

Kennedy Middle School

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2021- 2022

Each seventh grade student is required to take Health, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Ancient World History.

DELIVERY OF COURSES

All courses listed and described in this course book have the capability of running as virtual, hybrid, or in-person courses. The method of delivery will depend on the number of requests from students and there is a highly qualified teacher available to provide instruction.

ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY – 7

full year required

Seventh grade history involves the study of the Eastern Hemisphere, as well as a general overview of basic geography skills. Students will learn about the Ancient World, Modern Asia and the Pacific, and Africa. Connections to the United States are emphasized as they are pertinent.

HEALTH

1 quarter required

Seventh grade students will learn the prevention of injury, illness, disease and other health problems, how to synthesize information concerning community health issues, and how to manage stress and make responsible, personal health decisions. Students will also study the influence of beliefs and technology on health, and will learn how health decisions have consequences on themselves and others. Students will learn to communicate effectively, access community health agencies, and come to know the systems of the body, including the reproductive system.

LANGUAGE ARTS – 7

full year required

Literature seeks to expand the student's understanding of what is read. Short stories, novels, poetry and nonfiction selections are studied throughout the year. Writing is stressed in an attempt to improve written communication through the paragraph, the essay, journals and poetry. Oral reports are an integral part of the curriculum, as well as vocabulary, spelling, grammar and usage.

LANGUAGE ARTS – 7 WRITING IN TODAY'S WORLD

full year required

This Language Arts class is assigned to students performing below the 21st percentile in Language and Reading on the NWEA test. The purpose of the class is to support and encourage a deeper understanding of reading and writing skills, to reinforce instruction for the current Language Arts units and to practice language skills that support reading and writing. This is not a Special Education class.

MATH – 7

full year required

The main focus in grade seven is the algebra concept of linear relationships, including ideas about proportional relationships. Students should understand the relationship of equations to their graphs, as well as to tables and contextual situations for linear functions. In addition, work in algebra extends into simplifying and solving simple expressions and equations. The main concepts from geometry are geometric constructions and similarity of polygons, which also draws on ideas about proportion. Representing and interpreting data will be done using a variety of

graphs and statistics. Understanding number relationships and the meaning of mathematical operations will be a recurring theme throughout the year.

PRACTICAL MATH – 7

full year required

Practical Math 7 is a class assigned to students who continually perform below the 21st percentile on the NWEA mathematics assessment the previous year. The purpose of the class is to support and encourage a deeper understanding of basic math skills, to front load instruction for the daily math lessons and to re-teach math concepts as needed for struggling students. Additional conceptual lessons will be taught to supplement daily math class. This is not a Special Education class.

SCIENCE – 7

full year required

Cell biology is introduced to students through the study of animals and plants. This includes understanding how multi-cellular organisms function, grow and develop. Students will develop an understanding that cells act in similar ways in all living things to obtain and use energy.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

IMPORTANT: *While every effort will be made to accommodate choices, seats in exploratory classes are limited and classes are subject to change.*

JOURNALISM

2 quarters

Journalism is a semester long course designed for students interested in newspaper journalism and in developing their skills as a writer. The journalism class will be dedicated to the craft of writing, editing, photographing and documenting news for Kennedy Middle School. This course will also explore the ethical responsibility issues inherent in the press today. Students will learn the fundamentals of news, feature, editorial and sports writing. The course will also help students develop vocabulary, higher-order thinking skills and critical reasoning. Students will create numerous original stories and features using various writing structures and techniques. Students will also learn to create computer generated layouts and graphics. At the end of the semester a full newspaper will be developed for circulation to the student body.

READING FOR ENJOYMENT

1 quarter

Numerous studies show that independent reading is critical for improving reading comprehension. The more students read – on a consistent, regular basis – the more their cognitive comprehension skills develop. A quarter long exploratory class at Kennedy Middle School will foster independent reading, while also creating an environment designed to increase a life-long love of reading. The classroom will have a diverse classroom library of books to explore. Students will focus on different genres and be challenged to step outside their comfort zone, exploring new genres they might not have realized holds their interest. Students will make targeted goals for their reading for the quarter and use social media apps such as “Goodreads” to share their progress and goals with others. Finally, students will have a voice in an end-of-quarter project based assessment that will showcase what they have read, achieved in terms of the goals they set for themselves and illustrate a particular book or story that was meaningful.

SEED TO TABLE

1 quarter

In this class students will design, build and plant an indoor gardening system. Students will learn what it takes to plan, design and build a tower garden, as well as, and learn what it takes to grow

food indoors. **This class will require students to bring in materials to build their indoor tower garden.**

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

ART – 7

1 quarter

Seventh grade art continues the study of art elements and principles begun in sixth grade. Students will work with a variety of media in two-dimensional and three-dimensional forms, adding to the techniques presented in sixth grade. Art and culture unique to the countries of the Eastern Hemisphere will be highlighted whenever possible. The art history component of the class will focus on the European master painters and sculptors.

CAMBIATTA – CONCERT CHOIR 7

full year

This class is open to all students who want to improve their singing voice and musicianship. We will continue working on sight reading music of various styles and genres, while working toward improving our performances. Written and singing tests will be given throughout the year. Class participation and attendance at concerts is mandatory. There will be a winter and spring evening concert.

CONCERT BAND – 7

full year

Concert band is a continuation of techniques learned in Cadet band. Students continue studies in intonation, proper embouchure, breath support techniques and alternate fingerings. Outside school practice, rehearsals and performances are required.

HONORS CHOIR – 7th and 8th GRADES

2 quarters

This advanced choir studies and performs choral literature selected from a variety of musical genres and styles. This course is designed to introduce and develop advanced singing techniques and sight-reading skills. This group will have additional performance opportunities, including MSVMA Solo and Ensemble Festival and performances within the community. Students will be selected through an application and audition process.

JAZZ BAND

full year

Entrance to this class is by audition and/or permission of instructor. Students must also be enrolled in 7th grade band. The class will focus on music performance in the jazz idiom. Attendance at all performances is required.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

SPANISH – INTERMEDIATE

1 quarter

This class is a continuation of the content learned in the Spanish 6th grade course. It is designed to help students expand on their knowledge of the Spanish language and continue developing an interest of learning a foreign language. Students will review vocabulary, greetings and common phrases. Students will also begin to speak and write in complete sentences with an emphasis on basic grammar. The students will incorporate the five skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening, and culture) associated with learning a foreign language. Participation in class is required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 7 SEMESTER 1

2 quarters

Throughout each semester, students will work on personal development and activities that will improve strength, flexibility, endurance and sportsmanship. The ultimate goal of our curriculum is to give students the knowledge, skills and motivation necessary for a lifelong dedication to physical activity and health.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 7 SEMESTER 2

2 quarters

Throughout each semester, students will work on personal development and activities that will improve strength, flexibility, endurance and sportsmanship. The ultimate goal of our curriculum is to give students the knowledge, skills and motivation necessary for a lifelong dedication to physical activity and health.

TECHNOLOGY

BROADCASTING

1 quarter

The Broadcasting class is responsible for the creation and delivery of the daily announcements at Kennedy Middle School. Students will learn to utilize an iPad and the TouchCast app to create television-quality announcements and video shows with a green screen. Students will develop on-screen skills, technological knowledge, scriptwriting skills and positive group dynamics. Throughout the course of the semester, students will be asked to self-evaluate their performance in class and identify areas of excellence and for growth. Other assignments in the Broadcasting class will include evaluating outside new sources, researching possible career paths in the broadcasting field and learning and utilizing appropriate computer skills and vocabulary. **In order to be placed in this class, students must make it one of their top three choices on their selection sheet.**

COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES

1 quarter

Computer Science Discoveries (CS Discoveries) is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving and fun. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS and data. Students will be inspired to build their own websites, apps, games and physical computing devices.

PERSONAL MANAGEMENT – 7

1 quarter

Personal Management 7 will focus on preparing the student for future success through both technological and traditional concepts. Career exploration and basic personal finance will be key components to the class. New educational technologies available in the classroom will also be introduced. With full-time access to a computer lab, students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to take on the challenges of the future.

PHOTOGRAPHY

1 quarter

Photographs play an important role in our world today. We photograph to preserve memories, document events and create artistic works. This class introduces students to the basics of photography, including camera functions, photo composition and digital photo editing. Through a variety of assigned projects, students will engage their creativity by photographing a range of subjects and learning to see the world through the lens of their cameras. Students will also be exposed to the seriousness of just how important it is to be appropriate online, especially when dealing with photographs. Some kind of digital camera is strongly encouraged (phone cameras are ok; digital cameras are preferred).

ROBOTICS

2 quarters

This semester long class is designed to introduce 7th and 8th grade students to the possibilities of STEM and build 21st Century skills. Students will be able design, build and program robots, apply real world math and science concepts, along with developing problem solving, organizational and team building skills. Michigan Middle school students will explore the possibilities of STEM through this semester long, project based robotics course. This course, designed to meet the rigorous requirements of Next Generation Science Engineering Standards and aligned to both the Common Core State Standard and Michigan Computer Science Standards provides middle school students with the skills they need to be career *and* competition ready. Throughout this semester long course, students will explore the engineering design process as they work in class based teams to build, program and operate robots to complete a themed challenge. With courses like this, and innovative thinking, it greatly increases student's motivation to seek education and careers in STEM fields. **Note that this course requires the completion of a capstone project. At the start of the semester, students will choose to either participate in the team's competition and presentation capstone project, that requires attending a Saturday robotics competition with their team, or they may elect to participate in a robotics research presentation capstone project.**

FULL TIME STUDENT

The designation of a full-time student at Kennedy Middle School is one who is registered for 7 periods.

2020/21 COVID Disclaimer

Due to the regulations and requirements stipulated by both the State of Michigan and the LSPS Return to Learn Plan, aspects of the student handbook may be changed, eliminated, or suspended until Michigan enters Phase 6 of the state's reopening plan. Pertinent changes will be sent to families and posted publically.

LSPS Virtual Course Catalog 2021/22

In the event that LSPS is unable to staff virtual course offerings, we will contract with the third party vendors below. Virtual offerings are expanded to address the concerns parents have with the return to school buildings while COVID-19 is a public health concern.

The third party provider for virtual courses at Kennedy Middle School is Michigan Virtual. All courses that are offered in alignment to the LSPS school calendar are available to students. The KMS counselors will work with students and parents to create a schedule.

<https://michiganvirtual.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-2022-Course-Catalog.pdf>

