

CHRISTENSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

2019-2020

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SEVENTH GRADE CORE: The seventh grade core program consists of two instructional periods covering the content areas of language arts and social studies. In the **Language Arts** component students read from selected "core" novels and explore concepts of plot, setting, character and theme in relationship to these literary works. Skills introduced in the sixth grade are expanded upon and a variety of writing modes (expository paragraphs, short essays) and public speaking are explored. The review of the rules of language mechanics is an on-going component of the program.

In the area of seventh grade **Social Studies**, students study the Byzantine, Islamic, African, and Asiatic Empires, the feudal societies of Japan and Europe, and the Renaissance and the Enlightenment in Europe. Cross-curricular learning is encouraged through the development of vocabulary, book reports, and critical issues specific to the social studies curriculum. Students participate in "hands on" activities, and art/construction projects are incorporated into the course of study.

SEVENTH GRADE MATH ****Information provided by the 6th grade teacher plus results from a CMS math placement test will be used to place students in one of the following math classes.**

MATH 7 This course is designed for students who are performing at the average to below average range of grade level. Students in *Math 7* have the knowledge and skills to access grade level standards but may at times need additional support to understand new concepts or skills. *Math 7* presents the California Common Core State Standards for Math (CA CCSSM).

Accelerated MATH 7B/8 This course is designed for students with a firm grasp of grade level standards. These students quickly comprehend new concepts and skills and incorporate new understandings with their overall mathematical reasoning. Students will progress through the seventh grade math text and may begin an introduction to algebra. *Accelerated Math 7B/8* presents the CA CCSSM.

SEVENTH GRADE SCIENCE: The seventh grade curriculum focuses on Life Science. Students will begin the year reviewing the scientific method and basic laboratory skills. Throughout the year students will engage in hands-on activities and perform labs while investigating: cells, classification of living things, plants and animal kingdoms, human biology including the skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory, respiratory, nervous and reproductive systems.

SEVENTH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students in seventh grade physical education participate in a wide range of endurance, physical conditioning, and individual and team sport activities. Motor skills and movement concepts mature through repetition. A focus on the student's ability to assess and maintain a level of physical fitness to improve health and performance is evaluated by the State-mandated fitness test.

SEVENTH GRADE ELECTIVE OPTIONS: Seventh grade students have the option to select an elective class for the sixth course in their class schedule. The elective courses offered are subject to change due to staffing and budget constraints.

THE FOLLOWING CLASSES ARE YEAR-LONG CLASSES:

- **ADVANCED ART** Students in advanced art will refine artistic skills and learn a variety of new techniques. Through drawing they will incorporate values, shading, light source, shadows and perspective. Through painting with watercolors, tempera and acrylics students will take on a variety of subjects, both realism and abstract. Students will explore three dimensional art through one or more of the following; ceramics, plaster, foam, paper and wood.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE** Students will use hands on experiences to learn about the world around them. Activities will include labs, field work on and around the CMS campus, management of the school recycling program, student-designed research, and field trips.

- **LEADERSHIP**

Students in the seventh grade may elect to take a year-long course dealing with student government, school spirit, and leadership activities. This class is primarily a service organization, and as such, handles many duties and responsibilities such as Back to School Orientation, Dances, and Athletic Events. Requirements are excellent academic and discipline records combined with teacher recommendation. Students and parents sign a contract requiring them to maintain a 2.0 GPA and exemplary discipline record throughout the year. Students who fail to do so will be dropped from this elective. A student evaluation at the end of the first trimester will determine second trimester participation.

- **MUSIC**

Advanced Band or Orchestra. Both groups are full year classes. Students will continue to focus on tone production, advanced standard notation reading skills, appropriate grade level technical studies, and challenging concert literature. Both groups will attend a music festival and have multiple performance opportunities. Performance attendance is required. See the music web-site for more information at <http://chms.schoolloop.com> and click on the "Music Department" Quick Link.

REQUIREMENTS: Students must have COMPLETED 6th grade music or have received instructor approval. Contact Mr. Divita for more information.

- **SPANISH 1A**

Students in Spanish 1A will learn the basics of the language in an environment that focuses on a conversational /role-playing approach. The textbook and workbook are also utilized to reinforce acquired skills and to provide additional information relative to the mechanics of the language. It is highly recommended that students who wish to enroll in this class have strong study skills and a "C" or better in their language arts class.

- **SPECTRUM**

Students in Spectrum will be enrolled in the following three single-trimester courses during the school year:

- **ACADEMIC SKILLS** Based on students' needs and the master schedule, Academic Skills will be designed to enhance student performance in content areas in which the student demonstrates a need. Academic Skills will also support learning across the curriculum by emphasizing note taking, test taking, use of technology for research and presentations, presentation skills, and time management. It is our goal to improve learning for all.

- **ART** Students in art will learn a variety of art skills. Through drawing, they will learn about line, shape, value, shading, and perspective. Through painting, students will learn about color mixing, color theory, expression, realism, and abstract. Art techniques will be explored through various media such as: pen, colored pencil, pastels, tempera and watercolor paints. Students will record art vocabulary and maintain a sketchbook for drawing assignments.

- **LIFE SKILLS** Students in the life skills class focus on skills for personal life-management. Topics covered include financial management, nutrition, cooking, child development, consumer skills, and sewing.

- **STEM EXPLORATION 1**

STEM Exploration 1 (STEM) is an activity-, project-, and problem-based (APPB) learning program designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity of middle school students. The instructional units excite and motivate students to use their imaginations and teach them to be creative and innovative, while gaining the skills they need to develop, produce, and use products and services.

The STEM curriculum appeals to a full range of middle school students and relates technology to students' daily lives. It also promotes communication and collaboration by emphasizing a team approach throughout the instructional units. This approach utilizes the strengths of each team member to accomplish the goals of the project, while offering students learning challenges at all ability levels.

The STEM program helps students develop and hone skills in middle school that enable them to enter the high school program with foundational knowledge and skills for success in engineering.

- **STUDENT ASSIST**

Seventh and eighth grade students may elect to participate in the CMS Star Student Program. Stars are assigned to classroom teachers or staff members to assist in the classroom or office. Duties are assigned by individual teachers, and, as a result, may vary. They generally include record-keeping, grading papers, and other clerical duties. The goal of the course is the development of good organizational and office skills, the ability to work with others, and the ability to take and follow directions. Star students must have and maintain a 2.5 GPA and have an exemplary discipline and attendance record. Supplemental application is required.

- **VOCAL MUSIC**

Students will have the opportunity to develop their vocal talents as individuals and as a group and expand their experience with drama. Students will develop and improve their voices and learn about music through sight-singing, vocal exercises, ear training, music theory, and performance. Students will also learn about drama through a variety of theatrical experiences such as theater games, pantomime, storytelling, oral interpretation, improvisation, and stagecraft. Both boys and girls are equally welcomed in this class.

- **YEARBOOK**

This course will guide students through the organization and publication of the school yearbook. They will enhance their communication skills as they gather information, organize it, produce individual pages and sections, and ultimately create product. Afterschool time may be necessary to complete assignments and meet deadlines, which will include the coverage of many sports and evening events. Student participation in all aspects of yearbook production is required.