

Shawnee Heights Middle School
7th grade 2020-21 Course Selections

Student Name _____ Date _____

Teacher Name _____ Elementary School _____

Required All Year Classes

English, Kansas History/Geography, Math, Science, Advisor

Required 9 Weeks Classes

Government, Health, Introduction to Computer and Careers, Physical Education, ELA elective

You MUST number your top three choices from these five ELA electives (1 = top choice, 2 = second choice, 3 = third choice)

- ___ Exploring the Dark Side: Fears & Phobias
- ___ Dystopia: Inspiring Change
- ___ 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens
- ___ William Allen White Books
- ___ Creative Writing

BAND OR ORCHESTRA STUDENT	NON-BAND OR ORCHESTRA STUDENT
<p>Select one (meets all year)</p> <p>___ Band OR ___ Orchestra</p>	<p>You will have 7 additional 9 weeks classes.</p> <p><u>Please number the following choices with "1" being your favorite and "5" your least favorite:</u></p> <p>___ Art Exploration</p> <p>___ Digital Art</p> <p>___ FACS Life Planning</p> <p>___ Introduction to Spanish</p> <p>___ Robotics A & D</p>
<p>You will have 3 additional 9-week classes.</p> <p><u>Please number the following choices with "1" being your favorite and "7" your least favorite:</u></p> <p>___ Art Exploration</p> <p>___ Choir</p> <p>___ Digital Art</p> <p>___ FACS Life Planning</p> <p>___ Introduction to Spanish</p> <p>___ Music Appreciation</p> <p>___ Robotics A & D</p>	<p>Choose your Music Elective.</p> <p>___ Choir OR ___ Music Appreciation</p>
	<p>Circle <u>one</u> Additional Elective.</p> <p>Physical Education (PE) - an additional 9 wks Choir - an additional 9 wks Music Appreciation, if not selected above</p>

Parent Signature _____

Seventh Grade Exploratory Courses

2020-2021

Art Exploration 7

Seventh grade Art Exploration is an introduction to the visual arts. During this nine-week course students will study the elements of art and the principles of design by creating two- and three-dimensional art projects. Areas of focus will be drawing, painting, and ceramics. These projects will require students to study the qualities of a good composition, craftsmanship, and creative problem solving.

Digital Art 7

In 7th Grade Digital Art, we explore the capability of creating vector images using Adobe Illustrator. Adobe Illustrator is a program used in the profession of Graphic Design to create shapes, lines, text, and import graphics. During this class we will create a great variety of artwork using the program. Some examples include digital drawing, digital painting, and layout design. Students will explore the creative side of digital art and graphic design to design images that could not be created using standard pencil and paper.

FACS Life Planning

This Family & Consumer Science course has been combined with career and life planning skills to allow students to explore the FACS curriculum and get a taste of the working world. Areas that will be focused upon are:

- Personality Development, with emphasis on getting along with others in life and on the job.
- Nutrition & Food Preparation, with emphasis on a healthy lifestyle while learning how to read and follow directions and work as a member of a team.
- Career Exploration, with an emphasis on researching areas of interest (not just FACS related careers) and use of the Occupational Outlook Handbook.
- Financial Literacy, where students will learn about budgeting, checking accounts, and consumerism.

Introduction to Spanish 7

The students will learn grammatical concepts, basic vocabulary words and phrases in Spanish. They also will learn about the culture related to the Spanish-speaking world. The students are not expected to have any previous experience in foreign language for this nine-week course.

Robotics A & D

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Choir 7

Students who are interested in singing should take this music option. Students will sing a variety of songs including choral arrangements, music standards and popular music. Students will develop and gain confidence in their changing voices with emphasis on proper vowel placement, intonation, and use of register. The choir will have a concert at the end of the quarter to showcase what they have learned. Students will be encouraged to experiment with their developing voices and will be supported in a safe musical environment. No student will ever have to sing by themselves in front of the group, as the emphasis on this class is having fun while singing. A student may take one or two nine weeks of this class.

Music Appreciation 7

Students who are interested in gaining a greater appreciation and understanding of music should take this music option. Students do not need to play an instrument or sing to be in the class, however, it is a good class for instrumentalists and vocalists who want to further their knowledge in music. We will study the different options of musically getting involved, the elements of music, genres and periods of music history, and learn how to play the ukulele. Upon completion of this class, students will be able to listen critically to music and evaluate musical qualities. Students will better understand how music influences their lives and the world around them and will be prepared to further their studies in music.

Band 7

Students with two years of experience or the instructor's permission may enroll in this class. The students will perform concert band literature in 3 concerts through the year, learn basic music theory, develop technique and tone on their instruments, and cooperatively learn with other band students. Students in this class also perform at 2 to 4 pep band events (basketball games) per year. This class, in many cases, will go to a festival to be judged. This course will meet every day for a full year.

Orchestra 7

7th Grade Orchestra will meet every day for a full year. There are 3 concerts scheduled throughout the school year. We will be working on music that is appropriate for players that are in their 3rd year of instruction. Advanced techniques included are vibrato and shifting in addition to utilizing all note values. Students with two or more years of instruction are encouraged to enroll.

Physical Education 7

Standard: This course will allow students to know basics of individual and group sports and recreational activities. For example, the benefits, conditioning requirements of participation to succeed in sports, recreational activities, reading, writing and problem solving. The instructor will evaluate strengths and weaknesses of skills, knowledge of resources for improvement of skills and knowledge of the value of repetition and practice. This class is required for 9 weeks and may be selected for an additional 9 weeks.

Course indicators: Students completing this course will. . .

1. Receive an introduction to team sports (pre-basketball, pre-volleyball, pre-softball, pre-football, and pre-soccer) for the specific purpose of improving the skill, coordination and fitness levels of students.
2. Recognize and use correct skills and techniques.
3. Learn knowledge of rules and strategies for group and individual activities.
4. Demonstrate basic skills of movement, coordination, fluidity, and rhythm.

Intro to Computers and Careers

Students in Introduction to Computers are introduced to basic Computer Science principles. The course will explore Computer History and Development, computer components and function, and the differences between certain types of hardware and software. Students' progress to learn important applications, including the Microsoft Office Suite, with a focus on improving typing skills and creating documents such as personal and business style letters. A lower level of computer coding is introduced to students and they work through puzzles using block snap code to solve puzzles. Students will have the opportunity to explore personal interests and skills via "Career Cruising" for personal career development.

Government 7

Government is a class designed to acquaint students with the origins, concepts, organizations, and policies of the United States government. Students will learn how our political systems work by allowing them to experience it first-hand and empowering them to address current real-world issues.

Health 7

7th grade health is all about your bodily systems. You will be studying how cells work to build systems in your body that are there to help you carry out life functions. Also, you will learn about ways to keep your body healthy with good nutritional decisions, hygiene steps, and avoidance of risky behaviors and choices.

ELA Electives

Each student will take one English Language Arts Elective (ELA). On the course enrollment form, students will select a first, second and third choice of elective. The course descriptions are below.

Exploring the Dark Side: An Examination of Fears & Phobias Through the Horror Genre

Apprehensively you enter the horrifying hallways of the dark and dreaded world that is middle school. A multitude of fears consumes you – fear of the unknown – fear of isolation – fear of simply surviving. So, come face your fears as you experience the fascinating world of gothic and horror fiction with other terror-stricken teens! In this nine-week course, we will explore the subject of horror and how the literature reflects societal and personal fears. We will delve into the dark side of literary imagination through the study of the horror genre. We will examine works from both classic and contemporary authors including Edgar Allan Poe, Ray Bradbury, Mary Downing Hahn, and Neil Gaiman. Students will investigate the psychology of fear and phobias through the analysis of various subgenres of horror. We will read short stories as well as novels as we interpret authors' character development, their ability to establish suspense and mystery, and their overall depiction of fear. Come over to the dark side and find yourself immersed in a world where fear is always invited, and horror is your host.

Discovering Dystopia: Imagined Worlds Inspiring Change

What if you could make a change in the world? Can one individual actually inspire change within a society? In this nine-week course we will explore a range of dystopian stories that will have you thinking about the power of change. Fusing the genres of science fiction and fantasy, dystopian literature explores a range of sensitive topics and serves as a useful tool to discuss and imagine a better tomorrow and warn of dangerous possibilities. This course is meant to motivate us to ask the big questions and to reflect on how we as a society, and as individuals, can create change. We will discover historical and current "what if?" thought experiments, including classics such as *Fahrenheit 451* and contemporary works such as *The Hunger Games*. By studying a variety of dystopian literature – stories of worlds gone wrong, visions of our world through the looking glass – we will examine troubling trends in society and challenge readers to consider the incredible power of one.

The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens (Covey, 2014)

The communication course's primary purpose is to explore concepts from the book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey (2014). Students will explore and practice essential skills that will empower them to take on twenty-first century challenges. These skills will improve relationships with family and friends. Students will increase self-esteem and confidence and resist negative peer pressure. Students will be able to recognize, establish, and prioritize their goals. *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* (Covey, 2014) will be presented to enrolled students through text reading, note taking, videos, classroom discussions, role playing, and written activities.

William Allen White Books

If you love a good book to read, sign up for the "award-winning" William Allen White Books Communications Class! This class will focus on reading the latest and greatest William Allen White Books. These 10 or more books are voted on each year by students, and one book becomes the grand William Allen White winner. They are the very best books in young adult literature each year. The William Allen White Book Award is the oldest state-wide children's choice book award in the U.S. The class will focus on the books from the Master List of William Allan White nominated books from the last year and current year. Come join this Communications class for some fun and enjoyable reading.

Creative Writing

Writing is fabulous fun! Come join this class for some creative writing. We will publish our writing at the end of this 9-week course from your favorite writing pieces/collections. The collections will be published to share with students and the Shawnee Heights community. Interviews, narrative writing, and poetry are just some of the writing styles you will encounter in this course. If you love to write and think creatively, this course is just for you. Students will gain a chance to be creative and try different writing styles and techniques.