

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

<b>0.5 credit</b>	<b>Art: Fiber Arts</b> – Explore historic and contemporary artforms made from wool, yarn, fabric, and thread with traditional techniques like needle felting, embroidery, sewing, weaving, and more. This hands-on studio class focuses on developing personal creativity and craftsmanship.
<b>0.5 credit</b>	<b>Art: 2D Drawing, Painting &amp; Design</b> – From pencil drawing and shading to painting, printmaking, and collage, students will develop technical skills, creative problem-solving, and personal artistic style while creating hands-on projects connecting to both art history and contemporary art.
<b>0.5 credit</b>	<b>Art: 3D Sculpture-</b> There's more than just clay to explore as we create with papier-mâché, plaster, cardboard, wire, and more! Students will develop their building techniques, creative design, and craftsmanship while learning about historic and modern forms of sculpture.
<b>1 credit</b>	<b>Band 7</b> – This class focuses on instrumental music in a concert band setting, featuring numerous performance opportunities throughout the year. Our goal is to develop strong fundamental skills and grow those skills through performing a wide variety of music. No prior instrumental music experience is necessary.
<b>1 credit</b>	<b>Choir 7/8</b> – Students in this class will work on fundamentals of singing and prepare several musical performances for the school, families, and the community. Topics studied will include becoming a better singer, reading and interpreting music, musical styles, developing the voice and performing before an audience. When you have completed this course, you will be ready to audition for "America's Got Talent."
<b>0.5 credit</b>	<b>Creative Writing</b> — Writing is an art and a form of self-expression. In this class, students will have the opportunity to develop their craft through various writing genres. Students will set their own goals, choose their own focus and create their own portfolio. Short stories, personal reflections, and poetry are among the different types of writing that will be explored in this elective. Grading will be based on students' self-motivation, work ethic, creativity and growth in writing skills.
<b>0.5 credit</b>	<b>Engineering and Design</b> —Introduces students to different types of technology used around the world. Students learn important ideas from a variety of industries and use them in fun, hands-on projects. Activities include sketching, manual drafting, CAD, architecture, engineering, photo editing, and design challenges that help students build creativity, problem-solving skills, and real-world connections. (1 semester only)
<b>1 credit</b>	<b>English Activator-</b> The focus of the English Activator class is to provide assistance to students in order to help them be successful in their main English class. Students are placed in the class based on teacher recommendations, M-STEP data, and/or performance on district common assessments. This class aims to activate prior knowledge on the subject, pre-teach vital skills, and offer more one-on-one support for the concepts taught in the general education English class. In addition, students receive additional instruction in fundamental writing skills and reading strategies.
<b>0.5 credit</b>	<b>Guitar</b> – This class starts from the very beginning of guitar playing. We learn how to read music on acoustic guitar. Skills learned include how to pick, strum, and play finger style. We will eventually learn folk, rock, and blues music. We will learn older rock songs that go with the chords we are currently learning, and we will add songs with more chords as we go.

<p><b>0.5 credit</b></p>	<p><b>Interactive Design</b>– Students will learn the basics of smartphone photography including the fundamentals of composition, exposure, lighting and editing techniques. They will also learn how to photograph in different scenarios like landscapes, nature, close-ups, action shots and more. Additionally, this class will cover some of the history of photography, famous photographers and principles of design. Students will learn how to use photos to communicate ideas and emotions as well as the calming effects of nature. Students are required to have their own smartphone or other digital camera.</p>
<p><b>1 credit</b></p>	<p><b>Math Activator</b> This focus of Math Activator is to provide assistance to students in order to help them be successful in their main math class. Students are placed in the class based on teacher recommendations, M-STEP data, and/or performance on district common assessments. The specific objective is to pre-teach concepts, so students are exposed to and familiar with the content ahead of it being covered in their other/main math class. Students will receive extra instruction, examples, practice and have a small amount of time for corrections, retakes, absent work and homework.</p>
<p><b>0.5 credit</b></p>	<p><b>Personal Development</b> – This one-semester course is designed to increase students’ knowledge of daily living skills, as well as practice these skills in classroom simulations and real-world situations. The course units focus on personal finance, career exploration, physical and mental health enhancement, goal setting and decision making and other daily living skills. Students may only take this class <b>one time</b> while attending HMS.</p>
<p><b>0.5 credit</b></p>	<p><b>Public Speaking</b> – Students will learn how communication affects everyday life. Students will develop knowledge in the process of communication, its barriers, and active listening. The fundamentals of speech organization and presentation will be applied through three formal presentations.</p>
<p><b>0.5 credit</b></p>	<p><b>Physical Education</b> – This course is designed toward promoting physical fitness. Activities include basketball, football, tennis, badminton, bowling, volleyball, pickle ball, and fitness testing.</p>
<p><b>0.5 credit</b></p>	<p><b>Theater</b> – This course provides an outlet for student creativity! It is for seasoned actors or those interested in learning about acting and theater. Students interested in performance, direction, design, technical support, backstage crafts and publicity are encouraged to join. Whether you like to be in the limelight, or you like to be creative behind the scenes, you will have an opportunity to show your talent in the theater class. The class will enhance students’ speech and communication skills, as well as teaching listening skills. Students will be able to explore the basic components of theater. The focus of this class will be to complete a final play. This will be featured at the end of the semester as a finished performance.</p>
<p><b>1 credit</b></p>	<p><b>Tutorial</b>-This is a class designed to help students stay organized with class work and provides extra time to successfully complete their coursework. Students may receive help in one or several subjects. There is a focus on developing good study habits, as well as working on time management and organizational skills so students can be more productive with their time in relation to their schoolwork. Teachers may recommend students for this class.</p>