

HMS Course Descriptions-2019-2020

This guide was created with the intent to support students and parents in the selection of courses for Harlem Middle School. For further explanation of the courses, please contact the school at 815-654-4510.

English and Language Arts

7th Grade ELA Course Description-The seventh grade ELA course will focus on the analysis of literary and informational texts. The course utilizes the reading workshop model of instruction. Students will be expected to read and analyze a variety of literature including short stories, poetry, novels, and dramatic works. In addition, students will read and analyze a variety of informational texts. Students will be expected to both discuss and write about the texts they read. Word study will be an ongoing focus.

7th Grade Honors ELA Course Description-The seventh grade Honors ELA course will focus on advanced analysis of literary and informational texts. The course utilizes the reading and writing workshop approach. Students will be expected to read and analyze a variety of accelerated literature including short stories, poetry, novels, and dramatic works. In addition, students will read and analyze a variety of informational texts. Students will be expected to both discuss and write about the texts they read. Word study will be an ongoing focus.

7th Grade Language Arts Course Description-The seventh grade Honors ELA course will focus on advanced analysis of literary and informational texts. The course utilizes the reading and writing workshop approach. Students will be expected to read and analyze a variety of accelerated literature including short stories, poetry, novels, and dramatic works. In addition, students will read and analyze a variety of informational texts. Students will be expected to both discuss and write about the texts they read. Word study will be an ongoing focus.

8th Grade ELA Course Description-The eighth grade ELA course will focus on the analysis of literary and informational text. This course implements the reading workshop model of instruction, in which students apply the literary skills practiced in class to the context of their own personally selected novels. Each term, students will be expected to read a selected novel within an assigned genre and apply the literary skills that pertain to the quarterly project. The students read, analyze, and discuss a variety of literature including short stories, poetry, drama, and informational texts.

8th Grade Honors ELA Description-The eighth grade honors ELA course will focus on the analysis of literary and informational text. This course implements the reading workshop model of instruction, in which students apply the literary skills practiced in class to the context of their own personally selected novels. Each term, students will be expected to read a selected novel within an assigned genre and apply the literary skills that pertain to the quarterly project. The students read, analyze, and discuss a variety of literature including short stories, poetry, drama, and informational texts. Honors will complete extended activities to include analysis, synthesis, and problem solving.

8th Grade Language Arts Course Description-The eighth grade honors ELA course will focus on the analysis of literary and informational text. This course implements the reading workshop model of instruction, in which students apply the literary skills practiced in class to the context of their own personally selected novels. Each term, students will be expected to read a selected novel within an assigned genre and apply the literary skills that pertain to the quarterly project. The students read, analyze, and discuss a variety of literature including

short stories, poetry, drama, and informational texts. Honors will complete extended activities to include analysis, synthesis, and problem solving.

Math

Math 7-This is a one year course aligned with the Illinois Common Core Standards for seventh graders as well as preparation for Math 8. Topics covered in the class are: Rational Numbers, Proportional Relationships, Expressions, Equations, Geometric Properties, and Statistics and Probability.

Accelerated Math 7-This is a one year honors course aligned with the Illinois Common Core Standards for seventh graders as well as preparation for acceptance into Honors Algebra in 8th grade. Topics covered in the class are: Rational Numbers, Exponents, Expressions, Equations, Inequalities, Proportional Relationships, Geometric Properties, Functions, and Linear Systems.

Algebra 7-This course emphasizes the development of skills, techniques, and applications that deal with number relations, linear equations, formulas, polynomials, graphing, systems of equations, and probability. Additional content will include techniques of evaluating and operations with radicals, the solving of quadratic equations, and methods of factoring. The course is aligned with the Illinois Common Core Standards.

Math 8-This course emphasizes the development of skills, techniques, and applications that deal with number relations, linear equations, graphing, systems of equations, Pythagorean Theorem, transformations on the coordinate plane, volume, and bivariate statistics. The course is aligned with the Illinois Common Core Standards.

Algebra-This course emphasizes the development of skills, techniques, and applications that deal with number relations, linear equations, formulas, polynomials, graphing, systems of equations, and probability. Additional content will include techniques of evaluating and operations with radicals, the solving of quadratic equations, and methods of factoring. The course is aligned with the Illinois Common Core Standards.

Geometry-This course emphasizes the development of skills, techniques, and applications that deal with understanding congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software. Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem and solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres.

Physical Education/Health

Physical Education

Grade 7- Every student will be enrolled in one semester of Physical Education and one semester of Health.

Grade 8- Every student will have Physical Education as a year long course.

During the course, students will participate in the following activities:

Volleyball	Basketball	Softball	Floor Hockey	Track
Badminton	Personal Fitness	Soccer	Flag Football	Swimming

Health-This is a required semester long course for 7th grade students. Health Education is designed to give students the opportunity to obtain competencies necessary to make healthy decisions for themselves and the community. The Health curriculum is composed of 5 major units: 1) Health Promotion; 2) Human Sexuality; 3) Drug Education; 4) Body Systems; and 5) Nutrition and Fitness.

Science

7th Grade Life Science-This course is designed as a study of life and living things. The curriculum introduces students to the fundamental concepts of biology. Topics include ecology, cells, genetics, plants, animals, and human body systems. Labs introduce students to concepts.

7th Grade Honors Life Science-The Honors course is designed as a study of life and living things. The curriculum introduces students to the fundamental concepts of biology. Topics include ecology, cells, genetics, plants, animals, and human body systems. Students design lab investigations to test hypotheses. Students go into greater depth than the Life Science Grade 7.

8th Grade Physical Science/Chemistry-This year long science course will cover physics and chemistry. In the physical science portion of the course, students will study motion, forces, and the force of gravity. In the chemistry portion, students will study atomic structure, properties of matter, chemical reactions, and behaviors of liquids and gases. A heavy emphasis is placed on laboratory techniques, problem solving, and real-world applications of chemistry. This course is a mix of lecture, group discussion, demonstrations, and laboratory exercises. There is a heavy emphasis on math in order to compute formulas.

8th Grade Honors Physical Science/Chemistry-This year long science course will cover physics and chemistry. In the physical science portion of the course, students will study motion, forces, and the force of gravity. In the chemistry portion, students will study atomic structure, properties of matter, chemical reactions, and behaviors of liquids and gases. A heavy emphasis is placed on laboratory techniques, problem solving, and real-world applications of chemistry. This course is a mix of lecture, group discussion, demonstrations, and laboratory exercises. There is a heavy emphasis on math in order to compute formulas. This course goes into greater depth for certain topics.

Social Studies

7th Grade Social Studies-This course is an overview of the history of the United States from exploration to the Civil War, with an emphasis on the development of the thirteen colonies, the American Revolution, the formation of our government, westward expansion, and the Civil War. Students will focus on the analysis of primary and secondary sources through reading, writing, and discussion including one DBQ (Document Based Question) each term.

7th Grade Honors Social Studies-This course is an overview of the history of the United States from exploration to the Civil War, with an emphasis on the development of the thirteen colonies, the American Revolution, the formation of our government, westward expansion, and the Civil War. Students will focus on the analysis of primary and secondary sources through reading, writing, and discussion. The honors class is reading and writing intensive including the completion of at least one DBQ (Document Based Question) each term. All honors students are required to conduct independent research projects, including a project for the Illinois History Fair.

8th Grade Social Studies-This course is an overview of the history of the United States from Reconstruction to the present day, with an emphasis on rebuilding the nation, immigration and the industrial age, the World Wars and the Great Depression, the Cold War, Civil Rights, and Vietnam eras through the war on terror. Students will focus on the analysis of primary and secondary sources through reading, writing, and discussion including one DBQ (Document Based Question) each term.

8th Grade Honors Social Studies-This course is an overview of the history of the United States from Reconstruction to the present day, with an emphasis on rebuilding the nation, immigration and the industrial age, the World Wars and the Great Depression, the Cold War, Civil Rights, and Vietnam eras through the war on terror. Students will focus on the analysis of primary and secondary sources through reading, writing, and discussion. The honors class is reading and writing intensive including the completion of at least one DBQ (Document Based Question) each term. All honors students are required to conduct independent research projects, including a project for the Illinois History Fair.

Electives

Tech Concepts-(7th Grade only-semester)-Students will be encourage to open their minds to use creativity within different aspects of the learning environment. This class explores the basic concepts of computer programs and encourages students to use these skills within different academic areas. Students will learn how to use Microsoft 2013, Powerpoint, Excel, Digital Cameras, Scanners, USB drives, Google Docs, along with improving their typing skills using an online typing program called Typingclub.

7th Grade General Art-(7th Grade only-semester)-Students in this semester-long course will be exposed to a variety of art mediums while creating 2 and 3-dimensional works of art. Each student will develop critical thinking and visual literacy skill sets through the exploration of multicultural art. Students will gain a better understanding and appreciation of the role of art in our world.

Foods-(8th Grade only-semester)-This semester long course offers an introduction to cooking. Students work in small groups, from a recipe, to create simple dishes each week in class. Class topics include: kitchen safety and sanitation procedures, nutrition, MyPlate.gov, international culture, cuisine, and cooking techniques, culinary math, careers in the foods industry, and restaurant menu planning and floor plan design.

Industrial Technology-(8th Grade only-semester)-This semester long class is for beginners. We focus on safely using basic power tools like the drill press, scroll saw and more. Students also learn to use hand tools such as a hammer, screwdriver, and everyone's favorite....sandpaper! Each student will have the opportunity to make three or four great projects throughout the semester. We also focus on measurement, safety, electricity, and literacy.

7th and 8th Grade Choir-This is a performance-based class. Students will be introduced to unison, two, and three part choral singing. Students will learn basic music theory and basic vocal technique such as posture,

diaphragmatic breathing, vowels, diction, dynamics, and expression. Participation in the two scheduled concerts is required.

Show Choir (8th Grade only-Prerequisite: Audition in spring)-Show Choir is a mixed choir of limited size which is designed for the 8th grade advanced student. Students will sing unison, two, and three part music that is musically and vocally challenging. Students are expected to have knowledge of basic vocal fundamentals. Students in Show Choir will be required to participate in all scheduled concerts and performances.

7th and 8th Grade Piano-Piano Class is designed to introduce students to the keyboard instrument. Students will work through the *Alfred Adult Piano Lesson Series* practicing and performing a lesson each week in class. Students do not need to have any prior piano training, or own a piano/keyboard at home. Students are required to perform in the Spring Piano Recital.

Theater I-This course is designed to give students an introduction to theatre from the point of view of the actor. Students will gain insights through reading and interpreting plays, creating characters, performing onstage (with partners and alone), studying famous playwrights and important theatre eras, learning about technical theatre, and other various theatre topics. Students will be expected to memorize lines, portray characters, express emotion and express themselves through movement. Students will perform twice in front of an invited audience at our December and May Drama Nights.

Theater II-This course is designed to allow students to continue their study of theatre from the point of view of the actor in a more advanced setting. Students will gain insights through reading and interpreting plays, creating characters, performing onstage (with partners and alone), studying famous playwrights and important theatre eras, learning about technical theatre and other various theatre topics. Students will be expected to memorize lines, portray characters, express emotion and express themselves through movement. Students will perform twice in front of an invited audience at our December and May Drama Nights.

Photography- This course introduces students to the basics of photography, including camera functions and photo composition. Students will learn what it takes to create a good photograph and how to improve photographs of animals, people, and vacations. They will also begin working with their photographs using photo-editing software. Through a variety of assigned projects, students will engage their creativity by photographing a range of subjects and learning to see the world through the lens of their cameras.

7th Grade Year Long Art-(Art I)-Students in this year-long course will create a variety of projects while simultaneously learning valuable aspects of creativity and art. With each term we build upon previously learned skill sets. The students in this class will have the opportunity to explore different art mediums, progress their artistic ability, and have a firm understanding of what art class has to offer them.

8th Grade Year Long Art-(Art II)-Students in this year-long course will have the opportunity to build upon foundation knowledge of a series of different artistic mediums. Both 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional works will be explored, and students will be asked to complete a number of projects that follow detailed steps, familiarizing them with techniques that will be used in higher level art classes.

Beginning Band (7th and 8th grade)-This is a performance-based group offering beginning instruction for wind instruments and percussion. Students will learn the basics of playing their instruments, music theory, and participate in large ensemble playing and marching band. Students will be required to purchase *Smart Music* for home use or utilize the school practice rooms before or after the school day. Sections rehearsals will be held once every other week before school. Participation in all scheduled performances is required.

Cadet Band (Prerequisite: One or more years of band experience)-Students will begin independent study on their instruments to further develop technique, expression, articulation, and specialized issues arising with his/her instrument. Students will advance in playing their instruments, learn music theory, and participate in large ensemble playing and marching band. Students will be required to purchase Smart Music for home use or utilize the school practice rooms before or after the school day. Sectional rehearsals will be held once every other week before school. Participation in all scheduled performances is required. Students may also perform in the ILMEA District Festival and Solo/Ensemble Contest.

Huskie Band (Prerequisite: Audition in spring)-This is the most advanced performing ensemble for wind and percussion instrumentalists. All Huskie Band members will continue progress on individual musicianship, learn music theory, and build upon their ensemble experiences from previous years. Students will be required to purchase Smart Music for home use or utilize the school practice rooms before or after the school day. Sectional rehearsals will be held once every other week before school. Participation in all scheduled performances is required. Students may also perform in the ILMEA District Festival and Solo/Ensemble Contest.

Special Education

Special Education offers a comprehensive curriculum which includes the required courses for completion of middle school. Placement in these courses is determined by specific criteria. The students who are eligible must be recommended by a multidisciplinary team and approved based on the findings established in a completed case study.

Students with special needs will be enrolled in regular grade-level classes when it is determined that the student has the skills to do the required work and can profit from the instruction.

Additional courses not listed address the needs of our students in Learning Lab and students in our Life Skills program. The courses for students in Learning Lab follow the regular curriculum in a smaller setting. Our Life Skills program includes courses such as Independent Living Skills, Real World Academics, and Vocational Education. Decisions for placement in any of these specialized programs are made on an individual basis.