

Wasatch Junior High School

Seventh Grade Course of Study

2022-2023

Core

These classes cover the core curriculum as outlined by the Utah State Board of Education. Students will learn to take notes, participate in class discussions, develop increased reading, writing and thinking skills as well as understand the content material specific to each subject. Core classes are usually smaller and provide more individual attention.

Honors

Those students who wish to have additional rigor and a quicker pace should enroll in honors classes. Students will be encouraged to involve cross-curricular topics and engage in originality and creative thought processes to demonstrate their understanding of the advanced curriculum they have been learning. Students can expect to have more homework than in a core class.

Gifted and Talented

Students must qualify for Gifted and Talented English through GSD testing. Classes are taught by teachers who have received their GT endorsement. The emphasis is on depth, complexity, acceleration, novelty, critical analysis and problem-solving. Students should expect more complex regular homework which will be graded on a GT standard. Students do not sign up for this class on the registration form. Those who qualify will be notified and placed automatically in this class unless parents request other placement.

Required Classes

English 7

Students will gain skills and strategies necessary for proficient communication in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. English students will be expected to participate in class and complete a variety of reading and writing assignments.

Science 7

This course covers the state core curriculum based on the theme of structure. The course covers basic chemistry, cell biology, heredity, classification, and living things. Emphasis is on vocabulary development and learning the scientific method. The course is hands-on and lab-oriented, with an average of one to two lab experiences per week. Students will be required to work cooperatively in groups on hands-on activities. Homework is minimal, with most coursework being completed in class.

Mathematics: *Math Placement for incoming 7th graders:*

Math 7

In 7th Grade Mathematics students will focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 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 drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Math 7 Honors

The Honors course includes extra depth, additional topics and moves faster.

Math 7/8 Honors Compacted

Must pass qualifying exam. This option compacts two years of math courses down to one year. It is the preferred option for 7th grade students meeting the requirements for academic advancement by the math department. (This option will leave no gaps in learning concepts needed for future math courses.) Do not to sign up for this class on the registration form. Students who pass the qualifying exam will be placed in the class.

Utah Studies ½ year

The history of Utah is the major focus of the course. Students will study the historical successes and major issues that form and continue to form the social, economic, and political makeup of the people of Utah. In addition, students will be instructed in county and state government, Utah geography, and law related topics. Students will gain an understanding of their role as citizens of both Utah and the United States of America. Successful students will be expected to take Cornell Notes, write essays, analyze primary source history, participate in Socratic Seminars, and produce class projects.

Physical Education– ½ year

Physical education seeks to make students active players in life. It enables students to see the importance of proper nutrition and exercise in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Dance (PE Credit)

This is a beginning dance class that will focus on flexibility, strength, motor skills and movement patterns. We will look at moving safely and efficiently while discovering the components needed to maintain a healthy level of fitness.

Health ½ year

Health 1 is a course required of all 7th grade students. Instruction in personal health covers the following topics: life skills, positive and negative lifestyles, growth, development and maturation, disease, and first aid care.

Digital Literacy- ½ year

Digital Literacy is a required class that can be taken in 7th grade. This course is an introduction to computer literacy, an exposure to coding, and a foundational element of success in today's technology-driven world. This course is intended for students to become functional with common application software, to understand basic computing fundamentals, to be introduced to introductory computer programming skills, and to develop ethics and appropriate behavior while using technology as a tool in the classroom and in life.

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Full Year Electives:

Instrumental Music: Students must own or rent an instrument.

Foundation Band

This class is designed to help students develop a good foundation on their brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. This is for students who have had a year or less of experience on their instrument. No previous experience playing an instrument is necessary. Practice outside of class time and an instrument are required. Please consult with the teacher before choosing/purchasing an instrument.

Foundation Orchestra

This class is designed to help students develop a good foundation on their string instruments. This is for students who have had a year or less of experience on their instrument. No previous experience playing an instrument is necessary. Practice outside of class time and an instrument are required. Please consult with the teacher before choosing/purchasing an instrument.

Cadet Band

This class is designed to help students build on their foundation on brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. Students who have been playing for a year or more should select this class.

Cadet Orchestra

This string instrument orchestra is for students who have been playing for a year or more.

Concert Band

This is the advanced band of the school for advanced wind and percussion players.

**Approval of instructor required*

Concert Orchestra

This advanced orchestra course is designed for students who are skilled string players.

**Approval of the instructor is required.*

Jazz Band - audition

Offers experience in playing the more intricate and complex rhythms and harmonies characteristic of the jazz idiom. Sight-reading and improvisations skills are important in this class and will be developed. *This class meets before school.*

Students must own or rent an instrument for instrumental music classes. **Approval of the instructor is required.*

Dance Company- audition

Pre-requisite: Audition and Instructor's Approval. Dance is an expressive and physical performing art form. Students will continue to build skills and knowledge of technique, improvisation, choreography, artistic expression, and working with others in an artistic way. Out of School rehearsals and performances will be required.

Concert Choir-audition

Prerequisite: Mixed Choir and audition

This 7th and 8th grade class is an auditioned performing choir. Students will have opportunity to sing complex choral pieces that challenge their independence as singers. Students will have several concerts and student expectations are high.

English

Yearbook- application

The yearbook class will put together and develop the school yearbook. Students practice language fundamentals and develop writing techniques appropriate to this genre while gaining skills in editing and proofreading. **Teacher's signature required.*

World Languages: Grades for World Language classes will appear on high school transcripts and count towards graduation
French 1

The objectives are to learn and practice skills to communicate with others of any language, understand the culture, and learn French with the immersion approach.

Spanish 1

In this class emphasis is placed on listening and speaking skills, though reading and writing are addressed. The beginning language courses provide for the learning of dialogues, common words and expressions and basic language structure as well as oral practice of the language.

Mandarin Chinese 1

This is a beginner level Mandarin language class with an emphasis on speaking and listening skills. Students will learn standard pronunciation and tones through the Pinyin system. They will also be introduced to the basics of writing Chinese characters (simplified hanzi).

Mandarin Chinese for Mandarin Speakers

This course is for heritage and immersion Mandarin speakers and will focus on reading, writing, and typing Chinese characters. This class will prepare students for further Chinese courses offered at Skyline. The IB Chinese program requires reading and writing in Chinese characters. This course has a two-year curriculum; therefore, Wasatch students can attend in 7th and 8th grade to advance their Chinese skills.

Half Year Electives:

Theatre 1A (Beginning)

The theatre class emphasizes speech techniques and oral presentation. Students are exposed to characterization, acting techniques and stage production while learning to appreciate the stage and developing interpersonal communication skills.

Theatre 2A

This course emphasizes advanced speech techniques and oral presentation. Students are exposed to characterization, acting techniques and stage production while learning to appreciate the stage and developing interpersonal communication skills. The reading of plays and the history of the theatre are included.

Art Foundations 1 - Beginning

Emphasis is on understanding works of art, color and design theory, and developing basic skills in drawing. Students also increase their understanding of the ways line, shape, form, texture, value and color are used to apply the principles of art (unity, balance, contrast, emphasis, variety, movement). Students experiment with such media as pencil, ink, watercolor, crayon, clay, charcoal and chalk.

Dance 1A (Beginning) This course is a prerequisite for other dance courses.

This course builds dance knowledge and skills in technique, improvisation, choreography, artistic expression, performance, history, culture and life skills as well as injury prevention. Out of school rehearsals and performances may be required. No dance experience required.

Dance 1B (Beginning 2) This course is a prerequisite for other dance courses

This course builds on dance knowledge and skills acquired in Dance 1A. Students will learn more choreographic elements in individual, partner and group activities. Out of school rehearsals and performances may be required. *Some dance experience required.*

FACS A – sewing, interior design and fashion

This course introduces student to basic sewing and pressing equipment, textiles, and introductory level project construction techniques. Units on interior design, architecture and entrepreneurship will also be covered.

FACS B – foods, childcare, and communications

This course integrates the knowledge of nutrition and healthy lifestyle principles with food preparation. Units on entrepreneurship and interpersonal relationships and childcare will also be covered.

Exploring Technology 1

This is an activity-oriented course integrating math, science and technology. Students will study engineering design, communications technologies, and aerospace engineering. This is an exciting course that helps students relate technology to their lives in a project-based learning environment.

Manufacturing Technology

“How are things made? How to take raw resources and turn it into a finished product? How do you follow instructions and drawing to do so?” You will learn how to do this in manufacturing. Toys, electronics, homes and roads all use the technology you will learn in manufacturing.

Mixed Choir

This is a choir class for everybody. Students will learn the fundamentals of music and how it applies to choral singing. Students will have the opportunity to participate in at least one concert.

Guitar I

Learn to play the guitar by learning note reading and tablature. At the end of the course, you will be ready to perform with the class at an evening concert.

Guitar II

Build on concepts learned in guitar one. Must have teacher's signature to enroll in this class.

Reading Skills

Students will develop skills and strategies that will help them improve their reading comprehension.