

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.

7th/8th Grade Accelerated Mathematics: In this course, students cover 7th and 8th grade Utah State standards. This course allows students to move through math courses at a faster pace than the standard core classes. Students end up one year ahead in mathematics by 9th grade.

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 is 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. *This is a semester course.*

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

Band 2: Percussion: *(1 or more years playing the piano or percussion)* 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. Drum sticks are required. A drum kit or mallets may also be required as per teacher request. **There may be an additional fee for this class.** *This is a full year course.*

Band 2: Concert: *(1 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. **There may be an additional fee for this class.** *This is a full year course.*

Creative Coding: A quality computer science curriculum not only engages students in interesting, collaborative learning activities using sound pedagogical strategies, but it also ensures that students are learning concepts vital to the deep and broad field of computer science. Creative Coding has been designed to achieve this goal by aligning with the CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards. This course is primarily an introductory programming course. Units are grounded in an array of standards from the strands of computational thinking, collaboration, computing practice and programming, computer and communication devices, and community, global and ethical impacts. *This is a semester class.*

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 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 may be an additional fee 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 may be an additional fee 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 may be an additional fee for this class.** *This is a semester class.*

Debate: This course, based on Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Speaking/Listening and Writing Standards, introduces students to debate, analysis, reasoning, delivery skills, organization, writing techniques, and research. The course also provides opportunities for impromptu speaking, original oratory, extemporaneous speaking, Lincoln-Douglas debate, and student congress. *This is a semester class*

Musical Theatre: This is a performing arts elective course focusing on musical theatre productions. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. **There may be an additional fee for this class.** *This is a semester course.*

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: *(1 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. **There may be an additional fee for this class.** *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 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. *This is a semester class.*

Yoga: This class focuses on structural alignment, increase of and flexibility. It will deepen student's awareness of breath and role it has in generating energy and stamina in one's mind and body. The course will also incorporate techniques for stress relief, and enhance one's physical performance by teaching students how to connect breath, organ systems, physiology and anatomy all together. *This is a semester course.*