

7th Grade Course Descriptions 2009-10

Remember: A parent needs to sign the registration 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.

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,

orienteeing, 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.

Core Electives (Year Long)

Advanced Choir: Advanced 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 Concert Choir. Students wishing to join must audition and receive the instructor's signature.

Intermediate Band: 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.

Intermediate Choir: 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.

Intermediate Orchestra: 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 IA: 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

Goldenview 7th Grade Course Descriptions 2009-10

study introduce the Spanish language and culture and integrate basic grammatical structures to support linguistic competency in 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 IA: 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)

Applied Technology: 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.

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!

Computers (Business Ed.): For all levels of ability. All students will utilize the internet as part of the class..

Drama: (semester) 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.**

Expanded Art: (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.

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.

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.

Live 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. Students will be selected for the class through an interview process.
***Application required.**

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: 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.

Multi-Media Technology: Students will have fun creating their own multimedia computer project using video clips, photos, graphics, animations and more. The projects will increase their research skills in many content areas as well as develop their computer/technological fluency using a variety of software and equipment which will include computer graphics, digital and video cameras, photos, scanners, and cd's.

Remedial Reading: Students will work in intensive, small group or individual interventions and activities for students having difficulty reading.

Rules of the Road: (AK driver) In this class students will explore road and driving safety for various vehicles. The skills/knowledge learned will support learner permit basics.

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!

School Business Partnership- Suns Café: (semester) Learn how to run a real business! Students learn interviewing methods

Goldenview 7th Grade Course Descriptions 2009-10

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. ***Application/interview process and parent permission form is required.**

Stock Market: This elective affords the student the opportunity to get his or her feet wet in the exciting world of stocks and investment. Students pore over daily stock quotes in the newspaper or check the prices and trends on the Internet to build their portfolio

Team Strategies: 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.

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.**

Wilderness Safety (Hunter Education): 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 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.

Writing to Publish (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.

Youth Court: (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. ***Application required.**