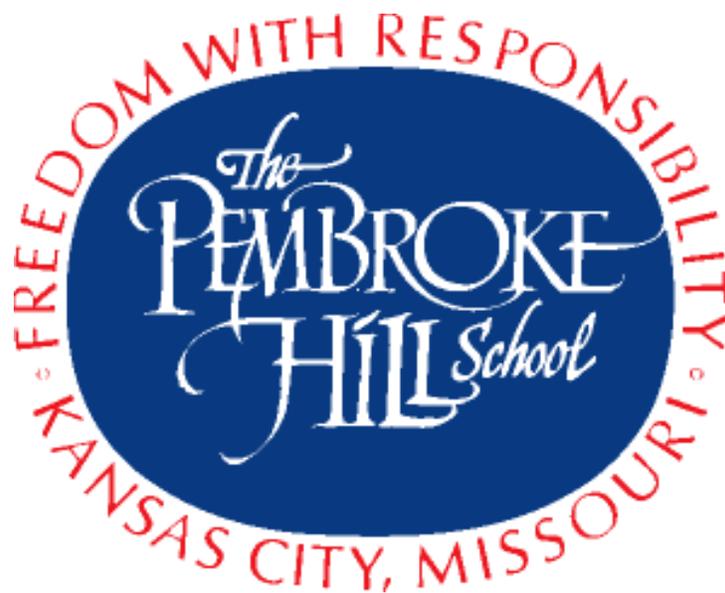


# **THE PEMBROKE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**GRADE 7**

**PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

**2018 – 2019**



## SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### ALGEBRA I – YEAR 1

The seventh grade mathematics curriculum is Algebra I. Most students will take a two-year Algebra I sequence during the seventh and eighth grades. The Algebra I curriculum during the seventh grade year is focused on order of operations, algebraic properties, integers, graphing relations and functions, analyzing linear equations and solving linear inequalities. Emphasis will be placed on a step-by-step approach to problem solving and making connections of these skills to real world applications.

### ALGEBRA I ACCELERATED

A select group of seventh grade students will be ready to take an accelerated Algebra I course. The intent of the course is to allow capable students the opportunity to complete the algebra curriculum in one year. Placement in this course will be determined by the student's performance in sixth grade mathematics (grades and work ethic), the recommendation of the sixth grade mathematics teacher, and the outcome on a placement test that all sixth grade students **will take at the end of the year**. The decision made by the mathematics department takes into consideration the best educational interests of the student.

This course is very fast-paced and has challenging expectations. Students should be able to handle the work without significant struggle and/or assistance. The main goal of the mathematics department is to be sure that each middle school student has a solid foundation in algebra. To be sure that the goal is met, we require students taking this course to maintain a B-average or better. If a student's mid-quarter or quarter grade is below B-, that student may not continue in accelerated algebra.

### AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & CIVICS

Students will study the origins of the Constitution, the three branches of government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism. On the state and local levels, students will learn about the structure of Missouri and Kansas government as well as local city and county governmental organization. Students will learn about the responsibilities of citizenship through projects and activities. Lastly, students will receive an overview of our national economy.

### ART

The seventh grader will build upon their knowledge of the elements and principles of design by experiencing more complex media processes in drawing, painting, ceramics, fiber, sculpture and printmaking. Students will learn to analyze their own and others artwork through written and verbal exercises.

### CHORAL MUSIC

Choral Music is open to any seventh or eighth grader. The girls' choir and the boys' choir will meet separate days and rotate every other day with the Physical Education class. First semester focus is on foundational skills for performance of classical and seasonal music culminating in the annual Winter Concert. Second semester features *Showcase*, a full-scale musical production, which includes large and small ensembles, solos, staging and choreography. **Reminder:** You must enroll in the Showcase elective (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter) in conjunction with this course.

## **DRAMATIC ARTS**

Students build on skills introduced in 6<sup>th</sup> grade Drama in using the voice and body for creative expression and character interpretation. Dramatic creative writing using the play building technique as well as advanced training of the voice are introduced. Students will perform scripted and original dramatic works.

## **ENGLISH**

Seventh Grade English further develops oral and written communication skills along with reading comprehension skills. The curriculum exposes students to a variety of literary genres, including the novel, historical fiction, fiction, the memoir, poetry and short stories. Composition skills complement the genres and focus on a wide variety of writing styles: expository, creative short stories, poetry, and memoir. In an effort to convey the inseparable boundary between social studies and art, many integrated units are utilized. The nuances of grammar are further studied, with an emphasis on application. Vocabulary is bolstered through vocabulary workshop exercises and assigned readings. Students also incorporate technology (Word, Publisher, Power Point, internet searches, etc...) into many of the activities that they complete. Above all, the curriculum is set forth to develop a student's appreciation and interest in literature and writing.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION / INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

The objectives of the seventh grade physical education program are to provide an environment conducive for the student to attain an acceptable physical fitness level, to develop an appreciation of lifetime sports, and to develop the skills and desire to continue with a healthy lifestyle as they progress through their middle school years. Students will also develop an understanding for the basic rules, strategies and skill set for each curriculum unit. The physical education staff will instill the concepts of good sportsmanship, leadership abilities, being a team player and character building skills throughout the seventh grade curriculum.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION – ELITE INDEPENDENT STUDY**

The Elite Independent Study program provides seventh and eighth grade students with an opportunity to earn Physical Education credit for exceptional dedication to fitness outside of The Pembroke Hill School. Students applying for Independent study must meet all Elite Independent Study requirements in order to qualify (see the application in the middle school office for details). Interested applicants must turn in their applications at least a week prior to the start of the quarter. Qualified students can earn a maximum of four credits (four quarters) of Physical Education during their 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years. The remainder of their credits must be obtained through regular attendance in class.

## **SCIENCE**

The objective of 7<sup>th</sup> grade science is to apply problem solving and inquiry skills individually and cooperatively to investigate and explore authentic issues. Students will discover that all fields of science are interrelated and affect the global community and environment. A focus of collecting, interpreting, evaluating and effectively communicating data will be implemented throughout the year. General topics to be studied include: the metric system, scientific processes, general scientific principles, astronomy, basic structures of life, classification of living things, and basic life science processes. Students should expect to study a wide variety of subject matter throughout the year using basic study skills like note taking, problem solving, laboratory investigations, and inquiry-based projects.

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## **SEVENTH GRADE FRENCH**

This course is the first half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of French I. Continuous development of oral skills and vocabulary, as well as an emphasis on both the spoken and written word, will accompany cultural studies of the Francophone world.

## **SEVENTH GRADE LATIN**

This course is the first half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of Latin I. Students will develop their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and will continue to sharpen their reading and translating skills. English word study is a prominent feature of the course. Students will also study life in the Roman Empire, especially in Roman Pompeii. Mythological gods will be an additional focus for the year.

## **SEVENTH GRADE MANDARIN CHINESE**

This course continues the development of the four major communicative skills begun in 6<sup>th</sup> grade: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will expand their vocabulary and be able to comprehend and participate in more extensive conversations, to read and write more complex sentences. The students will gain more understanding of Chinese culture.

## **SEVENTH GRADE SPANISH (Blue)**

This course is the first half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of Spanish I. Continuous development of oral skills and vocabulary as well as an emphasis on both spoken and written Spanish will accompany cultural studies of the Spanish speaking world.

## **SEVENTH GRADE SPANISH (Red)**

This course is a continuation for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Red course and will elaborate on skills developed in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and grammar. The course will use formal textbook and supplementary materials as well as novels, movies, and other culturally immersive materials. This class will primarily be conducted in the target language, by the end of the year students should feel confident and able to converse in Spanish in many varied real life situations. Students will begin the Level II textbook mid-year.

# ELECTIVES

## **\*\*7th gr. Wellness - All 7th gr. Students will be assigned one quarter**

7th graders will discuss what it means to be well through the lenses of social health, mental health and physical health. Social conflict, stereotypes and bias, empathy, social media, self-care, stress management, suicide prevention, benefits of sleep, body image, growth mindset, substance abuse prevention, and peer pressure will all be explored through this course. When not in classroom conversation, students will spend time in the gym furthering their physical education.

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## **35mm Film Photography - 4th quarter**

This is a relaxed way to learn the art of 35mm film photography. Students will study how to control light using the 35 mm film camera by using f-stops and shutter-speeds. There will also be some digital photography at the end of the quarter.

## **Acts of Kindness - 4th quarter**

Student driven course about "just doing nice things" for other people. Monday will be a planning day with the knowledge that we can spill over into Tuesday (traditional Study Hall day in elective) as needed. The planning day will be spent discussing ways our small class to do positive things around the Pembroke Hill community to make our campus a better place. These "Acts of Kindness" will take place during elective period on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of every week. If possible, we might offer two or three Saturday volunteering opportunities in the Kansas City community.

## **Basketball Skills - 2nd quarter**

Tune up your skills for basketball season by getting individual instruction on shooting and skills of the game. Learn drills to do on your own to improve your ball handling, shooting, and passing. The class also involves fun, competitive games and drills.

## **Bridge Building - 2nd quarter**

Students will follow the Science Olympiad rules for tower building to construct and test a variety of tower designs to determine the structure that will hold the most weight in proportion to its own weight.

## **Concert Band - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th quarters**

The middle school concert band is open to all instrumental music students in grades 7 & 8. This year-long elective provides a creative and educational environment for students to develop successful ensemble and music performance skills. The ensemble rehearses during the school day and studies/performs a variety of music that is stylistically and culturally diverse. Focus is routed in developing music performance skills/concepts, self-expression, creativity, rehearsal etiquette and ensemble/social skills. In addition to assemblies & school-related events, students are required to perform for two major concerts (winter and spring). Band members may also elect to support PHS by participating in the Raider Pep Band and Chamber Music Club.

### **Creative Writing - 1st quarter**

Calling all creative writers! During this creative writing elective, you will have time to work on your short stories, books, and poems while collaborating with your classmates and me for helpful ideas.

### **Dance/Cheer - 1st quarter**

The cheer portion of the electives will work on cheer jumps, chants, stunts, and basic cheer movement. The dance section will learn about different types of dancing and learn some routines in each. We will have an opportunity or two to show them off in action at some of our middle school athletic events, possibly including the Homecoming parade. This elective is open to anyone--no experience needed. Both quarters will have similar but different curriculum.

### **Exploring Tech - 2nd and 4th quarter**

Explore and sample different technologies in this course. We'll try coding, program Sphero robots, 3D design and printing, and more. Each unit will last 2-3 weeks.

### **Fibers - 1st quarter**

This course will explore **all things FIBER!!!** We will learn to make handmade books, papermaking techniques, weaving, sewing, needlepoint and the art of felting! Each student will create objects that are both functional and beautifully designed. This is a great class for those that love to be crafty and learn new things that can become hobbies for years to come!

### **Foreign Language French Film Festival - 1st quarter**

Unleash your cinematic creativity! Write, produce, and film an original short French film for the Foreign Language Film Festival at Central Missouri State University. Attend the festival in the spring to compete against other schools from Missouri and Kansas.

### **Foreign Language Spanish Film Festival - 2nd quarter**

Unleash your cinematic creativity! Write, produce, and film an original short Spanish film for the Foreign Language Film Festival at Central Missouri State University. Attend the festival in the spring to compete against other schools from Missouri and Kansas.

### **Hand-Building with Clay - 2nd and 4th quarter**

This course will focus on a combination of functional and non-functional works in clay. We will spend half of our time creating pieces that can be used at home or in the garden. The second half of the quarter will focus on sculptural objects that vary from realistic to abstract. This is a great opportunity for those that love to work with clay to get their hands dirty for an entire quarter!

### **Hudl: The Classroom Side of Sports - 1st quarter**

Student athletes will be taught the intricacies of the Hudl film program. They will be registered with their high school fall sports team and be taught how to utilize film for personal growth as a player. Additionally, students will be taught how to create film playlists for their personal use which might include, but not be limited to, college recruiting, questions for coaches and evaluation.

We will also open this class to students who are interested in the technology side of sports. Varsity programs are always looking for team managers and people who are passionate about filming games. There will be opportunities to film middle school sporting events that we can then load and use for player evaluation/teaching with our athletes. Any young people with this interest are invaluable to our high school athletics programs and our school community.

### **Intro to Geometry - 2nd quarter**

This elective will be an introduction to the basics and fundamentals of understanding geometry. We will explore geometric vocabulary and relationships between different types of polygons and their angles. We will investigate logical reasoning and problem solving with puzzles and geometric models. Come build, learn, and explore what geometry is all about!

### **Jewelry Making - 4th quarter**

In this elective, we will make awesome jewelry together! I will teach you how to design and construct different types of necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. We will use a variety of beads and materials, and we will even make our own beads from paper. Between projects, we will make origami boxes for our jewelry.

### **Math Contest Club - 2nd quarter**

Get ready to challenge mathletes all over the city and the country! In a fun and relaxing setting, you will practice challenging math problems, learn higher level math skills (Geometry and Algebra II), and fine-tune your test-taking strategies. Also, become a part of Math Madness, an online math competition set up like the Basketball March Madness NCAA tournament. This course will focus on preparing you for upcoming math contests like MATHCOUNTS and MCTM Math League contests.

### **Painting - 1st and 3rd quarter**

This course is an exploration in multiple painting techniques and media. We will work with **fun paint materials and even spray paint!** Our focus will be on playing with new and exciting painting styles for **dynamic** paintings to **decorate your home!**

### **Printmaking - 4th quarter**

This course is an exploration in multiple printmaking techniques and materials. We will work with linoleum blocks, etching, and monotype prints. Printmaking is very similar to painting, but it gives you many **more options to be experimental and adventurous!**

### **Programming - 4th quarter**

This programming class will be a self-paced curriculum where students will create animations, games and apps utilizing Scratch, a visual programming language developed by the MIT Media Lab and Combat Code. Other computer languages will be explored based on the levels of the students.

### **Raider Fit - 2nd and 3rd quarter**

Get faster, stronger, more athletic, and more flexible! In this elective we learn how to use exercise to improve athletic performance and health. This course will give you the tools to be the best athlete you can be. We focus on developing strength, speed, and agility through weight lifting fundamentals.

### **Robotics Level 1 - 1st quarter and 3rd quarter**

*Introduction to Programming with LEGO Robotics* is a course built around a sequence of programming activities based on real-world applications, such as industrial robots and self-driving vehicles. The projects are designed to help students improve not just their programming skills, but also problem-solving, reasoning, and teamwork skills.

### **Robotics Level 2 - 2nd quarter**

Level 2 Robotics will use information and skills taken from Robotics 1 and apply them to new problems. The projects will be designed to expand programming ability, but increase teamwork and problem-solving skills. The challenges will be based on the *First LEGO League* and include in-house competitions between teams. Students will also have the opportunity to explore various careers related to coding, programming, and robotics.

### **Showcase - 3rd quarter**

Showcase is open to any seventh or eighth grader who is enrolled in Choral Music. The girls' choir and the boys' choir will meet on separate days, but will occasionally combine for mixed-voicing rehearsals. When students are not singing, they are scheduled into a proctored study hall. Second semester features *Showcase*, a full-scale musical production, which includes large and small ensembles, solos, staging and choreography.

### **Study Hall - 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarter**

**Theatrical Props Design - 1st quarter**

Students will read a play and analyze for technical requirements. Focus will be on stage and personal properties requirements. They will use this analysis and the director's concept idea to identify and create props for the Middle School play.

**What in the World? - 4th quarter**

Yikes! There is a lot to discuss in the world today! This is a student run and student structured elective. You will decide what topics to discuss, where to get the information and what we should debate on fun Fridays. You are in control!

**Yoga - 1st and 4th quarter**

Experience the benefits of daily yoga practice! We will explore the foundations of yoga, learning basic postures with a focus on controlled breathing and safe alignment. As the quarter progresses, you will develop strength, flexibility, and balance, and we will experiment with more challenging poses. This elective will give you a chance to practice mindfulness and breathing techniques to cultivate focus, balance, and positivity both on and off the mat! No yoga experience necessary! Bringing your own yoga mat is recommended, but not required.