

THUNDER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

ELECTIVES COURSE GUIDE

2023-2024

7th GRADE



Dream Big * Inspire Everyone * Create a Roadmap * Believe in Yourself * Achieve * Work Hard



7th GRADE

Every effort is made to place students in the courses requested but cannot be guaranteed due to scheduling conflicts or enrollment limits. Student's schedules may not contain all of their top choices or be in the order of preference. Schedule repairs are made to support the academic or medical needs of students and only when space permits. Repairs will only occur during the first week of the quarter.

YEAR ELECTIVES

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) AVID is a yearly college preparatory elective class for seventh and eighth grade students who desire higher academic achievement. AVID provides motivated students with skills needed to be successful in the rigorous middle and high school curriculum in preparation necessary for a college future. Students meet daily and receive instruction in areas such as writing, note taking, reading, organization, questioning, study skills, test taking, and college and career choices. Students interested in AVID have a 2.5- 3.5 grade point average, good school attendance and behavior, average or higher test scores in reading and math, and a willingness to commit to rigorous class work. Interested students must fill out an application and participate in an AVID interview for selection. **(Year)**

PERFORMING ARTS

Band 7 This class is open to any 7th grade student who plays a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. The focus will be to elaborate on instrument fundamentals and further develop musical expression. Students will study and perform a wide variety of musical styles. Most of the students in this class will have had at least one year of prior musical experience. If students have no prior experience, they will be encouraged, but not required to take private lessons to close their experience gap as quickly as possible. Students will have at least two concerts per year; one performance in December, and a final performance in May. **(Year)**

Choir 7 Choir 7 is open to all 7th graders who enjoy singing and want to become stronger, more confident singers. *The 7th grade choir will have at least four required performances, one per quarter, as a culminating event to show their singing growth.* Each quarter, students have the opportunity to audition for solos and small ensemble parts. They will also develop their singing and music reading skills through special choral warm-ups and light-reading exercises. **(Year)**

Orchestra 7 This course is open to students playing violin, viola, cello or string bass. Beginners are welcome. Intermediate playing skills such as shifting, and vibrato are taught. A variety of music is played. *Concerts are scheduled throughout the year including participation in the CCSD Stringathon. Attendance is required at these performances.* A limited number of instruments are available to rent from the school. **(Year)**

WORLD LANGUAGES

The World Language program at TRMS offers students an opportunity to advance in world languages at the high school level. Our French and Spanish programs allow students the possibility to enter "Year 2" in their first year of high school. Students who successfully complete yearlong French or Spanish classes in both 7th and 8th grade at Thunder Ridge may be eligible.

French A This course offers students a unique opportunity to engage in language learning that promotes the exploration of culture. French is a growing language; in fact, it is the fastest growing language currently. As a part of the language learning experience, students will French cuisine, watch a variety of French film, and be introduced to francophone music and art as well. In addition, many students take part in or attend our annual French Food Fair where French students host a school wide French food tasting and exhibition. Successful completion of this course will allow you to advance to French B in 8th grade. **(Year)**

Spanish A This class introduces the Spanish language by covering the first half of the class text. Students will learn the basics of speaking, reading, writing, and listening through experiential learning. Students explore Spanish culture through art, music, film, theater, and cooking. Middle School World Languages places students on track for more advanced opportunities in language courses. **(Year)**

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

PERFORMING ARTS

Guitar This is a beginning level guitar class. No experience is necessary. Development of effective guitar technique is stressed including chords, finger picking and improvisation. A variety of styles of music are taught. Nylon string guitars are provided. **(Semester)**

Vocal Musical Theatre 7 This class will teach the fundamental skills students need to become improvisational actors and actresses and use those skills in scripted scenes. Through practicing basic theater skills such as movement, voice and imagination, students will learn to become more confident in their performing abilities. Students will work together to create scenes from well-known literature and original skits. Students who have taken 6th grade Vocal Musical Theatre, as well as those who have not, are encouraged to take this course. **(Semester)**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Physical Education 7 This course enhances the motor, intellectual, and social development of students through physical movement. Students will learn cooperation, team play, and sportsmanship through participation in climbing (wall), weight training, basketball, volleyball, spike ball and other activities. Fitness components and wellness concepts are integrated into the activities. Students will also participate in a variety of workouts designed to improve their fitness level. **(Semester)**

Teen Topics In this health class students will expand upon the life-skills introduced in 6th grade. Identifying stressors and coping skills, tolerance and understanding multiple perspectives, conflict resolution/anger management, nutrition and eating disorders, addictions, the truth about drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and vaping, friendship, peer pressure, healthy vs unhealthy relationships, setting personal boundaries, puberty and the reproductive system. Introduction to CPR and first aid. **(Semester)**

TECHNOLOGY

STEAM Explorations Students will learn and actively use the Engineering Design Process to bring designs to life. From fabrication tools to CAD and 3D printing, students are exposed to tools and equipment for any STEM pathway. **(Semester)**

Tech 7 In this course, students will explore a multidisciplinary approach to technology. Students will use a variety of tools and explore how technology works, work in a team environment, work on coding skills, as well as problem solving by exploring diverse avenues of technology. Students will be challenged by working through different modules that will include, but are not limited to, **ROBOTICS**, computer programming (beginner to advanced), game design, and graphic design. **(Semester)**

VISUAL ARTS

Art 7 This class is an opportunity for students to develop their creative ideas in various two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects. Projects may include clay, painting, scratchboard art, mixed media paper mache, and collage. **(Semester)**

Art-Digital Art 7 Graphic design is everywhere! Learn to recognize and create designs and illustrations. We will explore graphic imagery through elements of art and principles of design using Adobe Creative Cloud products including Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop in creating digital art and design. We will design graphics and learn about career skills and processes used by Graphic Designers. This class also includes illustration skills and art imagery created through Adobe. **(Semester)**

Art-Drawing and Drafting 7 Drawing is the foundation for all types of artwork and design skills. The course will cover the major technical aspects of fine art and design drawing including: figure and face, shading and texture, observational, perspective and digital 3D rendering and printing. This class is for students interested in developing the skills to make their art more advanced and realistic. This course culminates in a capstone design project where students will put their skills to work creating an original design in their choice field using relevant processes and media that they have learned in the class. **(Semester)**