

ACADEMIC COURSES:

Language Arts (Standard)

The ELA curriculum in grade 7 is a standards-based mix of literature and non-fiction and of creative endeavors and text-based analysis. There is a strong focus on comparing pieces of text to one another to give students critical skills that will let them discern the accuracy of a text by focusing on authorship, context, reliability, and alternative viewpoints. We reinforce reading skills through a variety of texts that students will need to understand for their futures, academic and beyond. We move beyond the textbook and into real life by analyzing stories, movie clips, poetry, music, and images, both still and animated. Students build their writing skills through essay writing (informative and argumentative), evidence-based responses, poetry practice, journal entries, and creative prompts. In addition, students practice oral communication skills through formal and informal speeches and class presentations. We also practice necessary skills including grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

Language Arts 7th (Advanced)

The ELA advanced curriculum in grade 7 is recommended for students who read at grade level or higher. The pace is faster and the content is more rigorous than a regular ELA class and is not for remediation. ELA is a standards-based mix of literature and non-fiction and of creative endeavors and text-based analysis. There is a strong focus on comparing pieces of text to one another to give students critical skills that will let them discern the accuracy of a text by focusing on authorship, context, reliability, and alternative viewpoints. We reinforce reading skills through a variety of high-level texts that students will need to understand for their futures – high school honors, college, and beyond. We move beyond the textbook and into real life by analyzing stories, movie clips, poetry, music, and images, both still and animated. Students build their writing skills through essay writing (informative and argumentative), evidence-based responses, poetry practice, journal entries, and creative prompts. In addition, students practice oral communication skills through formal and informal speeches and class presentations. We also practice practical skills including grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

Math 2 (Standard)

Students will:

- Develop an understanding of and apply proportionality, similarity, and formulas to determine surface areas and volumes of three-dimensional shapes including pyramids, prisms, cylinders and cones.
- Develop an understanding of operations involving integers and other rational numbers, as well as solving linear equations.
- Identify and plot ordered pairs in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane and predict the results of transformations.
- Convert between customary & metric systems.
- Construct and analyze histograms, stem-and-leaf plots and circle graphs.
- Determine, compare and make predictions based on experimental and theoretical probability of independent & dependent events.

Math 2 Accelerated (Advanced)

Students will:

- Develop an understanding of and apply proportionality, similarity, and formulas to determine surface areas and volumes of three-dimensional shapes including pyramids, prisms, cylinders and cones.
- Identify and plot ordered pairs in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane and will predict the results of transformations.
- Determine, compare and make predictions based on experimental and theoretical probability of independent & dependent events.
- Construct and analyze histograms, stem-and-leaf plots and circle graphs.
- Analyze and represent linear functions and solve linear equations & systems of equations.
- Analyze two and three-dimensional figures by using distance and angle relationships.
- Analyze and summarize data sets including box and whisker plots, scatter plots and lines of best fit.

Algebra I Honors *High School Elective Credit; cannot be dropped after the 1st week of the 1st 9-Weeks

This course includes a rigorous, in-depth study of all of the topics included in Algebra I, as well as absolute value equations and inequalities, operations with rational expressions, solving rational equations and characteristics of quadratic graphs

Comprehensive Science (2)

A comprehensive science course that has been designed to support understanding through big ideas in science. Based on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science, this course will allow students to learn content across six interconnected units that will build from the content covered in 6th grade and will be developed further in 8th grade. The major concepts covered: Cell Structure and Function, Homeostasis in Cells, Heredity, Weathering and Erosion, The Hydrosphere and Atmosphere, and Stars and Galaxies. The class will be supported by digital content as well as hands-on, cooperative, and literacy-based activities. Students in Advanced and Gifted classes will be provided opportunities to dive deeper into the content and to make even more connections across science and with other disciplines.

Civics

The seventh grade social studies curriculum consists of the following content area strands: Civics, Geography, and Economics. The primary content for the course pertains to the principles, functions, and organization of government; the origins of the American political system; the roles, rights, responsibilities of United States citizens; and methods of active participation in our political system. The course is embedded with strong geographic and economic components to support civic education instruction. Note: Students are required to take a Florida Standard's Assessment, End-of-Course exam in Civics.

ELECTIVE COURSES:

Beginning Band - Band 1 (Yearlong)

No previous musical experience is required. Students will learn the basics of instrument fundamental, reading music and rhythmic notation, and independent musical performance. Students will have an opportunity to participate in various musical performances throughout the year. Instruments taught in Band are flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and orchestral percussion. Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.

Concert Band - Band II (Yearlong)

Concert Band is open to students at an intermediate level of development. Students should be proficient in music reading, scales, tone production, and articulation. All of the basic techniques that were introduced in Beginning Band are further developed in Concert Band. Greater emphasis is placed upon performing band music at an intermediate level. Students will have after school rehearsals when necessary for concert preparation. Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.

Chorus 1 (Yearlong)

Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique skills, music reading and notation skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through various periods of time. Performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.

Chorus 2 (Yearlong)

Students build on previous choral experience to expand vocal, technical, musical, and ensemble skills through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality choral literature. Performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Director approval is required. Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.

Physical Education – PE (Semester or Yearlong)

The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which includes, but is not limited to: Fitness Activities, Educational Gymnastics and Dance, and Team Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Leadership - Engaged Citizenship through Service Learning 1 (Yearlong)

This course introduces service-learning and civic responsibility for Grades 7, and 8. Academic, personal and career skills needed for effective service-learning project implementation will be taught and applied through structured service projects that meet real school and/or community needs. To develop leadership skills and positive habits that will allow students to be successful with service learning, we will incorporate author Sean Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* as the primary text for the course. Students will actively participate in meaningful service-learning experiences for at least 20 hours during the school year. Note: Students are required to complete an application for consideration of this course.

Yearbook (Yearlong)

Students must complete an application for this class in the Spring of the previous school year. Application requirements include grades and a signature from the ELA teacher. Strong writing skills and an eye for graphic design are a must for being on the yearbook staff. Students in this course also must be self-motivated, responsible, trustworthy, and independent workers. This yearlong course will give students real-world experience on how to make the yearbook and market it. Students will learn photography, journalism, and graphic design skills required in covering and documenting the school year at Rock Lake Middle School.

Exploratory Spanish (Semester)

This course is designed to introduce students to Spanish. During the semester students will explore basic principles of Spanish Language, the cultural concepts related to the Spanish-speaking world and compare the students' own language and culture with that of Spanish-speaking countries.

Studio Art 1 (Semester)

Studio Art 1 is designed to develop confidence and facility in foundational artistic skills, regardless of the students' previous training or artistic ability. Students refine techniques used to create a variety of two-dimensional artworks through developing skills in drawing and painting, while also using various techniques and mediums to create 3-D artwork. Composition, technique, the elements and principles of design, and attention to process are explored. The student artist develops perceptual, creative, technical, and problem-solving skills as they design and produce works of art with personal expression.

Studio Art 2 (Semester)

Studio Art 2 builds upon the foundational artistic skills learned in Studio Art 1. *Studio Art 1 is a prerequisite for this course.* Students practice, sketch and manipulate the structural elements of art to build upon art skills learned in Studio Art 1. Students will manipulate the organizational principles of design in a composition by using observation, research, and imagination. Techniques will be refined and used to create a variety of 2-D artworks to include drawing, painting, and collage, while also using various techniques and mediums to create 3-D artwork. The student artist develops perceptual, creative, technical, and problem-solving skills as they design and produce works of art with personal expression.

Exploring Information Technology (IT) Careers (Semester)

This course is part of the Digital & Emerging Technologies Program of Exploration at Rock Lake MS. Students will explore a variety of careers, technologies, and skills including an in-depth exploration and hands on experiences with Artificial Intelligence.

Introduction to Gaming & Programming (Semester)

In this hands-on course, students will apply the basic principles and processes of game design and object-oriented programming to the development of their own games. Throughout this process, we will incorporate several game design programs to help students learn by playing. We'll prepare for an industry respected certification test – **ICT Gaming Essentials**.

Advanced Video Gaming (Semester)

With this follow up to the very popular Introduction to Gaming, students will have the opportunity to continue to increase their skills and further their understanding of programming. Students will make more advanced gaming programs and have a more in-depth training of Python programming language.

iConnect (Semester)

How much do you know about technology? Discover how “Technology, like art, is a soaring exercise of the human imagination” (Daniel Bell). This semester, you will discover new possibilities and learn about technology applications and communication techniques through this innovative and interactive course. In addition, you will have the opportunity to “show off” your skills by producing a culminating activity that includes your favorite projects from the course and will be added to your ePortfolio. This course provides an opportunity to earn two digital tool certificates. This course meets the middle school iSeries requirement (2 required).

iChallenge (Semester OR Yearlong)

Are you ready for your future? There are currently more than 1.4 million computing jobs but there are only 400,000 Computer Science students. With so many opportunities in Computer Science, choose iChallenge and learn about this growing field and how it will impact your future, regardless of the career you choose! This coding and game-based course will allow you to earn a digital tool certificate and prepare you to take AP Computer Science Principles in high school. This class uses a combination of online learning, teacher instruction, and project-based learning. You will have the ability to choose projects that excite you, with topics you want to learn more about relating to coding and Computer Science. “Coding is today’s language of creativity. All our children deserve a chance to become creators instead of consumers of computer science” (Maria Klawe). This course provides an opportunity to earn one digital tool certificate and an industry certification (yearlong). This course meets the middle school iSeries requirement (2 required).

P.I.T. Crew (Semester or Yearlong)

By application only: RLMS is offering students the opportunity to participate in an interactive peer inclusion program that provides benefits to all students involved. Peer tutors provide support primarily to students with disabilities or any students who may benefit from additional assistance. This is an elective class that will provide the students with training in diversity and how to work with their peers with disabilities or other struggles. The tutors will always be supported and monitored by the class instructor, classroom teachers and paraprofessionals. An applicant should be friendly, compassionate, responsible, outgoing and willing to help others. We offer two options for P.I.T. Crew: in the Curriculum Project classrooms or in content area classrooms. Please pick up an application at the front desk or guidance office.

Speech & Debate (Semester)

The goal of this course is for students to be able to organize and effectively deliver speeches that entertain, inform and persuade and are supported with evidence from text and research.

T.V. PRODUCTION 1 (Semester)

Students will learn the basic skills and techniques for shooting and editing video in this semester-long course. They will get the chance to use those skills and expand their creativity by doing several projects throughout the semester. Those projects are performance assessments of the skills that students learn in the course. This course provides the foundation for TV 2 and TV 3 and must be taken before those courses. (May be taken in the same year as TV 2, but not within the same semester.)

T.V. PRODUCTION 2 (Semester)

Students must have completed TV Production 1 to take this semester-long course. Students will expand on the shooting and editing skills that they learned in the first TV Production class. This is a project-heavy course in which students have a week to plan and then another week to shoot and edit projects. Some of the skills and techniques that students will focus on are working with green screen, adding continuity to projects, adjusting audio, and creating through stop motion. (May be taken in the same year as TV 1, but not within the same semester.)