

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 learn in a Writers Workshop's setting. 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.

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.

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 AFL 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/Fitness

Students in this class demonstrate competence in skillful movement in dynamic game situations and in a variety of sports specific skills and activities. They transition from modified versions of movement to more complex applications across all areas of physical activities. Students demonstrate the ability to assume responsibility for their own learning. They will apply their knowledge and skill-based 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.

Elective Classes

Language

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 1000 LE for the rental of a school instrument, with 300 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.

Grade 7 Art

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 various works.

Students will also 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 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.

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.

7th Grade Choir

7th Grade Choir builds on what was learned in grade 6. All students will sing in the choir. An emphasis will also be put on music theory to aid students in their choral development. Performances will occur periodically throughout the semester. After the completion of this course, students will be able to further their musical understanding in 8th Grade Choir.

Coding

This class offers an introduction to Computer Science with a focus on computer programming. Students will gain an understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science and will learn how to use computer programming as a problem-solving tool. Students will be practicing breaking up large problems into smaller, simpler ones that are easier to solve. As they move on through the year, students will start learning how to use programming as a creative tool and will be able to make animations and simple video games through independent projects.

Creative Writing:

This class integrates the AISE English Department core principles into a rigorous study of the foundations of creative writing and the development of individual voice and polished work. This course will consist of training in the elements of Fiction, Poetry, and Creative Nonfiction. This elective course will give students who are curious and motivated the techniques, skills, and individual guidance necessary to focus on the various genres of English as a refined fine art. The goal of the course is to provide a high level of instruction and experiences that prepare students for further study at the high school, university or professional level.

Design

In this class, students apply practical and creative thinking skills to solve design problems through exploring the role of design in both historical and contemporary contexts. There is a focus on the holistic design process rather than the final product or solution. The design cycle is used as a way to structure inquiring and analyzing design problems, developing and creating feasible solutions, and testing and evaluating students' models, prototypes, products or systems.