

THUNDER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ELECTIVES COURSE GUIDE

2024-2025

7<sup>th</sup> GRADE



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

*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. After courses are assigned, schedule repairs are made to support specific academic or medical needs of students, not by request, and only when space permits.*

## **AVID**

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) (Year-long)** This year-long college/career elective class is for 7th 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 for college & career pathways. Students receive instruction in writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, reading, real world connections, and college & career choices. Students interested in AVID have a 2.5 and above grade point average, good school attendance & 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. At Thunder Ridge, all students participate in Organizational Monday by filling out their Planners in Advisory to preplan/back map their week to be a successful student.

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

**Beginning Band 7 (Year-long)** Seventh grade beginning band is a class for students with little to no musical experience, but would like the amazing opportunity to join the Thunder Ridge band program. Students will be aided in selecting a band instrument according to our ensemble needs and taught everything from how to put your instrument together to how to read and perform music. Students will be required to attend our two concerts and practice at home.

**Band 7 (Year-long)** This class is a second year band class for brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. 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. Students will have at least two concerts per year; one performance in December, and a final performance in May.

**Choir 7 (Year-long)** Choir 7 is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> graders who enjoy singing and want to become stronger, more confident singers. *The 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Orchestra 7 (Year-long)** Orchestra 7 is a year-long course for students who want to continue learning to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students usually have one or more years of experience on their instrument. Participation in Orchestra 6 is recommended but not required. This course focuses on developing skills and elaborate on the fundamentals learned before. Class expectations include regular home practice, daily class participation, and attendance at two to three evening concerts during the school year.

**Guitar (Semester-long)** 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.

**Vocal Musical Theatre 7 (Semester-long)** 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade Vocal Musical Theatre, as well as those who have not, are encouraged to take this course.

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Thunder Ridge may be eligible.*

**French A (Year-long)** 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 sample French cuisine, watch a variety of French films, 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Spanish A (Year-long)** This full year course is the equivalent to the first semester of high school Spanish 1. Students will build confidence in speaking, reading, writing, and listening through fun authentic learning experiences. Students will explore culture through art, music, film, theater, and cooking. Successful completion of this course will allow you to advance to Spanish B in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH**

**Physical Education 7 (Semester-long)** 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.

**Teen Topics (Semester-long)** In this health class students will expand upon the life-skills introduced in 6th grade. Identifying stressors and strengthening coping skills, tolerance and understanding multiple perspectives, conflict resolution/anger management, balanced nutrition, addictions, strengthening refusal skills and the truth about drugs, vaping, alcohol abuse, and smoking. Navigating relationships with friends, parents, and other adults, healthy vs unhealthy relationships, safely navigating their digital world, peer pressures, setting personal boundaries, changes throughout puberty, the reproductive system/sexual health, as well as an introduction to CPR and first aid.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**STEAM Explorations (Semester-long)** Students will learn and actively use the Engineering Design Process to bring designs to life and solve problems. Students will work in groups and independently on week long projects which introduce students to a range of STEAM topics. Projects range from robotic design, fabrication tools, bridge building, cardboard design, CAD and 3D printing. Students are exposed to tools and equipment for any STEAM pathway. \$10 fee for project supplies (scholarships are available).

**Robotics and Coding (Semester-long)** Students will explore more in depth the areas of robotics, computer programming (beginner to advanced), game design, and graphic design. Students will participate in design challenge projects that give them opportunities to solve problems in real-world settings. They will use a variety of tools and explore how technology works in a team environment. We will examine the basics of electrical circuits, programming, and hardware to understand robots. \$10 fee for project supplies (scholarships are available).

## **VISUAL ARTS**

**Art 7 (Semester-long)** 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. \$10 Class fee - Scholarships available.

**Art-Digital Art 7 (Semester-long)** 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. \$10 Class fee - Scholarships available.

**Art-Drawing and Drafting 7 (Semester-long)** 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. \$10 Class fee - Scholarships available.