Elective Course Description Sheet - 7th Grade

Visual Arts *(Art 7) (semester)* is painting, molding, etching, folding and more! Try it all in visual arts class as you explore design fundamentals, art techniques and various media. Students will investigate art styles and forms while revealing their creative side.

Band 7 is offered to all students that play or would like to learn to play a wind, brass or percussion instrument. Most students will have played in band for a year. Extension of musical learning will continue from first-year instruction. Students will develop sight-reading skills, study music theory and will be exposed to a variety of musical literature. **Students without prior instrument experience should contact Mr. Reid before the end of the current school year.**

Chorus 7 Do you like to sing and perform? Then this is the class for you! Chorus 7 is the second level of our choral program and is made up exclusively of seventh graders. Students must successfully complete Chorus 6 or receive permission from the director to advance to Chorus 7. Students in Chorus 7 will perform in solos and small ensembles, as well as performing with the full Chorus. They will also learn and improve their music reading and sight-singing ability. Highlights of the year will include several concerts as well as auditions for the All-District Chorus. **After-school rehearsals will be scheduled in order to prepare for each scheduled performance.**

Introduction to Computers *(Semester)* This semester course in creative coding introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. As a whole, this semester focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science, and encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression.

Intermediate Computer Exploration *(Semester)* This semester course in creative coding lets students explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will see how a user-centered design process produces a better application, how data is used to address problems that affect large numbers of people, and how physical computing with circuit boards allows computers to collect input and return output in a variety of ways. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Computers**

Digital Input & Applications *(Semester) (One-half high school credit)* will have nine weeks of keyboarding skill building with other applications. This course is designed for students to develop real-life, outcome-driven approach skills for digital citizenship, basic computer operations, keyboarding, applications software (word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia applications, databases), and career exploration. This course promotes skill building that can be applied across the curriculum.

Desktop/Multimedia Presentation *(Semester) (One-half high school credit)* is a production-based class where students develop proficiency in designing and creating desktop-published projects, multimedia presentations/projects, and WEB sites, using industry-standard application software. Students apply principles of layout and design in completing projects. Students create portfolios that include a résumé and a variety of desktop-published, multimedia and Web site projects produced in the course.

Oral Communications *(Semester)* is a course designed for students to extend knowledge and skills acquired in previous theatre coursework. Students will build onto their foundational knowledge of theatre by primarily focusing on performance, playwriting, and directing. Students will learn practical theatre skills (both on stage and off stage) that will prepare them for theatre in high school, the community, and beyond! This course culminates with a showcase performance. There will be some after-school rehearsals and performances expected in this course.

Orchestra 7 places an emphasis on the acquisition of skills needed to meet a high standard of musical performance as a soloist and ensemble member. Most of the members have at least one year of orchestra experience and many of those members have two and three years of experience. Musical study will be from several musical skill perspectives including instrumental technique, ensemble performance, sight-reading, music history and music theory. Music repertoire for the class includes Grade III, IV and V levels of difficulty. Several after-school performances and rehearsals will be required.

Reading Skills for the College Bound *(semester, One-half high school credit)* is designed for students to gain the independence necessary for a successful college experience. Students learn how to read and think analytically, prepare for the SAT, and refine study skills. In addition, students focus on using reasoning and problem-solving skills to make informed decisions, building high-level comprehension skills to read and understand rigorous high school and post-secondary texts, and assessing and evaluating new information independently. Emphasis is placed on self-exploration through critical thinking that includes determining learning styles, refining appropriate study skills for college, and assessing the components of choosing the college or post-secondary experience to fit each individual.

Special Projects *(Semester)* What do **you** want to explore? What are your interests and how can they be developed into a future career? Special Projects is a student-centered course in which students direct their own learning and create learning opportunities that tap into their own interests, such as coding, 3D modeling and rapid prototyping, robots and drones, etc. Students will explore influential inventions and innovations from our past and complete student directed and designed projects. **(Students in 8th grade receive scheduling priority for this class.)**

Theatre I *(Semester)* is a course where students will gain an appreciation for theatre by learning about each aspect of the art form. Students will perform in class through both informal and formal presentations as well as improvisational scene work. Students will also have the opportunity to design technical theatre elements (such as costumes or set). Students will learn how theatre has evolved throughout history, and how that influences the way we produce theatre today. By the end of the semester, students will have a solid foundation in theatre on which they can continue to build.