

# Elective Course Description Sheet - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## 2019-20 School Year

**Visual Arts (Art 7) (semester)** is painting, molding, etching, folding and more! Try it all in visual arts class as you explore design fundamentals, art techniques and various media. Students will investigate art styles and forms while revealing their creative side.

**Band 7** is offered to all students that play, or would like to learn to play a wind, brass or percussion instrument. Most students will have played in band for a year and are musically competent. Extension of musical learning will continue from first-year instruction. Students will develop sight-reading and ear training skills, study music theory, and will be exposed to a variety of musical literature. After-school rehearsals will be scheduled in order to prepare for each scheduled performance.

**Chorus 7** Do you like to sing and perform? Then this is the class for you! Chorus 7 is the second level of our choral program, and is made up exclusively of seventh graders. Students must successfully complete Chorus 6, or receive permission from the director to advance to Chorus 7. Students in Chorus 7 will perform in solos and small ensembles, as well as performing with the full Chorus. They will also learn and improve their music reading and sight-singing ability. Highlights of the year will include several concerts as well as auditions for the **All-District Chorus**. Chorus 7 students will also participate in the annual **Old Donation School Chorus Musical**, and will experience all aspects of producing and performing a **Broadway musical**. After-school rehearsals will be scheduled in order to prepare for each scheduled performance.

**Introduction to Computers (Semester)** This semester course in creative coding introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. As a whole, this semester focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science, and encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression.

**Intermediate Computer Exploration (Semester)** This semester course in creative coding lets students explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will see how a user-centered design process produces a better application, how data is used to address problems that affect large numbers of people, and how physical computing with circuit boards allows computers to collect input and return output in a variety of ways. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Computers**

**Inventions and Innovations (Semester)** Do you like figuring out how things work, and how to make them work better? Does computer-assisted design interest you? If so, this course is for you. *Inventions and Innovations* is a fast-paced course that offers students a first-hand look at how design tools have guided advances in technology, as well as hands-on experience in working with tools such as AutoCAD, 3D printers, and other resources for modeling and prototyping purposes. **(Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade receive scheduling priority for this class)**

**Digital Applications (Semester) (One-half high school credit)** will have nine weeks of keyboarding skill building with other applications. This course is designed for students to develop real-life, outcome-driven approach skills for digital citizenship, basic computer operations, keyboarding, applications software (word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia applications, databases), and career exploration. This course promotes skill building that can be applied across the curriculum.

**Design/Multimedia Presentation (Semester) (One-half high school credit)** is a production-based class where students develop proficiency in designing and creating desktop-published projects, multimedia presentations/projects, and WEB sites, using industry-standard application software. Students apply principles of layout and design in completing projects. Students create portfolios that include a résumé and a variety of desktop-published, multimedia and Web site projects produced in the course.

**Orchestra 7** places an emphasis on the acquisition of skills needed to meet a high standard of musical performance as a soloist and ensemble member. Most of the members have at least one year of orchestra experience and many of those members have two and three years of experience. Musical study will be from several musical skill perspectives including instrumental technique, ensemble performance, sight-reading, music history and music theory. Music repertoire for the class includes Grade III, IV and V levels of difficulty. Several after-school performances and rehearsals will be required.

**Reading Skills for the College Bound (semester, One-half high school credit)** is designed for students to gain the independence necessary for a successful college experience. Students learn how to read and think analytically, prepare for the SAT, and refine study skills. In addition, students focus on using reasoning and problem-solving skills to make informed decisions, building high-level comprehension skills to read and understand rigorous high school and post-secondary texts, and assessing and evaluating new information independently. Emphasis is placed on self-exploration through critical thinking that includes determining learning styles, refining appropriate study skills for college, and assessing the components of choosing the college or post-secondary experience to fit each individual.

**Theatre I (Semester)** is a course that will focus on the development of student creativity, intuitive, and presentation skills, while refining collaborative work efforts and skills acquired through Improvisation and Scene Study. Students will analyze and portray complex characters and experiences to refine technique in stage acting and Scene Building; this includes skit writing. This course will introduce to students various roles in production, and facilitates the comparison of theatre arts to others forms of performance in preparation for further theatrical study.

**Oral Communications (Semester)** is a course designed to extend technique and skills acquired in previous theatre coursework. Students will focus on dimensions of character, and collaborating on more complex projects, including ensemble acting, playwriting, and student directing. Students will refine problem-solving, critical thinking, and creative thinking skills while justifying artistic choice, including fulfilling duties in technical theatre. This course will introduce to students the expectations for stage auditions and components of professional acting, further preparing them for theatre studies at the high school level.