

Millcreek Junior High

2023 - 2024

7th Grade Course Descriptions

ENGLISH

English 7 (4000) Year

Students will focus on writing, reading, and language skills via direct instruction and activities. There is a heavy emphasis on writing in this class and students will write for multiple purposes. Students will close-read literature and informational text to gain deeper understanding. In this class, students can expect to present work individually and in small groups. Critical thinking will be developed through research and analysis of literature and writing.

English 7 Honors (4005) Year

In addition to the components of English 7, this class will focus on nonfiction and multi-genre writing with an emphasis on research and the writing process. The texts chosen for this class have a humanistic or multi-cultural focus. We will develop our critical thinking skills through research, discussion, and analysis.

MATHEMATICS

Math 7 (5000) Year

This course covers the Utah core standards for seventh graders. Students will learn through differentiated instruction and blended learning with online programs.

-Math 7 Honors: Honors opportunities will be given to all students in this course and students will receive the Honors designation on their transcript if they choose to complete the honors opportunities offered throughout each term.

Grade 7 Mathematics Accelerated (Math 8) (5010) Year

Students must qualify for the Accelerated 7th/8th Grade Math course by taking the CogAT exam or completing the math portfolio. This course covers the Utah core standards for eighth graders. On this track, students can take AP Calculus in 11th grade, and AP Statistics in 12th grade.

SCIENCE

Integrated Science 7 (6000) Year

Students enter the wonderful world of Newton's laws: push and pull factors, collisions, and much more will be fully investigated. Next, students discover the mysteries of the earth's interior and how matter is cycled. Lastly, students learn about the unseen world of cells and genetic influences.

-Science 7 Honors: The honors lessons will be set up in a separate Canvas module each term. As students finish the Canvas module, an honors designation will be added to their transcript. Honors opportunities are available to all students.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Foundation of Social Studies: Utah Studies (4500) Semester

Foundations of Social Studies/Utah Studies is the introductory course for social studies in Davis School District. Curricular content consists of key themes and concepts drawn from the social sciences of geography, history, economics, and government. This course focuses on the reading of both informational text and authentic or primary source material.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. 7 (1020) Semester

P.E. 7 is a required class for ALL students. Students learn to develop lifetime attitudes regarding physical activity and healthy lifestyles. They will improve flexibility, strength, agility, balance, speed, and endurance. They will develop skills in volleyball, basketball, soccer, flag football, and other team sports. This class can be taken BOTH semesters for students who love P.E.

**Basketball 7
(1020) Semester**

This class is for the ultimate basketball fan! The course is for all levels of basketball players, from novice to advanced, who want to improve their skills. Students master essential skills through a variety of advanced drills used at the college and professional levels. Students play in a variety of tournament style basketball games (1:1, 2:2, 3:3, 5:5). Students also create their own competition shooting games for the class to compete in. Both boys and girls in 7th, 8th, and 9th grades are encouraged to enroll.

**Fitness 7
(1020) Semester**

This class is for all those who are looking for a fun class. This class will focus on various fitness activities such as yoga, circuit training, kick boxing, Zumba, and step aerobics! The class will focus on the body, strengthening muscles (including the most important one – your heart!), getting toned, and having fun doing it. This course is open to everyone grades 7-9.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION - CTE

**College and Career Awareness
(7050) Year**

This is an exploratory Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, which includes study in three CTE content areas: Technology and Engineering/Agriculture/Information Technology, Business Education/ Marketing, and Family and Consumer Science/ Health Occupations. It is a required 7th grade class.

**Creative Coding
(7743) Semester**

This course is designed to attract and reach a broad and diverse range of students, including those who may have never considered programming. Students learn how to code by working in a real software development environment to design, program and publish mobile apps and games. Learning to code by creating real products, students discover how to make amazing things and have an impact on their world.

**Exploring Tech 1
(7810) Semester**

This course is available to 7th and 8th grade students. This is an activity-oriented class that incorporates STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) principles throughout the course. The engineering design process is taught as the students explore technologies in communications, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and power and energy. This is a great class for a student considering engineering or a technical trade as a career. There is a lab fee for this class.

**Word Processing
(7552) Semester**

Keyboarding skills are essential life skills for today's students. Junior high students need to type at least 30 words per minute consistently on a two-minute timing. If they cannot do this, they should take Word Processing in the 7th or 8th grade. In this beginning, semester-long keyboarding class, the student will master touch operation on the computer keyboard. First term will focus on correct fingering by touch and good technique. Second term will focus on speed and accuracy as well as basic computer skills. There is a lab fee for this class.

FINE ARTS

Welcome to fine arts! We are excited to help you learn and be involved in the performing arts at Millcreek. We have a rich tradition of excellence in band, choir, and orchestra. Students may even choose to take all three courses each year. You are required to take one music class in 7th grade.

MUSIC

**Band 1 Brass
(2204) Year**

The following instruments are played in this class: tuba, trombone, French horn, baritone, and trumpet. Students will learn basic musicianship skills and theory concepts, such as major scales, basic notes, and rest values. All students participate in the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Tubas, baritones, and French horns are available to rent from the school. This fee is to be paid during registration in the fall. There is a lab fee for this class. This is a full year course. Summer band takes place for three weeks mid July – mid August.

**Band 1 Percussion
(2206) Year**

Note names, note values, and rhythms are learned, using a mallet keyboard and shared drum practice pad. Two years of piano experience required. Entrance tests will be given on Friday, February 17th at 2:30 p.m. in room 106 for seven slots. This is NOT a playing test, but a written theory test. There is a lab fee for this class. This is a full year course. Students in percussion will purchase their own drumsticks and mallets for the percussion instruments during the year. All beginning students participate in the Christmas & Spring Concerts. Summer band will take place for three weeks in mid July – mid August.

**Band 1 Woodwinds
(2205) Year**

Students choose from the following woodwind instruments: oboe, bassoon, clarinet, and flute. Students who desire to play the saxophone begin on the clarinet; and auditions are held in January for a few students who wish to switch to saxophone and/or bass clarinet. Oboe, bassoon, and bass clarinets are available to rent from the school. Students that desire to play oboe or bassoon are highly encouraged to take private lessons. The rental fee is paid during registration in the fall. Students will learn basic musicianship skills and theory concepts such as major scales and basic note & rest values. All beginning students participate in the Christmas & Spring Concerts. There is a lab fee for this class. This is a full year course. Summer band will take place for three weeks in mid July – mid August.

**Music Exploration
(2316) Semester**

Music Exploration includes concepts and skills to integrate music into everyday life. Study will include explorations in creating and composition, experiments with singing, playing (chimes and ukulele), reading music notation, development of analytical and evaluative skills in music listening, and investigations of various purposes of music. Students will be exploring musical concepts like note values, pitch, rhythm, and music history (instruments, composers, and musical time periods). In addition to investigating music's history, culture and connection to the community, students will begin applying their skills by participating in 2 choir concerts during the semester (1 each term). There is a lab fee for this class.

**Choir 1 S/A-Girls' Choir
(2301) Semester or Year**

Beginning choir is an introduction to music and the beginning of vocal training. In this class, students will develop their singing voice, extend their range, and become more musically literate as they participate in learning activities focused on listening, performing, creating, and analyzing choral music. Students sing music from a variety of musical styles and perform in at least two concerts per semester. This course is open to all students but intended mostly for 7th grade girls. No prior experience is required, but a music class will be required for 8th and 9th grade choir courses. There is a lab fee for this class.

**Choir 1 T/B-Boys' Choir
(2301) Semester or Year**

Beginning choir is an introduction to music and the beginning of vocal training. In this class, students will develop their singing voice, extend their range, and become more musically literate as they participate in learning activities focused on listening, performing, creating, and analyzing choral music. Students sing music from a variety of musical styles and perform in at least two concerts per semester. This course is open to all students but intended mostly for 7th grade boys. No prior experience is required, but a music class will be required for 8th and 9th grade choir courses. There is a lab fee for this class.

**Orchestra 1
(2405) Year**

The following instruments are played in this class: violin, viola, cello and bass. Cellos and basses are available to rent from the school. This fee is paid during registration in the fall. Students should have had previous experience with their instrument prior to enrolling, through 6th grade orchestra or private lessons. Students with no prior experience may enroll but will need private lessons or extra practice outside of class and extra instruction in class to catch up. This course is designed to give students the skills to perform music levels 1-2. These levels include basic musicianship skills and theory concepts. All beginning orchestra students will participate in the Fall, Christmas, and Spring concerts. There is a lab fee for this class.

VISUAL ARTS

**Art Foundations 1
(2101) Semester**

Students will have experiences creating art using a variety of media. They will become more fluent with the principles and elements of art. Students will grow in their abilities to create and appreciate art. This class is required before students take advanced art classes. There is a lab fee for this class.

**2-D Art
(2102) Semester**

This course builds on the concepts taught in Art Foundations. Art projects focus on mediums such as charcoal, graphite, scratchboard, oil pastels, watercolors and more. Each year this semester-long course is taught, the projects are different. This enables students to take 2-D Art once as an 7th, 8th, and 9th grader, if they wish. There is a lab fee for this class. Pre-requisite class is Art Foundations 1.

**3-D Art
(2104) Semester**

This course builds on the concepts taught in Art Foundations. Projects focus on creating three-dimensional works of art using a variety of mediums (i.e. ceramics, jewelry, wire sculpture and more). Each year this semester-long course is taught, the projects are different. This enables students to take 3D Art once as a 7th, 8th, and 9th grader, if they wish. There is a lab fee for this class. Pre-requisite class is Art Foundations 1.

ELECTIVES

Civics (4532) Semester

Introductory class on the basic principles of government and leadership. Students will explore the different types of government, economies, and branches of the government, political systems, and elections, as well as current local and world events. Students will be prepared for future government and citizen classes. Class will be discussion and lecture-based, with guest speakers and activities.

Creative Writing 1 (4335) Semester

Students will have the chance to flex their creative muscle as they discover, develop, and demonstrate skills related to writing. The attention is focused on different writing strategies, while writing everything from short stories to poetry. Near the end, students will experiment with a wide variety of genres to showcase students' own writing styles.

Film History (4255)

Students will explore the history of moving pictures and cinema from the emergence of cinema to the emergence of actualities, fiction-stories, silent films, and talking pictures. This course will focus on film from the 1890s to the 1960s and will cover various genres of film, technological devices, and cinema personalities. Lessons will include documentary excerpts, short films, and clips from full-length films that are rated G, PG, or Not-rated in compliance with district policies. There will be research, presentation, and discussion components within this course.

Spanish 1 (3110) Year

This course gives an intro to the Spanish Language and the many cultures in which Spanish is spoken. The students will participate in activities and do work to be at the Novice-Mid Level of Proficiency which is measured by ACTFL. By the end of the year, students will be able to use a limited number of words and phrases about basic actions and objects in Spanish. Students will also be able to understand basic questions about personal information in Spanish. There is a lab fee for this class. *No state college in Utah requires a world language for entrance. However, The University of Utah highly encourages students to enter the university with 2 years of a foreign language.*

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Resource

Only those students who qualify for Special Education Resource services take Resource classes. Resource classes are offered in the core areas of Language Arts and Math. Students with IEP goals for social skills, study skills, executive functioning skills, behavior skills, etc, will have these services addressed in a Resource class. Students in other areas, also known as Related Services, such as Speech, Communication, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, etc., will have these services addressed with Related Service Professionals. Both Language Arts and Math offer an applied class, teaching all the grade level standards, but with smaller class sizes and additional support in order to prepare them for a more inclusive educational setting. Enrollment in a Special Education Applied Class or the corresponding General Education class will be determined by the IEP team.

INTERVENTION CLASSES

English Language Development 7 (4269) Year

This is an intervention English class for English Language Learners to provide support with reading and writing skills. Students are placed in this class by counselors.

Enriched Reading 7 (4230) Semester

This is an intervention reading class. Students will work on their comprehension skills using functional texts and novels. Students will read some works as a class and in small groups. There is an emphasis on nonfiction text and understanding reading strategies. Students are placed in this class by counselors.

Read 180 (2 period class) (4225) Year

This course is designed to strengthen reading skills. Read 180 is a research-based reading intervention program designed to raise the reading levels and test scores of struggling readers. While strengthening these skills, the English core will also be addressed and taught. The class is divided into sections: whole group instruction, small group/individualized instruction, independent and modeled reading, and content-based reading. Students are placed in this class by counselors.

Study Skills (400) Semester

Students will be given this time to complete homework and study for their classes. Students are graded on class participation (working in class), planner usage, and assignment completion in ALL classes. Students are placed in this class by counselors.