



WMS 7th Grade Course Descriptions 2019-20

Waconia Middle School's 7th grade students experience a six period school day. Three of the periods are dedicated to CORE classes in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies (Science and Social Studies are each one semester). The other three periods of the day are dedicated to three ENCORE classes that may include Vocal Music, Band, Prescribed Learning Period (PLP), Physical Education/Health, French or Spanish, and Exploratory courses. Required exploratory courses include Family and Consumer Science, Industrial Technology, Art, and Computers.

❖ Core Academic Classes

MATH 7: Topics covered in 7th grade include integers, rational numbers, ratios and proportions, and their applications. Students will use coordinate graphing to explore algebra and geometry concepts. Probability and data analysis are also part of the curriculum.

Students entering seventh grade do not have an elective option for math courses at Waconia Middle School. Students are identified and placed in Intermediate Algebra A/B, Pre-Algebra 7 or Math 7 based on composite and growth scores on standardized assessments. Scores are reviewed annually to ensure the pace of learning is meeting the needs of all students. Each year some students are added and removed from Accelerated Math sections. Notification of accelerated placement is sent to students and families by mail in June.

ENRICHED LANGUAGE ARTS & LITERATURE 7: This is a self-selected course that covers the same curriculum and standards of Language Arts & Literature 7 (listed below). The curriculum will offer a higher level rigor and deeper exploration of texts. Students who register for this course are expected to read at a higher lexile level, score in the upper percentiles of standardized tests (consistently meet or exceed requirements), and write at a more sophisticated level than their grade level peers. Class discussions and assignments will be more independent, student-driven, and invite students to think on a more challenging level. This is a year-long commitment, so please consider your choice carefully. Registrations will be reviewed by 6th grade staff to ensure proper placement. Curriculum, course content and learning activities are aligned with MN State Standards.

LANGUAGE ARTS & LITERATURE 7: This course will challenge students to engage in literary texts, analyze what they read, and make connections to their lives and the world around them. It will cover the standards of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. Students will study the characteristics of each literary genre (fiction, drama, poetry, and nonfiction) through both reading and writing. The curriculum includes young adult and classic works, and students are required to independently read from a wide array of genres. Particular emphasis will be placed on active reading skills as well as analyzing the structures and terminology of fiction and nonfiction texts. In addition, vocabulary instruction will develop student awareness of prefixes,

roots, and suffixes and will determine meaning through inference and context clues. The focus of writing for the year will be on text analysis. Curriculum, course content and learning activities are aligned with MN State Standards.

US HISTORY 7: All students in seventh grade will be scheduled for one semester of U.S. History. This course is an overview of American History: Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction, Industrial Revolution, Immigration and Reform Movements, Imperialism & World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement. By investigating the political, social, and economic elements of U.S. history, seventh graders will begin to draw connections between the past and present. Curriculum, course content and learning activities are aligned with MN State Standards.

LIFE SCIENCE 7: All students in 7th grade will learn about Life Science for one semester. Students will review the scientific method and apply it to different life science contexts throughout the semester. Students will learn how living things function and interact through different units of study, including Characteristics of Life, Cells, Genetics, Disease, Human Body Systems, Natural Selection, and Ecology. Students will get a chance to learn through a variety of methods, including hands-on lab activities, the integration of technology, small projects, and in-class discussion. This course is aligned with the 7th grade Minnesota State Science Standards.

❖ **Music and Prescribed Learning Period (PLP) Encore Block**

BAND 7: Band is a yearlong course meeting on alternating days throughout the school year. It offers members the opportunity for continued musical growth and sequential skill development in both a large and a small ensemble playing experiences. Students will perform and play exciting music of various styles and genres. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in band class as well as small group lessons that meet on a rotating cycle. Students will perform 3-4 concerts throughout the school year including performance opportunities outside of Waconia. Students participating in seventh grade band also have the opportunity to be involved in jazz band, percussion ensemble, pep band, honor bands, solo and ensemble festivals, and other musical opportunities both in and outside of Waconia. 7th grade band is a continuation of 6th grade band - students wanting to join in 7th grade band as a new player are welcome and should contact a band director to get started!

CHOIR 7: Choir meets on alternating days throughout the school year. This year-long commitment will provide opportunities for growth in the students' singing strength and music reading skills. Choir is a wonderful place to sing in a group in an energetic setting! If students would like to prepare themselves for solo work or large group singing in the future, or they just enjoy music, then this class is for them. Choir students will sing in three local school performances including one performance with the high school choirs at the end of the year. In class, we provide other opportunities for students to perform such as performing their favorite songs in class on "performance days" and critique singers on shows like "The Voice" or "America's Got Talent," Ultimate Karaoke, etc. Additional opportunities include auditioning for concert solos, MN State Level Honor Choirs, and be in Waconia Show Choirs after school! Choir is a place to grow musically, express yourself, and take advantage of our nationally known music programs in Waconia!

DAILY or ALTERNATING PRESCRIBED LEARNING PERIOD (PLP) 7:

Students electing band or choir will have one alternating day PLP class opposite their band or choir class. Students that do not elect a band or choir class will have either one daily PLP class or both an A day and B day PLP class. Students that elect both band and choir will not have a PLP class.

General PLP Classes

- General PLP topics and teachers may change each quarter or semester and are designed to provide students with learning activities that provide academic enrichment. Topics of the General PLP classes vary by teacher and are planned extension activities in a variety of curricular areas. General PLP is not a study hall to complete homework from other courses and students will not be assigned homework in PLP. General PLP classes are graded as Pass or Fail based on classroom citizenship and active participation.

Targeted PLP Classes

- Students that require Special Education or English Language Learner services according to their individualized education plan may be scheduled for a specialized PLP class with a licensed special education or english language learner teacher. Individualized PLP classes are graded as Pass or Fail based on classroom citizenship and active participation.
- Students identified by standardized test scores and/or teacher recommendation as needing additional reading or math support will be scheduled into Skills PLP classes to receive additional basic skills support in math and/or reading. Skills PLP classes are graded as Pass or Fail based on classroom citizenship and active participation.
- Students identified as gifted and talented (GT), according to ISD 110 identification standards, will be placed in a GT PLP to receive GT services with GT trained staff. GT PLP is graded as Pass or Fail based on classroom citizenship and active participation.

❖ Physical Education/Health and World Language Encore Block

DAILY PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 7: Three quarters of daily PE and one quarter of daily Health is the required set of classes for students that do not elect to take Spanish or French language classes.

Physical education provides students with an opportunity for physical activity during the school day. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, lifetime games, swimming, ice arena and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports. Fitness testing is done twice a year to guide physical conditioning activities. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, friendly competition and the development of problem solving skills.

Health 7 includes the topics of health and wellness, tobacco, alcohol and drugs, first aid, reproductive systems and relationships. The health and wellness unit is an introduction to physical, mental/emotional and social health and goal setting. In the tobacco, alcohol and drug unit we focus on the effects of drugs mentally, physically and socially by researching into a variety of stimulants, depressants, narcotics and hallucinogens. In the first aid unit we demonstrate and practice CPR, AED, Heimlich maneuver, injury prevention and treatment. The reproductive and relationship unit we cover the male and female reproductive systems,

STD/STI's, HIV/AIDS, communication, flirting, harassment and how relationships affect your mental/emotional, physical and social health.

ALTERNATING PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 7: One quarter of daily PE and one quarter of daily Health is a requirement for students electing to take Spanish 7 or French 7. These classes will alternate each quarter with either French or Spanish.

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FRENCH 7: French 7 introduces students to the French language and culture. The goal of class is to have real and immediate communication in French. Students will develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. This class will address the five national language standards: communication, connections, culture, comparisons, and community. This course is taught using a combination of Comprehensible Input (CI) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS), which will be used daily. Seventh grade French will meet two quarters during the school year. Classes will be scheduled in one of two combinations-- quarters one and three or quarters two and four. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to continue eighth grade French. When taken together, French 7 and French 8 are the equivalent to French 1 at Waconia High School.

SPANISH 7: Spanish 7 introduces students to the Spanish language and Latino culture. The goal of class is to have real and immediate communication in Spanish. Students develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. This class will address the five national language standards: communication, connections, culture, comparisons and community. This course is taught using a combination of Comprehensible Input (CI) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS), which will be used daily. Seventh grade Spanish will meet two quarters during the year. Classes will be scheduled in one of two combinations-- quarters one and three or quarters two and four. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to continue eighth grade Spanish. When taken together, Spanish 7 and Spanish 8 are equivalent to Spanish 1 at Waconia High School.

❖ Exploratory Encore Block

FAMILY and CONSUMER SCIENCE 7: This year's course will be a foods and nutrition course. We will learn the basics of safety and sanitation, recipes, measuring and math in the kitchen. We will have five to six foods labs, look more closely at "My Plate", and discover how to make better nutritional choices. We will also explore activity and wellness and how it plays a part in leading a healthy lifestyle.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY 7: The seventh grade Industrial Technology 'program is a basic exploration of technology concepts and processes in robotics. The students will be involved in hands-on activities assembling mechanical mechanisms and programming basic robotic functions. Throughout this process students will be developing problem solving, collaboration, and critical thinking skills. This course is part of a nationally recognized engineering STEM curriculum developed by Project Lead The Way (PLTW) www.pltw.org.

ART 7: 7th Grade Art is a reintroduction to Art at a Middle School level. Students will be reintroduced to materials they have worked with in earlier years and be able to discover and explore creativity as an older Artist. Goals for students are set on developing and building on skills and finding a comfort in developing their own style when working with various medias and materials.

COMPUTER 7: This one quarter class is designed for students to improve their keyboarding technique and master the skill of touch-typing using proper finger placement focusing on the alphabetic keyboard. The class will also give students a basic understanding of creating word processing documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and drawings using the software suite Google Drive.

Waconia Middle School Course Election Worksheet

2019-20 7th Grade Classes

Student Name (First and Last): _____

Homeroom Teacher or Previous School: _____

*Elected courses are a commitment for the school year. Please read through the course descriptions carefully to assist you in making your course election decisions.

*COURSES REQUIRING ELECTION

Music and PLP Encore Block

CIRCLE ONE OPTION BELOW

1. Band 7 and PLP
2. Choir 7 and PLP
3. Band 7 and Choir 7
4. PLP only

PE/Health and World Language Encore Block CIRCLE ONE OPTION BELOW

1. Spanish 7 and PE/Health
2. French 7 and PE/Health
3. PE/Health only

Core Language Arts and Literature

CIRCLE ONE OPTION BELOW

1. Language Arts/Literature 7
2. Enriched Language Arts/Literature 7

*REQUIRED COURSES

Core Math

(Placement based on identification criteria)

- Math 7- Placed
Pre-Algebra 7- Placed
Intermediate Algebra A/B- Placed

Core Social Studies

(Semester length class)

- US History 7- Required

Core Science

(Semester length class)

- Life Science 7- Required

Exploratory Encore Block

(One each quarter)

- FACS 7- Required
Art 7- Required
Industrial Technology 7- Required
Computer 7- Required

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return to Homeroom Teacher by Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019

Scheduling Questions?

Counselors Mrs. Deren (sderen@isd110.org) or Mrs. Henslin (phenslin@isd110.org)

Principal Mr. Clausen (sclausen@isd110.org) or Assistant Principal Mr. Baune (kbaune@isd110.org)

