CDMS Course Descriptions

7th Grade Course Descriptions

7th grade mandatory courses:

- **English/Language Arts 7 (710/711) -- Miss Harvey**
  Seventh grade language arts will focus on the English Language Arts Core Standards. The strands of the standards include writing, speaking and listening, and language skills. We will incorporate the use of technology and critical thinking skills into each of these strands.

- **Reading 7 (714/715) -- Mrs. Craddick (1 skinny, both semesters)**
  Reading will focus on the English language arts literature and informational text Core Curriculum standards. Students will take part in close reads, literature circles, and novel studies in order to demonstrate proficiency in these reading standards.

- **Math 7 (720/721) -- Mr. Bertolino**
  Math 7 will focus on the Math Core Domains. The Domains include ratio and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, statistics and probability. The curriculum includes text work as well as a self-paced tutorial.

- **Math 2 (724/725) -- Mr. Bertolino** Math 2 is an accelerated math class. This class will include the math 7 topics as well as advanced topics due to the increased pace.

- **Science 7 (730/731) -- Mrs. Brookins**
  Seventh grade science focuses on Earth science for the first semester and life science for the second semester. During our study of Earth science, we cover Earth's atmosphere, weather, climate, and the Earth in space. During our study of life science, we cover classification of life, parts and functions of cells, heredity, and various human body systems - cardiovascular system, digestive system, muscular system, skeletal system, and nervous system. There are multiple laboratories and activities that are used to help support the information from class work and discussion.

- **Eastern Cultural Studies (740/741) -- Mrs. Froeschle**
  During the year we will discuss four distinct regions located in the Eastern Hemisphere. They are Africa, Europe and Russia, Southwest and Central Asia, and South and East Asia and the Pacific. In order to gain a true appreciation for these areas we will look at each region's history, physical geography, cultural geography, and at the individual countries that make up the region.

- **Physical Education (700/701) -- Mrs. Bertolino (1 skinny, both semesters)**
  Physical Education shall include fitness activities that increase cardiovascular

endurance, muscular strength and flexibility. We will also explore various sports and games, leisure and lifetime activities, team building and climbing.

- **Art 7 (770) -- Mrs. Butler (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
  Students will be creating both 2D and 3D works of art in this required semester-long course. Students will explore creating through the use of a variety of media. Students will spend time learning about the Elements and Principles of Art, the process of art criticism, as well as reflecting on their artwork through writing meaningful artist statements.

- **Music TECH (782) -- Mrs. Olson (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
  Music TECH stands for Technology/Entertainment/Creativity/History and will focus on the fundamentals of music within these areas. Students will study and examine these topics through a variety of compositional techniques, concentrating on styles of music in the 20th century. Students will use GarageBand and other software applications to create raps, tone row compositions, and more.

- **Family Consumer Sciences I/Health (760) -- Mrs. Low (1 block, 1 semester)**
  FCS I is an introductory class for 7th grade students. Subject areas taught are personal development, positive relationships with peers, families and adults, personal finance, nutrition and wellness, food safety and sanitation, and managing clothing resources. Food preparation labs are instrumental in teaching the nutrition, wellness, food safety and sanitation. Students culminate the nutrition unit by creating a cookbook using decision making skills to locate and prepare healthy snacks.

- **Health Component** -- This class is the first health class of the students' middle school years. The basis of the program is the Health Triangle focusing on physical, mental/emotional, and social health. Decision-making and goal setting, being proactive with your health and overall wellness is the foundation for the program. Areas studied include but are not limited to: the effects of consumer advertising, skin care and effects of the sun on the skin, care of the eyes, ears, and teeth, male and female reproductive systems, tobacco, drug and alcohol awareness, communicable and non-communicable diseases, STD's and HIV/AIDs. Many labs and hands on activities are used in teaching the information.

- **STEM 7 (1146) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
  This class will provide an introduction to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education through inquiry based instruction. This course will challenge students to think critically using each STEM discipline. The students will be introduced to coding and robotics using different manipulative including websites, robots and apps. The students will create prototypes to solve real world engineering challenges using the 5-Step Engineering Design Process (ask, imagine, plan, create, and improve). The students will look at design through techniques and drawing used in the mechanical engineering and industrial design by creating 3-D shapes and multi-view drawing using Google Sketch-Up.

7th grade optional courses:

Fine Arts

- **7th Grade Band (790/791) -- Mrs. Wedeking**
    - This course is a continuation of skills and techniques learned in 6th Grade Band. The course focuses on proper playing technique on a chosen band instrument, tone production, reading of music notation and symbols, music composition, and proper ensemble performance practice. All students will have performance opportunities involving mandatory concerts, solo festival, and elected performances in honor bands.

- **Chorus 7 (780/781) -- Mrs. Olson**
    - This course places emphasis on singing and vocal production. Students will focus on healthy vocal technique, reading music notation, sight-singing, and the rehearsal of music. Students will develop self-discipline and learn to work cooperatively while singing a variety of styles of music. There will be multiple performance opportunities throughout the year, with one mandatory performance each semester.

- **Guitar I ⅞ (1194) -- TBA** (Class capped at 16 students.) **(1 skinny, 1 semester)**
    Beginning Guitar introduces the guitar and playing techniques for the instrument. The course, designed for beginners, includes note reading, rhythms, and basic guitar skills. Public performance is a possibility and fees for instruments and materials may apply for the class.

- **Guitar II ⅞ (1195) -- TBA** (Class capped at 16 students.) **(1 skinny, 1 semester)**
    Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in Guitar I or entrance audition if you have previous guitar experience.
    - Guitar II is a continuation of Guitar I. Students will study more advanced chords, rhythms, note reading, and harmony techniques. Public performance is a possibility. Placement is by teacher recommendation for ensembles and fees for instruments and materials may apply for the class.

- **Piano I ⅞ (1197)** -- **Mrs. Olson** (Class capped at 16students.) **(1 skinny, 1 semester)**
    - Beginning Piano introduces the piano and playing techniques for the instrument. The course, designed for beginners, includes note reading, rhythmic notation, some composition and arranging, basic piano technique skills, and small ensemble playing.

- **Piano II ⅞ (1198) -- Mrs. Olson** (Class capped at 16 students.) **(1 skinny, 1 semester)**
    Prerequisites: Completion of Piano I or entrance audition if you have previous piano experience.
    - Piano II is a continuation of Piano I. Students will study more advanced notation/composition skills, as well as develop a further understanding of piano playing techniques. Public performance may be a possibility.

STEM

- **Introduction to Coding 1 (1140) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
    - Intro to Coding will look at coding which is an invaluable skill that helps people think computationally, and hence effectively solve problems within and outside computer science. Coding is everywhere: from coffee machines and MP3 players, to spaceships and medical robots. The goals of this course include how to think like a programmer and an introduction to the fundamental principles of computing to code. The students will be using different manipulatives to coding including websites, different robots, and apps.

- **Design 1 (1142) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
    - Design will look at designing, engineering and architecture. Techniques and drawings used in the mechanical engineering and industrial design industry will be explored, including multi-view drawing and dimensioning. Architecture will be studied through the use of computer modeling software called Google Sketch-up. Students will create 3-D shapes and be introduced to house and floor plans. They will also have an opportunity to create an original design that is a derivative of their personal interests.

- **Next Generation STEM [NGS] (1144) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
    - Next Generation STEM will incorporate each of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) components using the FLL (First Lego League) as a base of instruction. Students will use the engineering design process with robotics to solve real world problems. Students will research challenges that face today's scientists and engineers by asking questions, imagining possible solutions, planning diagrams/materials, creating prototypes, and improving upon your designs. Imaginative, critical, and forward thinking will be necessary as students collaborate with peers utilizing 21st century skills, gain basic STEM principles, and develop communication skills via presentations. Students enrolled in this course for the 1st semester will have the chance to interview to be on a FLL team and compete against other FLL teams in our area.

.**Career Technical Education (CTE)**

- **Clothing Construction (766) -- Mrs. Low (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
    - Clothing construction is a project based learning class in which students construct a sewing project using computer sewing machines. Suggested projects are pillows, recycled tote bags, pajama pants, aprons, fleece hats and scarves. The 21st Century Employability Skills are implemented in this class with students tracking their progress using a daily employability skill checklist. . Lessons taught include learning how to operate a computer sewing machine, learning how to construct a clothing item, study of textiles and fabrics, investigating alternative fabrics/products and their uses in the textile industry and exploring careers in the textile industry.

Special Permission Courses 7th Graders:

You will need permission from the teacher, principal, and or counselor.

- **Exponential Mathematics 7 (722) -- Mr. Bertolino** (Class size capped at 10 students.)
    - Students will get the opportunity to gain the necessary confidence and ability to grow in the area of mathematics. Those who qualify will work with the teacher set math academic goals and then work towards those goals throughout the semester/year. Test scores, work completion, habits, and teacher recommendation will be considered.

- **Reading Recovery 7 (712) -- Miss Harvey**
    - 7th grade Reading Recovery is a class to supplement 7th grade ELA and 7th grade Reading. Students will receive individualized instruction to encourage them as readers and provide them with the strategies to be successful readers.

- **Guided Skills 7 (1132/1133) -- TBD**
    - Guided Skills is for 7th graders who have been identified as students who may need extra academic assistance transitioning to middle school. Intermediate school grades and homework completion, attendance data, Iowa Assessment scores, MAP testing scores, and teacher recommendations are all considered when identifying and placing students into our Guided Skills course.

- **Peer Tutoring 7 (1134/1135) – TBD**
    - Peer tutoring is a flexible, peer-mediated strategy that involves students serving as academic tutors and tutees. Typically, a higher performing student is paired with a lower performing student to review critical academic or behavioral concepts

8th Grade Course Descriptions

8th grade mandatory courses:

- **Math 8 (820/821) -- Mr. Frick**
    - Math 8 is a math class designed around the the Math Core Domains. The topics covered include: The number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics and probability. The curriculum also includes a computer-based program called Mathia where the students work independently through the concepts.

- **Math 2 (824/825) -- Mr. Frick**
    - Math 2 is an accelerated math class. It covers the same topics as Math 8, but the pace of the class is increased. Some concept are covered in more depth.

- **Science 8 (830/831) -- TBD**
    - The topics discussed in eighth grade science include: laboratory safety, the nature of science, ecosystems, Earth's systems, Earth history, force and motion, energy, and waves. There are a variety of projects, experiments, virtual labs, and other activities that are incorporated into the class.

- **History 8 (840/841) -- Miss Eifler**
    - During this school year we will discuss a variety of topics such as exploration of the Americas, founding of the American colonies, the Revolutionary War, the establishment of Democratic government, the growth of the American borders and way of life, the Civil War and Reconstruction, as well as the participation in the Geography Bee.

- **English/Language Arts 8 (810/811) -- Mrs. Jenkins**
    - The focus for this class centers around the ELA CORE skills for 8th grade. Multiple 21st century skills are also covered as most of the work for this class is digital in nature.

- **Reading 8 (814/815) -- Mrs. Craddick (1 skinny, both semesters)**
    - Reading will focus on the English language arts literature and information text Core Curriculum standards. Students will take part in close reads, literature circles, and novel studies in order to demonstrate proficiency in these reading standards.

- **Physical Education (800/801) -- Mrs. Bertolino (1 skinny, both semesters)**
    - Physical Education shall include fitness activities that increase cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and flexibility. We will also explore various sports and games, leisure and lifetime activities, team building and climbing.

- **Art 8 (870) – Mrs. Butler (1 skinny, 1 Semester)**
    - This required semester-long class provides students with an opportunity to go even further into 2D and 3D experiences by working with a variety of media. Students will be encouraged to develop their own personal artistic voice in their artwork. Art criticism, self-reflection, and critiques will also be important components of this course.

- **Family Consumer Sciences II/Health 8 (860) -- Mrs. Low (1 block, 1 semester)**
    - Family and Consumer Science II is the 2nd year class for students. FCS II topics covered will range from Global awareness of foods, customs and exploring ethnic recipes, additional food safety and sanitation, more complex food labs such as breads, meats, main dishes, desserts; and adapting recipes for nutritional and health needs. Personal finance will focus on keeping a financial record, paying bills, and living independently.
    - Health 8 is the 2nd class for middle school students. Information from Health 7 will be built upon for this class. The students will learn decision making skills, goal setting and study values. More in-depth study of teen pregnancy, STI's and HIV/AIDS will be taught with students being able to make strong decisions concerning these diseases based on their values. The prenatal development of the child will be studied along with labor and delivery.

STEM 8 (1147) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)

STEM 8 will foster a learning environment in which students are guided to produce original ideas, objects and structures using concepts and skills from Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) related to the real world. Each activity is designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and creative thinking, problem solving and experimental design using a hands-on application component. The students will use the 5-Step Engineering Design Process (ask, imagine, plan, create, and improve) to solve problems and challenges in an open ended environment.

8th Grade Optional Courses: Fine Arts

- **Band 8 (890/891) -- Mrs. Wedeking (1 skinny, both semesters)**
    - This course is a continuation of skills and techniques learned in 7th Grade Band. The course focuses on proper playing technique on a chosen band instrument, tone production, reading of music notation and symbols, music composition, and proper ensemble performance practice. All students will have performance opportunities involving mandatory concerts, solo festival, and elected performances in honor bands.

- **Jazz Band 8 (892/893) -- Mrs. Wedeking (1 skinny, both semesters)**
    - Jazz Band introduces the elements in the art form of Jazz. Jazz is an "American" art form. We will explore the similarities and differences of Jazz playing in relation to our concert band experience. The students will explore cultural influences of jazz and learn to perform in basic Jazz styles. Students will be required to work on other "jazz-specific" techniques including: improvisation,

syncopation, swing, changing roles within parts, call and response, and dynamic differences.

- **Chorus 8 (880/881) -- Mrs. Olson (1 skinny, both semesters)**
    - This course places emphasis on singing and vocal production building upon skills from Chorus 7. Students will continue to focus on healthy vocal technique, reading music notation, sight-singing, and the rehearsal of music. Students will develop self-discipline and learn to work cooperatively within small/large ensembles. There will be multiple performance opportunities throughout the year, with one mandatory performance each semester.

- **Show Choir 8 (882/883) -- Mrs. Olson (1 skinny, both semesters)**
    - This course places emphasis on singing and vocal production, while dancing and/or moving. Students will learn basic steps and routines, and will be responsible for developing/creating their own choreography throughout the year. Students will develop self-discipline and learn to work cooperatively. One mandatory performance will take place each semester.

- **Piano I ⅞ (1197) -- Mrs. Olson** (Class capped at 16 students.) **(1 skinny, 1 semester)**
    - Beginning Piano introduces the piano and playing techniques for the instrument. The course, designed for beginners, includes note reading, rhythmic notation, some composition and arranging, basic piano technique skills, and small ensemble playing.

- **Piano II ⅞ (1198) -- Mrs. Olson** (Class capped at 16 students.) **(1 skinny, 1 semester)**
  Prerequisites: Completion of Piano I or entrance audition if you have previous piano experience.
    - Piano II is a continuation of Piano I. Students will study more advanced notation/composition skills, as well as develop a further understanding of piano playing techniques. Public performance may be a possibility.

- **Guitar I ⅞ (1194) -- TBD** (Class capped at 16 students.) **(1 skinny, 1 semester)**
    - Beginning Guitar introduces the guitar and playing techniques for the instrument. The course, designed for beginners, includes note reading, rhythms, and basic guitar skills. Public performance is a possibility and fees for instruments and materials may apply for the class.

- **Guitar II ⅞ (1195) -- TBD** (Class capped at 16 students.) **(1 skinny, 1 semester)**
  Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in Guitar I or entrance audition if you have previous guitar experience.
  - Guitar II is a continuation of Guitar I. Students will study more advanced chords, rhythms, note reading, and harmony techniques. Public performance is a possibility. Placement is by teacher recommendation for ensembles and fees for instruments and materials may apply for the class.

STEM

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  - Next Generation STEM will incorporate each of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) components using the FLL (First Lego League) as a base of instruction. Students will use the engineering design process with robotics to solve real world problems. Students will research challenges that face today's scientists and engineers by asking questions, imagining possible solutions, planning diagrams/materials, creating prototypes, and improving upon your designs. Imaginative, critical, and forward thinking will be necessary as students collaborate with peers utilizing 21st century skills, gain basic STEM principles, and develop communication skills via presentations. Students enrolled in this course for the 1st semester will have the chance to interview to be on a FLL team and compete against other FLL teams in our area.

- **Introduction to Coding 1 (1140) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
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- **Design 1 (1142) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
  - Design will look at designing, engineering and architecture. Techniques and drawings used in the mechanical engineering and industrial design industry will be explored, including multi-view drawing and dimensioning. Architecture will be studied through the use of computer modeling software called Google Sketch-up. Students will create 3-D shapes and be introduced to house and floor plans. They will also have an opportunity to create an original design that is a derivative of their personal interests.

- **Introduction to Coding 2 (1141) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
  Prerequisites: Passed Introduction to Coding 1 with a B or above grade, and teacher approval.
  - Intro to Coding 2 is for 8th grade students who want to build on what they learned in Introduction to Coding in a more advanced setting through the use of sophisticated apps, games, robots and other computer programming language. Students will explore how coding works more in depth and improve their problem solving and creative thinking skills.

- **Design 2 (1143) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
  Prerequisites: Passed Design 1 with a B or above grade, and teacher approval.
  - Design 2 is for 8th grade students who want to build on what they learned in their Design class. Development of more in depth floor plans and creation of 3D walk-throughs of their designs will be completed in this advanced setting. Students will study careers in design, engineering, and architecture and create the layout of a town using the knowledge they have gained in the class

Career Technical Education (CTE)

- **Introduction to Agriculture (866) -- Mrs. Grantz (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
  - Students participating in the Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources course will experience exciting "hands-on" activities, projects, and problems. Student experiences will involve the study of communication, the science of agriculture, plants, animals, natural resources, and agricultural mechanics. While surveying the opportunities available in agriculture and natural resources, students will learn to solve problems, conduct research, analyze data, work in teams, and take responsibility for their work, actions, and learning. In addition, students will understand specific connections between their lessons and Supervised Agricultural Experience and FFA components that are important for the development of an informed agricultural education student.

- **Clothing Construction (766) -- Mrs. Low (1 skinny, 1 semester)**
  Clothing construction is a project based learning class in which students construct a sewing project using computer sewing machines. Suggested projects are pillows, recycled tote bags, pajama pants, aprons, fleece hats and scarves. The 21st Century Employability Skills are implemented in this class with students tracking their progress using a daily employability skill checklist. . Lessons taught include learning how to operate a computer sewing machine, learning how to construct a clothing item, study of textiles and fabrics, investigating alternative fabrics/products and their uses in the textile industry and exploring careers in the textile industry.

Special Permission Courses 8th Graders:

You will need permission from the teacher, principal, or counselor.

Art Studio (8th graders) (1175) -- Mrs. Butler (1 skinny, 1 semester)

Prerequisites: Completion or enrollment in at least 3 other CDMS Art classes. This course is specially designed for 8th grade students wanting to be challenged with advanced techniques in a chosen media. Students will select a 2D, 3D, or Blended Portfolio of rigorous projects designed by the student.

Peer P.E. (1100) -- Mrs. Bertolino (1 skinny, 1 semester)

- Students will participate and support peers during this PE course. The peers taking course will serve as mentors to the adaptive physical education students, helping them learn motor skills, play games and have fun.

Exponential Mathematics 8 (822) -- Mr. Frick (Max Class Size = 10 students)

- Students will get the opportunity to gain the necessary confidence and ability to grow in the area of mathematics. Those who qualify will work with the teacher set math academic goals and then work towards those goals throughout the semester/year. Test scores, work completion, habits, and teacher recommendation will be considered.

Reading Recovery 8 (812) -- Mrs. Jenkins

- 8th grade Reading Recovery is a class to supplement 8th grade ELA and 8th grade Reading. Students will receive individualized instruction to encourage them as readers and provide them with the strategies to be successful readers.

Guided Skills 8 (1132/1133) -- TBD

- Guided Skills is for 8th graders who have been identified as students who may need extra academic assistance. Middle school grades and homework completion, attendance data, Iowa Assessment scores, MAP testing scores, and teacher recommendations are all considered when identifying and placing students into our Guided Skills course.

- **Peer Tutoring 7 (1134/1135) – TBD**
  - Peer tutoring is a flexible, peer-mediated strategy that involves students serving as academic tutors and tutees. Typically, a higher performing student is paired with a lower performing student to review critical academic or behavioral concepts.