



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

7th Grade



7th Grade Language Arts

Course Description and Goals

Language Arts is a combined course of reading and writing. In this class the two subjects are closely layered so that reading builds a better writer and one's writing builds a better reader. This course explores learning strategies such as literature circles and Socratic seminars in order to foster a greater understanding of literature, as well as improve reading skills and fluency to comprehension. Students will be familiar with and utilize on a regular basis, the Reading Strategies and the Six Traits of Writing and Step Up to Writing. Language Arts will also expose students to a wide variety of genres and writing styles, in addition to providing ample opportunity to practice the revision process. Lastly, this class will be built on the foundation of quality, spanning from the simplest sentences to complex literary analyses.

Content

The writing process

Grammar and usage

Conventions

Composition and structure

Literal, Interpretive, Evaluative comprehension

Listening, viewing, speaking

Vocabulary

Word analysis

Literary analysis

Open to: Grade 7

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Language Arts

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade



7th Grade Accelerated Math

Course Description and Goals

This course differs from the non-accelerated 7th grade course in that it contains content from 8th grade. While coherence is retained, in that it logically builds from the 6th Grade, the additional content when compared to the non-accelerated course demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. Content is organized into four critical areas or units. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Content: The course follows the Idaho Common Core State Standards Mathematics:

Rational Numbers and Exponents

- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.
- Work with radicals and integer exponents.

Proportionality and Linear Relationships

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.

Creating, Comparing, and Analyzing Geometric Figures

- Draw, construct and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.



7th Grade Accelerated Math continued

Introduction to Sampling Inference

- Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population.
- Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations.
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Open to: Grade 7

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Accelerated Math

Course Length: Year

Required Course: Yes

Grading Policy: Letter Grade



7th Grade Math

Course Description and Goals

7th grade Math is designed to meet the needs of a wide variety of students to increase their math skills for college preparation. In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) 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 (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Content: The course follows the Idaho Common Core State Standards Mathematics:

Ratios and Proportional Relationships (RP)

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

The Number System (NS)

- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.

Expressions and Equations (EE)

- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.

Geometry (G)

- Draw, construct and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.

Statistics and Probability (SP)

- Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population.
- Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations.
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Open to: Grade 7

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Math

Course Length: Year

Required Course: Yes

Grading Policy: Letter Grade



7th Grade Life Science

Course Description and Goals

7th grade Life Science focuses on the interdependence of life, the structure and processes of organisms, and the diversity of life through inheritance and evolutionary mechanisms. The purpose of this course is to expose students to foundational biological concepts, actively participate in the scientific enterprise, and view science as a dynamic body of knowledge. Through using scientific investigative reasoning, students will engage in a variety of meaningful inquiry activities and understand their connection to life science.

Content:

- Ecology
- Cells
- Genetics
- Natural Selection
- Classification
- Bacteria and fungi
- Animals
- Plants

Open to: Grade 7

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Science

Course Length: Year

Required Course: Yes

Grading Policy: Letter Grade



7th Grade Social Studies

Course Description and Goals

In Social Studies class will be studying many different places, events, and cultures in the world. As you know, the world is constantly changing, both in relation to people and in our physical world. The tradition of memorizing the names of countries, capitals, and their locations is still applicable in this class, but countries and land forms are only part of it. We also cover different cultures, beliefs, economics, customs, and history. Traditional map reading and map making are also a fundamental part of this class. The material in the text is used as a basis for class discussion, problem solving, and predicting. It is our hope that by understanding the physical world and the many kinds of people on it, students will not only adjust to the world, but make it a better place for future generations.

Content

Eastern Hemisphere, Europe, Asia, Northern Asia (Russia, etc.), Middle East, and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica

Open to: Grade 7

Prerequisite: 6th Grade World Geography

Course Length: One year

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade



7th Grade Computers

Course Description and Goals

This computers class goal is to get you prepared for high school and the rigors that it entails. Education has become more computers based. If you have a solid foundation in Microsoft Office it will serve you well beyond your high school years. This class will cover areas that are crucial for your success; Typing, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, the internet and Microsoft Excel.

Topics Covered

- Typing skills
- Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel
- File management
- Hot keys
- Computer safety
- Internet skills
- Cloud computing

Required Supplies

Students will come prepared to class everyday with 2 writing utensils (pens and/or pencils) and a spiral notebook for writing and notes. While not required, students may want to bring a USB flash drive to transfer information from one computer to another.



7th Grade Computers continued

Behavior

All I ask of you is to be safe, be responsible, and be respectful. When this happens our class will learn and grow at an exponential rate! Please follow the classroom rules. Failure to do so will result in discipline as outlined in our school's discipline policy.

Open to: Grade 7

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Computers

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade. This class will follow the middle school standards for grading. Formative assessments will be 15% of your grade, while the remaining 85% of the grade will be Summative tests and projects.



Physical Education

Course Description and Goals

At Payette Lakes Middle School we are dedicated to promoting a productive life for all of our students. We also acknowledge that sports can provide unique lessons for when they enter the “real world”. Therefore, we emphasize participation, physical fitness, and sportsmanship in a variety of sports. The Presidential Fitness testing is used as an important record of student fitness progression with one test at the beginning of the year and one at the end. Appropriate participation and attitude is expected at all levels and is paramount in grading students.

This is a co-ed, semester class. To promote the desire of students to be active and lead healthy productive lives, we use and build on their acquired skills and knowledge with challenging yet fun sports and activities. Students are required to wear P.E. clothes and gym shoes. This class has less time on instruction of rules and skills and more on the play, strategies, and overall conditioning.

Objective

It has been proven that people function better both physically and mentally when they are physically fit and have a regular program of physical activity. In middle school P.E. we not only want to develop fitness now, but promote it as a life long habit. Through a combined program of fitness and sports activities, we hope to create positive experiences in a fun way that will help to enrich the lives of our students. We also believe that through sports, students can learn fundamental concepts such as teamwork, good sportsmanship, self-discipline, how to get along with others, and how to follow rules.

Requirements

Uniform - All students are required to dress for P.E. Dress includes weather appropriate clothing. Clothing which is torn or has buttons or zippers should not be worn. We also ask that each student has two pairs of shoes, one to be worn outside and one pair of clean, non-marking shoes for use in the gym. All clothing should have the student’s name on them.



Lockers – All students will be issued a locker and a lock in P.E. It is important that students keep their lockers locked when they are not using them. If they choose to, students may bring their own locks from home, but they must be combination locks and the combination must be given to the teacher before they can be used.

Excuses – Any note from home to excuse a student from P.E. will be honored for 3 days. Each note should include the dates the student is excused for, the nature of the injury or illness, and the parent's signature. Any problem which requires a longer period of time for recovery requires a note from the doctor.

Showers – While showers are recommended, they are not required. Please note that students who wish to shower must supply their own towels.

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite:

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade



7th Grade Social Studies

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