

7th Grade Course Descriptions 2012-2013

Remember: A parent needs to sign the elective choice form, and if one is not turned in, your electives will be chosen for you.

7th Grade Core Courses

LANGUAGE ARTS 7: Emphasizes the four areas of language arts: writing, reading, speaking and listening. In writing, the primary skill areas are simple sentences, developing paragraphs, identifying and understanding parts of speech, basic punctuation, and usage. In reading, literary analysis introduces types of literature and encourages appreciation, comprehension, and vocabulary development. Speaking consists of effective oral communications. Listening skills are developed as a vital part of all learning. A multicultural perspective is included in this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7: This course provides a survey of world physical and political geography. It introduces students to various cultures and focuses attention upon people and their relationship to their environment. Nine to twelve weeks will be devoted to Alaska's history and geography.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE 7: This is an integrated thematic program that teaches science as an interdisciplinary study of nature in which common principles operate in relationship to one another. Students explore areas of life science, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology. Emphasis is placed on scientific thought and reasoning as well as laboratory experiences.

MATH COURSES:

Math 7: A thorough review of basic skills in whole numbers, decimals, and fractions will be presented early in the year. The concepts of proportion, percent, basic geometry and introduction to variable operations will follow. This course is designed for students that have average basic math skills.

Pre-Algebra: An advanced course for students having attained proficiency in the basic skills at the elementary levels, and who have the motivation to excel in a course having a more demanding pace and more difficult concepts. A short review of basic skills will be followed by work with geometry, integers, rational numbers and variable concepts.

Algebra: This course reviews and extends the use and understanding of the fundamental operation on real numbers as well as expressing quantitative statistics in the language of algebra and solving equations and inequalities. The second semester covers factoring polynomials, the use of rational expressions in equations, coordinate graphing, irrational numbers and the solution of simple quadratic equations. Prerequisite for this class is the successful completion of pre-algebra or through testing.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: This course includes activities which encourage life-long skills. Units include soccer, basketball, volleyball, tumbling, strength training, table tennis, dance, orienteering, and aerobic fitness. Physical education classes also study basic sports physiology, anatomy, training programs, sports nutrition, and lifetime fitness. These are areas not covered in any other area of the 7th grade curriculum. PE is an "academics in action" program that confers upon students the

knowledge and skills to remain fit using the principles of modern sports

***Special Classes:** There are specialized courses available to those students who qualify for Special Ed. or Gifted Ed. services. You will be automatically registered for these courses if you are currently in one of these programs. Your course number will have a letter "G" after it if you have been placed in a gifted section.

Core Electives (Year Long)

Band Intermediate: For students with one or two years experience in elementary school. This class helps students to continue to improve basic skills of tone production, posture, music notation reading, intonation, and ensemble playing. Two public performances will be given. Home practice is required.

Chamber Choir: Chamber Choir is designed for students who have considerable singing experience. A challenging class - this ensemble will be expected to perform multiple concerts throughout the school year which may involve several performances community wide. Open to audition for boys and girls, the Concert Choir is designed for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. Depending on current membership, the choir may also be made up of only the higher voices. Advanced Choir members will also be performing all songs prepared in the Intermediate Choir. Students wishing to join must audition and receive the instructor's signature.

Choir Intermediate: This class is designed for students who wish to explore the art of singing or continue membership in a vocal performance ensemble. Emphasis will be the basics of proper singing technique: posture, breathing, pronunciation, quality tone production, and projection. Basic music theory and history will be introduced as well as song in multiple languages. Two major performances will be presented in this yearlong course. Students may participate in solo/ensemble with permission of instructor.

Orchestra Intermediate: This class is for those students who have had one or more years of experience but are not yet ready for the more advanced orchestra. Primary focus is on developing better tone production, good intonation, rhythmic accuracy, whole note reading, refinement of muscular coordination, and development of good practice habits. Elemental music theory is introduced. Public performance includes two evening school concerts and an area festival. Students should provide their own violins and violas. Cellos will be available for school use only. (Another cello must be obtained for home practice.) Private lessons are highly desirable and strongly recommended.

Spanish A: Students are active participants in learning experiences which assist in developing proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish. Vocabulary is presented in thematic topics such as greetings and health, body, classroom, calendar, weather, alphabet, colors, numbers, food, clothing, telling time, sports, leisure activities and family. Units of study introduce the Spanish language and culture and integrate basic grammatical structures to support linguistic competency in

Goldenview 7th Grade Course Descriptions 2012-2013

both Spanish as well as English. This course will help prepare students to live in our increasingly diverse world by developing an appreciation for cultural and linguistic differences.

French A: Students are active participants in language learning experiences which assist in developing proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing of French. Vocabulary is presented in thematic topics such as greetings and health, body, classroom, calendar, weather, alphabet, colors, numbers, food, clothing, telling time, sports, leisure activities and family. Units of study introduce the culture of France and other Francophone countries and integrate basic grammatical structures to support linguistic competency in both French as well as English. This course will help prepare students to live in our increasingly diverse world by developing an appreciation for cultural and linguistic differences.

Second Electives (quarter/semester)

Alaska Driver: In this class students will explore road and driving safety for various vehicles. The skills/knowledge acquired will support learner permit basics. Students will be expected to complete a series of written assignments on various topics. The Alaska State Division of Motor Vehicles Manual will serve as the "textbook." Final exam is administered at the end of the course.

Applied Technology: (semester) In this course students will learn about how to use technology to help solve many problems. Projects are assigned and students are challenged to design solutions by using information, teamwork, technology, and their creativity. Solutions will then be constructed using different materials, equipment, and power tools. Some examples of projects include CO2 Dragsters, Air Foil (wing) Design, Balsa Bridge Construction, Egg Drop Design, Computer Aided Drafting, Power Boat Construction, and many, many more. Projects will be different for each quarter.

Art Expanded: (semester) This class will expand upon simple drawings, ceramics, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and various art methods. Art History lessons are part of this broad exposure which this course provides. Students use existing techniques and develop their own interpretations to produce a variety of products from the art of various cultures of the world. For the serious art student.

Business Technology: (semester) This class works on typing skills, internet basics, multimedia, proper use of email, website building, proper online behavior, business letters, power point, and much more. The fun and learning never stops in this class!

Computer 6,7,8 : This class revolves around business concepts, such as how to build, put together, run and analyze a business. Our own school business (Suns Café) will be used as a working example.

Creative Writing: This elective will provide opportunities for students to write in a variety of forms including: poems, essays, stories, letters, and magazine/newspaper articles. This class will periodically publish anthologies.

Debate: Students in this elective will be involved in arguing about various popular issues in the world today. Students will

choose topics, research evidence and give a persuasive speech. The research, writing and practicing will be done during class. This will be a fun elective that will be useful in Language Arts, Social Studies classes and in High School. If you like to read and argue, this is the elective for you!

Drama: Drama will focus on three of those forms: narrative, expository, and improvisation. The course will survey the history of drama and its forms. Students are expected to participate on a daily basis as developing actors. Students will be expected to write and work cooperatively, as the semester project ultimately leads to a movie that small teams write and produce.
***Application required.**

Family & Consumer Science: (semester) This course is designed for students to learn the basics of the kitchen including safety, nutrition, recipes, and the use of a variety of kitchen tools. A lab fee of \$10 is requested to cover the cost of food purchased.

Law Studies: (semester) This course is patterned after the Anchorage Youth Court. Students will be trained in court procedure and specific positions. Enrichment field trips are scheduled for the crime lab and courthouse. With teacher approval this course may be taken for two semesters.

Literature Book Club: Students who love to read for fun but are just too busy should sign up for this alternative elective. Book Club membership includes: being surrounded by a variety of exciting books, spending time in the library, seeing what's new in the publishing world via the Internet, talking about good books with others who love to read, writing a weekly journal entry, and participating in special literacy events. There is no outside homework in this class which makes it a relaxing way to end the day!

Math Art: Study of visual patterns in math through art. Topics: 3-D geometric solids with unit origami, string art, rotational designs, kaleidoscopes, and spirals.

Math Support: (semester) Problems and concepts that you encounter in your daily math classes will be explored further in this elective to improve achievement and understanding. You will be able to choose each day to work in small learning groups or alone on the math assigned in your core math class.

Mythology of the World: Part of 7th grade Language Arts is Greek Mythology/The Adventures of Ulysses. This class extends that part of the curriculum to include myths from other cultures such as Roman, Inca, Aztec, Native Alaskan, Norse, etc. Students explore the origins of these myths and their purpose in those cultures. Activities might include: compare/contrast creation stories and myths; map location, development, movement of myths; create a dictionary of mythological words that have been incorporated into everyday language; Socratic seminar on the nature of heroism in myths and in recent history; etc.

Outdoor Adventure: This course is the Official Hunter Education Program sanctioned by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Hunter Education course is divided into three main categories. These categories include: gun safety, wildlife management, and hunting ethics. Successful completion of this course will result in a life-long certification for Hunter Education that is honored in all 50 states and Canada. It is now a requirement in all 50 states and Canada to show proof of

Goldenview 7th Grade Course Descriptions 2012-2013

successful completion of a Hunter Education course before being able to purchase a hunting license. **No** firearms are used or handled in this class! Course materials will be provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Reading Intervention: (semester) Students will work in intensive small groups, and receive individual interventions and activities to help improve their reading proficiency.

School Business Partnership- Suns Café: Learn how to run a real business! Students learn interviewing methods and are each given a specific job title; they fill out time sheets, are responsible for daily ledger entries, and actually work in the café before and/or after school. Revenues from sales are used for community service projects that the class selects, such as books for the homeless, funds for Science Olympiad, canned foods for one of the food banks, etc.

Science Olympiad: Bottle Rockets! Mouse traps! Storm the Castle! Towers! Disease Detectives! Anatomy....and more! These are just a few of the Science Olympiad events students can choose to compete in, or just join the class for fun project making! Students who choose to compete will follow the official Science Olympiad rules and guidelines to gain experience and knowledge of the events.

Science Projects: This class is for you if you enjoy making things, working with others, and being a part of friendly competition! You will be given a task to do and materials to use for building your project. You and your talented partners will design and test your project then compete against other teams. Students will start by choosing which projects will be done each quarter, and then teams will be formed for each project. Come ready to share ideas and think creatively!

Science Seminar (Forensics): GV CSI Crime Lab!
This class is primarily lab-based involving aspects of Forensic Science. Students will scientifically investigate crime scenes by collecting and analyzing data, performing experiments, determining the validity of tests, and forming conclusions based off of the evidence and facts collected. If you love science, experimenting, and solving mysteries, this class is for you! Lab fee involved.

Strategies of Success: (semester) This elective is designed to assist students who are struggling in their core classes. Through careful monitoring of daily assignments and assistance from a core team teacher, students will learn to organize, manage time more efficiently, prioritize daily work, and plan for long-term assignments. Students will also learn a variety of study skills to apply in all of their classes.

Student Government: (semester) School spirit! Community Spirit! This elective provides students with the opportunity to identify and implement projects that benefit the school and community. Each week students will be involved in a formal meeting to brainstorm, discuss and ultimately implement project ideas that will benefit our school and community. Come ready to get involved and bring ideas.

Video Production: (semester) This elective provides the opportunity for students to become familiar with the process of taping, formatting, editing, sound, and text overlay. ***Application required.**

Video Production/Announcements: (semester) This course will introduce students to a variety of broadcast technologies as well as communication skills. Students will be producing and anchoring not only daily school-wide announcements, but also video clips including interviews and human interest stories, and short documentaries. Skills being emphasized include: public speaking, interviewing, storyboard organization, video technology, and basic communication skills.