

Jenison Junior High School

Seventh Grade Course Descriptions



CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Language Arts – Full Year

This required course focuses on reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students read and respond to novels through small-group discussions, individual conferences, and writing assignments. They also read poetry, short stories, and nonfiction. Paragraph and short theme development is emphasized, including basic grammatical guidelines.

Mathematics – Full Year

Students will be placed in a mathematics course based on past performance and teacher recommendations. All seventh grade mathematics courses cover the 7th Grade Common Core State Standards created by the State of Michigan. All seventh grade mathematics courses will prepare students for eighth grade math and high school level geometry/advanced algebra courses. All junior high mathematics courses require a scientific calculator.

Science - Full Year

Seventh grade science is a general science course which investigates various branches of science. Subtopics to be studied include scientific investigation, characteristics of living things, cells and heredity, energy, volcanoes, and how humans impact the environment. Discussion and modeling are emphasized in this course, and lab experiences make this course a fun exploration of the world of science.

Social Studies – Full Year

Full year, general social studies course which studies world history and geography with an emphasis on Ancient Civilizations. In studying the ancient world, students should come to appreciate the special significance of geographic place in the development of the human story and learn about those people, events, and beliefs that ushered in the dawn of the major Western and non-Western civilizations. The course covers early humankind and the development of human societies; the beginnings of civilization in Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, the foundation of Western ideas from the Ancient Greeks and Romans, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Exploration, and the establishment of the American Colonies.

Directions – 9 weeks

Directions is a class designed to help students make a smooth transition into junior high. Students will discover the importance of building strong character and a healthy self-esteem by setting goals, maintaining healthy relationships, and handling peer pressure. Topics will include the physical consequences of drug abuse, managing the changes of puberty, and understanding the benefits of abstinence. This is a required course for all seventh grade students.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

French 1/2 - Full Year – Full Year

(high school level course)

Students will learn how to speak, understand, read, and write in French at a basic level about simple things such as sports, food, school, and family in the present tense. These skills are practiced and learned through speaking activities, games, skits/dialogues, songs, written work, and special projects. Along with the study of the language, students will also learn about the life and culture of French-speaking countries. This is done through movies, readings, and special projects that teach about customs and food throughout the Francophone world. Evaluation will be on how students express themselves through speaking and writing, as well as projects, and class participation. *At the end of the year students will earn high school credit, but the GPA will not be added to high school GPA. Students must have at*

least a 3.0 GPA or teacher recommendation for enrollment in this course. Successful completion of this course counts as one year of the two year world language requirement for high school credit/graduation.

Spanish 1/2 - Full Year – Full Year

(high school level course)

Students will learn how to converse, read and write at a basic level about simple things such as sports, food, school, and family. These skills are practiced and learned through oral drills, games, skits, songs, written work, and special projects. Along with the study of the language, students will also learn about the life and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. This is done through movies, readings, and special projects to teach about Hispanic food and customs. Evaluation will be on oral expression, as well as written materials and class participation. Students must have successful completion of one level prior to advancing to the next. *At the end of the year students will earn high school credit, but the GPA will not be added to high school GPA. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA or teacher recommendation for enrollment in this course. Successful completion of this course counts as one year of the two year world language requirement for high school credit/graduation.*

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MUSIC

Band - Full Year

Students enrolling in Band should have had prior training in elementary school on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Basics of good band sound, good intonation, technique, and the responsibility and commitment of performing in an ensemble are stressed. The seventh grade band performs five times during the school year. All performances are required and attendance will impact the student's grade. Practice time, behavior, and effort are also considered in the grade. Private lessons are encouraged, but not required for participation in the band program.

Arietta Choir - Full Year

This choir is designed for seventh grade girls who are interested in singing at Jenison Junior High. Students in the Arietta Choir will learn a variety of vocal/choral styles that will include both Traditional, and Commercial (Pop, Rock, Jazz, Show etc.) music. Students involved in this choir will perform at the winter and spring concerts as well as other performances for the community. Other performances may be at Retirement communities, the Festival of Voices Concert, and performances with outside groups such as University Choirs and Semi-Professional Choirs. Instructional topics/activities include harmony (2, 3, and 4 part) and ear training, appropriate vocal tone production based on various musical styles, music theory, sight-reading, and the development of poise and self-confidence as well as having fun making music on a daily basis!

Male Chorus - Full Year

This choir provides a special opportunity for all seventh and eighth grade young men to develop their voices and musical abilities by singing in a choir of their peers. The Male Chorus members will learn a variety of vocal/choral styles that will include both Traditional, and Commercial (Pop, Rock, Jazz, Show etc.) music. Students involved in this choir will perform at the winter and spring concerts, and some of the Jenison Elementary schools as well as other performances for the community. Other performances may be at retirement communities, the Festival of Voices concert, and performances with outside groups such as University Choirs and Semi-Professional Choirs. This ensemble sometimes receives invitations to perform outside the community at music educator conferences, and for university music schools. Instructional topics/activities include harmony (2, 3, and 4 part) and ear training, vocal tone production appropriate with various musical styles, music theory, sight-reading, and the development of poise and self-confidence as well as having fun making music on a daily basis!

Orchestra - Full Year

Students enrolling in either of the seventh grade orchestras should have had prior string training in elementary school on violin, viola, cello, or bass. A minimum of five after-school performances are required during the year. Attendance at all performances is mandatory and will impact the student's grade. The class emphasizes learning to play as an ensemble, and extending existing techniques including bowings, shifting to upper positions, vibrato, listening skills, and learning to follow the conductor. Private lessons are encouraged, but not required for participation.

ART

Visual art classes at the junior high are a low stress, high energy, and highly creative environment. Success in art class is based on your ability to challenge your imagination and your willingness to be open to new ideas!

Ceramics & Sculpture – 9 weeks

This course is designed to introduce students to the fantastic world of 3-D art! Students will work with a variety of materials including clay, paper mache, wire, wood, and colored paper. Throughout the nine-week course, they will learn about specific styles and techniques used in 3-D art, view Power Point presentations in relation to famous artists, and construct dynamic pieces of 3-D artwork.

Drawing & Painting – 9 weeks

This exciting course is designed to improve basic 2-D art skills and to challenge each student's imagination. Students will develop better drawing skills and learn different painting techniques. Materials ranging from standard pencils to ink and paint will be used in creating works of art. During the nine weeks, students will learn about several famous artists and how their artwork is directly related to what is being taught in class.

ARTS AND COMMUNICATION

Performance Arts – 9 weeks

Performance Arts is a 9-week elective course offered at Jenison Junior High. The class is divided into three main units with each focusing on a component of performance. The three units are: performing with your voice, performing with your body, and performing as part of a group.

COOKING

Cooking 101 – 9 weeks

Cooking 101 is an activity-oriented class designed to help students become more independent. Through class activities and six cooking experiences students will learn about kitchen safety, food preparation, baking basics, and good nutrition.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education at Jenison Junior High is a nine-week experience designed to give students a dynamic opportunity to develop sport skills while forming lifelong positive fitness habits. Each of the three different classes of physical education will begin with helping students to increase their fitness levels in the areas of muscle strength, flexibility, agility, and cardiovascular endurance. The three classes are as follows:

Individual Sports – 9 weeks

This course will concentrate on the improvement of specific skills and game strategies to compete in a variety of individual and leisure sporting activities. Through practice and individual competition, students will learn how to break down skills into specific sequential steps that they can improve on to become more competent in their leisure time activities. This class will include frisbee golf, badminton, basketball golf, tennis, golf, pickle ball, spike ball and fowling.

Team Sports – 9 weeks

This course will give students the opportunity to participate in a variety of popular sports such as flag football, floor hockey, volleyball, basketball, team handball, soccer, ultimate frisbee, tennis, and softball. Students will concentrate on the improvement of specific skills and strategies needed to successfully compete in interscholastic as well as recreational sports. Along with skill development, this course will include many exciting tournaments and competitions.

Weight Training – 9 weeks

This course is noncompetitive, offering all students the opportunity to individually improve on their overall health and fitness and to achieve personal fitness goals. Students will be introduced to training methods designed to improve flexibility, muscular strength, agility, and cardiovascular endurance. This class is for anyone and everyone who wants to improve their fitness, coordination, and athletic ability. Students will make fitness gains by setting realistic goals and by designing workouts that will maximize results. Some activities will include weight training, agility training, flexibility training, and cardiovascular training.

STEM – Science Technology Engineering Math

Coding – 9 weeks

During this nine-week elective students will focus on computer programming, also known as coding. Students will engage in coding as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. The course inspires students as they code with Tynker while using Parrot Mambo drones. Students will program their own interactive stories, games, and animations using Scratch. Finally, students will build their own robot using VEX IQ and learn to program it to complete tasks autonomously.

Everyday Engineering –9 weeks

During this nine week elective students will focus on using the engineering design process to solve real world problems. Students will engage in the practices of real-life scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians. Through real-world problems and projects, students will be exposed to a variety of different types of engineering and STEM careers.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Industrial Technology Education – 9 weeks

Using problem solving methods and models, students will attempt to design, create, and produce technological systems. Team-led design scenarios might include building a tower using paper or straws to support a payload, or constructing a device to catapult objects at a target, etc. Class competitions and rewards will add to the excitement of the challenges! On a more traditional note, each student will be introduced to procedures and practices for using woodworking power tools to construct a collapsible beach chair or laptop table. Upon passing a safety test, students will read working drawings, follow route sheets to machine their projects parts, assemble, and apply a finish to their projects.

Industrial Transportation Tech – 9 weeks

This course will utilize CO2 powered dragsters as a tool to understanding how to use the Engineering Design Process. Students will research, design, build a prototype, test and produce a raceable CO2 dragsters. During design phase students will sketch their concepts and rough drawings then transfer them to a full size working drawing. The styrofoam prototype helps student visualize their design, thus allowing them to modify their design before starting on the wood dragster. The effects of physical forces regarding aerodynamics and friction will be discussed and applied. A computerized drag strip will be used to test and race their vehicle against other students vehicles, with speeds exceeding 40 mph. The drill press, bandsaw, power sanders, dremel tool, and hand tools will be used for vehicle production.