



PARKER MIDDLE SCHOOL 7th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED CORE CLASSES

All 7th grade students must take the following classes:

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

7th grade Math

- **Math 7** - The following topics are covered in 7th grade math: negative and positive integers, variables, beginning algebraic equations, scientific notations, metric-to-English conversions and problem solving.
- or-
- **Accelerated Math 7** - This course is for 7th grade students who need a challenge, but are not quite ready for the rigor and demands of a high school level Algebra course. Students qualify for placement into Accelerated Math 7 based on GPA, M-STEP, NWEA scores and placement exam. In this class, students will cover topics from both 7th and 8th grade Pre-Algebra courses including positive and negative integers, expressions, equations, inequalities, radicals and exponents, area and volume of simple and compound figures and probability and statistics.
- or-
- **Algebra** - Algebra is traditionally a 9th grade high school level class. When taken at the middle school level, grades earned will be included in the GPA calculation for middle and high school. Students earning a D- or better will receive high school credit. Students qualify for placement into Algebra based on GPA, M-STEP, NWEA and a placement exam. Topics covered include the following: solving simple to complex algebraic equations, graphing, exponential growth and decay, quadratic equations, factoring, and functions. Prerequisite: cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above

Science 7 - This course covers the following: chemical reactions, types of energy and energy transfer, sound waves, human body, cells, and astronomy.

Social Studies 7 - 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 will broaden their appreciation and respect for cultural diversity.

ELECTIVE CLASSES

7th grade students may elect to take a year-long Band or Vocal Music class.
TIES is a 1 semester class.

Band 7 - This YEAR-LONG class is a continuation of the concepts taught in Band 6. 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 the everyday band setting. 7th grade Band students will be required to attend four or five performances throughout the year.

TIES Peer to Peer Support 7 - TIES (Teaching, Interacting, Encouraging Students) is a peer to peer support course that provides students an opportunity to support and model academic and social skills from one non-disabled peer to a peer with a disability. The TIES student is trained as a peer mentor who will accompany a student with special needs to one of his/her general or special education classes. There is a focus on leadership skills, understanding and adapting to individual differences in the school setting, and written and verbal communication skills, modeling social experiences, and advocating for others. The curriculum includes evaluations based upon class participation, online assignments and journals, attendance and a final project. Students are eligible to participate through teacher recommendation. This is a graded class. This class may be taken more than once with program director approval.

Vocal Music (Choir) 7 - This YEAR-LONG class is offered to any 7th grader, including students without prior choir experience. Seventh grade choir explores the voice and beginning vocal technique. Basic music theory and note reading will be taught and mastered by all students at the completion of the school year. All students will explore different genres of music and music history. Students will also be studying the history of African American music. All students will perform four concerts and participate in District Choral Festival. The opportunity for participation in the State Honors Choir and group voice lessons is also available.

ENCORE CLASSES

Encore classes: 9 week classes that are assigned to students.

****Please note: The following list of classes represents a comprehensive list of encore classes offered at Parker Middle School; however, not all classes are available each year. Course availability may vary based on scheduling and academic considerations.**

Aerospace 7 - This class concentrates on the 'pre-modern' era of flight including pre-motorized flight. Students will complete three separate studies/labs (hot air balloons, parachutes and gliders). Students will evaluate their results and write their response in essay form. There will be three essays per quarter. The final project will be creating a model that can be 'sold' to the general public (shark tank). An oral presentation is included.

Applied Technology 7 - This course focuses on using hands on and computer technology to solve problems and create new and innovative digital products. Students are invited on the journey of a modern day content creator on the adventure of creating mixed media projects that align with student interest and personal goals.

Art 7 - This course is designed to further students' understanding and skill with a variety of art materials and methods which include drawing, painting, sculpture and ceramics. Students will also explore art history, art criticism and art production. During this 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.

Careers, Money, and More 7 - This course is designed to get students thinking and planning for their future! This class is designed to give students exposure to many of the big decisions that lay ahead of them as they head into adulthood. This course covers a range of topics: *financial planning* (monthly budgets, compound interest, saving for college and retirement too!), *basic economic principles* (supply & demand, inflation and stock market trends), *planning for career paths* (schooling/training involved, making wise decisions on student loans and job satisfaction), and other *tips and tricks* for navigating one's future!

Communication Arts 7 - This course provides each student with the opportunity to gain knowledge about themselves, develop imagination and intuition and be exposed to their own creative and artistic possibilities, and nurture skills and attitudes that are useful in every aspect of learning.

Customs, Cultures, and Cuisines 7 - This class allows students the opportunity to explore the customs, cultures, cuisines and geography of regional and worldly places. Topics may include food influences, US food regions and geography. In addition, students will learn about several other countries and their unique cultures. This is a project driven class that may include presentations, posters, computer-based assignments, etc. Students may be required to provide two food samples from home to share with the class. Each sample must be from a teacher-approved recipe.

Deciphering Science 7 - 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 and will complement the content of a student's current science class.

Design and Modeling 7 - In this STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) class students will begin to recognize the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture their ideas. Students will use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on their lives. In addition, students will use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions.

Energy and the Environment 7 - This STEM-based course is designed around Project Lead The Way. Students will work individually and in cooperative groups to learn about energy, sustainable energy, the effects on the environment and how they can support a healthy planet. Students will review real world data and problems to work towards solutions.

German 7 - In this class, students will be introduced to basic German. Skills covered include vocabulary, conversation, grammar, and useful expressions. Students will also learn about a variety of aspects of German culture.

Human Growth & Development 7 (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 the following: *communication skills, healthy relationships, male and female reproductive systems, pregnancy and childbirth, parenting skills, sexually transmitted infections and diseases, abstinence and refusal skills*. This class promotes the importance of healthy relationships. ***This is a state mandated class and all students will take the class unless a parent notifies their child's counselor and signs a Howell Public Schools Opt Out form.***

Japanese 7 - In this class, students will be introduced to basic Japanese. Skills covered include vocabulary, conversation, grammar, and an introduction to the Japanese writing systems. Students will also learn about a variety of aspects of Japanese culture.

Lights, Camera, Action 7 - This course focuses on creating digital products that involve innovation, creation and technological integration. This class is primarily project oriented with a portion designated for lecture and discussion to help students learn basic broadcasting and filmmaking. This class covers film production, digital communication, care and use of camera gear, cross platform technology use, integrated use of Google Apps with our video editing software and computer science.

Medical Detectives 7- This STEM based course uses curriculum from Project Lead the Way. Students will discover how health care professionals act as medical detectives in identifying, treating, and preventing injury and illness in their patients. Students will learn about human body systems and investigate and collect vital signs such as heart rate, blood pressure, and temperature. Patient medical histories are examined and students will investigate how these histories guide medical detectives to the correct diagnosis and treatment of a particular illness. Students will research pathogens involved in foodborne illness and act as medical detectives in diagnosing and proposing a treatment plan for a patient with a mystery illness. Students will complete a sheep brain dissection and compare the sheep brain to a human brain.

Music Appreciation 7- This encore uses web based tools to create, craft, and share digital music tracks. We examine the different genres of music and how they are created and recorded using acoustic and virtual instruments. Students will learn about what a digital audio workstation (DAW) is and arrange their own songs using one. Next, students will examine the basics of playing, tuning, and recording an acoustic guitar. Other topics include effects processing, track mixing, song mastering, digital music marketing, distribution and playlist creation.

Physical Education 7 - Students will be introduced to the five components of physical fitness and will be required to complete the Presidential Fitness Tests, as well as a final exam that will include all the team sports and personal social skills covered in the class. Team sports may consist of badminton, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey and others. The personal social skills covered will include following directions, cooperation, perseverance and fair play. Students will develop a basic understanding of their own physical fitness and will assess their abilities by setting fitness goals and reflecting on them in their goal and reflection sheets after fitness testing. Students will improve overall skill development as related to basic sports skills..

Program Success 7- Program Success will focus on helping students to be more successful in areas including, but not limited to, planner skills, study skill techniques, test taking strategies, organizational skills, classroom skills, note taking, time management, self-awareness, decision making, learning styles and the value of receiving a quality education for the attainment of future goals and aspirations.

Spanish 7 - Seventh grade Spanish is an exploratory course designed to introduce students to some of the basics of elementary Spanish. Students will learn useful expressions, vocabulary, and grammar that will be further developed if they choose to take 8th grade Spanish I. Cultural themes will also be explored.

Technology Literacy 7 - Students will learn about the skills related to word processing, database, spreadsheets, internet research and PowerPoint. Projects may include business cards, travel brochures, artwork and slide presentations. Each student also works on typing competency on a regular basis.

Writer's Studio 7 - In this course, students will develop grade level writing skills to write clearly in a variety of writing forms. Students will focus on opposing claims and citing evidence, using credible sources, establishing and maintaining a formal style and providing concluding statements. Students will also generate research questions and expand strategic thinking skills to increase their depth of writing knowledge.

SUPPORT CLASSES

Support classes are assigned to students based on NWEA scores and academic need.

Create-U 7 - This class offers extra reading support in the area of informational texts. Additionally, it combines exercise and instruction. Create-U focuses on reading strategies, vocabulary, and comprehension through non-fiction texts in a small class setting. Students will identify their strengths and weaknesses while reading informational texts and set goals to improve on their areas of weakness. It is a pass/fail class based greatly on effort and participation. Create U is designed to help students attain grade level reading skills.

Math Extensions 7 - Math Extension provides math support for students. Math extension is not an assigned encore class. Rather, qualified students are given a specified time during a portion of an encore class to receive this additional math support.

Math Power Hour (MPH) 7 - This class offers extra math support. MPH 7 is designed to help students reach grade level math skills. Math Power Hour is a combination of re-teaching, practice, and enrichment. It gives the student more time to reinforce and learn math skills in a smaller class setting. It is a pass/fail class based greatly on effort and participation.

Reading Destinations 7- Reading Destinations is a semester long class that focuses on improving students' reading comprehension skills. In this class, we will learn and apply different reading strategies in order to build students' reader toolboxes. This class involves class participation, group work/collaborative learning, projects, classwork, homework, and assessments. The two goals of this class are to give students reading strategies that they can utilize throughout their educational journey as well as build their confidence as readers.