

Aitkin Middle School

Course Registration Information

2022-2023

Grade 7

See the registration form for students' options for requesting elective courses.

****Please keep in mind, students will be able to request electives, but requests cannot always be granted depending on the student's schedule and class sizes.**

All 7th grade students are required to be scheduled in a music class; either Band and/or Choir for the full year or one quarter worth of Music Exploration.

Listed below are brief descriptions of the courses offered to students in 7th grade at Aitkin Middle School.

REQUIRED FULL-YEAR COURSES

English 7

The focus of this core class will be developing our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. Several genres will be covered including, but not limited to, fiction and nonfiction (articles and novels), short stories, poetry, drama, grammar, writing and research skills, media literacy, and speech communication.

Math 7

In math 7 students will review and build on topics learned in earlier grades including: fractions and fraction operations, integers and integer operations, ratios and proportions, area of 2-dimensional objects, and volume of 3-dimensional figures. We will also explore algebra topics including solving one and two step equations, working with squares and square roots, and graphing linear equations.

Science 7

Science 7 is a required, year-long course that will introduce students to a wide variety of largely life science-based material. Topics include but are not limited to: utilizing the scientific method, classification, metric system, vocabulary, natural selection and evolution of life, disease transmission and impact on society, cells, and genetics. The student's school-issued, one-to-one device (MacBook) will be a vital tool toward effectively satisfying the requirements of this course.

Social 7

American History 7 is a full year class required for all seventh graders. The course will consist of a survey of American History from early settlement through the post Civil War era. This class is a continuation of the American History curriculum taught in fifth grade and works in conjunction with the American History curriculum students will receive in their tenth grade class. Units will include: early colonies and exploration, the American Revolution and early government, growth of the United States, Civil War and Reconstruction, and rise into the modern era.

REQUIRED QUARTER COURSES

Computer Applications (1 Quarter)

This one quarter course is designed for establishing word processing, typing, and basic computer skills. Students will complete business projects that incorporate use of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Students will learn internet safety, e-mail etiquette, Google Drive, and other basic computer programs and functions. Basic computer applications is an important skill to possess if you are planning on a business-related career, but is also a necessary skill to have if you are planning on furthering your education.

Health 7 (2 Quarters)

Health 7 is a required semester long course that covers the different body systems, nutrition and physical fitness, drug use, tobacco use including vaping, CPR, and sexual pressures.

Physical Education 7 (2 Quarters)

Two quarters of Physical Education 7 are required for all students. Students in band will have physical education every other day opposite band for the full year. The primary objective is to encourage and develop the physical, emotional, and social skills necessary for the participation in sports and life-long activities. Students will participate in a variety of team and individual activities along with working on fitness. Students are graded on dressing for PE class as well as full participation to the best of the student's ability in all activities. Students may not wear the clothes they wore to school for physical education class. Appropriate, functional athletic shoes are also required. Student dress will follow the school dress code policy and the PE department.

Music Exploration 7 (1 Quarter, only required if *not* in Band or Choir)

Music Exploration 7 is a class required *only for students who do not register for choir and/or band*. We will explore many different areas of music. Some of the units include: music history, piano, guitar, GarageBand, musicals, and more.

***This course shares the hour with Phy Ed so for half of the year students will alternate every other day between having Music Exploration and Phy Ed as a way to receive one quarter worth of music and one quarter of Phy Ed.*

ELECTIVE COURSES

Band 7 (Full-year)

***Students registering are expected to stay in band for the full year.**

Band 7 is designed for students who wish to play the traditional woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments in a large group ensemble. We give three concert performances a year. In addition to our three concerts, students will participate in our local marching band performances and have the opportunity to be in pep band and jazz band. Students are to attend a minimum number of lessons per grading period. Home practice is highly encouraged, but not required for participation. Band meets every other day opposite Physical Education for one class period all year. ****Students must have been in band the previous year to register.**

New students wishing to join must get permission from Mr. Halvorson before registering. A quarter of lessons only will then be required before a student may join band. School instruments are available to use at no charge. We have trumpets, trombones, baritones, saxophones, clarinets and tubas available. If interested in trying any of these, please call Mr. Halvorson at 927-2115 ext. 3120.

Soprano/Alto Choir 7/8 OR Tenor/Bass Choir 7/8 (Full-year)

***Students registering are expected to stay in choir for the entire year.**

The 7th grade girls' and boys' choirs are entry level choirs in the choral program at AHS. The boys will be combined with the 8th grade boys choir and the girls with the 8th grade girls choir. The boys and girls choirs will sing choral music of various musical styles. In the process, singers will improve their singing voice, music reading, solfege, technique, expression, general musicianship, concert preparation, and teamwork. These choirs sing mainly unison, two-part and some three-part music. Both choirs perform in concert during the months of December and May. Choir is a year-long course that meets every day opposite lunch in place of study hall. All 7th grade students can sign up for this choir.

Art 7 (1 Quarter)

Art 7 is a fun class where you will paint, draw, invent, and create! We will travel back in time to the prehistoric era to make our own pigments and invent our own tools just like paleolithic artists. Learn about Egyptian art and paint an Egyptian style headdress. Learn to improve your drawing skills with three simple questions and techniques.

Current Events 7 (1 Quarter)

With all that is happening in the news it is more important than ever to know what is occurring in the world around you. This class will examine events as they take place locally, nationally, as well as globally. We will use a variety of information sources to examine events from different perspectives. Topics covered will include: politics, the war on terrorism, world leaders, economics, music, sports, movies, and the people that play important parts in each of these. The course will culminate with students creating their own newscasts to share with the class. This course will be graded pass/fail.

Industrial Technology 7 (1 Quarter)

Seventh grade students will be exposed to a variety of hand tools and machine safety. Students will get the opportunity to learn a usable trade skill and gain knowledge that they will be able to use in their future within many different areas in their life such as: home repair, woodworking, shop safety, tool repair, and metalworking. Students will learn about renewable and non-renewable energy sources and environmental impacts / issues each might create. This is a fun unit with some group work and a PowerPoint presentation to help students with their public speaking skills. Students will create, build, and design a Co2 Dragster car. Students will also make four shop projects including: Push stick, Tulip, Wind chime, and Marshmallow / Hotdog Roaster. Students will be learning about the starboard side and port side of a boat, how they float, move, and how they can be propelled. This is a fun hands-on unit with some group work and some individual work. Students will have the opportunity to make, create, and design three different boats in class such as: Steamboats, paddle boat, and a duct tape boat. Students will create and present a PowerPoint to the class following the boat project.

If you have questions about course registration please contact Mrs. Croatt in the High School Counseling Office at 218-927-7124.

