**7th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions**

**2019-20**

**The 7th grade schedule allows students to enroll in TWO exploratory classes.**

*The Parent Portal will be open January 18-February 1 to enter exploratory choices.* ***Students who do not enter courses will be assigned to available exploratories.***

**Art 7** – Students will explore deeper the Elements and Principles of Design: line, color, shape, texture, value and space. They will create collages, tessellations, portraits, textile art, work with clay, and more. Using traditional and contemporary artists as influences, students will experiment with many media types enhancing their creativity and boosting their confidence as individuals and artists.

**Band 7** – This is an advanced Band class for students with at least one year of band experience. Students have several required concerts.  Students in the 7th grade will continue their instrumental education by learning basics of rhythm, notes, and performance. Extra-curricular ensembles, such as Jazz Band, are by audition and optional.  Costs can include rental fee, book and accessories – as well as the fee for the spring trip should students decide to attend. Students wishing to take band who have not completed 6th grade band can take private lessons during the summer and still take 7th grade band.  See Mr.LaPrade for more details.

**Strings 7 –** This course is for students who have successfully completed one year of strings in the 6th grade.  It is also open to students with prior experience on string instruments who audition for the teacher.  Attendance at after-school concerts is part of the course and grade requirements. Students wishing to take strings who have not completed 6th grade strings can take private lessons during the summer and still take 7th grade strings.  See Mr. Escobar for more details.

**Chorus 7** – This class provides an opportunity to hone vocal skills in a more mature rehearsal environment. Students are expected to perform in an average of three concerts per year. Students who are serious about vocal music are encouraged to consider this class.

**Drama 7** – Students will explore basics of communication and performance including body language, expression, movement, and memorization. Students will be expected to attend occasional evening rehearsals and perform at the end of the year.

**Photography 7** – This is a digital photography class designed to teach students basic skills in creating photographs that are creative, informative, and pleasing to the eye. It includes photography history, camera skills, and basic use of photo shop.

**Digital Media Communications** 7–Students are introduced to the world of business using the computer as a problem-solving tool. Emphasis is placed on using basic touch keyboarding skills to complete a variety of projects incorporating word processing, database, presentation, and spreadsheet software. In general, students use workshop tools to construct a project, which is the basis for the creation of a fictional business. As part of the “business,” students create newsletters, brochures, spreadsheets, etc., to market their project. Students also explore various digital media and digital design apps to further illustrate their product. Internet safety and computer maintenance are important components of this course.

**Computer Science/Solutions** 7th: Students will build upon their knowledge from Computer Solutions 6 to become more independent coders.  Additional topics will include arrays, functions, simulations, algorithms and more.  Students will build more complex games throughout the year.  Students will be able to code Tetris by the end of the course.  We may also investigate coding on Android or IOS mobile platforms.

**French or Spanish** **Exploratory** – **NOTE: It is strongly recommended that students take this course if they intend to take the high school course French I or Spanish I in the 8th grade.**

In the 7th grade course, students complete introductory material for high school French 1 / Spanish 1, which are taught in 8th grade. Students spend quality time on the sound system and communications, build their basic vocabulary, and are introduced to basic grammar concepts. Upon successful completion of the 7th grade course, students may continue French or Spanish in 8th grade with two consecutive semesters of the language. With their work in 8th grade, students will complete the county curriculum for Level One of that language for high school credit.

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)**: AVID every day in 7th grade and is a college prep class that teaches students how to be organized, take notes and get ready for rigorous academic classes.  Students go on field trips to area universities to learn more about college and the application process.  You must apply to be in the AVID class.

**Unavailability of staff and/or insufficient enrollment may result in some classes not being offered.**

Students who are referred for Reading and/or Math Intervention Programs take academic support courses instead of exploratories, but may test out at some point and then have an exploratory choice.