

West Hills Middle School

7th Grade Course Descriptions

REQUIRED CLASSES

Connection Class: This course provides an opportunity for students to establish a positive relationship with an adult role model in the school, to engage in silent sustained reading, to participate in character education and to focus on study skills. Teachers provide students with academic support in a mentorship environment. Participation in this class will help to enhance the core curriculum and to create a more positive environment in the school. *This is a full year course.*

College and Career Awareness: CTE is Utah's exploratory Career and Technical Core Curriculum requirement for middle/junior high school. The purpose of this program is to allow students to be involved in activity-centered lessons, which utilize technology, develop beginning skills, and explore careers. *This is a full year course. Students rotate quarterly.*

Digital Literacy: This course is an introduction to computer literacy. Students will have opportunities to use technology and develop skills that encourage creativity, critical thinking, productivity, and collaboration in the classroom and day-to-day life. Skills will be demonstrated by creating a project for a different content area. This course is aligned with national and international standards and the Utah Core to prepare students across multiple levels of skills. Students will complete this course with a prerequisite to move into high school computer literacy courses. *This is a semester (half year) course.*

Fitness 7: This is a physical education course with emphasis on skill development, basic knowledge, and participation in a variety of games, sports, and fitness conditioning. *This is a semester (half year) course.*

Integrated Science 7: Seventh Grade Integrated Science focuses on the theme of "structure." Life, physical, and earth science contents are integrated in a core curriculum. The standards to be taught relate to matter, structure of earth's crust and interior, structure of cells and organisms, reproduction and heredity of organisms, and classification schemes. *This is a full year course.*

Language Arts 7: This course, based on the 7th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for grade level instruction in reading comprehension, writing, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills, and strategies of effective communication. *This is a full year course.*

7th Grade Mathematics: In 7th Grade Mathematics students will focus on developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing an 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. *Every student has the opportunity to earn Honors each quarter.*

Reading 7: This full year course, based on the 7th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for students requiring basic instruction with targeted reading intervention in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reading skills to assist striving readers with literary, informational, and functional texts. *This is a full year course.* ***Students that perform above grade level will have 1.0 additional electives instead of the class.**

Utah Studies 7: Utah is an amazing place, rich in resources, in geographic wonders, in inspiring history, and in the diversity of people. The study of Utah permits students to understand more deeply the place they call home, while developing essential skills unique to the social studies disciplines. Within these standards, Utah Studies offers an opportunity for students to learn about their own families and cultures as well as those of others. The Utah Studies standards are based on four social studies disciplines: history, geography, economics, and civics. Students will explore the complex history of Utah, with examples of creativity, sacrifice, conflict, innovation, inequity, compromise, and

leadership. Students will also learn about Utah's diverse physical geography, encounter Utah's economic systems and dynamics, and explore local and statewide political systems. The range of the Utah Studies standards allows teachers flexibility in designing the course scope and sequence. The course could be organized thematically, with district units of study related to the social studies disciplines of economics, geography, history and political science/civics. *This is a semester (half year) course.*

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Art Foundations 1: Provides an overview of visual arts while studying a broad variety of art tools and materials. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. **There is an additional fee of up to \$15 for this class.** *This is a semester (half year) course.*

Band 1: Woodwinds: This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the flute, oboe, clarinet or saxophone. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. An instrument is required. If available, an oboe or tenor saxophone may be rented at the school for a nominal fee. *This is a full year course.*

Band 1: Percussion: This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the drums, mallet keyboard instruments, and other percussion-related instruments. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. Drum sticks are required. A drum kit or mallets may also be required as per teacher request. *This is a full year course.*

Band 1: Brass: This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the cornet, trumpet, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, trombone, or tuba. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. An instrument is required. If available, a French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee. *This is a full year course.*

Band 2: Concert: *(2 or more years playing the same instrument)*

This is an intermediate level band course that encourages increased technical and expressive musical proficiency through performance and study of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with an **instrument is required.** If available, an oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee. *This is a full year course.*

Creative Writing: This course, based on Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Writing Standards, is designed to introduce students to imaginative composition with the writing of personal experiences, character sketches, short fiction, and poetry. Students will have the opportunity to prepare manuscripts for publication, awards, and scholarships. *This is a semester (half year) class.*

Choir 1: Soprano/Alto High Key: This is a vocal music course open to all students with soprano or alto vocal ranges. Two, three or four-part music is performed at various concerts. Primary consideration is given to part-singing, good vocal production, and rudiments of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and constitute a portion of the grade. **There is an additional fee of up to \$15 for this class.** *This is offered as both a semester class and a full year class.*

Choir 1: Tenor/Bass Low Key: This is a vocal music course open to all students with tenor or bass vocal ranges. Two, three or four-part music is performed at various concerts. Primary consideration is given to part-singing, good vocal production, and rudiments of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and constitute a portion of the grade. **There is an additional fee of up to \$15 for this class.** *This is offered as both a semester class and a full year class.*

Dance 1: This course offers basic dance techniques, fitness fundamentals, movement qualities, and rhythm with an emphasis on creativity, sequencing, and problem solving. **There is an additional fee of up to \$15 for this class.** *This is a semester (half year) class.*

Music Connections: Music Connections is an extension of the K-6 Music Core and includes concepts and skills to integrate music into everyday life. Study will include: exploration in creating experiments with singing/playing/reading music, development of analytical and evaluate skills in music listening, investigations of various purposes of music, and inquiry into music's impact on culture, history, quality of life, and other subject areas. *This is a semester (half year) class.*

Orchestra 1: This class is for students who would like to learn to play a violin, viola, cello, or string bass. No experience necessary. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. Instruments are required. If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee. *This is a full year class.*

Orchestra 2: *(2 or more years playing the same instrument)*

This is an intermediate-level orchestra class focusing on intermediate-level literature for orchestra. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and will constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with an **instrument is required.** If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee. *This is a full year class.*

Spanish 1: This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken. *This is a full year class.*

Study Skills: This course is a course in which students learn and apply social and academic skills and strategies. This class may cover the following areas: Organization, time management, stress management, reading strategies, test taking strategies, study strategies, note taking, academic tracking, team work, communication and goal setting, learning and interest assessments. *This is a semester (half year) class.*

Theatre 1: This is an introductory course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. No previous experience is necessary. The course will include, but not be limited to, improvisation, monologues, characterization, movement, playwriting, and work with voice projection and diction. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading, writing, and cooperative group work. **There is an additional fee of up to \$15 for this class.** *This is a semester (half year) class.*

Musical Theatre: This is a performing arts elective course focusing on musical theatre productions. **There is an additional fee of up to \$15 for this class.** *This is a semester (half year) class.*