## 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:** Measures of Academic Progress Spring score (MAP) 10thile 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, literacy analysis, reading strategies and writing. **Placement criteria:** Measures of Academic Progress spring scores (MAP) 11thile - 29thile; reading fluency not impeded by decoding errors; performance in core courses and placement test; IEP Team considerations for goals and services.

**Intensified Language Arts - SpringBoard - TARGETED INSTRUCTION**

Students will develop strategies for vocabulary, reading comprehension, critical thinking, literacy analysis and academic writing. **Placement criteria:** Measures of Academic Progress spring scores 30-49thile and above; teacher recommendation; and performance in core courses.

**Universal Language Arts 7 - SpringBoard - UNIVERSAL CORE INSTRUCTION**

This full-year Language Arts class offers a literature-based curriculum of four thematically organized units within SpringBoard. Areas of instruction focus (reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary and media literacy) build students' literacy skills. Students will engage in close observation and analysis, higher-order questioning, evidence-based writing, and academic conversations. Students will be immersed in analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of a multitude of sources, providing opportunities to cultivate wondering and promote productive lingering. In conjunction with college and career readiness, students will compare, critique, debate, and build upon others' ideas and arguments to advance their learning. This course, or its equivalent, is required of all 7th- and 8th-grade students in the Anchorage School District. **Placement criteria:** Typical Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores range in the 40thile to 79thile; teacher recommendation.

**Adv. Language Arts 7 - SpringBoard - ADVANCED CORE**

This full-year Language Arts class offers a literature-based curriculum of four thematically organized units within SpringBoard. Areas of instruction focus (reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary and media literacy) are enriched through higher-level thinking and shared inquiry. Students will engage in close observation and analysis, higher-order questioning, evidence-based writing, and academic conversations. Students will be immersed in deep analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of a multitude of sources, providing extensive opportunities to cultivate wondering and promote productive lingering. In conjunction with college and career readiness, students will compare, critique, debate, and build upon others' ideas and arguments to advance their learning. This course, or its equivalent, is required of all 7th and 8th-grade students in the Anchorage School District.

**Placement criteria:** Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) reading scores 80thile and above, 6th grade teacher recommendation 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 35thile and below and 6th grade teacher recommendation.

**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, percent's, 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) math scores range in the 35thile to 70thile, and 6th grade teacher recommendation.

**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, and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores range in the 70thile 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 B or better. **Placement criteria:** Prerequisite for this class is the successful completion of pre-algebra and through placement testing. 6th grade teacher recommendation is required. Typical 6th grade MAP scores range in the 80thile and above.

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.
**GVMS 7th Grade Course Descriptions for 2020-21 School Year**

**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.

**Science 7 ADVANCED—ADVANCED CORE**
The class covers similar content to Integrated Science 7, allowing students to broaden their learning with more depth studies and projects. Analysis of scientific data and higher order thinking skills are emphasized.
*Placement criteria:* Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) reading scores 80%ile and above, 6th grade teacher recommendation 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.

**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.

**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.

**Computer Technology: (semester)** Computer Technology is an introduction to coding and programming languages in self-guided online coursework through Code.org. Once the basics have been introduced, students will apply coding to simple circuits and robotics. Students will build, maintain, and develop their skills creatively. The course is designed to introduce students to practical, exciting applications of computing languages and how it is used in the real world.
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.