

Parker Middle School

7 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 7

CORE CLASSES

YEAR-LONG CLASSES ALL 7th GRADE STUDENTS MUST TAKE

Algebra-7 - Algebra is traditionally a 9th grade level class. Students qualify for placement into Algebra7 by earning at least a “B+” average in Math6 and/or teacher recommendation. Topics to be covered are: solving simple to complex algebraic equations, graphing, exponential growth and decay, quadratic equations, systems, factoring and functions.

English/Language Arts-7 - The goal of this course is to make students successful readers, writers, speakers and thinkers. Concentration will be in the areas of analyzing literature and reading comprehension. Students will respond personally and critically to diverse text, make judgments, evaluate and draw conclusions.

Writer’s Studio-7 - A semester-long course with curriculum aligned with the State Standards designed to develop college and career ready writers. In this course, students will develop skills to write clearly in a variety of writing forms. Students will focus on opposing claims and citing evidence, using credible sources, establish and maintain a formal style and provide concluding statements. Students will also generate research questions and expand strategic thinking skills to increase their depth of writing knowledge. All 7th graders will take this course and it will be taught by their ELA teacher.

Math-7 - This is the beginning of the transition from arithmetic to mathematics. Topics covered are: negative and positive integers, variables, beginning algebraic equations, scientific notations, metric-to-English conversions and problem-solving.

Science-7 - Instruction will focus on: *The Environment* - the interconnections among living and non-living entities, natural cycles and patterns, wildlife conservation and pollutions; *Chemistry* - physical and chemical changes, classification of matter and the atomic structure; *Electricity* - electric charges, currents, circuits and magnetism; *The Earth* - atmosphere, oceans, freshwater and weather.

Social Studies-7 (Eastern Hemisphere) - The curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding about the Eastern Hemisphere. Emphasis will be placed on physical and cultural geography, ancient civilization, the development of citizenship skills and the appreciation of multicultural nature of world societies. Areas of study will include: Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific World. Students will be required to apply democratic values in their consideration of global issues and broaden their appreciation and respect for cultural diversity.

ENCORE CLASSES:

9-WEEK CLASSES ASSIGNED TO STUDENTS

Aerospace - Introduction to Aerospace is designed using materials developed by aerospace and extension educators from across the country to guide students in exploring aerospace related subjects and practice workforce preparation skills. This course will include hands-on experiential and groups problem-solving activities that reinforce aerospace concepts.

Applied Technology - Applied Technology evolved from the traditional “Shop” class in order to include a wider range of tools and technologies. The goal of Applied Tech is for students to become familiar with technology and provide an introduction to the design process. In addition to woodworking, students will learn about Robotics, Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD), and Mass Communications. All Applied Tech classes will spend time in the Design Lab, a special computer lab used for CADD applications and digital video.

7th graders will build Penny Hockey Rinks.

Art - This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of art materials and methods: drawing, painting, sculpture and ceramics, Art History, Art Critique, Aesthetics and Art Production. During this 9-week course, students will participate in discussion, examination and creation of art. Students will focus on developing creative problem solving skills, visual literacy and personal expression.

Band-7 - This **YEAR LONG** class is a continuation of the concepts taught in Band6. Students will go into more depth in areas such as theory, composition and history. Students will begin to learn how to apply these concepts to their everyday band setting.

7th Grade Band students will be expected to participate in 6 performances throughout the school year, in addition to having the opportunity to perform at 3 festivals, one parade and 4 concerts. **Parents are responsible for renting or purchasing instruments.**

Communication Arts - The curriculum plan has been divided by grade level so that each student, by the end of their middle school years, will have a diverse and complete set of experiences that encompass Communication Arts. This curriculum provides each student with the opportunity to gain knowledge about themselves, develop imagination and intuition, be exposed to their own creative and artistic possibilities, and nurture skills and attitudes that are useful in every aspect of learning.

7th grade - Newspaper/Creative Writing: exploring the newspaper, how to read a newspaper intelligently, parts of the newspaper and creating a classroom newspaper; Advertising/Media Awareness: intended to help students become more aware of the language and techniques used in advertising, the impact of advertising in their daily lives as well as familiarizing students with marketing techniques used in television.

Create-U - Students will understand and apply the benefits of physical activity and how it sparks biological changes in the brain. Students will engage in physical activity for at least twenty to thirty minutes with their target heart rate ranging between 145-185 beats per minute. Research shows this will encourage brain cells to bind to one another, optimizing the ideal situation for learning. These connections must be made for the brain to learn.

Deciphering Science - Have you ever read something in Science and realized you are clueless about what you just read? Students will work in small groups, learning and practicing the thinking skills that readers use to understand what they read in Science. Current research-based reading strategies will be used to help students raise their comprehension. Each quarter the focus of this class will compliment the content of a student’s current Science class.

Energy & Environment - This is a 9-week STEM-based course using curriculum from Project Lead The Way. Students will be working individually in cooperative groups to learn about energy, sustainable energy, the effects on our environment and what we can do.

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Human Growth & Development (Required) - This class allows students to learn about what is happening to their bodies and how to take care of themselves for a lifetime! The course encompasses the social, emotional, intellectual and physical changes which occur during adolescence and puberty. Lessons include: *Communication Skills, Healthy Relationships, Male and Female Reproductive Systems, Pregnancy and Birth of a Baby, Parenting Skills, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases, Abstinence and Refusal Skills*. This class promotes the importance of healthy relationships (parents, siblings, peers, friendships...). Students will identify the short- and long-term benefits of making positive and healthy choices faced during adolescence.

Lights, Camera, Action Screen Education - This challenging filmmaking course is appropriate for students who are motivated to learn about cinema as an important medium for self-expression and as an art form. This course will be demanding, time-consuming and very structured, but immensely rewarding. Filmmaking is a time-sensitive activity that requires each student to work in a cooperative environment and show leadership skills in managing various personalities.

Math Power Hour - Designed to explore Math, using an assortment of exciting and challenging ways, the content of this course will vary from quarter to quarter. Your Math skills will be strengthened through a variety of brainteasers, problem solving challenges, math games, mental math activities and projects. By the end of the course, each student will become a more confident mathematician.

Medical Detectives - Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a 'crime scene'. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

Physical Education - This is a 9-week course that will teach to the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains of learning. The students will be introduced to the five components of physical fitness and will be required to complete the Presidential Fitness Test, as well as a final exam that will include all the team sports and personal social skills covered in the class. The team sports will consist of badminton, Volleyball, basketball and floor hockey. The personal social skills covered will include directions, cooperation, perseverance and fair play. All students will work out of their own EPEC Personal Conditioning Portfolio, which will help them develop the basic understanding of physical fitness and will assess the students' ability to set goals and improve overall skill development as related to physical fitness.

Reading Destinations - Students will exercise skills that support the core classes of Eastern Hemisphere (Social Studies).

Robotics - Students trace the history, development and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build and program a solution to solve an existing problem.

Technology Literacy - Classes work on grade-level appropriate projects that cover a wide range of topics. Skills relating to word processing, database, spreadsheets, internet research and Power Point are developed while working on such projects as business cards, travel brochures, art work and slide presentations. Each student also works on typing competency on a regular basis.

Vocal Music (Choir) - This exciting **FULL YEAR** class is offered to any 7th grader who wishes to participate in a fun, challenging, educational and team building class. 7th Grade Choir members learn more about the voice and the vocal mechanism. Students will also continue learning basic music theory, note reading and performance skills, in addition to the history of African American music. **All students will perform four concerts and participate in District Choral Festival.** Many other opportunities to further the student's ability are available, such as: Solo & Ensemble, State Honors Choir and private voice lessons.

World Language - This class offers students an opportunity to begin communicating in different languages in a formal course before choosing one language for further study. In addition, the class aims to foster a global perspective to countries and cultures where the language is spoken and heightens students' appreciation and respect for cultural diversity. **German and French are offered in 7th grade.**

Write On! - Based on the 6 Traits of the writing process, this academic encore class offers students the opportunity to enhance their self-expression through fun and engaging activities. By the end of the course, students will be more confident and inspired writers. Activities and projects will change quarterly.

EXAMPLE OF A 7th GRADERS MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1st hour	WRITER'S STUDIO		ENCORE	ENCORE
2nd hour	ENCORE	ENCORE	ENCORE	ENCORE
3rd hour	ENCORE	ENCORE	ENCORE	ENCORE
4th hour	CORE CLASS			
5th hour	CORE CLASS			
6th hour	CORE CLASS			
7th hour	CORE CLASS			