



WMS 7th Grade Course Descriptions 2023-24

7th-grade students start the day with a Connect advisory course followed by six 54-minute periods. Four periods are dedicated to daily CORE classes in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Two periods of the day are dedicated to encore classes that are exploratory and/or career and technology courses. A music class is required and can include Choir, Band, General Music, or both Choir and Band. Required ENCORE courses in 7th grade include Physical Education/Health 7, Family and Consumer Science 7, and Industrial Technology Woodworking Explorations 7. Elective ENCORE options include Art-Visual Arts 7, Project Lead the Way/STEM Automation and Robotics 7, Theater Arts 7, and Team Sports PE 7. The administration will attempt to meet all preferred electives but cannot guarantee placements as they will be dependent on class availability.

Connect Advisory

CONNECT 7: Connect is a 25-minute, daily advisory period for students to “Connect” with their dedicated advisor, themselves, peers, and the community. Instructional content and activities will include social/emotional learning, digital citizenship, community service, and executive functioning practice. Advisors will also help to monitor academic progress and goal setting.

Core Academic Classes

MATH 7: Topics covered in 7th grade include integers, rational numbers, solving equations, 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 of 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. The 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, 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 writing focus for the year will be narrative, informative, and argumentative. The curriculum, course content, and learning activities are aligned with MN State Standards.

US HISTORY 7: All 7th-grade students will have one year of U.S. History. Topics of study include - the Colonies, Revolutionary War, U.S. Constitution, Westward Expansion, Slavery, Civil War, Industrial Revolution, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Digital Age. Students will learn to think critically as they participate in lively discussions, thought-provoking debates, in-depth primary/secondary source analyses, and engaging research-based projects. By investigating the political, social, and economic elements of history from a variety of different perspectives, students will begin to draw connections between the past and present. The curriculum, course content, and learning activities are aligned with MN State Social Studies Standards.

LIFE SCIENCE 7: All 7th-grade students will learn about Life Science this year. Through a three-dimensional lens and phenomenon-based instruction, students will learn about how living things function and interact through many different units of study. Students will get a chance to learn through a variety of methods, including hands-on lab activities, small projects, and in-class discussions. This course is aligned with the 7th-grade Minnesota State Science Standards.

Music *(All WMS students are required to have a music class.)*

BAND 7: Band is a yearlong course meeting on alternating days throughout the school year. Band offers students the opportunity for continued musical growth and sequential skill development in both large and 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 field trips. Students participating in 7th-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. 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 yearlong 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 during the school year. In class, we provide other opportunities for students to perform such as performing their favorite songs in class on “performance days” and critiquing singers on shows like “The Voice” or “America’s Got Talent,” Ultimate Karaoke, etc. You could also audition for our Waconia show choirs, concert solos, and/or MN State Level Honor Choirs. Choir is a place to grow musically, express yourself, and take advantage of our nationally known music programs in Waconia!

GENERAL MUSIC 7: General Music class meets on alternating days for 1 trimester. This course gives students a general overview of many different areas of music. Units may include pitch and rhythm basics, keyboards, ukulele, bucket drumming, and composer studies. Students are graded on accurate practicing, performing individual and group projects, presentations, in-class assignments, quizzes, and tests.

Physical Education/Health

ALTERNATING PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 7: A combined PE and Health course is a requirement for students and will most often be opposite a student’s music election.

Students taking the general music course can elect to take an additional trimester of PE. PE and Health courses are in the process of adjustment for the 2023-24 school year.

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, 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 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. In 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.

Unique Learners Courses

SPECIAL EDUCATION/ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS: Students that require Special Education or English Language Learner services according to their Individualized Education Plan will be scheduled for a specialized class with a licensed special education or English language learner teacher most often in the place of PE and/or Music courses.

MATH AND READING SKILLS: Students identified by standardized test scores and/or teacher recommendation as needing additional reading or math support will be scheduled into remedial

skills classes to receive additional basic skills support in math and/or reading. These trimester-length courses are added most often in the place of PE and/or Music courses.

GIFTED AND TALENTED/HIGH-LEVEL LEARNERS: Students identified as high-level learners and/or gifted and talented (GT), according to ISD 110 identification standards, will have the option to be placed in a trimester-length High-Level Learners course. This course would be in place of an elective course.

Required Encore Courses

FAMILY and CONSUMER SCIENCE 7: Students will be exploring three different topics in Family and Consumer Sciences. The units are Clothing Care and Hand Sewing, Child Care and Babysitting, and Cooking Basics and Nutrition. Through these three units, students will learn skills to help them in their futures, explore different career options, and learn about classes available at the high school level. The major projects for this course are sewing an earbud case, making a babysitting handbook, and cooking different recipes!

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY WOODWORKING EXPLORATIONS 7: The 7th grade Industrial Technology program is a beginning level of the exploration of woodworking technology and processes. The students' main focus will be on safety practices in the Woodworking lab. Students will be learning and applying information and skills learned in this class with previously learned skills from Math, Language Arts, and Science classes. Every student will have the opportunity to plan and build a few small woodworking projects. Throughout this process, students will be developing and using 21st-century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving.

Elective Encore Courses

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY/STEM AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS 7: Students will learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, and machine automation using computer programming concepts. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design a variety of complex mechanisms for a Survival Challenge using the engineering design process and create computer programs to automate robotic cars and robotic arms. By the end of the quarter, students will be able to build and automate mechanisms using a block programming language for a wide range of real-world tasks. This course is part of a nationally recognized engineering STEM curriculum developed by Project Lead The Way (PLTW) www.pltw.org.

ART- VISUAL ARTS 7: 7th grade Visual Arts is an elective course that will meet daily for a trimester. In this course, students will be exposed to different styles of art such as painting, drawing, ceramics, and printmaking. They will be challenged to discover and explore using their creativity in new ways. Goals for students are set on developing and building on their creative problem-solving skills, finding comfort in their style when working with various mediums and materials, and creating unique works of art. The process will be a combination of foundational knowledge and skills and the ability to work in four processes: Creating, Responding, Performing/Presenting, and Connecting. This course is aligned with the 7th-grade Minnesota Art Standards.

THEATER ARTS 7: Students will be introduced to the elements of theater and the collaborative team of artists that make a dramatic production a success. They will explore the technical aspects of theater design and production. Students will learn about theater history and the variety of theater genres. Goals for students are set on understanding elements of theater, performance techniques, and technical production skills. This is a new offering for 2023-24.

TEAM SPORTS PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7: This PE elective provides students with a trimester of Physical Education in addition to the required PE/Health course described above. Students choosing General Music will most often be scheduled into this additional PE course. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a program consisting of skill development, lead-up games, team sports, lifetime games, ice arena, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, friendly competition, and the development of problem-solving skills. This is a new course for 2023-24.

Waconia Middle School Course Election Worksheet 2023-24 7th Grade Classes

Student Name (First and Last): _____

Current Connect 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 selection decisions.

Music Electives (1 required)

CIRCLE ONE OPTION BELOW

1. Band 7
2. Choir 7
3. Band 7 and Choir 7
4. General Music 7

Exploratory Electives (Rank 1-4)

Rank the 4 classes below with a 1, 2, 3, or 4. #1 is your first choice and #4 is your last choice. Each course must have a number.

_____ **PLTW/STEM Robotics 7**

_____ **Art- Visual Arts 7**

_____ **Theater Arts 7**

_____ **Team Sports PE 7**

English Language Arts

CIRCLE ONE OPTION BELOW

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

REQUIRED COURSES

Core Math (Full Year)

Math 7

(Placement based on
identification criteria)

Pre-Algebra 7- Placed

Intermediate Algebra A/B- Placed

Core Social Studies (Full Year)

US History 7- Required

Core Science (Full Year)

Life Science 7- Required

Exploratory Courses

FACS 7- Required

(1 Trimester each)

Industrial Technology 7- Required

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Scheduling Questions Contact: Counselors Mrs. Deren (sderen@isd110.org) or Ms. Galindo (pgalindo@isd110.org) or Principal Mr. Clausen (sclausen@isd110.org) or Asst. Principal Mr. Andrews (iandrews@isd110.org)

Return this page only to your CONNECT teacher by **Wednesday, April 26, 2023.**