

CDMS Course Descriptions

7th Grade Course Descriptions

7th grade mandatory courses:

English/Language Arts 7 (710/711) – Mrs. Neuhaus

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 uses the online-based STEMscopes curriculum. This curriculum aligns with the Iowa-adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Scopes covered in seventh grade include: geologic history of Earth, the solar system, different forms of energy, energy transfer, energy flow in organisms and ecosystems, interactions in ecosystems, plant and animal reproduction and genetics. STEMscopes is an inquiry-based curriculum with many opportunities for hands-on laboratories and activities to support the concepts covered in each scope.

Contemporary Global Studies 7 (740/741) -- Mrs. Froeschle

Students will explore global perspectives on contemporary issues and worldwide interdependence. Students will examine challenges facing the world community such as hunger, overpopulation, conflict, environmental challenges, human rights, poverty, global health, education, immigration, globalization, cultural/religious differences and other political, economic, and social concerns. Students will look at these problems from both regional and a thematic perspective.

Physical Education 7 (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 block, 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 7 (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 7 (760) -- Mrs. Gaffney (1 block, 1 semester)

FCS 1 is an introductory class for 7th grade students required by the state of Iowa. Subject areas taught are: positive relationships with peers and family, communication, citizenship, leadership, job pathways, self-care, wellness, and 21st Century Job Skills relative to food preparation, sanitation, and presentation in the kitchen lab.

Health Component: This class is the first health class of the student's middle school years. The basis of the class is the health triangle; focusing on physical, emotional, and social health. Identifying challenges to good health and taking a proactive approach are governing principles of this class.

STEM 7 (1146) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)

This class will provide an introduction to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education through project based instruction. The students will create prototypes to solve real world engineering challenges using the 5-Step Engineering Design Process (ask, imagine, plan, create, and improve). This course will challenge students to think critically using each STEM discipline.

Computer Science 1 (1140) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)

Computer Science will look at programing which is an invaluable skill that helps people think computationally, and hence effectively solve problems within and outside computer science. The goals of this course include how to think like a programmer and an introduction to the fundamental principles of computer science. The students will be using different manipulatives to coding including websites, different robots, and apps.

Career Ready 7 (767) – Mrs. Richmann (1 skinny, 1 semester)

In Career Ready, we explore the skills needed to successfully obtain a job, such as resume writing, Interview etiquette, and even mock interviews. Additionally, you will be exposed to career and college choices while using MAP (My Academic Plan). Learning how to use the money you earn in your job is the last unit; we discuss the aspects of being financially responsible. Come see what the working world has to offer.

7th grade optional courses:**Fine Arts**

7th Grade Band (790/791) -- Mrs. Wedeking (1 skinny, both semesters)

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 multiple performance opportunities involving mandatory concerts, solo festival, and elected performances in honor bands.

Prerequisite: Students must earn a passing grade on 6th-grade band standards to sign up for 7th-grade band. Any student choosing to join band for the first time in 7th grade must take lessons to catch up before the beginning of class (summer).

Chorus 7 (780/781) -- Mrs. Olson (1 skinny, both semesters)

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 7/8 (1194) – Ms. Coe (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 7/8 (1195) – Ms. Coe (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 7/8 (1197) -- Mrs. Olson (1 skinny, 1 semester)

(Class capped at 16 students.) 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 7/8 (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

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 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. Gaffney (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.

LA Lab 7 (712) – Mrs. Neuhaus

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.

Jazz Band 8 (892/893) -- Mrs. Wedeking (1 skinny, both semesters)

Jazz Band introduces the elements in the art form of Jazz. 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. All students will have performance opportunities involving mandatory concerts, including Saturday jazz festival(s).

Prerequisite: Students must demonstrate proficiency on 7th-grade band standards to sign up for jazz band. 7th grade students who meet all 6th grade band performance standards may join jazz band.

8th Grade Course Descriptions

8th grade mandatory courses:

Math 8 (820/821) -- Mr. Frick

Math 8 is a math class designed around 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) – Ms. Keehner

Eighth-grade science uses the online based STEMscopes curriculum. This curriculum aligns with the Iowa-adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The scopes covered include fossil record, water on Earth, types of energy, forces and motion, natural and artificial selection. STEMscopes is an inquiry-based curriculum with many opportunities for hands-on laboratories and activities to support the concepts covered in each scope.

History 8 (840/841) – Mrs. Waterbury

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) – Ms. King

Eighth-grade language arts will focus on the English Language Arts Core Standards. The strands of the standards include writing, speaking and listening, and grammar skills. We will incorporate the use of technology and critical thinking skills into each of these strands. 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 8 (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. Gaffney

Family and Consumer Science II is the 2nd year class for students. FCS II topics covered will range from the reproductive anatomy, STI's, conception, pregnancy, delivery, and explore how to identify and set healthy boundaries based upon their values. The students will also learn about brain health and stress management.

The second half of the semester continues developing 21st Century Job Skills in the kitchen with increased focus on cooking more challenging recipes

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 multiple performance opportunities involving mandatory concerts, solo festival, and elected performances in honor bands.

Prerequisite: Students must earn a passing grade on 7th-grade band standards to sign up for 8th-grade band. Any student choosing to join band for the first time in 8th grade must take lessons to catch up before the beginning of class (summer).

Jazz Band 8 (892/893) -- Mrs. Wedeking (1 skinny, both semesters)

Jazz Band introduces the elements in the art form of Jazz. 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. All students will have performance opportunities involving mandatory concerts, including Saturday jazz festival(s).

Prerequisite: Students must demonstrate proficiency on 7th-grade band standards to sign up for jazz band. 7th grade students who meet all 6th grade band performance standards may join jazz band.

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 7/8 (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 7/8 (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 7/8 (1194) – Ms. Coe (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 7/8 (1195) –Ms. Coe (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

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.

Computer Science 2 (1141) -- Ms. Smith (1 skinny, 1 semester)

Prerequisites: Passed Computer Science with a B or above grade, and teacher approval. Computer Science 2 is for 8th grade students who want to build on what they learned in Computer Science in a more advanced setting through the use of HTML, games, hardware and other computer programming language. Students will explore how coding works more in depth and improve their problem solving and creative thinking skills.

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 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.

Career Technical Education (CTE)

Introduction to Agriculture (866) -- Mrs. Grantz (1 skinny, 1 semester)

Students participating in the Introduction to Agriculture course will experience exciting "hands-on" activities, projects, and problems. Student experiences will involve the study of communication, the science of agriculture, plants, animals, and natural resources. Students will learn about basic opportunities in FFA and how an FFA chapter works. Students will learn about the importance of Iowa agriculture and experience a variety of activities associated with learning about various commodities.

Clothing Construction (766) -- Mrs. Gaffney (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.

Current Events (844) -- Mrs. Froeschle (1 skinny, 1 semester)

Using current events, this elective course focuses on world and local issues that affect students' everyday lives, such as media bias, economics, government and conflict. This course uses newspapers, magazines, online media, cartoons, and newscasts to support class discussion and debate. Additionally, students participate in group projects, presentations and work with primary source materials and opinion pieces in order to better understand the world around them. Students will explore their civic responsibilities and how they can make the world around them a better place to be.

Financial Skills (845) – Mrs. Waterbury (1 skinny, 1 semester)

Financial Skills description- Finance Skills is a course for students to explore financial literacy and practice skills they will need in the adult world. This course will include discussions on college loans and scholarships, how to balance a checkbook, the impact of the U.S. economy on the job front, etiquette, addressing letters, and the impacts of social media. The intention of this course is to be applicable in the real world and relevant to every individual student.

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)

This special permission 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. Projects will be designed by students based on research of inspiration artists and will involve independent planning and reflection of their artistic process. This self-directed course requires self-direction and motivation.

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.

LA Lab 8 (812) – Ms. King

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

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Peer Tutoring 8 (1134/1135) – TBD

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