



South Lake Middle School
7th Grade Course Catalog
2017-2018

Core Courses

English 7: 7th Grade English is a class focusing on the elements of language described in the California Common Core Standards: reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language. Students read novels, short stories, and real world documents to increase their reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and word analysis skills. Literary analysis skills focus on elements of plot, characterization, and close reading. Writing application centers around informative, argumentative, and narrative writing, as well as conventions of spelling and grammar. Students also increase their skills in listening and speaking through delivering oral presentations and holding active classroom discussions.

World History 7: Students in 7th Grade History study the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, Central and South America, and Asia in the years 500 to 1789. They examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. Through their study of world history content, students also learn intellectual skills such as spatial and chronological thinking, points of view, historical research, and historical interpretation.

Math 7: Instructional time in this course focuses on:

- Analyzing proportional relationships and using them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
 - Applying and extending previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
 - Using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
 - Solving real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
 - Drawing, constructing and describing geometrical figures and describing the relationships between them.
- Solving real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.
 - Using random sampling to draw inferences about a population.
 - Drawing informal comparative inferences about two populations.
 - Investigating chance processes and developing, using, and evaluating probability models.

Enhanced Math 7/8: This course differs from the grade-level Math 7 and Math 8 courses in that it contains content from both courses. **Students are recommended for this course by their 6th grade math teacher using multiple measures.** This course is intended for the student who is able to move through the mathematics quickly and still master the full range of mathematical practices, content and skills. Instructional time in this course focuses on:

- Analyzing proportional relationships and using them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- Understanding the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- Applying and extending previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- Knowing that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximating those using rational numbers.
- Working with radicals and integer exponents.
- Using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
- Solving real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
- Drawing, constructing and describing geometrical figures and describing the relationships between them.

- Understanding congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
- Solving real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.
- Solving real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres.
- Using random sampling to draw inferences about a population.
- Drawing informal comparative inferences about two populations.
- Investigating chance processes and developing, using, and evaluating probability models.

Science 7: The 7th Grade Science curriculum reflects the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The overarching guiding concept for this year-long integrated course is that, "Natural processes and human activities shape Earth's web of life." The NGSS-based curriculum is designed to give 7th grade students a foundation of basic knowledge on which to build for future work in high school. A variety of projects, as well as hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory activities, small group and full class discussions, as well as problem solving through cooperative learning experiences are used to support the curriculum. Emphasis is on students developing critical thinking skills, analyzing concepts, improving reading comprehension using increasingly complex text, writing, and interactive note-taking. Students will engage in assessments that include investigations, projects, writing assignments, class participation, quizzes and tests. Throughout the year, students also have the opportunity to participate in science enrichment opportunities such as Science Fair and Astounding Inventions.

Physical Education: The South Lake Middle School Physical Education Staff is dedicated to implementing a physical education curriculum that enables all students to make connections between physical health, wellness, and exercise. Students at South Lake Middle School will have physical education every day of the week. The physical education curriculum is aligned to California State Standards. Each of our sports units integrates instruction in health, nutrition, conditioning, and injury prevention. Each unit of instruction will be

developmentally appropriate and designed to meet the needs of every student from the physically gifted to the physically challenged. Instruction will emphasize building social skills, confidence, self-esteem, and guiding students toward appropriate decision-making. Class activities will be created to emphasize the importance of self-improvement, active participation, and cooperation.

See the **E.D.P.E. Registration Forms** for information about enrollment in the course. Students in E.D.P.E. must be enrolled in a year-long music, art, or Spanish elective.

Trimester-Long Elective Courses

Art 1: In this course, students will be exploring a variety of media and techniques while learning the elements and principles of art. Activities may include drawing, painting, printmaking, graphics, sculpture, design, lettering, photography, art history, and art appreciation. This is a great class for all skill levels.

Ceramics: In this course, students will learn the basics of working with clay such as construction, firing, and glazing as well as art history. They will learn hand-building techniques such as slab construction, coil, and pinch pots. Projects may include clay monsters, mini food displays, and coil bowls. This class is great for all skill levels.

Digital Photography: This course will introduce students to art elements and principles of design through photography, photo editing, and video production in three equal parts. Students will learn proper usage and care of a digital camera, composition, and file management for creation of digital and print products. They will explore and apply fundamental design concepts using programs such as Adobe Photoshop and Premiere. The unit on video production will also introduce students to common film shots and professional filming equipment. As a whole, the Digital Media Arts course encourages students to critically explore the role and function of imagery, language, and presentation using digital media.

Drama: This course is designed so that students will become more comfortable and confident while performing in front of an audience. Students will build acting skills through improvisation, dramatic readings, theater exercises and script performance. The goal of this elective is for all students to have fun and to perform in the culminating end of the trimester play

which is carefully selected and appropriate for middle school students and audiences.

Introduction to Spanish: This course is designed to familiarize students with Spanish and prepare them for Spanish 1. Every week students will learn a set of thematic vocabulary. Students practice the weekly vocabulary, as well as expressions to use with the vocabulary in class with Power Point presentations, speaking activities, games, worksheets, and art projects. The students become familiar with the geography and culture of all twenty-one Spanish-speaking countries through online research, informational Power Point presentations and by producing arts and crafts typical of these countries.

Media Literacy: Mass media is enmeshed in our daily lives. It is nearly impossible to imagine a day without seeing a TV show, magazine, newspaper, listening to the radio, playing a video game, or using the internet. Yet, how often do we stop to think about who creates the visual and audio material that we consume? What are the purposes and goals of the information and advertisements that we are exposed to on a daily basis? What affect does the mass media have on individuals, society and the creation of culture? These are the very issues we will explore in Media Literacy. In addition, students will have creative opportunities to produce various forms of media related content.

Public Speaking/Debate: This course will provide opportunities for students to feel more comfortable and gain confidence in public speaking. Students will develop an understanding of the purpose and definition of debate, as well as the importance of persuasive arguments and supporting evidence.

Technology: No prerequisites required. Calling all students who want to be creative and learn the basics of computer programming. In this course, you will learn how to code and work with various robotic tools through teamwork. The two main platforms you will be learning in this course are Code.org and scratch.mit.edu. After that, you will be working on various projects using Makey-Makey, Raspberry Pi, Arduino, LEGO Mindstorms, Ozobot, Dash & Dot robots, and even a 3-D printer. Sign up and join the fun!

Study Skills: The purpose of this course is to help the students develop study skills that will allow them to be successful, not only in middle school, but also in high school. In addition, students will participate in class activities that will help them to develop basic

organization skills. Periodic grade checks will be conducted to ensure that students are keeping current with assignments and grades in their core curricular classes. There is limited space available in this elective.

Year-Long Elective Courses

Advanced Art: This course is aimed at students who have had prior art experience and would like to build on those skills or for beginning artists who have a strong interest in developing some artistic skills. This is a great class for those who would like to continue their arts education in high school. This class will cover a range of mediums and techniques and will include some more challenging projects such as graphic design, sewing, printmaking, public art displays, sculpture, and traditional drawing techniques. **Enrollment in the course is through art teacher recommendation.**

Chorus: This course is open to all students. Students in chorus will perform a wide variety of music including rock, folk, jazz, and pop, with a special focus on Musical Theater. Students will also develop their singing and note-reading skills while focusing on proper tone production, solfege and ensemble skills. The culminating project in Chorus class is our South Lake Spring Musical.

Concert Band: This exciting ensemble is open for any brass or woodwind player with previous music reading experience. Students wishing to continue their current instrumental music studies or switch to a new instrument may take this class. (Percussion will be covered in the 2nd and 3rd Trimesters of this course, so students interested in drums should sign up for this class). Students will learn and refine musical skills while performing intermediate music literature. This class covers 7th and 8th grade music standards, and is designed for students with at least two years of music experience. **All 7th grade students interested in band should register for this course.**

String Orchestra: The South Lake String Orchestra is for students with previous musical experience. Students will refine their skills and perform a variety of literature, including Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern and Pop. Students will increase their knowledge of intermediate and advanced orchestral string playing techniques, including shifting, vibrato and self-tuning. This class covers 7th and 8th grade music standards, and is designed for students with at least three years of music experience, not necessarily on an orchestral string instrument. Instruments in this class include

violin, viola, cello and bass. **Piano and guitar by audition with music teacher.**

Symphonic Orchestra: Symphonic Orchestra is a full orchestra of strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion players. It covers advanced ensemble performance techniques. Students will refine their musical skills while performing a variety of classical and modern music styles. This class is designed for students with at least three full years of experience on their instrument; therefore participation is by audition with the music instructor. **Enrollment in this course is through student audition only.**

Please note: Placement into an instrumental music class is made based on the instrumentation needs of the ensemble and approval by the South Lake Music teacher.

Yearbook: Students enrolled in the Yearbook elective will create, design and produce our school's yearbook, including a DVD yearbook. They will learn skills associated with layout and design, digital imaging, photocomposition, journalism, film and video editing, and most importantly, collaboration and cooperation between staff members. Yearbook participants are expected to spend time outside of school hours completing required assignments. Those students looking for a challenging honors level opportunity should consider the Yearbook class. **7th grade students who sign up for Yearbook must be dependable, organized and creative. Students should have a good record of homework completion, attendance and consistently produce quality work on time. 6th grade teacher signature required on registration card to be considered.**

Students interested in any year-long elective must also select trimester electives or another year-long elective in the event that the classes are full.