

7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2020-2021

ELECTIVES

FRENCH 1A

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

This course is offered to students with no prior classroom experience in French and is an introduction to basic topics. By the end of the course, students will be expected to communicate at a novice level on topics such as self, classroom, family/pets, calendar/time, weather, friends, leisure activities, places/community, and food. Regular and irregular verbs and their conjugations will be introduced. Speaking proficiency skills are strongly emphasized. Students will expand their knowledge and appreciation of the culture through videos and projects. Students who maintain a C+ and pass the final test with a C- or better can choose to receive a high school credit for French 1.

SPANISH 1A

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

This class will address speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. Students will be expected to communicate in Spanish on topics such as self, classroom, family/pets, calendar/time, weather, friends, and pastimes. Students will be exposed to the culture of the language with progress toward 8th grade Spanish (Spanish 1B). Students will have to maintain a C+ in order to continue on to 8th grade Spanish (Spanish 1B), with the possibility of earning 1 high school credit.

MANDARIN 1

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

This course is offered to students with no prior classroom experience in Mandarin. Students learn the basics of the Chinese language and continue learning more words and phrases. In Mandarin, not only do you learn how to speak Chinese, but also learn about the Chinese culture, songs, calligraphy and how to write Chinese properly. Students will do some arts and crafts and learn the symbolism of each project.

CHOIR 7

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Students learn teamwork and cooperation by performing together vocally. Skills they learn include matching pitch, correct posture, as well as understanding basic music reading and theory. They will learn to sing various styles of vocal music such as jazz, pop, and classics in up to 4 parts at a time. Performance opportunities are at school assemblies and concerts (approximately three times per year.)

INTERMEDIATE BAND

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: 1 year previous band

Intermediate band is designed for students with one year of band experience. Students who wish to start learning a band instrument in the seventh grade must consult with the band teacher. Students will work toward proper tone production, rhythmic accuracy, and note accuracy through individual practice, ensemble rehearsals, and performances. Performances will include concerts and a field trip to the district band festival. Participation in performances will constitute part of the student's grade. This course has a dress code for all performances.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: One year of music experience is preferred.

Middle school Percussion Ensemble is offered to students who have an interest in learning the techniques of playing percussion instruments in a performance class. The class will focus primarily on snare drum, keyboard percussion and timpani technique. Content includes the study of appropriate ensemble literature as well as rehearsal and performance techniques. The class will seek to create musically literate and competent percussionists with an appreciation of the role of percussion in a variety of musical settings. In addition to performing as a group, several members of the percussion ensemble will also perform with the Intermediate and/or Advanced bands at those group's concerts and festivals.

JAZZ BAND

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: Students must audition, have at least one year of instrumental participation, and be enrolled in either Intermediate Band or Advanced Band or Orchestra.

Selection of Jazz Band members is by audition. Students must have at least one year of instrumental participation and have a desire to experience different styles of jazz, swing and rock music. Students will work toward proper jazz articulation, tone production and style. Performances will include school concerts, public performances and field trips. Students taking Jazz Band must also be enrolled in either Intermediate Band or Advanced Band or Orchestra. Participation in concerts will constitute part of the student's grade. This course has a dress code for all performances.

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Open to all 6th and 7th grade students who are interested in learning to play the violin, viola, cello or string bass. Students will play classical, folk, and bluegrass styles on their instruments while also learning music theory, history, note reading, and sight singing. The beginning strings will participate in an elementary recruitment tour and multiple evening performances.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA 7/8

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: One year playing experience or private lessons

Open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grades students who are interested in learning to play the violin, viola, cello or string bass. Students will play classical, popular, and folk styles on their instruments while also learning music theory, history, note reading, sight singing, and musical expression. This orchestra will participate in the district Solo and Ensemble Festival, the East Cascade Orchestra Festival, and multiple evening performances.

LEADERSHIP

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

In School Spirit, students work together to plan and organize school-wide events that make a positive difference in our school. Activities include: *school socials, spirit activities, lunch activities, assemblies, community events, field day, service projects, and additional student inspired ideas!* It is expected that each student will be respectful, accepting, and courteous of others in and out of our classroom.

DRAMA 1 (Improv)

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

This course will focus on improvisation skills. It is an introduction for anyone to learn the fundamentals of improvisation--the basic tools, rules, and philosophy--through games, drills, and simple scenes with a uniquely character-based “Groundlings”-inspired approach. It's VERY fun, VERY supportive and noncompetitive. In fun and engaging exercises, students will work on overcoming stage-fright, improving focus and concentration, connecting with others through trust games and active listening, understanding “stage presence,” and opening their imaginations to playing characters. This is a great class if you want to continue with Drama 2 although it is not a prerequisite.

DRAMA 2 (Intro to Acting)

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

This course enlarges the student’s understanding of “performance” in a playful, encouraging, collaborative atmosphere. Drama 2 (Introduction to Acting) is designed to offer students a dynamic, engaging introduction to theater training. It is specifically intended for both of those who've either never studied acting before or students who want to get back in touch with their creative impulses who have stage experience. Students will learn techniques for improving their self-confidence in a safe, playful environment through the exploration of basic acting principles. **A final play performance is required which may include after school participation.** You do not need to have taken Drama 1 class but it is encouraged.

DRAWING 1

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

This class will focus on the fundamentals of drawing and the elements and principles of design. Students will start with basic drawing skills and work through more advanced skills with a variety of media. Shading, perspective, proportion and composition will be covered. Art history and aesthetics will be integrated with projects.

SCULPTURE AND DESIGN

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

This class will focus on the fundamentals of sculpture and the elements and principles of design. Project will include ceramics, found object sculpture, mask-making, and others. Some 2-D design work can be expected as well.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 1 (CODING)

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Students who participate in Basic Computer Science and Skills will learn the foundational concepts and skills they will need for success in high school Computer Science courses. Although learning to code and program is a central task, the course is designed to introduce students to ALL of the concepts of Computer Science through engaging activities that are both on and off the computer. They will solve real world problems that require both hard and soft skills as individuals and in groups. The course will strengthen the learner’s ability to communicate, collaborate, critically think and be creative through various projects that depend on their willingness to persevere and work accurately.

WOODS

Length: Semester or Year Long

Prerequisite: None

This course takes students to the building and woodshop phase of beginning engineering. Students work on

projects designed for community mindedness. Projects range from simple iPad holders to outside park benches. Drafting and drawing skills will be learned and applied to designs before building begins. A heavy emphasis on shop safety and the use of power tools (sanders, bandsaw, and chop saw) will be learned and applied.

REQUIRED COURSES

FALCON TIME

Falcon time is a class that all Sky View students have two to four days per week pending finalization of schedule. On those days, students have a variety of options for how to spend the time. Students who are in good standing in their core classes have opportunities to attend clubs, activities, tutoring, art, and music studios, as well as other enrichment activities. Students needing assistance or catching up on tests and assignments will attend re-teaching sessions, test make-ups and more.

THEME BASED LANGUAGE ARTS

Length: Year long

Prerequisite: None

Theme based Language Arts approaches the subject in a whole new way! Using literature, poetry, art, music, and media, we will analyze thematic units such as, but not limited to: The Adventuring Spirit, Pop Culture through the Decades, World Mythology, A Window into the Future, and People Who Changed the World. While a bit unconventional it is completely standards-based covering reading skills, various types of writing, grammar and public speaking.

7TH GRADE MATH

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Math students learn how to use variables, how to write expressions, and how to use a variety of formulas. The correct order of operation becomes second nature for students. Area, surface area and volume are studied through the use of blocks. Basic operations with exponents and signed numbers are learned as well as introductory graphing of linear relationships.

SCIENCE

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Science at the 7th and 8th grade level is an integrated blend of life, earth, & physical science. The major emphasis on the force and motion concepts of physical science occur in the 6th grade curriculum with reinforcement and extensions of the concepts occurring at the 7th and 8th grade levels.

In the 7th grade, the emphasis is on Oceans and Atmosphere. Students examine the physical characteristics of the ocean as well as salt-water organisms. Physical characteristics of the atmosphere including weather, climate patterns, and behavior of gasses are studied. The relationship of the moon, sun and earth are examined as well as earth's place in space in addition to human's attempts to explore the solar system and beyond.

SOCIAL STUDIES - WORLD HISTORY

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Seventh grade students will study the history and geography of a number of cultures from B.C. 500 - A.D. 1789. Our journey begins with the rise and fall of ancient Rome and some of the barbarian tribes that helped bring them down. Other units include the rise of Islam, Medieval Africa, Europe, and Japan, the European Renaissance, Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution that ushered in the Enlightenment and the modern world. Students will also be given the opportunity to develop skills in writing, problem solving group work; public speaking, internet research, PowerPoint presentations, and other tools necessary to help them better understand and appreciate the unique world in which we live.

PE/HEALTH

Length: Full Year

Prerequisite: None

In this class students participate in PE for 27 weeks and rotate to Health for 9 weeks. The 9-week Health course is designed to help you gain knowledge and understanding of how to develop a healthy lifestyle now and in the future. We will be actively involved in developing strategies for leading a life that is healthy and productive. Topics that are covered: Emotional & Mental Health, Stress Management, Alcohol, Tobacco & Illegal drugs, Reproduction-Growth & Development, Diseases- STD's & HIV.

INTERVENTIONS – Replaces Electives – Placement Determined by Teachers**MATH LAB**

Length: Semester or year long determined by test scores

Prerequisite: Students will be chosen based on a variety of data; school assessment data, ACT Aspire, Smarter Balanced, Easy CBM, and teacher recommendation.

LANGUAGE ARTS LAB

Length: Semester or year long determined by test scores

Prerequisite: Students will be chosen based on a variety of data; school assessment data, ACT Aspire, Smarter Balanced, Easy CBM, and teacher recommendation.