

MARYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
DESCRIPTION OF CLASSES
SEVENTH GRADE

TEACHER ADVISORY (TA) – The Teacher Advisory Program will be held at the beginning of the school day. It will attempt to meet the needs of the middle school student. It will provide an opportunity for each student to be known well by at least one member of our faculty and by a group of peers. This program further provides an opportunity for group discussions on many topics pertinent to this period in the child’s life. Weekly grade checks and Parent/Teacher Conferences will be conducted through TA.

BASIC SKILLS SUBJECTS

LANGUAGE ARTS – This course is an introduction into argumentative, expository, and narrative writing in the form of five paragraph essays. It will include a review of correct mechanics and standard usage. Seven types of figurative language will be introduced, practiced, and mastered by the end of the year. The writing process, paragraph development, and a variety of writing forms will be taught and practiced. The five-paragraph essay will be taught and developed throughout the year. Seventh grade language arts will prepare students for eighth grade language arts and will provide opportunity for mastery of the Missouri Learning Standards through the McDougal Littell textbook series.

SCIENCE – This course, correlated to the Missouri Grade Level Expectations, will reinforce the understanding of topics related to scientific inquiry, matter and energy, forces, space, atmosphere, climate and weather. The course will prepare students to make responsible decisions regarding the interactions of society, science, and technology, as well as, considering the economic, social, ethical, and aesthetic consequences of their decisions.

MATHEMATICS – Seventh grade math will solve problems with positive/negative integers using the four operations. Learn how to describe rational numbers as termination or repeating decimals. Ratios, rates, and proportions will be used to solve real-life situations. The concepts of algebra, properties of triangles, and circles, and calculating surface area and volume. Appropriate calculator procedures and uses will be introduced. Old skills that have been reinforced, as well as new ones introduced, will be used to help the student acquire the understanding of concepts necessary to be successful in future math courses, as well as in the student’s chosen career. Weekly iReady goals will also be a focus.

READING – This course utilizes the McDougal Littell textbook series to master reading comprehension, literary terminology, and test-taking skills. The majority of assessments are open book. Media center time will be given once a week for silent reading and/or to work on book visits. Weekly vocabulary goals will also be a focus.

SOCIAL STUDIES – In seventh grade, the focus of social studies is the study of geography and cultures around the world. As students study these world regions, they will investigate the five themes of geography for each place we visit. Topics will include physical regions (e.g., continents, climate, topography, and environment), human/functional regions (e.g., transportation, communication, and economics), and perceptual regions (e.g., history, culture, and government). We will also be discussing current events throughout the year.

STAT OBJECTIVES (STUDENT/TEACHER ACADEMIC TIME 1 year;required) – The objective of this class is to make the student an independent and responsible learner and to give the student a scheduled, supervised quiet time to do homework or independent reading. The student is graded daily in STAT class for bringing materials to class, for being “on task” during study time, and reading during Silent Reading Time.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (2 quarters; required) – Physical education is designed to: 1) help the student develop an understanding of the need for physical fitness and exercise; 2) help the student improve fine and gross-motor coordination and eye-hand coordination through basic skills of catching, throwing, kicking, and hitting; 3) help the student develop social skills by stressing good sportsmanship; 4) develop an understanding of how to play different games by teaching the rules and procedures; and 5) help improve physical fitness through personal exercise activities.

SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS (1 quarter; required) – Students will explore four software applications. Word processing software will be used to create a variety of engaging documents while learning advanced features. Students will utilize spreadsheet software to develop spreadsheets with formulas, graphs, and special formatting for reports. Students will produce podcasts or digital audio files with music, sound effects, and their own voice. These new skills will be applied as students create a video.

ART (1 quarter) – This course explores the basic visual arts concepts using a variety of 2-D and 3-D art materials and techniques. Each student is required to keep a sketchbook. Students will develop thinking and problem solving skills, as well as improve technical abilities through the integration of art appreciation, history and art production. Emphasis is on developing individual drawing skills, encouraging creative confidence and craftsmanship.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) Design and Modeling (1 quarter) – Students apply the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They learn how to communicate like an engineer through multiview sketches and 3D modeling software. In the final project of the quarter, students are challenged to use and apply what they have learned to design and 3D print an assistive device for a person or animal in need.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (FACS) (1 quarter) -- This course is designed to give students an opportunity to explore the many areas of Family and Consumer Sciences. Students will focus on effective communication and the impact of family on society. Students will also have hands-on application of sewing on a sewing machine, and food and kitchen safety and sanitation, including culinary labs.

VOCAL MUSIC (1 quarter) – Students in seventh grade will continue to learn and strengthen the basics of vocal music and proper singing techniques. Students will also dive deeper into the intermediate elements of music. We will listen to a variety of music to learn about the elements of music and different cultures. They will sing a variety of music using unison, 2 and some 3-part harmony. Students will participate in a variety of activities, games, and projects to learn more about different musicians and musical ideas. They will perform in one graded concert which will be at the end of the quarter they have Vocal Music.

BAND (1 year) – 7th Grade Band is a continuation of 6th Grade Beginning Band and has a prerequisite of at least one year of band or director approval. In 7th Grade Band, students will continue to develop fundamentals of exceptional musicianship on the student's instrument. Full Band concerts will occur in December and April. Students will culminate the year with a performance in an adjudicated concert band festival. Students will perform in a chamber ensemble during one unit of the year. 7th grade students also have voluntary performance opportunities to include, but not limited, to All-District Honor Band, All-District Jazz Band, MMS Jazz Band, and Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Band is a co-curricular course, meaning that graded events happen during and after the school day.

Non-Band Student: Electives

STRATEGIES (1 quarter) – This elective class consists of critical thinking and problem solving skills. It will also include games of strategy and other activities involving higher order thinking. **Students will be required to pass quizzes over game rules and complete research about improving game strategies.**

MOVEMENT IN MUSIC (1 quarter) - Movement in Music is a music class designed to focus on providing students with different abilities a musical experience at their developmental level. It is also an opportunity for students in the seventh or eighth grade to step into a leadership position of being a mentor. We explore movement, rhythms, singing, instruments, games, learning how to read and play music, relaxation with music, and many other activities. As a mentor, you will help guide other students in activities, assisting when needed and will be a positive role model for the other students in the room as we explore different parts of music.

FINANCIAL LITERACY (1 quarter) -This course is designed to give students an introduction to economics and personal finance. Each student will create a personal budget, entrepreneurship plan, and an investment portfolio. The students will build a fundamental understanding of spending and investing while providing students with real-world skills and practice in math, ELA, economics, social studies, and other subjects.

SPECIAL SERVICES

COUNSELING – A counselor provides students the opportunity to experience career planning, knowledge of themselves and others (such as self-concept, peer relations, decision making), educational development (scheduling study skills, etc.) and immediate guidance in special situations. Students have the opportunity to grow through class presentations, discussion in small groups and individual meetings with the counselor.

SPECIAL EDUCATION – Special education teachers provide assistance to students with disabilities including speech who are not succeeding in the regular basic skills classrooms. These students must meet federal and state eligibility requirements prior to receiving services. Depending on individual needs and abilities, a student may be served in a class within a class setting, given resource help in a resource room or taught basic skills classes in a self-contained classroom setting.