

School District 622



North St. Paul
Maplewood
Oakdale



SKYVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

2009 - 2010

7TH GRADE

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SKYVIEW COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

1100 Heron Ave. N., Oakdale, MN 55128-5357

TEAMING APPROACH GRADE 7: One of the concepts in building an effective middle school is providing students with small community membership within the larger school community. The teachers and students of the seventh grade team form a cohesive and supportive group. Together they build a feeling of belonging and a sense of shared productivity.



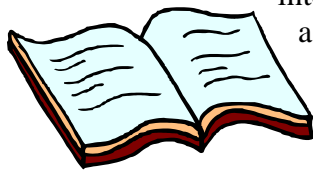
SOCIAL STUDIES 7: This course is designed to:

1. Explore American government, history, geography and economics from the Civil War to the present.
2. Incorporate the use of social science tools and behaviors such as, but not limited to, timelines, atlases, primary and secondary resources and internet search skills.



Throughout the course there will be an emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students will be responsible for participating in class orally; working cooperatively in group situations; using new vocabulary correctly, and keeping all assignments up-to-date and organized in a three-section notebook and a pocket or accordion folder.

LANGUAGE ARTS 7: The basic elements of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and drama are integrated in this course. The writing process is implemented to produce poetry, a narrative essay, and a power point presentation. A wide variety of reading materials and literature are used, including the 2005 edition of Holt's *Elements of Literature* and related activities and novels, which may include *Beowulf*; *The Outsiders*; *Freak the Mighty*; *Nightjohn*; *The Clay Marble* and *World Myths and Folk Tales*.

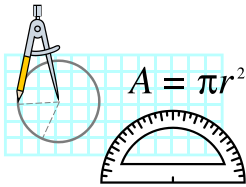


Various opportunities are provided for students to speak in front of the class and to discuss in small groups. Lessons on basic skills are also incorporated, including non-fiction reading and comprehension development. Spelling, grammar, and vocabulary are taught within the context of the reading and writing process. Technology is integrated regularly through projects, writing development, and presentations.

SCIENCE 7: This yearlong course is centered on the biological sciences. Students will become familiar with a variety of lab equipment and procedures while experiencing activities designed to help them better understand basic science concepts and processes. Major topics include: microscopes and cells, plants, genetics, invertebrates, vertebrates and ecology.

Text: *Exploring Life Sciences*, Prentice Hall.

MATH 7: District 622 is using a program for sixth through eighth grade math called *MathThematics*. This program presents math concepts which connect mathematical ideas to real world applications. A variety of teaching methods will be used including cooperative learning, discovery-based learning and direct instruction. The vast majority of seventh grade students are enrolled in Book 2 of the *MathThematics* series. This course includes topics in geometry,



integers, percents, pre-algebra, probability, statistics, and discrete mathematics as well as extending knowledge of fractions, decimals and measurement. Problem solving, mathematical reasoning, estimation, technical reading and writing are embedded throughout the curriculum. Enrichment is built into each module.

MATHEMATICS 7: The above curriculum will be covered at an accelerated pace. Students will use Book 3 of the *MathThematics* series. A district selection process will be used to determine class placement.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7: Students participate in physical education for three-fourths of the school year. This course will focus on skill building, physical fitness development, rhythmic and dance education, team games, swimming, and individual activities. Student participation is an integral part of our expectations.

HEALTH 7: Health is taught in conjunction with physical education, and is taught by the same teacher. This course covers a period of nine weeks, throughout the year. We will focus on three body systems (nervous, circulatory and respiratory), the dangers and effects drugs, alcohol and tobacco have on those body systems, mental health, self-esteem, and healthy relationships as well as beginning First Aid for life-threatening emergencies.



TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 7: Industrial Technology is a trimester class for all students in 7th grade. The technology lab at Skyview consists of 18 technology modules, which are 8 days in length. Students will complete 6 modules during the trimester. Students are given an opportunity to choose modules but are paired randomly by computer scheduling. Each module consists of pre and post tests, research questions and hands-on activities. Information is presented using computers, video, CD-ROM and textbooks. Several modules require a small fee if the student wishes to take their projects home. The modules in the technology lab at Skyview include:



Applied Physics
Electricity
Engineering Bridges
Graphic Communication
Robots
Product Manufacturing
Home Mechanics

Audio Broadcasting
Computer Graphics & Animation
Energy, Power & Mechanics
Meteorology
Rocketry & Space
Engineering Trusses

Career Exploration
Electronics
Flight Technology
Research & Design
Creative Solutions
Video Broadcasting



BAND 7: The seventh grade band is a yearlong commitment and open to students who have completed sixth grade band. Band is a performance class and **attendance at all performances is mandatory**. Students prepare for two to three concert performances each year. Students enhance their music reading skills by preparing music which is appropriate to their ability levels. Band members receive group lessons during the trimester in addition to their band rehearsals. **Home practice is required. Students who do not meet minimum expectations and requirements may be re-evaluated to determine their eligibility to remain in band.** The school may provide the following instruments: bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone and tuba. There is a rental charge for use of these instruments. All other instruments must be provided by the students.



JAZZ ENSEMBLE: Jazz Ensemble is an extra-curricular class that meets before school 3 days a week. Students are selected by an audition process. Jazz Ensemble auditions are open to sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass guitar or drums.

CHOIR 7: The seventh grade choir is a performing group, which meets every other day throughout the year. Various styles of music in two or three parts are prepared for concert presentations, which occur twice a year. This is a performance-oriented course in which music reading skills are developed. **Attendance at all concerts is mandatory.** Appropriate sheet music is provided. Choir is a **yearlong commitment** for highly motivated, dedicated students who love to sing!



SWING CHOIR: Swing Choir is a select group of 7th and 8th grade students who love to perform. Popular songs are stressed with this group and choreography is included. This is an extra-curricular activity that meets before or after school.



ART 7: Art is a trimester course. Students use art elements and principles to understand the meaning of art. Art history is used as support material and as a separate topic. Intermediate drawing methods and techniques are taught, with the specific area of 3-D form. A variety of media is used as students explore their own ideas in creating original art.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS) 7: The course work for this trimester class involves individual and group work, along with laboratory experiences. The areas covered are:

◆ **Family Living Unit**

Students will research a culture from their own heritage and put together a family collage.

◆ **Clothing and Textiles**

Students learn how to use a sewing machine, read a pattern and follow directions. They complete a sewing machine project and optional extra credit sewing projects.

Foods and Nutrition: Students learn kitchen management skills through food labs. Nutrition information is part of this unit as well as learning about healthy eating.



NOTE: Consumer education is an integral part of daily life skills and is included in all areas of study in FACS. Careers are integrated in all areas.

Students must provide pencil, paper, folder, and materials for a sewing project (a list of materials and an order form will be sent home at the beginning of the sewing unit).

SPECIAL SERVICES: Special education services are provided for students who qualify in a cross-categorical inclusion or intervention model. Services are provided in the areas of learning disabilities (LD), other health impaired (OHI), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and emotional behavioral disorder (EBD). Related services for qualifying students are provided in the areas of speech/language, hearing impairment, and/or adaptive physical education.

OTHER SERVICES

Homebound instruction for students absent from school due to injury or illness for a consecutive period of 15 days or more is also available. Parents/Guardians who feel that they are in need of such services should contact the Guidance Office.

