

O. Henry Middle School 2012-2013 Elective Course Descriptions 7th Grade

Required Physical Education Courses:

- **7th Grade PE:** Students in 7th grade physical education will apply similar concepts from one sport or movement setting to another, learn how to observe another individual's performance and notice key elements for success. Students are expected to participate in physical activity both in and out of school while maintaining a healthy level of fitness as their bodies grow and change. Their knowledge of safety and the ability to manage their own behavior is reinforced. Instruction is directed toward encouraging the incorporation of physical activity into a daily routine and less toward fundamental skill development.
- **Dance:** Students will learn basic ballet, jazz, tap, precision and hip hop techniques. They will also learn basic dance vocabulary, body science, fitness, health and nutrition. Dance may have a performance component. Students may audition for the **Advanced Dance** class if they have prior experience in school or in a studio. Dance fulfills both the PE and Fine Arts requirement.
- **Athletics:** Students who participate in Athletics are required to have a signed athletic form and recent physical to participate. Students must maintain passing averages in all classes to remain eligible. Seventh graders begin practice at 7am during the season of their sport. More information can be found on the AISD website or from the O. Henry coaches.

Fine Arts:

- **Art:** This class is designed to reinforce, as well as, acquire new art skills and techniques learned at the elementary and secondary level. All art classes are taught through an exploration of historical art periods, using a variety of art materials while developing skills and creativity at all levels. Teacher approval is required for the **Advanced Art** class.
- **Band:** Band is offered at three levels of instruction. Students are introduced to the fundamentals of band instruments. Students are required to furnish their own instruments. However, some instruments may be available for use. Instructors will audition students for best course placement. Rapidly progressing students may be transferred to a more advanced band level as scheduling permits. Out-of-school rehearsals and performances are required.
- **Jazz/Stage Band:** This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore various styles of jazz music. Students in this ensemble are required to be concurrently enrolled in a year-long band or orchestra class and have director's approval.
- **Orchestra:** Orchestra is offered at three levels of instruction. Students are required to furnish their own instruments. However, some instruments are available for use. Basic fundamentals of stringed instruments are introduced, and rapidly progressing students may be transferred to a more advanced orchestra as scheduling permits. Instructors will audition students for best course placement. Out-of-school rehearsals and performances are required.
- **Mariachi Band:** No experience is needed for this course. This is an introductory course to Mariachi. Instructor will contact students interested in the course for instrument selection.
- **Choir:** Choir classes are designed at three levels and there is a place for everyone in choir. This course is a performance oriented course and students will participate in competitions. Musicianship is developed through the study of vocal techniques, sight-reading skills, and music listening. Out-of-school rehearsals and public performances are required.
- **Theatre Production:** This course emphasizes the technical aspect of theatre production, preparation for plays, set design and lighting. Two productions are presented during the year. Out-of-school rehearsals and performances are required. Auditions will be held in the spring.
- **Theatre Arts (semester):** Theatre Arts is a course designed to provide students broad, unifying structures for organizing knowledge and skills. Through perceptual studies, students will

increase their understanding of self and others and develop clear ideas about the world. Through a variety of theatrical experiences, students communicate in a dramatic form, make artistic choices, solve problems, build positive self concepts, and relate interpersonally.

Languages Other than English (LOTE):

- **7th Grade:** Students have the opportunity to begin a LOTE for high school credit. Students can take the 1A (.5 credit) course in Spanish, French, Latin or Chinese. Grades from these courses will be included in student's high school GPA and possibly class rank. Students who begin their LOTE in 7th grade are expected to continue with the same language in 8th grade (1B) and into high school. If students do not begin their LOTE in 7th grade, they will begin in high school.

Career and Technology Courses (CATE):

- **Tech I:** This course will increase the student's understanding of the development and impact of technology on society and the environment. The student will design, build and test products and systems to solve real world problems. The students will be able to use and manage resources of technology. The course introduces real world applications in the areas of transportation, power and energy, construction, manufacturing, multimedia, desktop publishing, graphic design, video production and bio-related technology. Hands on problem solving activities may include designing and making products, accessing technology, constructing models of building, using computers and using power tools and equipment. Tech I is a prerequisite for Tech II.
- **Tech II:** Students who have completed Tech I are eligible to enroll in Tech II. This course builds on the skills learned in Tech I.
- **Keyboarding:** Students are required to take Keyboarding or Intro to Keyboarding once during 7th or 8th grade. Students have the option to take Keyboarding, which earns a .5 high school credit, or Intro to Keyboarding. Both courses (8401R and 8400R) fulfill the middle school requirement and students only need to take one.
- **Skills for Living:** This comprehensive one-semester course provides opportunities to explore family relationships, personal development, and planning for the future. Emphasis is on the importance of the family; effective communication skills, management skills, decision-making, acceptance of responsibility, and childcare practices that promote positive development. Other content addresses self-image, nutrition, wellness, personal appearance, and career options.

Other Semester Electives:

- **Photojournalism:** This course will introduce students to digital photography and composition. They will learn how to use the manual functions of a camera and enhance their photographs using the latest editing software. Students have the opportunity to have their work published in the O. Henry yearbook. Students do not need any prior skills and cameras are provided by the school.
- **Publication Media:** This course is an introduction to video production. Students have the opportunity to explore clay animation, documentary productions, and submit video production to the Austin Student Digital Film Festival in the spring. Students learn the importance of storyboarding, scriptwriting, interview skills and video editing. The skills learned are culminated in a production piece.
- **Jr. Police Academy:** This course is taught by the School Resource Officer and is an introductory course focusing on law enforcement. Students will have the opportunity learn about various divisions of law enforcement through coursework and guest speakers.