

**EMERSON**



**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Livonia Public Schools**

29100 West Chicago, Livonia, MI 48150

Phone: (734) 744-2665 • Fax: (734) 744-2667

**GRADE 7**  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**2015**

## REQUIRED 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES – 40 WEEKS/2 SEMESTERS EACH

**Language Arts 7:** The seventh grade English Language Arts class is based on the Common Core State Standards and focuses on analysis, argumentation, fluency, and other literacy based skills. These are achieved through a format where students are regularly engaged with multiple types of authentic reading and writing processes. Units of study continue to follow a carefully sequenced set of building blocks that students mastered in sixth grade en route to mastering the curriculum aim in grade seven, in both reading and writing. The units offer students an authentic and predictable structure that helps them live more authentically as readers and writers and provides them with an intentional way to continue teaching themselves after the unit is over. A variety of texts will be read and discussed in a reader's workshop approach, wherein teachers immerse students in close reading and talking about texts, thus helping students to analyze how these texts are written. A writer's workshop approach to teaching writing helps support students' development as writers. This approach provides students with continuous evaluation of their work and the work of other writers. \*

**Mathematics 7:** Our curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The Common Core places equal emphasis on Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practices. The Mathematical Practices describe various skills mathematically proficient students should exhibit, such as problem solving, reasoning, communication, procedural fluency, and conceptual understanding, to name a few. The seventh grade content standards focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.\*

**Science 7:** This course is an integrated curriculum which includes Life Science (plant processes), Physical Science (waves, energy, physical and chemical properties of matter), and Earth Science (weather, climate, and human impact) aligned to the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE). Students will progress logically from the concrete to the abstract as they explore the relationship of the three branches of sciences to one another, to other subjects, and to experiences outside the classroom. Emphasis is placed on developing reading, writing, inquiry, and science process skills. Laboratory exercises, technology use, and hands-on experiences help students make connections between science concepts and real-life events. Students will be asked to make observations and ask questions; develop and use models; plan and carry out investigations; collect, analyze and interpret data; construct explanations and opinions based on evidence, and evaluate the claims of others; and communicate their ideas both orally and in writing.

**Social Studies 7:** The 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies course concentrates on geographical/cultural regions of the Eastern Hemisphere, with a brief examination of ancient history among those regions. The Five Themes of Geography method will be used to help students master the content. Students will continue to develop and broaden their understanding of economic concepts. Students are required to use a variety of resources and means to acquire, process, and communicate information. This will include the analysis and application of primary sources, such as original documents and objects which were created at the time under study, and secondary sources, such as accounts or interpretations of events created by someone without firsthand experience. Examining primary sources gives students a powerful sense of history and the complexity of the past. Helping students analyze primary sources can also guide them toward higher-order thinking and better critical thinking and analysis skills.

***\*Students will be placed into Advanced Language Arts and Pre-Algebra based on test scores, previous grades and teacher recommendations. Notification letters will be mailed in May.***

## 7TH GRADE ELECTIVES - 20 Weeks Each

**Physical Education** (20 weeks) is a sequential, developmentally appropriate program that provides students with the knowledge, skills, fitness, and attitudes needed to live a healthy, productive life. The focus is on building skills with numerous opportunities to practice in competitive and non-competitive settings. This course is aligned with the Michigan state standards for physical education. The units may include fitness, basketball, soccer, team handball, softball, volleyball, and racquet sports.

**Computer Technology** (10 weeks) is intended to insure that students have the basic computer skills including an understanding of the computer system, keyboarding, word processing, data basis and spreadsheet software.

**Health Education** (10 weeks) is designed to help the student understand ways to live a longer, healthier, and happier life. Content areas include: personal health and wellness, social and emotional health, nutrition and physical activity, alcohol, tobacco and other drug preventions and sexuality education.

CHOICE #1 (20 weeks)

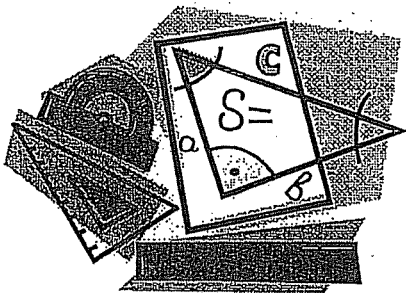
CHOICE #2 (20 weeks)

Full Year Classes: 40 Weeks/2 Choices

Half Year Classes: 20 Weeks/1 Choice

Concert Band  
Concert Orchestra

Art & Design  
 Broadway Basics  
 Choir 7  
 Creative Writing  
 DigiTech  
 Drafting: Intro to Engineering & Architecture  
 Explore Band  
 Explore Orchestra  
 Food, Food & More Food  
 Fun in the Kitchen  
 Robotics  
 Shop: Tools & Materials Processing  
 Visual Art  
 World Language Adventures



## Course Descriptions



## Full Year Electives (40 weeks/2 semesters)

**CONCERT BAND:** The Concert Band performs music from movies, marches, jazz, rock, pop, and concert band literature. They perform at all band concerts at Emerson, Band-o-Rama, and the Wilson Barn Concert. Students may also perform as soloists or in small groups for special awards at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

**CONCERT ORCHESTRA:** The Concert Orchestra performs music from movies, dances, jazz, classical, pop, and concert orchestral literature. They perform at all orchestra concerts at Emerson and the String Fling. Students may also perform as soloists or in small groups for special awards at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

## Half- Year Electives (20 weeks/1 semester)

**EXPLORE BAND** – Students may choose Concert Band for the first semester with the option of switching to full year band. See course description above.

**EXPLORE ORCHESTRA** – Students may choose Concert Orchestra for the first semester with the option of switching to full year orchestra. See course description above.

**BROADWAY BASICS** -Students will explore the different genres of the performing arts world, including acting, singing and dancing, as well as set design, theater makeup and stage combat. Students in the class will have the opportunity to perform in a semester production. Students' active participation in class as well as attendance at outside rehearsals/performances are required.

**CONCERT CHOIR** - This is a large performing group that will perform at assemblies and at least three concerts throughout the year. Emphasis will be on performance, but a student will be required to learn basic music theory and history, the concept of a quality vocal sound, and the techniques necessary to produce good choral singing. The student will be expected to be at all rehearsals and concerts.

**VISUAL ART:** Unleash the artist within! Come and discover new ways to showcase creativity and self-expression. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to work with a wide variety of media and produce 2 and 3 dimensional works of Art. Drawing, painting and sculpture will be explored with emphasis on the Principles and Elements of Art. Media may include: pencil, colored pencil, scratchboard, paint, clay and paper mache. Art fosters creativity and problem solving techniques that are beneficial in other classes and essential in life.

**ART & DESIGN:** Did you realize that art is all around us? Behind the images and objects in our everyday world is an artist who turned an idea into reality. You can be that artist. In this imaginative course students will use drawing, painting, sculpture and other techniques to create art with a purpose. In addition, graphic design, cartooning and photography may be explored. An emphasis will be placed on the elements and principles of design to create eye-catching and well-crafted works of art.

**DigiTech: DIGITAL CREATION & EXPLORATION** - The world has gone DIGITAL! DigiTech is designed for ALL students who want a technology course in addition to the 7th Grade Computer Tech requirement. With an emphasis on SAFETY, students will utilize the Internet, computers, and other digital devices to create, gather, display, and share information. It will also explore the ever growing world of digital and social media. The course will employ Google's 80/20 principle where students will be given 20% of the time to research/design/create a project based on their technological interest, approved, monitored, and assessed by teacher. Everyone is creating a digital footprint everyday...learn how to make it the RIGHT one!

**SHOP: TOOLS & MATERIALS PROCESSING** – This activity-based hands-on shop class will give students knowledge of various hand and power tools as well as an overview into working with woods, plastics, and metals that are commonly used in industry today. Students will apply what they learn into building various hands-on class projects such as making aluminum rings, jigsaw puzzle, wood airplane, metal candle holder, belt buckle or paper weight, hockey board, etc (projects are subject to change). Emphasis is placed on safety, organization, time management, and responsibility. This is an excellent life-skills class for all students and will give insight toward related technologies and skilled-trade careers. This intro class can be continued into various high school programs.

**DRAFTING: INTRO TO ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE** – This drafting course is for students interested in exploring various areas of engineering or architecture. The class will have a hands-on content, working with basic drafting tools and materials. Students will apply what they learn into creating 3D sketches, multi-view drawings, computer 3D drawings, designing & building a CO2 car, learning about interior & exterior home design, and creating a house floor plan (projects subject to change). Emphasis will be placed on learning terminology, basic drawing skills, graphic lettering, measurement & scale sizing, and traditional and computer drafting. This entry-level class will give insight toward related career pathways and can be continued into several related high-school or career center programs.

**ROBOTICS** – Students will complete several LEGO Mindstorms robots requiring the application of physics, computer sciences, engineering and mathematics in order to demonstrate a variety of

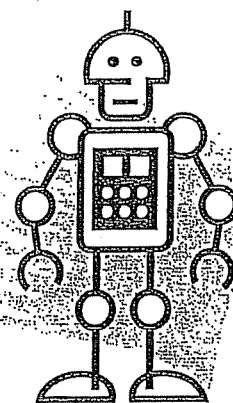
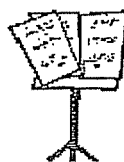
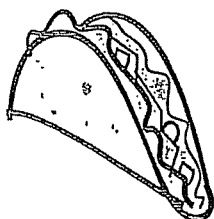
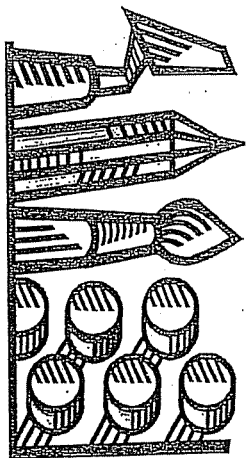
engineering concepts. Using their newly acquired problem-solving, building and programming skills, students will compete with their classmates in a robotics tournament within the classroom. Student teams will use Mindstorm models to complete a series of challenges, based on national robotics tournament guidelines.

**WORLD LANGUAGE ADVENTURES** – Fasten your seat belts, adventurers! Take on the role of a world explorer as you journey through four different languages and cultures: French, German, Japanese and Spanish. Earn passports as you learn basic words and phrases while engaging in games and projects. Interact with your classmates in other languages, while having the time of your life! This course will introduce the four world language options while providing the essential building blocks for success to meet the two-year world language graduation requirement. Discover the traveler in you in this exciting exploration of world languages and cultures.

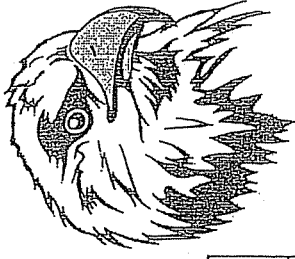
**CREATIVE WRITING** – This dynamic elective creates a positive writing experience for students interested in creative writing. Students will experiment with various literary forms including personal narratives, short fiction and poetry. The class is a fun, safe community of writers who honor each others' attempt to capture their creativity in words. The end product is a personal portfolio of writing samples each student will develop over the semester.

**FUN IN THE KITCHEN** – Are you interested in learning to cook and prepare many types of foods? Students will learn safety and sanitation, how to use kitchen tools, how to work as a team, and how to prepare several types of foods such as: breads, vegetables, fruits and sweets. Nutritional skills will be incorporated throughout. Creative food labs offer students a means to select and specialize their own cooking. No previous experience is necessary.

**FOOD, FOOD & MORE FOOD** – Do you like to prepare all kinds of foods? Students learn several types of food preparation in this class. Students will learn safety and sanitation, how to use kitchen tools correctly, how to prepare several types of food, and how to develop teamwork. Nutritional background will be incorporated. Food labs will include menu items: Different Versions of Old Favorites, Foods From Around the World, Scratch vs. Package, and Sweet Treats/Healthy Snacks. Creative food labs will allow students to choose and plan their own menus. No previous experience is necessary.



**EMERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL  
2015-2016 COURSE SELECTION SHEET – GRADE 7**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

| GRADE 7 REQUIRED COURSES (20 WEEKS)<br>Semester 1 |  | GRADE 7 REQUIRED COURSES (20 WEEKS)<br>Semester 2 |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Course number                                     |  | Course number                                     |  |
| 1172  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Language Arts              | 2172  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Language Arts      |
| 1272  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Studies             | 2272  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Studies     |
| 1372  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mathematics                | 2372  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mathematics        |
| 1472  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science                    | 2472  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science            |
| 0972/0573   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health/Computer Technology | 0971  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Education |

| ELECTIVE COURSES |                                |          |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Course number    | Course Name                    | Duration |
| 1873             | Concert Band                   | 40 Weeks |
| 1875             | Concert Orchestra              | 40 Weeks |
| 1872             | Explore Band                   | 20 Weeks |
| 1874             | Explore Orchestra              | 20 Weeks |
| 0875             | Choir 7                        | 20 Weeks |
| 0669             | Visual Art                     | 20 Weeks |
| 0670             | Art & Design                   | 20 Weeks |
| 0574             | DigiTech: Digital Creat & Expl | 20 Weeks |
| 0191             | Creative Writing               | 20 Weeks |
| 0579             | Drafting: Intro to Eng & Arch  | 20 Weeks |
| 0569             | Shop: Tools & Materials Proc   | 20 Weeks |
| 0578             | Robotics                       | 20 Weeks |
| 0678             | Fun in the Kitchen             | 20 Weeks |
| 0679             | Food, Food & More Food         | 20 Weeks |
| 0180             | Broadway Basics                | 20 Weeks |
| 0469             | World Language Adventures      | 20 Weeks |

Band/Orchestra Primary Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle (A) two 20 week electives -OR-  
(B) one 40 week elective.**

If one of your electives is not available, choose two DIFFERENT courses that you would be willing to take instead.

① \_\_\_\_\_ Course Name \_\_\_\_\_ Course # \_\_\_\_\_ Course Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_