

REQUIRED COURSES – ALL YEAR

7th Grade Language Arts

The language arts program develops and integrates the arts of reading, writing, listening, and speaking utilizing the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt text *Collections*. High interest literature and informational selections are provided, as is systematic instruction in writing, grammar, usage, and vocabulary. Writings will include narratives, informational essays, and argumentative essays. Units include Bold Actions, The Creative World, Perception and Reality, Guided by a Cause.

Mathematics

Meeting the standards of the Common Core, our seventh grade math courses offered are Advanced Math (Introduction to Algebra) and College Prep Math. Some students will also be placed in Math Lab*. The assigned course is determined by teacher recommendation. Students will continue in their current placement unless contacted by their math teacher.

*Math Lab is taken in conjunction with College Prep Math (two math classes per day). This class is designed to support and pre-teach concepts and skills that are being taught in the College Prep class.

Science (7th grade)

Students will continue to extend their knowledge of science with units on chemical and physical properties and changes, motion and energy transfer, weather patterns, and biological processes. Students work as scientists, using models, analyzing data, and constructing explanations as they investigate phenomena presented in class.

Social Studies

Seventh grade social studies is a present day geography course. It includes a geography foundations unit followed by the study of Canada and the United States, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, and Monsoon Asia. Students will also be participating in the Career Focus Education program.

Physical Education and Health (required one semester, or if taking Band, Orchestra or Choir it will be required every other day all year long)

The 7th grade physical education student will experience a higher level of skill development and play in lifetime sports such as football, basketball, volleyball, swimming, soccer and softball. These skills will be used in both competitive and non-competitive activities and task related challenges. Physical fitness activities will also be incorporated into all units, as well as personal/social skills needed to be active for a lifetime. Health curriculum components that focus on decision-making skills, substance use/abuse and reproductive health will be taught in a classroom setting in this course as well.

ELECTIVES – EVERY OTHER DAY ALL YEAR

MUSIC

Concert Band

Concert band is for wind and percussion players whose goal it is to be part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 7th graders who have taken band in 6th grade. Incoming 7th grade students without 6th grade band are welcome to join band, however, they must first see Mrs. Barclay for an audition no later than May of the previous school year. There will be two 7th grade bands made up of equal ability and instrumentation. The focus for these groups will be on the development of more advanced more technical musical skills and tone quality. Concert Band will perform several times during the year, including the Music in the Park competition in May and the MSBOA district Festival in March. Each band member also has the opportunity to perform at MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival as a soloist or in a small ensemble. The Derby Band program is recognized as one of the top band programs in the State of Michigan.

Chorale

Chorale is a mixed choir class for the 7th grade vocal students whose goal is to be part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 7th graders who have taken choir in 6th grade. Incoming 7th grade students without 6th grade choir are welcome to join choir, however, they must first see Mr. Hummel for an audition. The focus for this group will be on the development of more advanced and more technical musical skills and tone quality. Choir will perform several times during the year, including the Music in the Park competition in May and the MSVMA district and state choral festival. Each choir member also has the opportunity to attend solo and ensemble festival to orient his or her performance to a more individual and small group setting. The Derby choir consistently receives superior, outstanding, and excellent ratings at our choral competitions every year and is recognized as one of the top choral programs in the State of Michigan. Attendance is required at all performances.

Concert Orchestra

Concert orchestra is for string players whose goal it is to be part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 7th graders who have taken orchestra in 6th grade. The focus of this group will be on the development of more advanced technical and musical string playing skills (such as shifting and vibrato). Concert orchestra will perform several times during the year. Concert orchestra members will travel to Cedar Point in May to perform at Music in the Park. Each orchestra member also has the opportunity to perform at MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival as a soloist or in a small chamber ensemble. For more information about the Derby Orchestra Program, please visit <http://www.derbyorchestra.weebly.com>.

ELECTIVES – ONE SEMESTER ONLY

The following courses are comprised of 7th and 8th grade students unless noted otherwise.

ART

Art by Design (7th and 8th Grade One Semester)

Art by Design is a course focusing on digital Graphic Design, Digital Photography and Computerized Art using Adobe Creative Suites: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop and Digital SLR cameras. Students will work with the Elements of Design and the Principles of Art. This class will primarily focus on small and large scale two dimensional art. Some projects may include: Typography, Portrait Grid Drawing, Cover Design, Poster Design, Digital Photography and Editing, Computerized Layout, and more. The highlights of this class will include: Digital Portfolio Development, Digital Photography and Editing, Logo Design and Development, Advertising, and Magazine/Book/Game/CD Cover Design, Computerized Portraits, and Typography designs. Students will be able to take home large scale prints they create.

Adventures in Art (7th and 8th Grade One Semester)

Students will be exposed to a variety of two and three dimensional art work in this class. Experiences in this class will increase creative thinking skills. Some projects may include: Tessellations, the study of Art History, the study of Color Theory focusing on Monochromatic Acrylic Painting, Digital Photography, Large Scale Rubber Carving, and Water Based Printmaking. The highlights of this class will include: Silk Screening, Magazine Bowls, Metals with Etching and Letter Stamping, Dry Point Etching with Oil Based Printmaking, a Graphic Design project using Adobe Creative Suites: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, and more.

Art Exploration (7th and 8th Grade One Semester)

The course will increase students' skill levels in art with each unit presented. Students in this course will be exposed to, and will work with two and three dimensional works of art. Some projects may include: Sketchbooks, Color Theory and Watercolor Painting, Large Scale Clay vessels, Glazing, Triptych Rubber Carving and Water Based Printmaking, and the refinement of Drawing skills. The highlights of this class

will include: Metals with Etching and Letter Stamping, Digital Photography with Computerized Art, and an Andy Warhol style Graphic Design project using Adobe Creative Suites: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, and more.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Applied Engineering Technology

This course is for 7th & 8th grade boys or girls who would like to further apply their skills in the exciting field of engineering. Individually, students will design and manufacture a robotic gripper to apply their knowledge of simple machines. In teams students will use a VEX robotic system to be introduced to the world of robotics in an engaging manner. Students will research, design, and manufacture an automated robot to meet a specific challenge. Autodesk Inventor 3D CAD software is included with the VEX kits. This 3D software can be used by students to produce 3D mechanical designs, and to perform product simulations to test their design ideas before attempting fabrication of the actual model. This is a direct correlation to the real world; STEM is a prominent component of the entire process. No student is left behind, emphasis is placed on the students' opportunity to work within their strengths to contribute to the team goal.

Computer Aided Design

This course is for 7th & 8th grade boys and girls interested in engineering drawing and design. Students will be exposed to a variety of drawing techniques and computer aided design programs (2-D, 3-D, pattern development software) to learn the fundamentals of communicating engineering ideas. Students will demonstrate their communication and engineering skills through the development of a Magnetic Levitation Vehicle.

Exploring Engineering Technology

This course is for 7th & 8th grade boys and girls who wish to continue the Engineering Technology experience. Students will enhance their knowledge of the engineering process through a variety of applications, including, but not limited to, computer drawing, CO2 car design and fabrication and biotechnology. Students' engineering skills will be demonstrated when they race their CO2 cars in a competition against others in the class.

LIFE SKILLS

Engage

The design and purpose of this course is to provide a collaborative space for students to inquire, design and create through inquiry-based learning. Students will explore questions, challenges, topics or technologies of interest, at their own pace, and in directions of their choosing with the guidance of the teacher. Students will plan and reflect on their creations, processes, successes and difficulties through multimodal learning. The goal of this program is to prepare students for global learning opportunities by engaging their interest and imagination in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Students will develop their cognitive processes of analysis, comparison, inference, evaluation, and synthesis applied to a range of academic domains and problem solving contexts.

Skills for Success

This semester course is designed to give students practical experiences in food preparation and management. There is an emphasis on kitchen safety, utilizing different types of equipment, and kitchen math and measurement. Lab experiences build upon this knowledge throughout the semester as students move from preparing simple snacks, to learning about the differences in quick breads and yeast breads, to demonstrating knife cuts and proper usage when preparing and making stir fry; just to name a few! Financial literacy and nutrition topics are infused throughout the semester as well. Financial literacy provides basic understanding of needs versus wants and budgeting through the use of online simulations. Communication, decision making, problem solving, and positive social skills are the building blocks to success in this course.

WORLD LANGUAGES

World Language

Students will continue their studies of French, Chinese or Spanish from the sixth grade. A lively and active conversational approach is used in speaking and understanding the language. Reading, writing, grammar, and culture is continued.

OTHER

Literacy RS 7 (Reading Specialist recommendation only)

Literacy is a small group reading intervention that provides students with an opportunity to strengthen their vocabulary skills, practice fluency and focus on using comprehension strategies (inferring, making connections, questioning, visualizing, etc.) within narrative and informational texts. Students also have an opportunity to strengthen their writing skills through writer’s workshop sessions. Students who qualify for this course are typically less than one year below grade level in reading and would benefit from additional reading instruction. A certified Reading Specialist, who is a member of the district reading department, will instruct this course.

**Note – Literacy 6 students meet every other day for the whole school year. Literacy 7 and Literacy 8 students meet for one semester of the school year.*

Digital Media Production (Previously called Newspaper)

Offered to 7th and 8th graders, students will learn and apply skills for writing newspapers, both digital and print, and directing broadcast shows. Additionally, students will market and distribute their papers and shows. Technical skills will be taught and honed using industry-standard software such as Adobe InDesign and Newtek Tricaster. In addition to in-class projects, optional extracurricular opportunities will be available for broadcasting shows and running tech during school events.

Strategies (Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Needed)

Strategies is a small group intervention that supports students in their particular area(s) of need such as organization, goal setting, time management, study skills, test taking and homework completion.

AARI

AARI is a semester long, intensive intervention that accelerates reading comprehension and critical thinking in informational text. AARI emphasizes small group instruction that meets students where they are and accelerates their reading through instruction built around community, text-based inferencing and critical thinking, question/answer relationships, questioning the author and text structure. Students who qualify for this course are typically more than one year behind their peers in reading. This course is taught by a trained AARI instructor.

(Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Needed)

Reading Enrichment

This course is intended for already *strong readers* to enrich their reading skills through class discussions about novels and informational texts. Students will be challenged to use critical thinking skills to dig deeper into texts in order to gain a deeper understanding of what they are reading. This course requires students to read additional novels/texts and work on literacy-based projects.