

**SIMLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTION - SEVENTH GRADE COURSES**

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH 7.....Full Year - Block

This course is an integrated program consisting of library, grammar, composition, literature, and speech. The students develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, studying, and researching.

GLOBAL STUDIES WESTERN HEMISPHERE 7..... Full Year - Block

This course examines the physical and human geography of the seven (7) continents through the five (5) themes of Geography. Emphasis is placed on building an understanding of the other cultures and the relationships between people and places.

LIFE SCIENCE 7..... Full Year - Block

This course covers the scientific method, some of the tools used in the study of science, and laboratory methods. Subjects studied vary from sub-microscopic particles to the biosphere. All four kingdoms (Monera, Protist, Plant, and Animal) are studied. Emphasis is placed on the study of the most complex animal - the human.

MATH 7.....Full Year - Block

The choice for most 7th grade students, Math 7 is aligned to the State Standards for Mathematics. Students extend their understanding of fractions and decimals to solve problems involving all rational numbers, including those with negative signs. Proportions, percent, multi-step equations, surface area and volume are also studied.

MATH 7 ACCELERATED..... Full Year - Block

Students in this course learn at an accelerated pace to study a combination of 7th grade and 8th grade standards in preparation for Algebra I as an 8th grade student. In addition to the 7th grade topics, students study linear functions, exponent rules, similarity, radicals, and the Pythagorean Theorem.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7..... Semester (Extended over the school year)

This course introduces life-time sports and activities. It promotes and encourages a healthy lifestyle by participating in soccer, flag football, jogging, physical fitness, frisbee golf, recreation sports, badminton, circuit training, basketball, volleyball, softball, aerobics, team handball and floor hockey. Physical fitness testing occurs each year.

HEALTH.....Semester (Extended over the school year)

This course is designed for influencing the behavior of the individual and developing the health skills needed to maintain or enhance personal health and the health of others. Topics covered include mental/emotional and physical health, stress, nutrition, human sexuality and substance use/abuse.

COMMUNICATIONS 7.....Semester – 1 Period per Day

Speaking and listening while integrating media to emphasize key points are the focal points of this course. The first quarter students will be emerged in skills that will prepare them to compose a formal speech using facts, details and descriptions. Students will continuously be working on logical sequencing of information while using appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciations. The second quarter students will use group communication skills to market a product using creative ad writing in magazines, billboards, and writing and recording commercials. These second quarter projects will culminate in a group presentation to a panel of judges. Throughout the semester students will be using communications skills to clarify claims and identify reasons for speaking.

ART 7.....Semester – 1 Period per Day *Lab Fee \$14.00*

This course instills in the student an appreciation of Visual Art through a variety of media and techniques. Students are taught color theory, perspective, basic sketching, painting, ceramics, and the Elements and Principles of Art design.

ELECTIVE COURSES

BAND 7.....Full Year

7th grade band gives students the opportunity to further explore the fundamentals of playing their instrument. Emphasis is placed on the full band rehearsal, but there are also sectionals, small ensembles, and individual lessons scheduled regularly within the class period. Students will perform in several concerts, parades, and festivals throughout the year. 7th grade band students may also choose to audition for the Simle Jazz Band, the ND Jr. High All-State Band, and participate in a solo/ensemble festival.

CHOIR 7.....Full Year

This course teaches the basic concepts of proper vocal techniques. They are also introduced to many styles of music history and music theory. Music reading, vocalizing, and harmonizing are stressed.

ORCHESTRA 7..... Full Year

Students will continue discovering more advanced fundamentals of their stringed instrument. Our emphasis is full orchestra rehearsal, but there will also be time for like-instrument sectionals and coaching. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the year, and may choose to audition for a state-wide Middle Level Honors Orchestra, and/or participate in the BPS Elementary and Middle School Solo/Ensemble Festival.

*****The prerequisite to this class is prior string instruction in previous schools or privately*****

21ST CENTURY LEARNING 7..... Semester - 1 Period per Day

The activities in this course are designed to provide students an opportunity to improve their communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and foundational study skills. It is a semester long course offered as an elective to 6th and 7th graders.

CULTURAL ART..... Semester – 1 Period per Day *Lab Fee \$8.00*

This course explores the arts, crafts and cultures of several different ethnic groups. We will create Australian Aboriginal dot paintings and Native American Ledger Drawings and a Winter Count. An in-depth study of Japanese language and culture will include Shibori (paper-dyeing), Sumie (brush and ink painting), Haiku writing and clay teacup building. We will create mandalas (found in several cultures) and Molas, in the style of the Kuna Indians, located near Panama.

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 7Semester – 1 Period per Day

If you enjoy doing hands-on projects in class, this is the class for you! Exploring Agriculture is an introduction to the agriculture industry. We will cover a wide range of agricultural topics, including plant and animal science, production, and processing; agricultural mechanics, including tool and machine operation and repair; business operations and management; and the careers available in the agricultural industry. Weekly lab activities will include building projects, creating simulations, caring for plants, and observing live animals. FFA and Leadership is an integral component of this course

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY 7..... Semester 1 Period per Day *Lab Fee \$20.00*

This course will expand on the 6th Grade Intro to Technology Course introducing the students to Structural Engineering, Rocketry and Space, Woodworking, Problem Solving, 3D Design, Paper Roller Coasters as well as various other hands on activities.

EXPLORING WORLD CULTURESSemester 1 Period per Day

This is a 6th and 7th grade semester course exploring cultures around the world through project based learning and authentic learning experiences.

FACS 7.....Semester -1 Period per Day

Lab Fee/Food /\$15.00 plus student purchases 1 yard of fabric

This elective course exposes students to a broad base of daily living skills. Students will explore child development, babysitting skills, community service, and cooking skills with an emphasis on safety. They will learn basic hand and machine sewing skills and construct simple sewing projects.

LIFETIME FITNESS AND RECREATION..... Semester 1 Period per Day

This class offers exposure of choices for recreational and leisure lifetime activities. The course will identify how to maintain life-long fitness through physical activity. Students will participate in a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational activities, team sports, and lifetime sports.

STEM 7 (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH 8)..... Semester 1 Period per Day

This course will empower students to become innovators in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Student will follow the Engineering Design Process to create projects related to energy, robotics, computer science and more. Sample projects will use Lego Robotics, digital science sensors, and online coding platforms. Students will also explore STEM careers.