

2016-2017

COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOKLET

GRADES 7-8



VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL

7 & 8 GRADE REQUIREMENTS

ALL STUDENTS IN GRADE 7 ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE 6.5 CREDITS PER YEAR unless approved by administration.
ALL STUDENTS IN GRADE 8 ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE 6 CREDITS PER YEAR.
A one-hour class equals .5 credit per semester.

GRADE 7

Required Courses- Students must take all the 6.5 required courses and only 1 of the electives:

English 7
7th Grade US Studies
Honors Math 7, Math 7 or Informal Math 7
Life Science 7
Physical Education/Health 7
Music (Band, Choir or Orchestra)
Computer 7 (1 semester)

Elective Options: Intro to World Languages or Study Hall (1 semester)

Required Assessments: MCA Reading, Math

GRADE 8

Required Courses- Students must take all the 6 required courses and only 1 of the electives:

English 8
8th Grade Algebra I, Informal 8th Grade Algebra I or Honors 8th Grade Algebra I
Earth Science 8
8th Grade Global Studies
Phy Ed/Health 8 (1 semester)
8th Grade Art (one semester)
8th Grade Family & Consumer Science (one semester)
Pre-Engineering 8 (1 semester)

Elective Options: Band, Choir, Orchestra, or Study Hall

Required Assessments: MCA Reading, Math, and Science

DETERMINATION OF COURSE OFFERINGS

A course will be offered only if there is sufficient enrollment. Sufficient enrollment will vary from course to course. This variation is based on the source and amount of funding made available for courses through state and federal programs. This is why it is so important to take the registration process seriously.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

During the registration process, students are informed and encouraged to make careful course selections. These selections are used to build school schedules and establish staffing needs. In order for schedule changes to be honored, a Schedule Change Request form must be completed and returned to the counselor. Requested changes to a student's schedule will be honored only in certain circumstances. These may include:

- Failing a prerequisite
- Gaps in a student schedule
- Administrative discretion
- Needing to engage in academic support

Some reasons schedule change requests may not be honored:

- Changing teachers
- Changing class hours
- Requesting classes with friends
- Dropping required courses
- Convenience
- Dropping below 6 academic courses a semester

Some schedule changes require the signature of a parent. In addition, schedule changes made on or after the fourth day of the quarter must have a signature from the teacher of the class to be dropped and the class to be added as well as a parent/guardian signature.

ART COURSES

1500 EIGHTH GRADE ART

1 Semester

This is a semester long course that allows students to make several projects from different mediums of art such as drawing, painting, sculpture, and ceramics.

ENGLISH COURSES

1100A/1100B ENGLISH 7

1 Year

This course focuses on developing skills in the areas of reading, writing, and speaking through various types of literature including short stories, novels, and nonfiction articles. Students will explore several genres and work to strengthen their reading skills, develop vocabulary, and improve comprehension and identification of literary elements. Students will develop writing skills through creative writing, book review, and journaling to make connections to literature and to reflect on personal experiences.

1110A/1110B ENGLISH 8

1 Year

English 8 concentrates on reading, writing, vocabulary, mechanics, usage, and grammar. Special emphasis is placed on improving literacy through a strong core of reading and writing practice. Students will take the state reading test in the spring.



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS) COURSES

1700 8th GRADE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

1 Semester

The main topics covered in FACS are clothing construction and care, family living and child care, food preparation and nutrition, and introduction to personal finance.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY COURSES

1800 PRE-ENGINEERING

1 Semester

This course covers several different areas of Industrial Technology. The students will obtain knowledge through hands-on activities while using state-of-the-art equipment. Students will explore eight of these fifteen modules this semester: Future Fuels, Rocketry and Space, Digital Manufacturing, Simple Machines, Robots, Flight Technology, Computer Graphics and Animation, Applied Physics, Energy, Power and Mechanics, Audio Broadcasting, Engineering Towers, Computer Aided Drafting and Design, Electricity, Electronics, and Engineering Bridges.

MATHEMATICS COURSES

1204A/1204B HONORS MATH 7

1 Year

This class is made up of students selected on the basis of MCA scores, NWEA scores, and grades from both 5th and 6th grade math classes. Consultation with the 6th grade teacher is sought to discuss work ethic and responsibility of students. After all the data is compiled, the top students from the class are chosen. A letter is sent home to the students and their parents inviting them to the class. If they choose to join the class, a meeting is then set up to explain what the class entails. Ultimately, the goal of the honors class is for the student to take calculus by the time they are a senior. The students in this class will do the 8th grade curriculum, along with any of the 7th grade material needed to complete the standards. *Only students who have been selected can register for this class.*

1202A/1202B MATH 7

1 Year

This course involves operations with whole numbers, using variables, the decimal system, geometric figures, number theory, fractions, definitions and relationships, operations with fractions, solving equations, percent, area and volume, integers, graphs, statistics and probability, without the use of a calculator.

1200A/1200B INFORMAL MATH 7

1 Year

Informal Math 7 is for students who have difficulty in math and need a review of all the skills and concepts taught in elementary school. **Admittance to this class will be based upon teacher and parent recommendation.** This course involves problem solving, place value and order of operations, decimals and percents, statistics and graphs, fractions, ratios and proportions, geometry-patterns and measurement, algebra-integers, graphing, equations, and probability.

1214A/1214B HONORS 8TH GRADE ALGEBRA I

1 Year

Students in this class are entering year number two in the honors math program. They have completed Honors Math 7 while maintaining an "A"/"B" average. They have also passed the MCA test in 7th grade. Students who are in the Honors Math 8 class are taught the 9th grade algebra curriculum along with the 8th grade material needed to complete the standards. *Only students who have been selected can register for this class.*

1212A/1212B 8TH GRADE ALGEBRA I

1 Year

[Students should have at least a "C" average in Math 7]

In accordance with current trends this course offers an introduction to algebra, the decimal system, positive and negative numbers, rational numbers, equations and inequalities, geometry, ratio, proportion and percent, the coordinate plane, area and volume, square roots and right triangles, and probability and statistics.

1210A/1210B INFORMAL 8TH GRADE ALGEBRA I

[Admittance to this class by teacher recommendation]

1 Year

Informal 8th Grade Algebra I covers the same topics as 8th Grade Algebra I except there is less emphasis on the language of sets, modern mathematics terminology, and topics of algebra. More emphasis is placed on basic math skills with less reading along with the math. A calculator will be used.

MUSIC COURSES

2010A/2010B CHOIR 7

1 Year

The 7th Grade Choir is a performing ensemble open to all 7th grade students. Rehearsals occur on a daily basis emphasizing the development of the changing voice and basic music theory. A variety of music will be performed. The group performs in three concerts per year. All students are **required** to attend all scheduled choir activities during the year.

2012A/2012B CHOIR 8

1 Year

The 8th Grade Choir is a performing ensemble open to all 8th grade students. Rehearsals occur on a daily basis emphasizing the development of the voice and a continuation of musical development. A variety of music will be performed. The group performs in three concerts per year. All students are **required** to attend all scheduled choir activities during the year.

2000A/2000B BAND 7

1 Year

Band 7 is a performing ensemble, which meets daily and emphasizes the basic fundamentals of playing a band instrument. A variety of music is performed throughout the year. Band is open to students who participated in 6th grade band, has taken instrumental lessons, or by the consent of the director. Students are expected to attend a weekly lesson, and the band performs in three concerts per year. All students are required to attend all scheduled band activities during the year.

2002A/2002B BAND 8

1 Year

Band 8 is a performing ensemble, which meets daily and emphasizes the basic fundamentals of playing a band instrument. A variety of music is performed throughout the year. Band is open to students who participated in 7th grade band, has taken instrumental lessons, or by the consent of the director. . Students are expected to attend a weekly lesson, and the band performs in three concerts per year. All students are required to attend all scheduled band activities during the year.

2020A/2020B ORCHESTRA 7 & 8

[Orchestra 7 & 8 is held in Gilbert]

1 Year

Orchestra 7 & 8 is an elective music course which meets daily and emphasizes the basic fundamentals of orchestral playing such as rhythm, dynamics, intonation, tone production, ensemble playing, and following a conductor. Orchestra is open to students with at least one year of lessons on a stringed instrument or by the consent of the director. Members of the orchestra will perform in at least three concerts. A prescribed amount of daily practice is required. Students are expected to attend a weekly lesson and are evaluated on written and playing tests.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH COURSES

2100A/2100B PHY ED / HEALTH 7

1 Year

This course will address the areas of both physical education and health. A variety of team, individual, and dual recreational activities are offered. Fundamental skills, rules, strategies of play, safety, and etiquette are taught in each activity. Students work on a daily basis to improve their strength, flexibility, muscle endurance, and aerobic capacity. Various outdoor and swimming activities will be experienced. A nationally recognized physical fitness test will be taken at the beginning and end of the year. One time during the year, students will go bowling. This bowling activity will require a fee which is the student's responsibility to pay. The health portion of the class will cover improving peer relationships in the *Lion's Quest Skills for Adolescence: Changes and Challenges* which will fulfill a service learning component built into the curriculum.

2110 PHY ED / HEALTH 8

1 Semester

This course will address the areas of both physical education and health. A variety of team, individual, and dual recreational activities are offered. The physical education portion will include time in the fitness room, gym, pool and other recreational areas. Students work on a daily basis to improve their strength, flexibility, muscle endurance, and aerobic capacity. The health portion will address the importance of maintaining a balance between the physical, social, and mental aspects of wellness. Social and mental health topics include decision making, refusal skills, communication skills, and stress management. Students will also learn how to make informed physical health decisions in the areas of substance abuse, consumer health, weight management, non-communicable diseases, first-aid, and safety.

SCIENCE COURSES

1300A/1300B LIFE SCIENCE 7

1 Year

The basic fundamentals of life science are emphasized which include: life features, study of the cell, basics of genetics, macromolecules, classification of living organisms, life supporting cycles in nature, and the human organism. Lab experiences will correspond to the topics which are taught. This course supports the Minnesota Academic Standards for Science in Grade 7.

1310A/1310B EARTH SCIENCE 8

1 Year

Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the Earth as a dynamic planet with a long history of change. What these changes are, how they occur and how they affect our lives will be studied. Subject matters include: the earth's atmosphere, structure, and place in space along with other planets.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

1400A/1400B 7th GRADE US STUDIES

1 Year

Grade 7 features history as the lead discipline with a strong secondary emphasis on citizenship and government. The interdisciplinary "Studies" approach is further enhanced with important economics and geography content that round out the study of United States history. Students learn about people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They examine the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions for their lasting impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in the nation's history.

1410A/1410B 8th GRADE GLOBAL STUDIES

1 Year

Students in Global Studies explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting trade patterns, and intensified cultural interactions due to globalization. Students participate in civic discussion on contemporary issues, conduct historical inquiry and study events over the last half century that have shaped the contemporary world. They analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. They learn that governments are based on different political philosophies and serve various purposes. By learning economic principles of trade and the factors that affect economic growth, students understand why there are different standards of living in countries around the world.

TECHNOLOGY COURSES

2300 COMPUTER 7

1 Semester

This introductory level course will provide students with an environment that allows them the opportunity to develop the necessary computer skills that will make them successful secondary students in the Virginia school system and beyond. We will be exploring Google drive, word processing, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, iTunes, Garage Band, iMovie, digital citizenship, and much more.

NEW!

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES

1900 INTRODUCTION TO WORLD LANGUAGES 7

1 Semester

Students will have one quarter each of German and Spanish as an introduction to languages and cultures. We will learn basic conversational skills and practice the languages through various listening, reading, speaking and writing activities. This is an elective course for seventh graders who don't wish to take a semester of Study Hall.



SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES

Students in the Virginia School District who are eligible for special education services receive those services through the Northland Special Education Cooperative.

Special services are provided to children (birth - 22) with the following handicapping conditions: Early Childhood Special Education, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Deaf-Blind, Emotional or Behavioral Disorders, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Developmental Cognitive Disability, Other Health Disabilities, Physically Impaired, Severely Multiply Impaired, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairments, Traumatic Brain Injury, Visual Impairment, Development Adaptive Physical Education.

The education program and services that each child requires is based on an assessment or evaluation. If the student meets the criteria for special education and is in need of special education services, a comprehensive **Individual Educational Plan (IEP)** or **Individual Interagency Intervention Plan (IIIP)** is then written which includes the results of the evaluation, student needs, goals and objectives set by the team, services to be provided, and times and frequency of progress reports.

Following are descriptions of programs available on site at the Virginia Schools:

PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE DISABILITY (DCD)

The secondary program for students with DCD serves students ages twelve through twenty-one. This program features concentration on developing skills and abilities in areas including: Independent Living, Vocational Work Experience, Community Integration, Functional Academics, Speech, Language, Communication, Gross and Fine Motor Coordination, and Socio-behavioral Adaptation. Additionally, supplemental support services are provided based on individual needs. The overall goal of the program for students with DCD is to assist each student in reaching his/her fullest potential.

PROGRAM FOR SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY (SLD)

The purpose of this program is to serve students identified as learning disabled through individualized testing done by qualified personnel.

Referrals are made by teachers, counselors, or parents. Students with SLD may be assisted in a resource room or the regular classroom. They may be helped during class time with reading tests, assignments, etc. If necessary, these students may be served in a SLD class instead of a mainstream class in any academic area in which the student qualifies.

PROGRAM FOR EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIOR DISORDERS (EBD)

The emotional/behavioral disorder program (EBD) is designed to accommodate and meet the individual needs of students in Grades 7-12 who are experiencing some behavioral and emotional difficulties in school. Students are referred to the program by parents, classroom teachers, counselors or the principal. In order for students to qualify for the EBD program, they must first be tested to determine the student's eligibility and educational needs.

1116A/1116B RESOURCE ENGLISH JR HIGH I 7-8 7-8

Resource English Jr High I is our level 1 English course developed for students in 7th or 8th grade who are currently on an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Case manager approval is required for students with a current IEP to register.

1118A/1118B RESOURCE ENGLISH JR HIGH II 7-8 7-8

Resource English Jr High II is our level 2 English course developed for students in 7th or 8th grade who are currently on an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Case manager approval is required for students with a current IEP to register.

1216A/1216B **RESOURCE MATH JR HIGH I 7-8**

7-8

Resource English Jr High II is our level 2 English course developed for students in 7th or 8th grade who are currently on an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Case manager approval is required for students with a current IEP to register.

1218A/1218B **RESOURCE MATH JR HIGH II 7-8**

7-8

Resource English Jr High II is our level 2 English course developed for students in 7th or 8th grade who are currently on an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Case manager approval is required for students with a current IEP to register.