functions of Google. Ex. Slides, Doc, Sites. We will also focus on typing skills and presentation skills.

7th Grade Literature through Film

Course Description: This course introduces students to the basics of film analysis, cinematic formal elements, genre, and narrative structure and helps students develop the skills to recognize, analyze, describe and enjoy film as an art and entertainment form.

8th Grade Required Classes

English

Course Description: 8th Grade English is a study and practice of grammar, writing, vocabulary, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Students will discuss, summarize, and paraphrase. Students will write essays, critique literature, and make oral presentations. Novels that will be read include: A Christmas Carol and The Diary of Anne Frank.

8th Grade Math

Course Description: In eighth grade math we explore new mathematical structures and dive into the fundamentals of algebraic properties and some geometry formulas. We will extend knowledge of operation in solving multi-step equations as well as learn about the inverse operation of exponents: radicals. We will begin solving equations with multiple variables graphically and algebraically. We will also explore the powerful uses of the triangle in mathematics! This class is designed to help prepare scholars for Algebra 1.

8th Grade Algebra I

Course Description: Algebra I is organized around families of functions, with emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. As students learn about each family of functions, they will learn to represent them in multiple ways- as verbal descriptions, equations, tables, and graphs. Students will explore how to solve equations, how to solve inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials and factoring. **This class counts as a high school credit.**

Social Studies

Course Description: 8th Grade American History is a survey of America's history beginning with prehistoric times and concluding with westward expansion. Grades will be based on completion of homework, performance on learning activities and test scores.

Science

Course Description: This course covers topics surrounding physics and physical science. Students will be exposed to such ideas as Newton's Laws, forces, waves, and electricity.

Health (Quarter Class)

Course Description: Students will develop skills in decision making, acquire health information which will help identify and prevent health problems, along with developing a positive attitude for a healthy lifestyle.

Physical Education (Semester Class)

Course Description: Physical Education is an essential and basic part of the total education program. It is a process that contributes to the total development of every student through physical activity and recognizes the physical, mental, emotional, and social characteristics of students. The Physical Education program provides a variety of movement experiences to help all students develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to function effectively in society. The overall experience will include recreational and sport-specific activities that will incorporate skills development to play at a recreational level. The foundational principles of strength conditioning using body-weight and introductory weight training equipment will also be integrated into the curriculum to give students the opportunity to become comfortable in the weight room setting.

PLTW(Project Lead the Way) Automation and Robotics (Quarter Class)

Course Description: Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

8th Grade Electives

8th Grade Band

Course Description: 8th grade Band is a course centered around the instrumental performance and understanding of music. Skills range from basic rhythm and music technique to more complex and intricate music in a variety of styles and genres. Middle School is the transitional period between elementary and high school band, and has focused instruction to prepare students for the next level of music performance. Students may start to branch out to more advanced instruments, mouthpieces, and reeds in this class. This class will include daily participation, concerts, and performance tests. Prerequisite is at least one year of prior band experience.

8th Grade Choir

Course Description: Middle School Choir is a place for students to express themselves through music and singing. They will learn vocal and choral technique, sight-reading, ear-training, and music theory while creating music together. Students will study a variety of music styles and there are several performance opportunities throughout the year including Crown Center in December and the Festival of Music at Worlds of Fun in the spring.

Spanish I

Course Description: The Spanish I class is a yearlong course that will provide the student with a general introduction to the Spanish language. The focus of the class will be: pronunciation, functional vocabulary related to everyday life, cultural information and basic grammatical structures. In accordance with the Missouri State Show-Me Standards for foreign Language, the Spanish I Foreign Language course is designed to include the four communicative skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. **This class is for high school credit.**

8th Grade Art

Course Description: This class is semester long exploratory art class focuses on the elements and principles of art while improving students' basic art skills. We focus on art as a visual language and how we can use art to share ideas. We also current and past artists to see how they have used art to share their stories. We also look to the past to see how many cultures have used art to share what was important to them to encourage and develop our student's cultural empathy. This class is geared towards the beginner-advanced, all skill sets will be met. We will create paintings, sculptures, drawings, ceramics and more.

8th Grade FACS

Course Description: FACS is a semester class. In this class the students will learn about kitchen safety, reading a recipe, and how to correctly measure ingredients. They will focus on nutrition and how eating the right kinds of foods can be beneficial to the body. The students will also examine the reasons why breakfast is the most important meal of the day and the benefits of eating healthy snacks. With each topic that is discussed the students will apply their knowledge to prepare foods that go along with each lesson.

8th Grade Introduction to Technology - Woods

Course Description: A basic course in woodworking and sketching. Students will be learning the correct operating procedures of hand tools and some basic power tools. An emphasis will also be placed on simple machines, mechanical advantage, safety guidelines, sketching & planning, woodworking techniques, assembly procedures, and finishing techniques.

8th Grade Agriculture

Course Description: This course covers topics such as: Ag in your daily life, Diversity of Ag in MO and the USA, Animal Ownership, Basic plant care and technologies used in agriculture.

8th Grade Yearbook

Course Description: This course helps produce the Lone Jack Middle School yearbook. In this course, students will gain skills in the following areas: page design, publishing techniques, copywriting, editing, photography, record keeping, time management, teamwork, marketing, and leadership skills. Students are tasked with producing a timeless, creative, and innovative publication which will record our school's community, memories and events.