

GVMS 7th Grade Course Descriptions for 2019-20 School Year

Language Arts

Language! Live - INTENSIVE INSTRUCTION

Students needing this program have severe deficits in academic writing, word recognition and language comprehension (vocabulary knowledge, language structures, verbal reasoning and literacy knowledge) which impacts all areas of reading literacy. Placement criteria: Sliding scale of percentiles based on resource allocation - Measures of Academic Progress Spring score (MAP) 20%ile and below; AIMSweb historical data 10%ile and below; reading fluency impeded by decoding; performance in core courses; as well as IEP Team considerations for goals and services.

Inside Level C - INTENSIVE INSTRUCTION

Students will develop language and have explicit and systematic instruction in reading fundamentals, vocabulary, comprehension, critical thinking, literary analysis, reading strategies and writing. Placement criteria: Sliding scale of percentiles based on resource allocation - Measures of Academic Progress spring scores (MAP) 21%ile - 29%ile; AIMSweb historical data 11% - 25%ile; reading fluency not impeded by decoding errors; performance in core courses and placement test; IEP Team considerations for goals and services.

Intensified McDougal Littell - TARGETED INSTRUCTION

Students will develop strategies for vocabulary, reading comprehension, critical thinking, literacy analysis and academic writing.

Placement criteria: Sliding scale of percentiles based on resource allocation - Measures of Academic Progress spring scores 30-40%ile and above; AIMSweb historical data 26%ile and above; and performance in core courses.

Language Arts 7 - UNIVERSAL CORE INSTRUCTION

This full-year Language Arts class offers a literature-based curriculum of four thematically organized units that build deeper understanding of an overall theme for the school year, Exploring the World. Five areas of instructional focus (reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and media literacy) build students' literacy skills. Reading instruction is designed to build an appreciation for and understanding of literature and the use of effective reading strategies for a variety of genres and purposes, including poetry, mythology, personal narrative, and drama. Writing instruction focuses on expository and narrative writing and the ability to draft, revise, edit, and publish well-developed, organized essays that use standard English grammar and mechanics. This course, or its equivalent, is required of all seventh grade students in the Anchorage School District.

Placement criteria: Typical Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores range in the 40%tile to 79%tile.

Language Arts 7 –Gifted/Enriched - ADVANCED CORE

This full-year Language Arts class extends the literature-based curriculum for seventh grade, adding depth and complexity to four thematically organized units and the overall theme of Exploring the World. The five areas of instructional focus (reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and media literacy) are enriched through higher-level thinking and shared inquiry. Reading instruction includes more challenging selections and more in-depth analysis of the development of themes and ideas in a variety of genres, including poetry, mythology, personal narrative, and drama. Writing instruction focuses on expository and narrative writing and the ability to draft, revise, peer-edit, and publish well-developed, organized essays that reflect each student's individual voice and use standard English grammar and mechanics, advanced vocabulary, and carefully formulated ideas. This course fulfills the language arts requirement for seventh grade students in the Anchorage School District. Placement criteria: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) reading scores 80%ile and above, prior ability

and achievement testing, AIMSweb historical data, and performance in core classes.

Mathematics

Math 7 Intensified - TARGETED INSTRUCTION

This intervention course is designed to provide 7th graders with access to Math 7 concepts while they receive intensified and accelerated instruction to prepare them for Core Math 8 as 8th graders. This course will follow the Math 7 CCSS and ASD academic plan for Math 7. ALEKS may be used as a supplementary intervention resource in addition to RTI and Differentiation resources from Big Ideas.

Placement criteria: Typical Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) math scores 35%ile and below, AIMSweb historical data, 70%ile and lower average on Math 6 Unit assessments.

Math 7 - UNIVERSAL CORE Students will practice and improve their number sense, measure sense, and estimation skills. They will review and extend their arithmetic, calculator, and thinking skills by working with fractions, decimals, percents, large and small numbers, and negative numbers, variables, expressions, equations, graphing, and other algebra topics. Students will extend their understanding of geometry, including transformations and two and three dimensional figures, and their knowledge of probability and statistics. They will investigate the uses of mathematics outside the classroom.

Placement criteria: 6th Grade teacher recommendation. Typical Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores range in the 35%tile to 70%tile.

Pre-Algebra - ADVANCED CORE

This course is designed to prepare students for success in Algebra I. The emphasis on continued development of pattern recognition, computational skills, elementary algebra topics, geometric relationships, and problem solving. Students will extend their knowledge of probability and statistics and analyze data to make decisions and defend conclusions. Placement criteria: 6th Grade teacher recommendation. Typical Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores range in the 70%ile and above.

Algebra I - ADVANCED CORE

Students will review and extend their knowledge of problem solving, data analysis, and the use of technology (i.e., scientific calculator, graphing calculator, computer). They will extend their knowledge of the theory, use and understanding of the fundamental operations to real numbers. Students will learn to express quantitative statements in the language of algebra, solve equations and inequalities, use rational expressions in equations, graph using the coordinate plane, perform operations with polynomials and irrational numbers, and solve quadratic equations. They will use their mathematical knowledge to solve problems. To receive high school credit for this course being taken in Middle School, the student must earn a grade of C or better. Placement criteria: Prerequisite for this class is the successful completion of pre-algebra or through testing. Typical 6th grade MAP scores range in the 80%ile and above.

Science

Science 7 - UNIVERSAL CORE This is an integrated science course in which students explore areas of life science, computer science, and physics, using applied mathematics and technology. Emphasis is placed on scientific thought and reasoning coordinated with inquiry based laboratory experiences.

Specialized courses are 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.

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Science 7 – Gifted/Enriched - ADVANCED CORE

The class covers similar content to Integrated Science 7, allowing students to broaden their learning with more in depth studies and projects. Analysis of scientific data and higher order thinking skills are emphasized.

Placement criteria: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) reading scores 80thile and above, prior ability and achievement testing, gifted certification, AIMSweb historical data, and performance in core classes.

Social Studies

Social Studies 7 - UNIVERSAL CORE

This course provides a survey of world physical and human geography, including a unit on Alaska geography. Spatial skills and various tools of geography are studied. Students are introduced to various cultures and explore the meaning of culture. Interrelationships and the interdependence of people in various physical settings will be stressed along with the geographic concepts of location, place, movement, and region.

Physical Education

Physical Education - UNIVERSAL CORE

P.E. is a required course for all students. Only students who have a physician-documented limitation may be excused from P.E. The activities offered are introductory. The program offers a wide variety of individual, dual, and team activities. The units most often included are basketball, volleyball, tumbling, rhythms and dance, outdoor winter activities, and aerobic fitness.

Electives (Year Long)

Band Intermediate: This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond the beginning level. Students will encounter a continuation of skills and fundamentals from beginning band with increasing emphasis on better tone production, good intonation, refinement of muscular coordination, experimentation in small ensembles, and memorization of scales in basic keys. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required.

Choir Intermediate: As a sequel to Beginning Chorus, this course is for students with previous choral training. An emphasis will be placed on vocal technique and a variety of choral literature. Several required performances include school concerts and district festivals.

Choir Advanced: This course is for students with previous training in the fundamentals of choral music. It will involve further study of vocal technique with emphasis on individual and group musical development. Several required performances include school concerts, school district festivals and outside school performances.

Orchestra Intermediate: This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond a fundamental level. Students will encounter a continuation of skills and fundamentals from beginning orchestra with increasing emphasis on better tone production, good intonation, refinement of muscular coordination, experimentation in small ensembles, and memorization of scales in basic keys. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required.

French A: Students are active participants in learning experiences which encourage confidence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of French. Units of study integrate the culture of France and other Francophone countries and introduce meaningful vocabulary centered around thematic topics such as school, city and family life, body, food,

clothing, numbers, telling time, place, and sports. Basic grammatical structures are introduced to support the developing writing skills.

Spanish A: Students are active participants in learning experiences which encourage confidence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish. Units of study integrate the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken and introduce meaningful vocabulary centered around thematic topics such as school, city and family life, body, food, clothing, numbers, telling time, place, and sports. Basic grammatical structures are introduced to support the developing writing skills.

Communications/Announcements: 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 and can be found on GV website.*

Electives (Semester Long)

Applied Tech: (semester) In this course students will learn about how to use technology to solve problems, design projects, and create products. Projects are assigned and students are challenged to design solutions by using information, teamwork, technology, and their creativity. Solutions will be constructed using a variety of materials, hand tools, power tools, and computerized equipment. Some examples of projects include CO2 dragsters, airfoil design, bridge construction, egg drop design, computer aided drafting, power boat construction, and many, many more. Projects will be different for each semester.

Applied Tech Advanced: (semester) Advanced Applied Technology is an extension of the principles and skills explored in Applied Technology. This hands-on course couples continuing technology education with engineering exploration. Course topics include engineering design using computer aided drafting, engineering principles and processes, and more advanced carpentry projects incorporating project planning and the proper use of hand and power tools. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Applied Technology

Art Expanded: (semester) Art Expanded covers a variety of art disciplines including: drawing, painting, ceramics, collage, printmaking, and sculpture. Every semester, there is a basic introduction to drawing and shading, color concepts, and the *Elements and Principles* of art and design. Students will keep a sketchbook, in which they will practice drawing techniques, record relevant information, and plan for more involved projects. Five weeks of each semester are spent working with clay. After learning the basics, students will work on several projects designed to challenge their creative problem solving skills and their technical skills within the medium. This class is appropriate for serious artists, but also for those students who would just like to learn more about the art making process and have a fun, creative outlet during their school day. No prior art experience required, and this class can be taken multiple times; the projects are not repeated.

Art Advanced: (semester) Advanced Art class is designed for dedicated artists who are creative, hardworking, and passionate about visual art. The course is geared toward students who have completed Art Expanded, at least once, and are looking for a challenge. As in Art Expanded, we will cover a variety of art disciplines including: drawing, painting, ceramics, collage, printmaking, and sculpture, however, we will be exploring these in further depth. Students are required to keep a

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sketchbook as evidence of growth in drawing and visual thinking throughout the semester. We will spend four to five weeks at the end of each semester working with clay. Advanced Art students are expected to demonstrate depth of thought, creative problem solving skills, as well as skill with media.

Business Education: (semester) Business Education offers students an opportunity to develop the skills needed to be successful in the workplace as well as basic financial literacy skills. Students will learn job market skills such as how to fill out a job application, write a resume, interview for a job and make a professional phone call. Students will also learn basic financial literacy skills such as how to read and understand a paycheck, the purpose of taxes, the difference between debit and credit cards and different options for saving money. Emphasis is placed on career exploration and development of personal traits such as promptness, work habits, and individual responsibility.

Computer Technology: (semester) Computer Technology is an introduction to coding and programming languages in self-guided online coursework through Google's Computer Science Courses. Once the basics have been introduced, students will apply coding to robotics. Students will build, maintain, and program robots. Students will then be introduced to drones. Student will learn the fundamentals of flight and programming drones. The course is designed to introduce students to practical, exciting applications of computing languages.

Creative Writing: (semester) Creative Writing explores different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Writing genres covered are journaling, fiction and nonfiction, and light journalism. The course will culminate in the creation of an audio podcast with recordings of student written stories.

Family & Consumer Science: (semester) This course is designed for students to work in small groups and individually to explore all areas of the family and consumer sciences: food preparation and nutrition, caregiving, textile creations and clothing care, living environments, personal finances, strictly personal issues and careers. Technology in the home and organizational management will be integrated into the studies. Students will complete activities that include research and a variety of hands-on and computer activities.

Forensics-Science Seminar: (semester) GV CSI Crime Lab! This class is primarily lab-based involving aspects of Forensic Science. In this class, we analyze hair samples, bullet striations, bite marks, tire and foot prints, DNA, glass fragments, ink, and much more. 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.

Guitar-Beginning: (semester) This class will introduce students to the traditional 6 string acoustic guitar. **This class is for the beginning guitarist.** In this class, the student will learn how to apply basic musical concepts, such as rhythm, harmony, and melody to the guitar. Concepts taught will include tuning, note reading, strumming, and chord reading. Student must provide his/her own **acoustic guitar**, set of strings and guitar picks.

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.

Literature Book Club: (semester) 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.

Percussion Ensemble: (semester) Percussion Ensemble offers music students the opportunity to play traditional and non-traditional percussion instruments in a group setting. Basic drum rudiments will be taught in addition to mallet percussion techniques. A wide variety of instruments will be performed including the snare drum, drum set, xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, including non-traditional instruments such as trash cans, brooms, chairs, and wooden poles. This group is offered by teacher approval only. Students need to have prior music experience.

Science Projects (semester): 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. Come ready to share ideas and think creatively!

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.

Suns Café (School Business Partnership): (semester) Learn how to run a real business! Students learn interviewing, budget and advertising methods and are each given a specific job title; they fill out timesheets, are responsible for daily ledger entries, and actually work in the café before 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.

Video Production: (semester) This course is designed for students to learn proper techniques for filming video and editing video and photos. Students will use a variety of editing software such as Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop and iMovie. Students will also learn how to properly use an SD card, a video camera, a point-and-shoot camera and a tripod.