

Mountain Brook Junior High



Grade 7 Course Selection Guide 2021-2022

MOUNTAIN BROOK JUNIOR HIGH
205 OVERBROOK ROAD
MOUNTAIN BROOK, ALABAMA 35213
OFFICE: (205) 871-3516 COUNSELING OFFICE: (205) 877-8346

All students in 7th grade will be enrolled in the following courses: English, Social Studies, Math, Science, PE and electives. Since course selection is based on pre-registration, please read the course descriptions carefully and make a firm commitment to the courses marked on the course selection form. Students' course selection verification forms will be mailed home April 30th. A student may request a course change through **May 21st**. **Parents will need to submit a course request change via the Google Form located on the MBJH website.** All courses, including alternates, listed on the course selection sheet will be scheduled in priority order.

Course selection sheets are due back to the homeroom teacher by March 11th.

Schedule Changes

Students will receive a copy of their **TENTATIVE** schedule in late July. Students may request a schedule change until August 6th. The schedule change request form can be picked up in the counseling office. A parent signature is required and a \$25 processing fee is charged for all changes. Students will receive a **FINAL** copy on the first day of school.

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 7

English 7 provides for the study of writing, grammar, vocabulary, and literature. Students study a variety of literary genres such as short stories, novels, plays, myths, poetry, and many examples of nonfiction. The reading serves as a springboard to learn and apply effective reading strategies, new vocabulary, and literary terms. The texts also lead to critical thinking and literary analysis that are explored through writing, including the styles of narration, description, argument, and analysis/explanation. Selected novels are used to enhance the curriculum beyond the textbook provided, and students also read novels of their choosing. The theme throughout the year is "Identity," with much of the literature relating to this theme.

ENGLISH 7 ADVANCED

This is an advanced English course for students entering the Junior High. The following requirements are considered for placement: any available assessment data, class participation and performance, results (which includes grades), work ethic and teacher recommendations. This course is academically rigorous and integrates more complex texts than English 7. The curriculum provides for the study of grammar and vocabulary, as well as deeper literary analysis and formal essay writing. Students focus on writing, including styles of narration, description, argumentation, and analysis/explanation, with an emphasis on formal, academic writing. The theme throughout the year is "Identity," with much of the literature relating to this theme. This course is designed to prepare students for advanced work in 8th grade. *Recommendation made by school.*

MATH

MATHEMATICS GRADE 7

In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on five critical areas: (1) Ratios and Proportional Relationships, (2) The Number System, (3) Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities, (4) Geometry (5) Statistics and Probability.

GRADE 7 ACCELERATED MATHEMATICS

The Grade 7 Accelerated course has been carefully aligned and designed for students who demonstrate a high level of motivation, strong work ethic, and a desire to study mathematics. In Grade 7 Accelerated, there are six domains: (1) Ratios and Proportional Relationships, (2) The Number System, (3) Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities, (4) Functions and Linear Relationships, (5) Geometry, (6) Statistics and Probability. This is a faster paced and more rigorous course due to incorporating pre-algebra and algebra. *Recommendations made by school.*

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 7

Science 7 focuses on life science. Students are encouraged to develop an appreciation of the importance of diversity of life, while simultaneously understanding the impact of their roles as individuals in the community of life. Some areas of study include the characteristics of living things, functions of organelles, tissues and organs of various systems in the body, function of chromosomes, and Mendel's laws of genetics. The focus of this course prepares students for biology and other life science courses taken in high school. Students are involved in laboratory experiments for a deeper understanding of the concepts.

SOCIAL STUDIES

GEOGRAPHY/CIVICS

This course includes one semester of geography and one semester of civics/citizenship. During the semester of geography, students increase their knowledge of the physical nature of the world and of the relationships between people and their environments. They also study geography in the context of economics, politics, and culture. The curriculum focuses on the cultural geography of the Eastern Hemisphere. During the semester of civics, students explore the role of citizens in the United States. The curriculum addresses representative democracy, law, personal economics, and civil responsibility.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

According to the Code of Alabama, 16-40-1, *daily physical education is required in Grades K-8. No exceptions and no substitutions.*

P.E. Boys/P.E. Girls

Physical Education provides participation in a variety of team and individual sports with an emphasis on developing sports skills. Fitness and health principles are also incorporated into the curriculum to build a foundation for lifetime fitness. Regulation gym suits are required and students are assigned P.E. lockers.

P.E. Co-ed (Zero Period)

Physical Education Co-ed course provides participation in a variety of team and individual sports with an emphasis on developing sports skills. Fitness and health principles are also incorporated into the curriculum to build a foundation for lifetime fitness. Regulation gym suits are required and students are assigned P.E. lockers. **This class meets from 7:15 AM to 7:50 AM daily.**

WORLD LANGUAGES - (YEAR)

FRENCH EXPLORATORY GRADE 7

French Immersion provides real-life contexts and everyday situations in which to communicate in French. It develops cultural understanding that leads to lifelong French learning.

LATIN EXPLORATORY GRADE 7

Latin Exploratory is the first half of a traditional first year Latin course. It is designed to teach grammar and vocabulary with an emphasis on Latin root meanings and English derivatives. Oral and written drills of all kinds (vocabulary, grammar, etc.) as well as group work on translation and comprehension are common activities. The ability to memorize endings and forms and to organize and use these forms is essential to success in this course.

SPANISH EXPLORATORY GRADE 7

Spanish Exploratory is the first half of a traditional first year Spanish course. It is designed to deepen the foundation in the four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking, with an emphasis on the communicative skills. Basic grammar and vocabulary are taught in the context of cultural and practical knowledge content areas.

YEARLY ELECTIVES

FINE ARTS

BAND, BEGINNING (7, 8, 9) (Year)

Beginning band is designed for students with no prior experience playing a wind band instrument. Throughout the years, students will learn all of the skills necessary to play one of the following band instruments: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion. Band is a skills based course where you learn to play an instrument through participation in the activity. During the academic year, once students have achieved a certain level of proficiency, they are promoted to Concert Band. Participation in all performances is required.

BAND, CONCERT (7) (Year)

Prerequisite: Beginning Band or director's approval

Concert band is an intermediate level band course designed for students with one or more years of experience in band. Students will continue to expand their skills and knowledge of playing an instrument and music in a more performance based setting. The Concert Band performs regularly at concerts, competitive music festivals, selected pep rallies, and a few home football games each year. Participation in all performances is required.

CHOIR JH (Year)

Choir course is designed for students who are eager to explore choral music instruction. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of singing and the fundamentals of music theory. Students are exposed to various musical styles and cultures. The MBJH Choir is a performing group. Participation in all performances is required.

CAREER TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

* PLTW courses may be taken only once in 7th and 8th grades

PROGRAM ROBOTICS TEAM (YEAR)

Prerequisite: Robotics

Students are tasked with designing, building and programming a robot to compete against other teams from around the world in a game-based engineering challenge. STEM concepts are put to the test on the playing field as students focus on lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership and communication. Students will be required to maintain an engineering notebook, perform research and present on a STEM theme and complete online and virtual world challenges.

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

CAREER TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

* PLTW courses may be taken only once in 7th and 8th grades

PLTW AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS I (Semester)

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.

PLTW DESIGN AND MODELING (Semester)

Design and Modeling is an academic elective that *challenges* students to apply the engineering design process to solve real-world problems. Working individually and in teams, students learn the fundamentals of sketching and dimensioning. They also brainstorm to create innovative solutions using 3-D models and computer programs. Students are required to maintain a digital engineering notebook.

INNOVATORS AND MAKERS - PLTW (Semester)

Creativity & Innovations teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. While designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, students code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. Teams select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices. This course is a perfect entry-level class for students interested in coding but have relatively little experience in writing meaningful code.

APP CREATORS - PLTW (Semester)

Prerequisite: Innovators and Makers

Students will discover the principles of this fast-growing field by focusing on creativity and an interactive design process as they create their own basic apps using MIT App Inventor. The coding environment for this class is rigorous but entry-level students will grow quickly in their knowledge of coding.

FINE ARTS

CHOIR JH (Semester)

Choir is a performance based class for beginning music students. Through the four artistic processes of creating, performing, responding and connecting, students work to develop the following musical concepts: proper tone, music theory, note reading, following a choral score, singing in 2-3 parts, and an introduction to sight singing. Participation in all performances is required.

MUSIC GRADE 7- (Semester)

Students will engage, through self-informed, personally-developed criteria, in meaningful and purposeful music-making within the four Artistic Processes; creating music (improvising, composing, arranging); performing music (singing or with instruments); responding to music (listening to and analyzing); connecting music learning and experiences to the larger curriculum, other cultures and disciplines within and outside of the arts. In doing so, students will experience the following concepts of music: rhythm, melody, form, timbre, texture and harmony, style, unity and variety, tension and release, balance, and expression.

Theatre GRADE 7 (Semester)

Drama Intro semester course is designed for 7th grade students who want to perform on stage. Intro to Drama offers a variety of theatre experiences including monologues, improvisation, pantomime, technical theatre, the history of theatre, duo scenes, and a one-act play to study the vocal, kinesthetic, emotional, analytical and intellectual elements of theatrical training.

ART FOUNDATIONS (Semester)

Art Foundations is offered to 7th and 8th grade art students who are interested in advancing their knowledge in the visual arts. In this course, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of art by creating original works of art using a variety of media. Students will learn basic art vocabulary, techniques for drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture, as well as basic concepts for building a strong composition. Art history, aesthetics, criticism and career opportunities are explored.

MEDIA ARTS, GRADE & (Semester)

Exploratory media arts will provide students with the opportunity for self-reflection and self-expression to become outlets for developing media arts productions. The students are guided and encouraged to make informed judgements about quality and improvement of media productions. This class explores an understanding through media using writing, videography, editing, social media, deadlines and presentations.

OTHER ELECTIVES

JOURNALISM (Semester)

The journalism course is designed to study newspaper; newspaper production; news information gathering; proofreading; journalistic writing.

CREATIVE WRITING JH (Hobbies) (Semester)

Creative Writing course is designed for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students who enjoy writing and desire the opportunity to write poetry, short stories, advertisements, personal narratives, and reviews. Students will become authors by publishing a book of autobiographical essays on their life. Students will have the opportunity to work on their own writing projects or to join a web based writing project. Emphasis in the course is on the process and product.

INTRODUCTION TO SPEECH AND DEBATE JH (7, 8, 9) (Semester)

This is an exploratory course that exposes students to public speaking and debate events. Students will develop speaking skills by actively participating in classroom speeches and debates of varying types. Students in this course will be exposed to competitive speech and debate events, such as interpretation of literature, public forum debates, Lincoln Douglas debates, and team cross examination debate. Tournament participation and observations are encouraged, but not required.

READING (Semester)

This student driven elective allows students the opportunity to deeply understand narrative, short story, persuasive, argumentative, non-fiction, fiction, and informational reading texts, and how they are constructed. Students will read various novels. The course allows for students to be exposed to all literary elements in the texts and to learn various reading strategies.

WRITING ENRICHMENT (Semester)

This course is designed for serious writers and readers who want to do in-depth writing in research based essay formats, short story formats, various poetry genres and also journalistic writing. Students will work in depth and different writing formats for 2 week periods of time, over the course of a semester, perfecting each form with a final product that will be published online as well as in hard cover format. As we write, we will also read selections in the various genres and modes of writing. All work will be done in class, with some reading assignments as homework. Students will read short stories, poetry, essays, journal articles, persuasive and information articles, myths and fables, and fiction and non-fiction. This course will also include some instruction in grammatical elements and style of writing.

GRADING SCALE

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 65-69
- F =Below 65

GRADE REPORTS

The MBS school year is divided into 4 quarters/2 Semesters

Progress Reports and a current transcript can be viewed at any time through the Parent Home Portal.

GRADE AVERAGER FOR SEMESTER COURSES

1st Nine Weeks – 40%

2nd Nine Weeks – 40%

Semester Exam – 20%

Semester Course Average

3rd Nine Weeks – 40%

4th Nine Weeks – 40%

Semester Exam – 20%

Semester Course Average

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Mountain Brook school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in any of its programs and activities, or in matters of employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

It is against the policy of the Mountain Brook Board of Education to have different rules or regulations on the basis of sex in employment, including recruitment, hiring classification, and other terms, conditions or privileges of employment. The Board, in accordance with Title IX (20 U.S.C. S1681, et seq.), strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or gender in its programs or activities, or any matters of employment. The prohibition includes sexual harassment based on sex, sexual assault, as defined by law and Board policy. Sexual harassment and sexual assault complaints should be filed and reviewed under the Board’s sexual

Updated: 2/2/2021

harassment policies (G-32, J-49). All other complaints under Title IX will be filed and reviewed according to the Board's general complaints and grievance procedures (G-34, J-41). The Superintendent is authorized and directed to designate a Title IX Coordinator, whose duties will include, but not be limited to receiving and responding to Title IX inquiries and complaints. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies. Dr. Susan Cole-Director of Personnel. Contact Information: 32 Vine Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213, 205-871-4608. Rev. July 2018

MOUNTAIN BROOK CITY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY POLICY

The Mountain Brook Board of Education recognizes the value of athletics and other extracurricular activities as they relate to the total education of students. The Mountain Brook Board of Education also recognizes and supports high academic standards and the necessity of developing a framework to annually assess each athletic and extracurricular student's progress toward graduating from high school on schedule with his/her class.

The Mountain Brook Board of Education prescribes the following regulations for eligibility by students to participate in athletics and/or extracurricular activities:

1. Each student entering grades 10, 11, and 12 must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six (6) Carnegie units of credit, including one credit each in English, science, social studies, and mathematics (core courses). A composite numerical average of 70 must be attained in those six subjects. Each student entering grades 8 and 9 must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five (5) new subjects with a composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects.
2. Physical education may count as only one (1) unit per year.
3. No more than two (2) Carnegie units may be made up during summer school. Summer school work may substitute for regular school work failed in computing the 70 average. Eligibility may be determined before the start of each new school year or at the beginning of the second semester. A student who is academically eligible at the beginning of the school year remains eligible for the remainder of that school year so far as grades are concerned. A student who regains eligibility at the beginning of the second semester remains eligible for the remainder of the second semester.
5. Each eligible student must meet the definition of a regular student as defined by the Alabama High School Athletic Association. To be eligible, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students must be carrying at least six new units. 12th graders on track for graduation with more than the required number of units earned must be carrying at least four new units for the year. 7th and 8th graders must be carrying at least five new subjects.
6. This policy applies to all athletic and extracurricular activities.

Students deemed ineligible for participation under rules of this policy may continue in coursework but shall not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities or athletic events. Events (examples only) such as club conventions, Christmas parade, amusement park trips, and competitions, trips by tour companies, performances at various meetings, etc. are extracurricular and students academically ineligible under this policy shall not be allowed to participate.

National Beta Club at MBJH

Induction to the National Beta Club is to be held in the Fall semester.

Ninth grade students selected for membership in the National Beta Club are eligible if they meet the four ideals for selection. These ideals are scholarship, leadership, service and character. No student is selected simply because of a high academic average. The National Beta Club strives to recognize the total student - one who excels in all of these areas. Students must also have completed at least one semester of academic work at MBJH during their 7th or 8th grade year and meet the academic eligibility requirements. Academic eligibility is based on the average of both 7th and 8th grade academic coursework, which must average to 90.0.

For a student to be selected for membership in the NBC at MBJH, he/she must maintain an academic coursework cumulative average of 90.0, demonstrate leadership skills, participate in service opportunities, and display strong character. Students will be notified of their tapping into NBC through a letter requesting that he/she attend an Induction Ceremony. The Induction Ceremony is held in the evening so that family members may attend.

Membership Requirements: Students who have been inducted into NBC must maintain a 90.0 cumulative average in academic course work and complete eight (8) service hours per semester of work that benefits the community. Members of NBC who were inducted at other schools and have transferred to MBJH may submit their membership paperwork to the sponsor. These students are required to maintain the membership requirements for MBJH. Students who do not complete the membership requirements are placed on a one semester probation. Students who fail to regain academic averages or service hours at the end of the probation period are dropped from membership.

