7th Grade Course Description

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

ELA 7 (English Language Arts):
Prerequisite: None
Duration: Yearlong
7th Grade Language Arts is the study of the English language through reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will use a variety of informational and narrative texts to increase reading, comprehension skills and improve vocabulary.

LITERACY TECHNIQUES 7:
Prerequisite: None
Duration: Yearlong
Students will apply reading, writing, listening and speaking skills being taught in 7th grade ELA through the study of current events, narrative and informational texts.

UTAH STUDIES 7:
Prerequisite: None
Duration: Yearlong
Utah is an amazing place, rich in resources, in geographic wonders, in inspiring history, and in the diversity of its people. The study of Utah permits students to understand more deeply the place they call home, while developing essential skills unique to the social studies disciplines. Within these standards, Utah Studies offers an opportunity for students to learn about their own families and cultures as well as those of others.

The Utah Studies standards are based on four social studies disciplines: history, geography, economics, and civics. Students will explore the complex history of Utah, with examples of creativity, sacrifice, conflict, innovation, inequity, compromise, and leadership. Students will also learn about Utah’s diverse physical geography, encounter Utah’s economic systems and dynamics, and explore local and state wide political systems.

MATH 7:
Prerequisite: None
Duration: Yearlong
Students in Math 7 will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

MATH ACADEMY 7:
Prerequisite: None
Duration: Yearlong
Students will have additional time and support to learn and apply the math skills learned in Math 7.

MATH 7 - HONORS
Prerequisite: Teacher Placement
Duration: Yearlong
The students are made aware that Algebra differs from arithmetic in its extensive use of variables. The skill of translating verbal expressions into mathematical symbols, expressions and open sentences are developed. It is designed to prepare students for future courses in mathematics. Technology will be integrated with the curriculum as we study functions, graphs, statistics, probability, and graphing linear equations. In 8th Grade, students in Math 7 Honors will continue on to Math 8 Honors.

SCIENCE 7:
Prerequisite: None
Duration: Yearlong
The 7th grade SEEd (Science with Engineering Education) standards look for relationships of cause and effect which
enable students to pinpoint mechanisms of nature and allow them to make predictions. Students will explore how forces can cause changes in motion and are responsible for the transfer of energy and the cycling of matter. This takes place within and between a wide variety of systems, from simple, short-term forces on individual objects to the deep, long-term forces that shape our planet. In turn, Earth’s environments provide the conditions for life as we know it. Organisms survive and reproduce only to the extent that their own mechanisms and adaptations allow. Evidence for the evolutionary histories of life on Earth is provided through the fossil record, similarities in the various structures among species, organism development, and genetic similarities across all organisms. Additionally, mechanisms shaping Earth are understood as forces affecting the cycling of Earth’s materials. Questions about cause and effect and the ongoing search for evidence in science, or science’s ongoing search for evidence, drive this storyline.

**PERSONAL HEALTH 7:**

Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Trimester

Wellness and healthy lifestyle will be emphasized throughout the personal health program. Subject material includes: a healthy self, which includes understanding and proper expression of emotion, understanding the importance of delayed gratification, stress, decision making and the factors that influence this process, positive/negative peer pressure, using refusal skills (ways to say No effectively), critical thinking skills, emotional, social, and physical wellness, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and other unhealthy lifestyles and the consequences one may face with poor choices, consumer and community health and nutrition. Students will gain a workable knowledge of these and other health related issues and keep current on ever changing health and medical issues.

**BEGINNING FITNESS CO-ED A, B, & C:**

Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Trimester

This is a CO-ED course. Physical education provides participation in outdoor activities, individual sports, team sports, physical fitness and dance. Emphasis is placed on further development of skills initiated in 6th grade. These skills will transfer into the further development for recreational and fitness pursuits. One trimester of Physical education is required in the 7th grade. Additional PE can be taken as an elective encore.

**COLLEGE and CAREER AWARENESS – BUSINESS 7**

Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Trimester

College and Career Awareness Business Class offers exploration and preparation in college and career pathways focusing on jobs that are high skill and high demand, as well as satisfying and financially rewarding. The College and Career Awareness course is designed to help students identify their interests, abilities, and skills. With appropriate developmental information related to careers, educational pathways, and self-knowledge, students are able to begin to make college and career goals for the future. College and Career Awareness is designed to acquaint students with the Utah labor market and the employment opportunities for which they can prepare by defining a College and Career Ready Plan.

**COLLEGE and CAREER AWARENESS – TECHNOLOGY 7**

Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Trimester

Exploring Technology is a comprehensive, action based, course that introduces students to technology and its impact on society. Students will develop problem solving skills, improve awareness for College & Career Readiness (CCR), and build understanding of the relationship between science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Emphasis is placed on broad exploration in cooperative activities rather than individual skill development and projects. Students will explore Engineering and at least three of the following seven technology areas: 1) agriculture & biotechnology, 2) construction, 3) energy & power, 4) information & communication, 5) manufacturing, 6) medical, and 7) transportation.

**FACS EXPLORATION:**

Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Trimester

Students will have the opportunity to explore Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) activities using a variety of media and technologies. The FACS Exploration class is taught over 2 years. Students may take the class in 7th grade and again in 8th grade since different curriculum is covered. Students will explore and cultivate skills in Foods & Nutrition, Childcare,

**SPANISH 7:**
Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Trimester

This is a course designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading and spelling. The focus is on the Spanish alphabet, pronunciation, basic vocabulary, everyday expressions, and sentence structure. Through the study of the Spanish culture, geography and history, students will develop an appreciation of the countries where the language is spoken.

Students are encouraged to continue their Spanish experience by enrolling in 8th grade Spanish. This class along with 8th grade Spanish fulfill the requirement for Spanish I at the high school level allowing students to register for Spanish II.

**ELECTIVE ENCORE COURSES**

**DEBATE:**
Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Trimester

This course is a very broad discipline that offers students the argumentation and speaking skills necessary to contest a variety of issues, as well as those needed to creatively tell a story and demonstrate public speaking abilities. Students will gain advanced skills in research, writing, note-taking, and logical analysis by building effective argumentation and cutting humorous/dramatic performance pieces. Students will study the forensics events of Public Forum, Impromptu, Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking and Storytelling. Students, who choose to, will have the opportunity to participate in debate tournaments.

**BEGINNING GUITAR:**
Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Trimester

This course is designed for students with minimal or no guitar experience. Students will learn how to care for their instrument, what to look for when purchasing an instrument, guitar tuning, chords and chord accompaniment, strum patterns, and some single note melodies.

**INTERMEDIATE GUITAR:**
Prerequisite: Beginning Guitar or Previous Guitar Experience  
Duration: Trimester

This course is a continuation of Beginning Guitar. Students will continue with tuning, chords and chord accompaniment, strum patterns and melodies. Students will also learn alternating bass strumming and Barre chords will be introduced.

**ADVANCED GUITAR:**
Prerequisite: Intermediate Guitar or Previous Guitar Experience  
Duration: Trimester

Students will be introduced to more chords, especially Barre chords and chord accompaniment, more advanced melodies graduating into two and three or more part harmony and actual guitar solos, finger picking and scales.

**CHOIR 7:**
Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Trimester

This course is open to all 7th grade boys and girls with a desire to sing. Students will perform a wide variety of music in various musical styles, generally in two (2) part harmony. Attention will be given to posture, breath support, diction, and tone production. Some music theory will also be discussed. A minimum of one (1) concert per trimester will be given. Attendance at the concerts is mandatory.

**BAND – CONCERT WOODS & CONCERT BRASS**
Prerequisite: 6th Grade Band or Previous Band Experience  
Duration: Yearlong

This class will be a continuation of the 6th grade experience. Students will learn more about how music is written and played, and deal with how to play the instrument at an intermediate level. They will play approximately four concerts per year and participate in a Band Festival off campus. The student may rent a school instrument. Availability of some instruments may be limited. At this level there will be team teaching during the same hour. This will allow specialists of brass and woodwinds to work with these various instruments.

**ORCHESTRA**
Prerequisite:  6th Grade Orchestra or Previous Orchestra Experience
Duration: Yearlong

The emphasis in this class is on technique rather than performance. Students will be working on intermediate skills to broaden their abilities with a limited number of performances. Out of class practicing is required and private lessons are recommended. Viola, cello and bass instruments are available to rent from the school.

2D (DIMENSIONAL) ART:
Prerequisite: None
Duration: Trimester

This foundational art course will focus on the elements of art and principles of design, composition and art history. Skill building, familiarity with art media and studio procedures are also key aspects of the course. Students will work with a variety of materials and media on a flat 2-D surface, including pencil, pen, ink, watercolor, acrylic, printmaking, collage and mixed media.

3D (DIMENSIONAL) ART:
Prerequisite: None
Duration: Trimester

This foundational art course will focus on the elements of art and principles of design with a concentration on 3-D works of art made from a variety of art media and materials including paper, wire, plaster, etc. Students will gain an understanding of proportions, emphasis, organic forms and balance.

CERAMICS:
Prerequisite: None
Duration: Trimester

Students will be introduced to basic ceramic hand-building construction techniques for making sculptural and functional pieces. Projects completed in this course provide students with the experience of creating something from the rawest of materials and following the process to a finished, final product. Various methods of surface decoration and glazing techniques will also be presented. The expressive aspects of pottery will also be explored by the application of the elements and principles of art and design.

PRINTMAKING:
Prerequisite: None
Duration: Trimester

Printmaking is a form of art where a plate or surface is created, and a series of artwork is produced from that surface. In this course students will explore the four main processes of printmaking with a concentration on relief printing. Students will generate, choose, and refine ideas to produce meaningful works of art with a tight focus on line and pattern.