

Grade 7 Course Descriptions

English

Student continues to develop oral communication skills and becomes more knowledgeable of the effects of verbal and nonverbal behaviors in oral communication. S/he continues to read a wide variety of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry while becoming more independent and analytical. The student reads independently for at least thirty minutes a night, a variety of fiction and non-fiction, for appreciation and comprehension. The student continues to extend responses to self-selected reading and continues to refine written composition skills, with special attention to word choice, organization, style, and grammar. Written explanations utilize informational writing skills, and persuasive writing is introduced. The student continues vocabulary development through a study of figurative language and continuing study of roots and affixes. The student increases proficiency in the use of print and electronic information resources and learns ways to give credit to reference sources, distinguishing between one's own ideas and the ideas of others. The student also demonstrates correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in writing and speaking. In grade 7, students continue to write narrative, expository (informational), and descriptive texts and continue to use the 6 +1 writing framework. Writing text should be between 500 to 800 words or more. A grade-seven student continues to maintain and add to the writing portfolio that s/he began in grade six.

Extended Studies – English

Extended Studies – English is a course designed to serve students who require additional support in academic literacy. Candidates for the course are identified through teacher referral, MAP and/or WIDA results, writing assessments, and/or report card grades. The semester long course takes the place of an elective and students enroll in Extended Studies in addition to the regular English course. Extended Studies aims to provide students with opportunities to learn and practice skills and strategies necessary for successful reading and writing experiences across the content areas. Extended Studies is

also designed to supplement the English Language Arts standards of reading, writing, and oral language.

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra (Integrated Math 1) reviews or extends concepts and skills learned in previous grades and new content that prepares students for more abstract concepts in algebra and geometry. A pre-algebra student gains proficiency in computation with rational numbers (positive and negative fractions, positive and negative decimals, whole numbers, and integers) and uses proportions to solve a variety of problems. New concepts include solving two-step equations and inequalities, with a focus on the Pythagorean theorem and probability.

Extended Studies – Mathematics

Extended Studies – Mathematics is a course designed to serve students who require additional support in mathematics. Candidates for the course are identified through teacher referral, MAP scores and report card grades. The semester long course takes the place of an elective and students enroll in Extended Studies in addition to the regular Mathematics course. The goal of Extended Studies is to provide students with opportunities to learn and practice skills and strategies necessary to succeed in their regular math classes and apply mathematical skills in areas across the curriculum, particularly science. Extended Studies is also designed to supplement the Mathematics Standards of Number Sense, Solving Expressions & Equations, Geometry, Statistics and Probability.

Science

Students in *Grade Seven Life Science* develop a more complex understanding of change, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world. Students build on basic principles related to these concepts by exploring the cellular organization and the classification of organisms; the dynamic relationships among organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems; and change as a result of the transmission of genetic information from generation to generation. Inquiry skills at this level include organization and

mathematical analysis of data, manipulation of variables in experiments, and identification of sources of experimental error. In Grade Seven Life Science, students demonstrate proficient use of the science equipment and lab in conducting their investigations.

Social Studies

In grade 7, students will study world regions by focusing on the East and exploring Africa, Asia, Australia and Oceania. This larger region will be then further broken down into smaller sections and students will look in depth at the physical geography, cultures, climate, and the economic and political situations of these locations. There will be some detail of history added to prepare the students for Grade 8. Students will work on travel projects where they have to plan an itinerary and all of the details of their trips and then they will create presentations so they can share their virtual adventures with their classmates.

Arabic

Students read and write compositions in Modern Standard Arabic, with a focus on the preliminary study of syntax. Students become more familiar with the more advanced genres of literature as they advance from grade 6 to grade 7 Arabic. Students follow the grade 7 Ministry curriculum for Arabic, religion and social studies.

Arabic as a Foreign Language (AFL)

Beginning AFL: The main emphasis is on Modern Standard Arabic. A student who successfully completes the first year of MSA can expect to possess a working competence in reading and in writing Modern Standard Arabic.

Advanced AFL: This course includes advanced reading and writing as well as lessons in special topics. At the end of the advanced course, students should be able to communicate with ease and clarity with native speakers.

Physical Education and Health

Students in this class demonstrate competence in skillful movement in dynamic game situations and in a variety of recreational activities. They transition from modified versions of movement to more complex applications across all types of physical activities. Students demonstrate the ability to assume responsibility for guiding their own learning as they apply their knowledge and abilities to create a practice plan to improve performance in a selected game, sport, or recreational pursuit. They will also demonstrate mature responsibility as they show respect for others and their safety, make reasoned and appropriate choices, resist negative peer pressure and exhibit fair play. Students are able to set goals, track progress and participate in physical activities to improve fitness. They will develop a repertoire of physical abilities and begin to develop competence in specialized versions of lifetime activities.

Students will explore several Health topics relevant to their age and social maturity. They will develop an awareness of weight management in their personal lives. Students will identify the factors related to their weight and body type. Students will chart their height and weight to establish their Body Mass Index (BMI) each semester and track results and set goals. Dietary habits are discussed to understand the effects food has on their personal health and non-infectious disease. Health issues related to tobacco use are also explored.

Elective Classes

French/ Spanish – Level I

In level I foreign language courses, students begin to develop communicative competence in the target language and expand their understanding of the culture(s) of the people who speak the language. Communicative competence is divided into three strands:

- Speaking and writing as an interactive process in which students learn to communicate with another speaker of the language
- Listening and reading as a receptive process in which students develop comprehension of the target language
- Speaking and writing in a presentational context in which students focus on organization of thoughts and awareness of their audience in delivering information.

In level I classes, students learn to communicate in real-life contexts about topics that are meaningful to them. To develop students' communicative competence, emphasis is placed on use of the target language in the classroom and on use of authentic materials to learn about the culture. Rather than isolating grammar in a separate strand, it is integrated into instruction according to the vocabulary and structures needed in the various situations in which students are required to function. Through the language learning process, students develop a greater understanding of the structure of their own language and the unique aspects of their own culture. An important component of learning a modern foreign language is using the language in the real world beyond the classroom setting. This can be accomplished in a number of ways through integration of technology into the classroom, as technology is an important means of accessing information in the target language and in providing students the opportunity to interact with native speakers of the language.

Band 7

The Music Department provides a performing outlet for highly motivated and dedicated students interested in becoming more involved with both choral and instrumental music. As with 6th Grade Band, Band 7 students will perform in their grade's band. Class activities will include performing, listening to music from many different styles and time periods, music theory, and sight-reading. Performances will occur periodically throughout the school year. Students are expected to practice outside of class. This course requires a fee of 600 LE for the rental of a school instrument, with 200 LE to be refunded upon return of the instrument in good condition. **Students must have previous experience playing a band instrument, either from Grade 6 Music or from playing at a previous school.**

Introduction to Visual Arts Grade 7

In semester 1 we will cover the basics of art. Students will use the elements of art and the principles of design as a framework, and explore a variety of experiences and concepts.

Using expressive and technical approaches, students investigate and create various two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art. Students learn to critique artists' meaning, focusing on their use of forms, media, and symbols. Students develop an increased awareness of the nature of art and of their relationship to it as they explore the meaning and value of works of art as a means of personal and cultural expression.

In semester 2, students will explore basic 2D processes and materials for a variety of 2D art media. They engage in exploration, analysis, and investigation of the creative process. Students develop technical skills that empower them to communicate ideas visually, with the focus on realistic representations of their environment. Students acquire knowledge that permits them to identify art styles and the periods to which those styles belong. They develop inquiry skills and vocabulary as they explore the meaning of works of art, using analysis of subject matter, themes, and symbols. Students develop an increased awareness of the nature of art and of their relationship to it as they explore the meaning and value of works of art.

Grade 7 Art

In the first semester, students will explore basic 3D processes and materials in a variety of 3D media. Both traditional (plaster, ceramics) as well as non-traditional (fabric, found objects, etc.) will be emphasized. Students develop technical skills that empower them to communicate ideas visually, with the focus on developing the ability to analyze form and space relationships. Students will be encouraged to develop concepts, work through ideas, to experiment, embrace risks, and to learn from failures in the design process. Students will emphasize art making as an ongoing process that involves the student in informal and critical decision-making. Originality, effort, and creativity will be emphasized.

In semester 2, students will explore a more advanced approach to 2D processes and materials with a variety of 2D art media. They engage in exploration, analysis, and investigation of the creative process. Students continue to develop technical skills that empower them to communicate ideas visually, with the focus on realistic representations

of their environment. Students acquire knowledge that permits them to identify art styles and the periods to which those styles belong. They develop inquiry skills and vocabulary as they explore

The meaning of works of art, using analysis of subject matter, themes, and symbols are explored. Students develop an increased awareness of the nature of art and of their relationship to it as they explore the meaning and value of works of art.