

# HOLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Course Descriptions 7<sup>th</sup> Grade



**2009 - 2010**

# SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2009 - 2010

## PREFACE

The 7<sup>th</sup>-Grade school day will be divided into 8 periods. Four periods will focus on the core academic areas of Communication Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science. There will be a “challenge” level class for each of these core areas and placement in the “challenge” level will be based on teacher recommendation. The school day will also include one period of Physical Education / Health, one period of Core Electives (2 semester courses), and two periods of a General Elective. Students who are not achieving at grade level in Math, Reading, or Writing may have remedial or essential classes during the elective periods.

## COMMUNICATION ARTS

(Required, Full Year)

### COMMUNICATION ARTS 7

This class is designed to improve the student’s communication skills by improving the student’s reading, writing, speaking, grammar, drama, spelling, vocabulary, thinking and listening skills. These skills will be emphasized within three basic areas: (1) reading and literature study (2) language, grammar and writing, and (3) study skills/note taking. Teaming among communication arts, social studies, science, etc., occurs throughout the year.

### CHALLENGE COMMUNICATION ARTS 7 (Teacher Recommendation Required)

Challenge Communication Arts builds upon the existing Communication Arts curriculum. The challenge offering for 7<sup>th</sup>-Grade will foster student self-direction and independence, promote self-understanding, incorporate inquiry skills, be relevant to the learner, promote student discovery and encourage the critical and creative exploration of ideas. The course will incorporate instructional strategies leading to the learner outcome of independent study, cooperative learning, and presentation and publishing. Emphasis will be on oral and written analysis, literary critique, producing and publishing written work, research skills as well as speaking and listening.

#### Eligibility Criteria:

1. 6<sup>th</sup> -Grade reading and/or language standardized test scores at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile AND first semester 6<sup>th</sup> grade Communication Arts grade of A or A-
2. OR teacher recommendation

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

(Required, Full Year)

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 7**

This course is a study of major cultural areas of the world. An emphasis will be placed on the development of democracy and processes of governance systems. The Old World studies are included to serve as a foundation to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade American History course. Using the tools of social science inquiry, students will find answers to questions raised during their course of study. Students will be required to read and write within the content area.

### **CHALLENGE SOCIAL STUDIES 7** (Teacher Recommendation Required)

The Challenge Social Studies curriculum initiates the study of world history to Pattonville students. Emphasis is placed upon three continents in the Eastern Hemisphere: Europe, Africa, and Asia. Instruction is organized around broad unit topics: Classical World, Middle Ages of the World, Age of Exploration and Native Civilizations of South America. Utilizing historical documents throughout each unit, special emphasis is placed on the application of writing and thinking processes. Connections with modern countries and cultures will be made as students move through units.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading and/or language standardized test scores at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile AND first semester 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies grade of A or A-
2. OR teacher recommendation

## **MATHEMATICS**

(Required, Full Year)

### **MATH 7**

This course is designed to develop and practice the algorithms of operations with fractions and decimals. Students will explore ratio, proportion and percents, classify triangles and quadrilaterals, find the perimeter and area of plane figures and continue the study of measurement, using both standard and metric units. Students will analyze and interpret data in charts and graphs and investigate experimental and theoretical probability. They will study patterns and begin to describe them with equations. In the study of number theory, students will be using the order of operations, properties of numbers and application of primes, composites, factors, and multiples. In addition there will be a focus on mathematical problem solving and communication. This course will lead to a student taking Math 8 in eighth grade.

### **PRE-ALGEBRA 7** (Teacher Recommendation Required)

Pre-Algebra is designed for the student with exceptional mathematical skills. Operations with fractions, decimals and integers are emphasized. Students will work with percents, probability and statistics, plane and solid geometry, including the study of perimeter, area and volume. Solving equations and working with polynomial operations will also be covered. In addition there will be a focus on mathematical problem solving and communication. This course will lead to placement in Algebra I / Challenge Math in the eighth grade, with placement dependent on math grades, prognosis test score and teacher recommendation.

## **SCIENCE**

(Required, Full Year)

### **SCIENCE 7**

This course will introduce the student to various aspects of physical science and the universe. Some major topics could include matter and energy, force and motion, and the universe. Each unit will build upon the skills of observation, measurement, data collection, inference and experimentation.

### **CHALLENGE SCIENCE 7 (Teacher Recommendation Required)**

Challenge Science is an extension of the regular science curriculum. Students will explore motion, forces and energy, and how their understanding of these concepts helps to explain the motions in the universe. An in-depth study of each of these topics will foster the knowledge expected of all graduates. As students study these topics, they will continue to refine their understanding of scientific processes and to apply their knowledge to various areas of scientific endeavor. In addition to the regular curriculum, students in challenge science will be expected to extend their knowledge by working independently, researching topics, and communicating their findings to their peers.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. 6<sup>th</sup> -Grade reading and/or language standardized test scores at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile AND first semester 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science grade of A or A-
2. OR teacher recommendation

## **CO-ED PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 7**

(Required, Full Year)

**GET YOUR BODY MOVING...IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH...YOUR MIND  
AND YOUR ENERGY LEVEL!!!**

The daily Co-Ed Physical Education program, through a series of approved activities, promotes good health practices, normal growth and development, self-control, and is a means of self-expression. It is a planned program of team sports, individual and large group activities, rhythms, and tumbling. Through these activities, students will learn rules and develop skills that can be carried into their everyday lives. The health curriculum will be taught by the PE staff during a 6 week session of your child's PE class. It will help students understand what comprises physical, mental, and social health, as well as the balance necessary to maintain overall health and wellness. Topics will include body systems, nutrition, fitness, drugs, tobacco, alcohol, safety, first aid, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and your body – growing and changing.

## **READING PROGRAM**

(Full Year – By teacher recommendation only)

Remedial Reading Services is a delivery of services, by a Reading Specialist, to groups of ten or less students that address the basic categories of reading including: comprehension, word study (phonics, vocabulary, fluency), and higher order reading/thinking skills. The major areas of reading instruction that are covered also include: main idea, sequences, compare/contrast, cause/effect, predicting, inferences, and drawing conclusions. The effort is to offer individual, pair, or small group instruction.

### **BOYS TOWN (BT): FOUNDATIONS AND ADVENTURES (FAME) 7**

This intense course, taught by a reading specialist and a paraprofessional, is designed for students reading below the 4<sup>th</sup>-Grade level. First semester (Foundations) involves instruction in spelling, phonics, oral reading fluency, use of words in context, and word attack skills. Second semester (Adventures) involves instruction in vocabulary development, word usage, oral reading fluency, and word attack skills. Both fiction and nonfiction books, computer programs, and a variety of games and activities are utilized to give students an opportunity to make high reading gains in a relatively short period of time.

### **REMEDIAL READING 7**

Qualified students will learn a variety of reading strategies that foster independence in reading. By using a wide range of material, i.e., novels, plays, textbooks, magazines, charts, etc., students will have an opportunity to become lifelong readers.

## **ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS**

(Full Year – By teacher recommendation only)

### **COMMUNICATION ARTS ESSENTIALS 7**

This course is designed for students that need to improve their basic reading and writing skills to be more successful in all classes.

### **MATH ESSENTIALS 7**

Math Essentials is a rigorous course designed to remediate and practice the algorithms for whole numbers, fractions, decimals and integers. In addition, there will be a focus on the mathematical processes of problem solving, reasoning, communicating and connecting mathematical concepts to real life. This course will lead to placement in 8<sup>th</sup>-Grade Math.

### **SIGMA 7 – MIDDLE SCHOOL GIFTED PROGRAM**

(Full Year - Specialized Program for students who meet entrance criteria)

Seventh grade students who qualify for the Pattonville Gifted Program will have their educational needs addressed through creative/visual arts, research skills, problem solving, affective education, leadership, and special topics.

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

(Full Year – with the exception of General Music)

**BAND 7** (Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6<sup>th</sup>-Grade band or director approval.)

Sixth grade band students are highly encouraged to continue their music education in the 7<sup>th</sup>-Grade band. The course of study includes review and continued learning of fundamental sound production skills, note reading, rhythm reading, scales, terms, and performance skills. Like 6<sup>th</sup>-Grade band, classes at this level meet in like-instrument groups to help a student master skills specific to their instrument. Public performances are required and will be a contributing factor in the grade for this class.

**ORCHESTRA 7** (Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6<sup>th</sup>-Grade orchestra or director approval.)

Students who played in 6<sup>th</sup>-Grade orchestra are encouraged to continue in orchestra. Students in 7<sup>th</sup>-Grade orchestra will continue to develop playing skills on their stringed instrument, learn more advanced note and rhythmic reading, music memorization, learn more advanced scales, will understand and use musical language correctly and will continue developing professional performance skills through playing various styles of music. Above average students may participate in a solo and ensemble contest and audition for membership in the St. Louis All-Suburban Honors Orchestra. Students may also have the opportunity to attend special performances by local musicians. Recent experiences have included attending special concerts at Powell Symphony Hall. This experience will prepare the students for a lifetime of musical enjoyment and appreciation.

**BEGINNING LEVEL CHOIR** (Grades 6, 7 & 8)

Emphasis is placed on 2-part and 3-part singing and the development of a good choral sound, reading choral music, understanding the changing voice, and the development of sight-reading skills. All types of music will be performed, and the choir will represent the school in community performances. Public performance will be required for this course and will be a major determining factor in the student's overall final grade.

**INTERMEDIATE LEVEL CHOIR** (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Beginning Level Choir or director approval. Grades 7 & 8)

Emphasis is placed on increasingly complex 3-part music, cambiata vocal timbre, the further development of a good choral sound, reading choral music, and sight-reading skills. All types of music will be performed, and the choir will represent the school in community performances. Public performance will be required for this course and will be a major determining factor in the student's overall final grade.

**GENERAL MUSIC** (Semester Course – Grades 7 & 8)

This course will use the computer to review and expand upon the concepts taught in the sixth grade general music exploratory program. Students will complete assignments using several music computer applications and the electronic musical keyboard. Elements of music, such as tone, rhythm, and form, will be taught, as well as music theory and history.

## **GENERAL ELECTIVES**

(Full Year - Some classes may include both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students)

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

#### **GERMAN I-A** (Full Year – Grades 7 & 8)

This course is an introduction to the German language with emphasis on listening and speaking skills. It will include oral work with students learning basic conversation skills, as well as, basic sentence structure and verb usage. This course is a prerequisite to take German I in the 8<sup>th</sup>-Grade.

#### **FRENCH I-A** (Full Year – Grades 7 & 8)

This course is an introduction to the French language with emphasis on listening and speaking skills. It will include primarily oral work with students learning the basic sounds of French and simple conversation based on everyday usage. Correct sentence structure both oral and written is the main focus. This course is required to take French I in the 8<sup>th</sup>-Grade.

#### **SPANISH I-A** (Full Year - Grades 7 & 8)

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language with emphasis on listening and speaking skills. It will include primarily oral work with students learning the basic sounds of Spanish and simple conversation based on everyday usage. Correct sentence structure both oral and written is the main focus. This course is a prerequisite to take Spanish I in the 8<sup>th</sup>-Grade.

## **GENERAL ELECTIVES**

(Semester Courses - Some classes may include both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students)

### **ART**

#### **CERAMICS** (Grades 7 & 8)

This course explores art techniques and art history with emphasis on **3-D** art, such as sculpture, ceramics, and textiles. Students will use a variety of media, such as clay, aluminum, paper-mache, plaster, woodcarving, wire and glass. Projects may include ceramic vessels, masks, jewelry making, glass fusion, plaster casting, and mixed media assemblage, along with many others.

#### **CULTURAL ARTS** (Grades 7 & 8)

This course will provide students an opportunity to create individual art projects while learning about art of other cultures. Student projects will reflect art forms from Africa, Asia, Europe and North, South and Central America. Projects may include weaving, metal tooling, printmaking, drawing, ceramics, papier-mâché, and textile arts.

#### **ART ENRICHMENT** (Grades 7 & 8)

This course provides students the opportunity to experiment with both **2-D** and **3-D** art mediums, building upon prior art knowledge and preparing them for specialty art opportunities, such as painting and sculpture. Projects may include painting, drawing, ceramics, metal tooling, weaving, and found art. This course will have an emphasis on art elements and principles.

#### **FINE ARTS** (Grades 7 & 8)

This course explores art techniques and art history with emphasis on **2-D** art. This course offers students the opportunity to experiment with several types of **2-D** media using a multitude of

techniques. Projects may include drawing, painting, computer graphics, printmaking, and metal tooling. The emphasis of this course is to introduce students to a variety of art mediums.

## **GENERAL ELECTIVES (cont'd)**

(Semester Courses – Some classes may include both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students)

### **FACS I (Grades 7 & 8)**

Express your creative talents through skills learned in Family and Consumer Sciences I. While understanding nutrition and important healthy food choices, students will prepare foods from each component of the Daily Food Guide Pyramid. Cooperation, problem solving, and evaluation skills are enhanced during cooking lab experiences. Students will select a sewing project that will reflect their personal interest and ability. Hand and machine sewing will be explored during construction of the projects. Enhance your decision-making power by understanding consumer responsibilities. Finally, through the study of family and peer relationships students will be prepared for future personal experiences. Students are responsible for purchasing their own fabric and supplies for the sewing portion of the class; the estimated cost of materials and supplies is \$10-\$20.

## **BUSINESS APPLICATIONS**

### **COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (Grades 7 & 8)**

Students will implement a variety of technology resources to create multimedia projects and presentations. They will experience the excitement of using a digital camera, scanner, internet application, and cd-roms to enhance all aspects of computer created work. Applications include, but are not limited to: True Basic, PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Excel, DreamWeaver, HyperStudio, and iMovie.

### **DIGITAL MEDIA APPLICATIONS (Grades 7 & 8)**

Learn the basics of digital media creation like movies and web design. Also, learn to use tools to create digital media like digital cameras and camcorders.

### **TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION (Grades 7 & 8)**

Learn basic computer techniques including web quests, internet research, and digital imaging.

## **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

### **HIGH-TECH CAREERS! (Grades 7 & 8)**

The most important thing that can be taught to students about the future is how to create it. By exploring the following modules, you can help prepare yourself for the future: computer aided drawing, computer graphics and animation, digital music, electricity/electronics, flight, laser mechanisms, research & development, robotics, structural engineering, virtual architecture and video production.

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY 7**

Industrial Technology will provide an emphasis upon individual student design and upon hand tools using more complex take home projects. Experiences will include activities involving

drafting, woods and plastics. A model C02 dragster will be constructed. Safety tests will be required.

## **CORE ELECTIVES**

(Semester Courses – Based upon the grade level core curriculum)

### **DIG IT! 7 (Social Studies)**

Do you like getting dirty? Do you search for hidden meaning and clues to the past? Then join the adventure to learn how archeologists uncover the mystery of history.

### **HAVE YOU HEARD? 7 (Social Studies)**

What's happening and what does it mean to you? Check out the burning civil, political and economic issues that face our world today and uncover their roots to our past. Will you be able to change the future?

### **MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! 7 (Social Studies)**

Show me the money! Discover how economics impacts our personal and social lives. Investigate human behavior and explore this decision-making science as it relates to the behavior of individuals, groups and societies.

### **NASA CONNECT 7 (Math)**

In this math/science integrated course students will view NASA created videos on a variety of math and science topics. They will then be engaged in lab and interactive web-based explorations of each topic.

### **NEWSPAPER 7 (Communication Arts)**

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! This course is designed to give students an opportunity to participate in the school newspaper on a more in-depth level than is allowed if they are to simply join the after school club. In addition to writing articles, editing, taking photographs, and making decisions regarding what will and won't be in their school newspaper, students will learn to scan material into a computer and turn it into a working draft that will be published in the school for everyone to read and enjoy! Topics covered will include many of the basics regarding journalism and learning to communicate effectively using the written word.

### **SCIENCE OLYMPIAD 7 (Science)**

Did the recent Olympics excite you beyond all belief? Do you wish to become an Olympian and earn a Gold Medal for the glory of ol' Pattonville? Then the Science Olympiad team is for you where brains, brawn and scientific know how all come together in a competitive format against other schools in the area. Events may include egg drop, battery buggy, bottle rockets, mystery powders and orienteering. You will be encouraged to participate in an area-wide competition in the early spring.

### **WIRED! 7 (Science)**

Where's the only place where you can play with electricity and not get in trouble? Wired! Wired is a science enrichment class where you will learn how electricity works and use that knowledge to create models. Some projects may include building a house with working lights, doorbells and ceiling fans or building a car that runs on a motor.