

**MOUNTAINSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL
CURRICULUM GUIDE
2018-2019 / 7th Grade**

Seventh grade students are required to take the following courses:

Math	2 Semesters
English	2 Semesters
Social Studies	2 Semesters
Science	2 Semesters
Physical Education	2 Semesters

Students may choose one of the following:

Band	(Year long class)
Choir	(Year long class)
Orchestra	(Year long class)
General Electives:	(Quarter long classes)*
Art	
Design & Modeling	
General Music	
Teen Choices	
Automation and Robotics 7	

***Students will be randomly assigned.**

MOUNTAINSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Mead School District #354 / 7th Grade

REQUIRED COURSES

MATHEMATICS:

Pre-Algebra I - 7th grade students will further develop their understanding of rates and ratios, using tables, graphs, and equations to solve real-world problems involving proportional relationships. Students will also work on quickly and accurately solving multi-step problems involving positive and negative rational numbers—any number that can be made by dividing one integer by another, such as $\frac{1}{2}$, 0.75, or 2. Additionally, students will expand their knowledge of geometry and apply the properties of operations to solve real world problems involving the measurement of multi-dimensional objects.

Pre-Algebra II - Students take their understanding of unit rates and proportional relationships to a new level, connecting these concepts to points on a line and ultimately using them to solve linear equations that require them to apply algebraic reasoning as well as knowledge of the properties of operations. Students will also expand their understanding of numbers beyond rational numbers. This is an advanced class and students must maintain a “B” average to remain in the class. Students will be assigned to this class

Algebra - The following concepts will be covered in this course: functions (including exponential, linear and quadratic), solving functions in applied contexts, basic transformations of functions, integer exponents, scientific notation, radicals, solving linear equations and inequalities with two variables and sequences. Problem-solving practices are extended and applied to more challenging algebraic problems. This is an advanced class and students must maintain a “B” average to remain in the class. Students will be assigned to this class.

ENGLISH:

English 7 - The seventh grade English program focuses on building communication skills through a variety of literature, reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities. Literature includes reading novels, short stories, plays, and poetry. The students will also learn close reading strategies to improve their comprehension in their English and content classes. Writing skills practiced and expanded upon include the Six Writing Traits (Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, Voice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions) and Explanatory/Informative, Narrative, and Argumentative writing. Students will also expand language usage and vocabulary through the study of grammar and Greek Roots.

Honors English 7 - This course offers an enriched and challenging sequence of study. This class is for the accelerated English student. In addition to the above, students are introduced to the life and times of William Shakespeare. Assigned novels are at a lexile level suitable for advanced readers. Students will be assigned to this class. Students must maintain a B grade or better to continue in the class.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Social Studies 7 - Students study map skills, the five themes of geography, and themes of culture and history of China, Japan and India during the first three months of seventh grade Social Studies at Mountainside Middle School. Pacific Northwest studies, with an emphasis on Washington State, make up the bulk of the second half curriculum of this class. Other themes covered in this class include: Washington State government, developing technology and research skills, test preparation, and articles of the week in conjunction with the school’s English department.

SCIENCE:

Science 7 - Global Life Science is a course that covers the scientific method, cell structure and processes, genetics, adaptations, evolution, classification, characteristics of living things, ecological relationships, and human body systems. Within the curriculum, students will investigate “global killers” (infectious diseases), develop treatment plans, assess patient profiles, and explore the relationship between cells-tissues-organs, the impact of industry on ecosystems, and the future of biomedical science. STEM, CTE, Common Core, and Next Generation Science Standards are also embedded throughout each unit.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Health and Fitness Education - This course emphasizes team and individual sports, lifetime activities, and health and fitness concepts. Students will participate in a wide variety of activities as well as gain an understanding of how to plan their own lifelong health and fitness.

MUSIC: Continuing Music Elective (Year Long)

CADET BAND - For 7th graders with band experience. Along with music fundamentals at the individual level, students will learn group techniques in an advanced band setting. This band has a number of performances during the school year. Students will be graded on performance, preparation, participation in class and attendance at additional rehearsals and events. Permission of the instructor is required.

SYMPHONIC BAND - For 8th and very advanced 7th graders with band experience. Along with music fundamentals at the individual level, students will learn group techniques in an advanced band setting. This band has a number of performances during the school year. Students will be graded on performance, preparation, participation in class and attendance at additional rehearsals and events. Permission of the instructor is required.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE I - An elective class for the most advanced 7th and 8th graders that have auditioned and been selected as members of the ensemble. Students in Jazz I are required to also have a concert band as their elective unless their instrument is piano or bass. The curriculum consists of advanced jazz techniques such as ensemble playing, style, feel, jazz theory and improvisation. This band has a number of performances throughout the year.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE II - A “Zero Hour” class for 7th and 8th graders that have auditioned and been selected as members of the ensemble. Students in Jazz are required to have a concert band as their elective unless their instrument is piano or bass. The curriculum consists of developing jazz techniques such as ensemble playing, style, feel and improvisation. This band has a number of performances throughout the year. Jazz II rehearses Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00am to 8:00am (auditions are held at the beginning of the year).

CONCERT CHOIR - For Soprano and Alto voices, mostly 7th grade. Students will learn and improve vocal skills by performing challenging literature from many genres including American, sacred, jazz and contemporary. Students will perform in night concerts and travel to festivals. Students are graded on participation in class and 4-5 required performances per year. This is not an audition based choir.

SELECT CHOIR - For Soprano and Alto voices, mostly 8th grade. Students will learn and improve vocal skills by performing challenging literature from many genres including American, sacred, jazz, and contemporary. Students will perform in night concerts and travel to festivals. Students are graded on participation in class and 4-5 required performances per year. This is an audition based choir.

SYMPHONIC CHOIR - For all voices including Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Baritone, mostly 8th grade. Students will learn and improve vocal skills by performing challenging literature from many genres including American, sacred, jazz, and contemporary. Students will perform in night concerts and travel to festivals. Students are graded on participation in class and 4-5 required performances per year. This is an audition based choir.

ORCHESTRA - This program is designed for the intermediate strings student who has had two or more years of playing experience. Students will receive further instruction on the music fundamentals, scales, rhythm, sight-reading and advanced playing techniques. Grade is based on performance, preparation, and participation in class, contests and concerts. Students must provide their own instrument and accessories.

GENERAL ELECTIVE COURSES (Quarter Long)

ART - Students will be introduced to the Elements of Art, using a variety of mediums for both two-dimensional and 3-dimensional work. There is a \$10.00 supply fee per quarter.

DESIGN & MODELING - An introduction to Google SketchUp design software and its application in the Design Process. STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) career and educational opportunities are also presented and explored.

GENERAL MUSIC - Students will learn about a variety of music topics, such as rhythm and basic composition. Students will have the opportunity to play guitar and explore other instruments. Students are graded on composition, participation, written work and guitar quizzes. No music experience required.

TEEN CHOICES - This elective includes topics which promote healthy teen lifestyles. Being drug-free, developing refusal skills, exploring the importance of personal decision-making and responsibility are the core principals presented. Teen Choices uses curriculums including: "Project Alert" substance abuse prevention program information and activities, Scholastic's "Choices" Magazine, "Character Counts" character development curriculum, and various community and law enforcement members as speakers.

AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS 7 - Students are introduced to mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems through a series of mechanism and programming challenges. Students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, collaboration and innovation.

SUPPORT COURSES

READING SUPPORT - This 9-week course focuses on reading comprehension and vocabulary. Students learn 1-2 different reading strategies each week that can immediately be implemented in their core classes to help build reading comprehension. Weekly attention is also given to reading fluency and reading rate, as necessary. However, the focus is on reading strategies and vocabulary development to improve understanding of all different types of texts. Students will be assigned to this class.

SPECIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Students must be qualified through the District Special Services Department.

*Each student's Individual Education Plan services will be determined on a case by case basis. We will provide a continuum of services for each individual student need.

RESOURCE ROOM - The purpose of the Resource Room is to provide specially designed curriculum and individual instruction in the basic skills of reading, written expression, mathematics, and other areas as determined by the IEP team. Services may include in-class support on academic core teams by Special Education teachers and para educators.

LIFE SKILLS - The course goal is to teach the functional skills that a student needs to become a productive and independent family member, citizen, employee, and a participant in a variety of a vocational and leisure time activities. Consequently, they will be taught to develop healthy self-concepts, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to become productive citizens.

DEVELOPMENTAL LEARNING CENTER (DLC) - This program is a District program for middle school students who qualify for special education services and who have an Individualized Educational Program (IEP). The curriculum is highly individualized and based on each student's IEP. The program focus is on functional academics, communication skills, and the development of social and adaptive skills. This is a non-graded program for middle school students.