Lake Stevens Middle School  
7th Grade Course Descriptions  
2017-2018

Year-Long Required Classes

LANGUAGE ARTS
The objective of this course is for students to communicate effectively using reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The course content will focus on a variety of genres of fiction and nonfiction texts. Students will implement strategies to comprehend reading selections and express themselves clearly and thoughtfully. Students will also write in a variety of forms for different audiences, practice the components of the writing process, and develop writing pieces in accordance with Common Core State Standards.

CHALLENGE LANGUAGE ARTS
Students enrolling in this advanced class must meet or exceed standard on state assessments and grades. In this course, students will demonstrate their ability and willingness to work independently and collaboratively at an accelerated pace. They will implement strategies to comprehend reading selections, express themselves clearly and thoughtfully, problem solve, and work at a rigorous pace with complex texts. Students will also write in a variety of forms for different audiences, practice the components of the writing process, and develop writing pieces in accordance with Common Core State Standards. Students are expected to enter this course with the ability to communicate effectively using reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

MATH 7
Students build the skills that allow them to communicate their thinking, make conjectures, try them out, and report on progress to refine their thinking. This course covers the topics such as tables, graphs, variables, linear relationships, ratio, proportion, probability, statistics, and geometry.

PRE-ALGEBRA  (Pre-requisite: 6th Grade Challenge Math with an A or B grade)  
Students should demonstrate strong organizational skills, be highly motivated, and be willing to consistently put forth strong effort. Students build the skills that allow them to communicate their thinking, make conjectures, try them out, and report on progress to refine their thinking. This course takes a focused look at the following topics: irrational numbers, exponents, linear systems, functions, Pythagorean Theorem, transformational geometry (including similarity and congruence), and statistics.

ALGEBRA  (Pre-requisite: Pre-Algebra in the 6th Grade with an A or B grade)  
Students build the skills that allow them to communicate their thinking, make conjectures, try them out, and report on progress to refine their thinking. This course takes a focused look at the following topics: seeing structure in expressions; polynomials; inequalities; linear, quadratic, and exponential equations; functions; interpreting and evaluating statistics. Students may apply for high school credit following successful completion of this course.
SCIENCE
The objective of this course is to develop students’ skills and confidence in understanding and using the metric system and the scientific method. Students will begin using these skills with more independence, while examining interrelated systems found in the human body and other organisms.

SOCIAL STUDIES
The objective of this course is to understand how physical geography contributes to the political, economic, and cultural developments of civilizations. Elements of geography, sociology, economics, political science, and civics will be used to compare a variety of civilizations. Course content will include: Medieval and Renaissance Europe, Islamic Civilization, African Kingdom, Meso-America, and Andean Civilization. Students will also be taught to think critically, analyze information, and research topics and report about concepts they’ve learned.

WELLNESS (Physical Education/Health)
The objective of this course is to provide opportunities for students to plan, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive wellness plan. Students will be able to apply health concepts in a physical education setting.

Year-Long Elective Options

GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY PLUS
This is a year-long S.T.E.M. (Science Technology Engineering Math) course that integrates Gateway to Technology with Shop. Students will complete projects by defining the project, designing a solution, and building the product. Students will create models using manipulatives and computers to solve everyday engineering problems, and will explore the use of hand and machine tools and woodworking processes. Students will produce items individually and in groups. Proper use of tools and safety in the shop will be stressed. This class will lay the groundwork for the high school principles of engineering courses and ultimately a career in some aspect of the engineering field.

BAND
Students can take Beginning Band if they have never played an instrument before. Those who took band last year can sign up for Intermediate Band. The choices for instruments are: Clarinet, Flute, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, and Percussion (including snare and bells). Other instruments may be played by permission of the instructor. The Band will perform a number of different concerts throughout the year. Participation in public performances is a requirement for this class and part of the grade. This is a full year course. Students enrolling in this class make a year-long commitment. Families provide their own instruments. A limited number of instruments are available from the school. In June, there is a rental night organized with local music stores where students can try out instruments and rent/purchase them.
CHOIR
Students will learn the fundamentals of singing and reading music. Students will sing songs in different languages and styles. The Choir will perform concerts throughout the year. Participation in public performances is a requirement for this class.

LEADERSHIP
Leadership class provides opportunities to get involved, be a leader, and make a difference while taking charge of many events, activities, and publicity opportunities at LSMS. You will be expected to plan, implement and evaluate school-wide projects and celebrate your successes in writing and in conversation as a Leadership team. You will learn about leadership traits through reading, research, observation and experience.

TEACHER ASSISTANT
Application Required: LSMS seventh grade students who have at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA and no D’s or F’s from the previous semester can serve as a Teacher Assistant. Students can help in the library, the main office, shop, art, PE, or a classroom. Being a TA replaces the year-long Exploratory Electives. As a TA, students are expected to maintain confidentiality and act in a reliable and responsible manner. This includes showing Pirate PRIDE in all areas of the school.

ACADEMIC PEER MENTOR T.A.
Application Required: Seventh grade students who have at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA and no D’s or F’s from the previous semester can serve as Academic Peer Mentor TA’s. These students will mentor other students and assist them academically with reading, writing and math tasks in core classes. After applications are submitted, core teachers will determine need for mentors in their various classes. (If there is not a Peer Mentor position available, the student will be placed in Gateway to Technology Plus or as a Teacher Assistant.) Being an Academic Peer Mentor TA replaces the year-long Exploratory Electives. Students are expected to maintain confidentiality and act in a reliable and responsible manner. This includes showing Pirate PRIDE in all areas of the school.

Special Programs
These programs may replace electives or core classes listed above for students who qualify.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Specially designed individualized instruction is offered for students who qualify for special education programs. There are different levels of support offered. Some students are in self-contained classrooms all day long, while others receive support in the areas of math or language arts in a resource room setting.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS
Students for whom English is not their first language are offered instruction with vocabulary and reading. To qualify for ELL services, students take a language proficiency test.