

**North Little Rock Middle School
Seventh and Eighth Grade Campus
Course Guide**



2022-2023

Changes for 2022-2023

Reading Classes for all 7th-grade students

All 7th-grade students will be required to take a reading class unless they are in a dyslexia intervention class. Students will be divided into different levels of reading based on test data.

Strategic Reading Enrichment - Students who perform well above grade level

Strategic Reading Wit Wisdom - Students who perform near grade level

Strategic Reading Intervention - Students who read well below grade level

Strategic Reading Special Services - SPED students who are identified as needing the most intervention

Strategic Reading for English Language Learners - ELL students who are identified as needing the most intervention

Dance classes will no longer be offered

This FTE will be reallocated to staff the new reading initiative.

Digital Art

Digital art uses the visual art frameworks to study graphic design and multiple digital mediums including 2-D animation, pixel art, vector art, photography, and videography. This content is taught along with the elements of art and principles of design. In addition, students will explore the history of graphic design as well as its modern digital uses. Students will also learn how digital art compares to traditional art and sculpture.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English & LANGUAGE ARTS

English 7

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7

Credit
English

Description: This course engages students in a rigorous study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities to give them multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of their learning. Students will explore grammar, vocabulary, composition, and various types of literature.

Advanced English 7

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7

Credit
English

Description: Advanced English 7 provides students with a deep analysis of grammar, vocabulary, composition, and the investigation of literature through class instruction and multiple independent projects. Additional work may include independent novels, journals, essays, and presentations. Timely completion of all assignments, diligent effort, and extensive time spent outside of class will be required. The middle school Advanced English classes are designed to prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams.

Strategic Reading 7

Required class: All 7th-grade students will take strategic reading unless they are in a dyslexia intervention class

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7

Credit
Reading

Description: This course focuses on equipping students with the skills needed to build independent reading, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension strategies. Strategic Reading 7 includes teacher directed small group instruction, independent reading, and individualized computer interventions. This course is designed to provide students with additional support through individualized instruction and targeted interventions. Students will be divided into different levels of reading based on test data:
Strategic Reading Enrichment - Students who perform well above grade level
Strategic Reading Wit Wisdom - Students who perform near grade level
Strategic Reading Intervention - Students who read well below grade level
Strategic Reading Special Services - SPED students who are identified as needing the most intervention
Strategic Reading for English Language Learners - ELL students who are identified as needing the most intervention

English 8

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
English

Description: This course engages students in a rigorous study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities to give them multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of their learning. Students will explore grammar, vocabulary, composition, and various types of literature.

Advanced English 8

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
English

Description: Advanced English 8 provides students with a deep analysis of grammar, vocabulary, composition, and the investigation of literature through class instruction and multiple independent projects. Additional work may include independent novels, journals, essays, and presentations. Timely completion of all assignments, diligent effort, and extensive time spent outside of class will be required. The middle school Advanced English classes are designed to prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams.

Strategic Reading 8

Recommendations: Students will be selected for this course based on committee recommendation.

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
Reading

Description: This course focuses on equipping students with the skills needed to build independent reading, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension strategies. Strategic Reading 8 includes teacher-directed small group instruction, independent reading, and individualized computer interventions. This course is designed to provide students with additional support through individualized instruction and targeted interventions.

Science

Science 7

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7

Credit
Science

Description: Science 7 is built on the core academic curriculum following the new Arkansas K-12 Science standards based on *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* (NCR, 2012) and is meant to reflect a new vision for science education. The course engages students in a rigorous study of structure/properties of matter, chemical reactions, ecosystems and interactions, photosynthesis, tectonic plates, natural resources, and natural hazards. Additional work may include journaling, investigations, and projects.

Advanced Science 7

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7

Credit
Science

Description: Advanced Science 7 is built on the core academic curriculum following the new Arkansas K-12 Science standards based on *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* (NCR, 2012) and is meant to reflect a new vision for science education. This course provides students with a deep analysis of structure, properties of matter, chemical reactions, ecosystems and interactions, photosynthesis, tectonic plates, spheres of earth, natural resources, and natural hazards. Additional work may include journals, investigations, research, projects, and presentations. This rigorous and accelerated course is designed for motivated science students preparing for Advanced Science courses in 8th grade.

Science 8

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
Science

Description: Science 8 is built on the core academic curriculum following the new Arkansas K-12 Science standards based on *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* (NCR, 2012) and is meant to reflect a new vision for science education. The course engages students in a rigorous study of energy, space, electricity/magnetism, waves/ electromagnetic spectrum, genetics/mutations, adaptations/natural selection, evidence of common ancestry/fossils. Additional work may include journaling, investigations, and projects.

Advanced Science 8

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
Science

Description: Advanced Science 8 is built on the core academic curriculum following the new Arkansas K-12 Science standards based on *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* (NCR, 2012) and is meant to reflect a new vision for science education. This course provides students with a deep analysis of energy, space, electricity/magnetism, waves/electromagnetic spectrum, genetics/mutations, adaptations/ natural selection, evidence of common ancestry/fossils. Additional work may include journals, investigations, research, projects, and presentations. This rigorous and accelerated course is designed for motivated science students preparing for Advanced Science courses in high school.

Physical Science

Recommendation: Concurrent enrollment in Algebra I or Geometry

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
High School Physical Science Credit

Description: This accelerated, integrated science course is designed for students who are interested in preparing for Advanced Placement science courses in high school. This course is an integration of the balance of 8th Grade Physical Science standards not included in Adv 6th and 7th Grade courses and the high school Physical Science course standards. Higher-order thinking skills are reinforced through hands-on application, interdisciplinary projects, and labs. Twenty percent lab required. *The grade in this course will count towards the student's high school grade point average (G.P.A.).

Math

Math 7

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7

Credit
Math

Description: This course will build on the concepts learned in Math 6. The following Grades 6-8 Arkansas Mathematics Standards will be covered for grade 7: ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability.

Advanced Math 7

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7

Credit
Math

Description: This rigorous course covers all 7th grade Arkansas Mathematics Standards and part of the 8th grade Arkansas Math standards in one year. The rest of the 8th grade standards are taught in the 8th-grade Algebra 1 course. Students need to have a strong foundation of previous math skills to maintain the quick pace of the course. This course covers the following Grades 6-8 Arkansas Mathematics Standards: the number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportional relationships, statistics and probability, and geometry.

Math 8

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
Math

Description: This course will build on the concepts learned in Math 7. The following Grades 6-8 Arkansas Mathematics Standards will be covered for grade 8: functions, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability.

Advanced Math 8

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
Math

Description: This rigorous course covers all 8th grade Arkansas Mathematics Standards. Students need to have a strong foundation of previous math skills to maintain the quick pace of the course. This course covers the following Arkansas Mathematics Standards for grade 8: the number system, expressions and equations, functions, statistics and probability, and geometry. This will prepare students for Algebra I on the high school level.

Algebra I

Recommended: Successful completion of Advanced Math and at least 2 of the following:

- ACT Aspire - ready/exceeding in math
- NWEA - Math ready/exceeding projection for ACT Aspire
- B or higher in previous math class
- Orleans-Hanna score of 85% or more.

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7, 8

Credit

Algebra I - High School Credit

Description: Algebra 1 provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in advanced math courses. This rigorous course provides a thorough and extensive study of linear, quadratic, and exponential functions along with graphing on the coordinate plane. It also provides students with a comprehensive knowledge of solving and graphing equations and inequalities. *The grade in this course will count towards the student's high school grade point average (G.P.A.)

Geometry

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra I with an A or B semester grade for fall and spring.

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit

Geometry - High School Credit

Description: This accelerated course is for students that are highly motivated and talented in the field of mathematics and intend to follow Advanced Placement courses leading to Calculus and/or Statistics. Transformations on the coordinate plane provide opportunities for the formal study of congruence and similarity. The study of similarity leads to an understanding of right triangle trigonometry and connects to quadratics through Pythagorean relationships. The study of circles uses similarity and congruence to develop basic theorems relating circles and lines. Students will also perform all basic geometry transformations and master basic trigonometry ratios and laws. The need for extending the set of rational numbers arises, and real and complex numbers are introduced so that all quadratic equations can be solved. *The grade in this course will count towards the student's high school grade point average (G.P.A.)

Social Studies

Social Studies 7th–8th

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7, 8

Credit
Social Studies

Description: Middle school social studies courses are built on the core academic curriculum following Arkansas Academic Standards for Social Studies for each course. Students in grades 7-8 will progressively study both historical and contemporary societies as well as Arkansas history. Students will use and develop skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking through interpretation and analysis of maps, diagrams, charts, political cartoons, and primary source documents. Curriculum areas of focus at each grade level include geography, citizenship/government, economics, and history.

Advanced Social Studies 7th–8th

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7, 8

Credit
Social Studies

Description: Advanced courses are academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. They are built on the same general core academic curriculum following Arkansas 6-8 curriculum guidelines for each course:

Grades 6-8 will progressively study both historical and contemporary societies as well as Arkansas history. Students will use and develop skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking through interpretation and analysis of maps, diagrams, charts, political cartoons, and primary source documents. Curriculum areas of focus at each grade level include geography, citizenship/government, economics, and history. Students enrolled in Advanced will receive more in-depth classroom discussion, an increased amount of reading and writing, and technology use, and complete a substantial amount of work outside of the classroom.

Physical Education/Health and Fitness

Physical Education

Course Length
9-week

Grade
7,8

Credit
PE

Description: Physical Education is required for all students in grades 7th, and 8th. All skills throughout each 9-weeks will be taught, practiced, reinforced, and extended through using manipulative equipment, standard based, and traditional equipment.

Health and Safety

Course Length
9-week

Grade
7, 8

Credit
PE

Description: This is a required course that is embedded into Physical Education. Health and fitness serves as an introduction to the overall health of the human body. The student will be introduced to the different body systems that make up personal health. These systems will be taught to determine how our

surroundings affect our overall health. The student will also receive instruction related to caring for the outer body through proper hygiene. Social health will be strongly reinforced throughout the 9-weeks. The overall goal of all health classes is to promote individuals that are socially, emotionally, and physically healthy for a lifetime.

Fine Arts

Band I (Beginning Band)

Recommendations: Students should attend spring band night and have band director's approval.

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

7, 8

Credit

Fine Art

Description: Beginning Band is the first full year of music instruction on their instruments. Ownership or rental of instruments is encouraged. Beginning band class develops skills on a variety of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Emphasis is given to providing a strong fundamental approach to their instrument. Rehearsal from the required music Text will be accomplished daily, as well as developmental music theory. Performance outside of normal school hours are required as part of this course. The book for beginners is the Standard of Excellence Book.

Band II

Recommendations: Band I or 1 year experience

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

7, 8

Credit

Fine Art

Description: Band II is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance and growth. In addition to large ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons. Students in Band II perform in at least two concerts a year.

Band III

Recommendations: Band II or 2 years of experience

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

8

Credit

Fine Art

Description: Band III is NLR Middle School's most advanced performing ensemble for wind and percussion instrumentalists. This year-long course introduces "comprehensive musicianship" through music performance of challenging and varied literature. Skills and concepts from the previous year are developed and expanded upon. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills will be expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. Students in Eighth Grade Band will perform at least two

concerts a year and also ASBOA Region 1 Concert Assessment. This top-performing ensemble also performs at football games and other performances as needed. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons.

Orchestra

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7, 8

Credit
Fine Art

Description: Course content consists of basic string instruments (violin, viola, cello, or double bass) playing techniques and music fundamentals. Students meet daily and have various night performances.

Choir

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7, 8

Credit
Fine Art

Description: This course focuses on singing activities and vocal production. It will allow students to develop the skills necessary for ensemble singing and reading music notation. It also provides opportunity for growth in understanding musical elements (rhythm, melody, harmony, and expressive elements) as applied to the music performed. This year-long course includes school and evening performances as part of a grade.

Performance Choir

Requirements: Audition

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7, 8

Credit
Fine Art

Description: This year-long course is for a select group of outstanding students who demonstrate a high level of mastery of choral music at the middle school level and wish to continue at an accelerated rate. This group is by audition only. Music of a wide variety of styles, cultures, and time periods will be studied and performed. There will be some after-school rehearsals and evening/weekend performances.

General Music

Course Length
9-weeks

Grade
7

Credit
Fine Art

Description: Students will engage in activities that include listening, analyzing, studying music, etiquette, notation, and exploring some music history and appreciation. It provides the opportunity for growth in understanding musical elements (rhythm, melody, harmony, and expressive elements). Students in this class are not required to do a performance.

Drama 7

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7

Credit
Fine Art

Description: This performance based class introduces students to reader's theater, impromptu skits, and basic oratory skills.

Drama 8

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
Fine Art

Description: This performance-based class introduces students to reader's theater, impromptu skits, and basic oratory skills.

Art Appreciation 8

Course Length
9-week

Grade
8

Credit
Fine Art

Description: This course will emphasize the basic elements and principles of design with a special focus on art appreciation, art criticism, and media exploration in painting, printmaking, and dimensional design.

Visual Art I

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7 , 8

Credit
Fine Art

Description: Visual Art I is a year-long course that covers the Arkansas Visual Art Framework for first-year art students.

Visual Art II

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
Fine Art

Description: Visual Art II is a year-long course that covers the Arkansas Visual Art Framework for second-year art students who are ready to engage in more in-depth learning experiences.

Advanced Visual Art

Recommendations: Art teacher recommendation

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
8

Credit
Fine Art

Description: Advanced Visual Art is a year-long course that covers the Arkansas Visual Art Framework for the appropriate grade level with more time for students who are advanced in art to engage in more in-depth learning experiences. The theme of each class will be specialized based on the expertise of the teacher and the interest of the students. Students will have the opportunity to delve deeply into visual art with an instructional program that demonstrates student learning over time in varied dimensions. Multiple modes of learning and assessment will meet the diverse needs of students. Assignments may include, but are not limited to, drawing in wet and dry media, printmaking, 3-D methods, alternative and mixed media, collaborative work, reading and writing assignments, critical dialogue, and exhibition.

Career and Technical Education

Family Consumer Sciences Investigation

Course Length
1 Semester

Grade
7

Credit
Elective

Description: Family CSI is a one-semester course where the emphasis is placed on introductory competencies related to personal development, relationships, home environment, nutrition and wellness, meal preparation, resource management, child development, and clothing. Upon completion of this course, the student should have attained the essential skill that will enable them to function effectively as a family member, community leader, and productive citizen.

Exploring Personal Finance

Course Length
1 Semester

Grade
7

Credit
Elective

Description: Exploring Personal Finance introduces students to the knowledge and skills required for managing their personal and family financial resources. Students learn to manage resources through hands-on applications that are relevant to their lives. Emphasis is given to the development of competencies related to values, needs, and wants, goals, and decisions making career exploration, understanding paychecks, spending plans, electronic banking and credit, financial institutions and checking accounts.

EAST Initiative Technology

Recommendations: Students should have a good understanding of basic computer skills. They must be capable of self-directing and self-teaching. The students must be interested in problem-solving.

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7, 8

Credit
Elective

Description: This course provides a problem-based learning environment where the student must administer self-motivation, self-direction, and self-discipline. It requires students to collaborate with each other, with professionals in the community, and with school staff or administrators to become positive agents of change for their community and school. The students will be expected to participate in presentations as well as research for problems that they would like to resolve through projects.

EAST Initiative Farm

Recommendations: Students should have a good understanding of basic computer skills. They must be capable of self-directing and self-teaching. The students must be interested in problem-solving.

Course Length
1 Year

Grade
7, 8

Credit
Elective

Description: This course provides a problem-based learning environment where the student must administer self-motivation, self-direction, and self-discipline. It requires students to collaborate with each other, with professionals in the community, and with school staff or administrators to become positive agents of change. The students will be expected to participate in the daily work required around the farm. Students are involved in digging, planting, weeding, feeding chickens, and other tasks that need to be

done to keep the farm maintained. Students will get muddy at times, and they are outside on 40 degree days and 100+ degree days.

Project Lead the Way Design & Modeling / Robotics & Automation

Recommendations: Students should have a good understanding of basic computer skills. They must be capable of self-directing and self-teaching. The students must be interested in problem solving.

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

7, 8

Credit

Elective

Description: Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design and capture research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

Outdoor Adventure

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

7, 8

Credit

Elective

Description: This course is designed for students eager to learn about the outdoors! The course will explore topics like camping/backpacking, navigation, hunter's education, boater's education, fishing, archery, and much more. Outdoor Adventure gives students an opportunity to learn about things outside of the classroom and get a hands-on experience with a variety of activities involving our environment and nature.

CSI: Medical Detectives

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

8

Credit

Elective

Description: Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing to diagnose and study DNA evidence found at a "crime scene." They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs; investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs; and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

Computer Science Discoveries

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

7, 8

Credit

Elective

Description: Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory course that empowers students to engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem-solving, and fun! The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem-solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data while inspiring students as they build their own websites, animations, games, and physical computing systems.

Foreign Language

Intro to Spanish

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

7, 8

Credit

Elective

Description: This course is designed to develop basic beginning language skills for Spanish. Students will be introduced to listening, reading, writing, and speaking activities.

Spanish I

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

8

Credit

High School Foreign Language Credit

Recommended: Students are recommended to meet the following requirements.

- ACT Aspire - ready/exceeding in Reading
- NWEA - Reading ready/exceeding projection for ACT Aspire
- Only marks of A or B each quarter in English, math, science, and social studies from the previous year.

Description: This course is designed to improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening abilities in Spanish while examining and analyzing students' own and the Spanish culture and language. This course is intended to develop beginning language skills. Listening, speaking, writing, role-playing, and group activities are designed to instruct, reinforce, and connect language skills. This course includes applications, problem-solving, higher-order thinking skills, and performance-based and project-based assessments. *The grade in this course will count towards the student's high school grade point average (G.P.A.)

Career & Keycode Courses

Keycode

Note: This is a **REQUIRED** course for all 7th-grade students.

Course Length

9-week

Grade

7

Credit

CTE

Description: Keycode is a one-semester course designed to help students develop speed and accuracy by learning the touch operation of alphanumeric/keyboard characters. Emphasis is placed on the following: mastery of the keyboard with desirable keyboarding techniques; development of speed and accuracy; basic problem solving applications of centering and arranging reports, letters, and tables; proofreading; formatting; and proper care of the equipment, and an introduction to coding. This is a foundation for developing entry-level skills for business careers.

Career Development

Note: This is a **REQUIRED** course for all 8th-grade students.

Course Length

1 Semester

Grade

8

Credit

CTE

Description: This course is designed to teach career development through research and understanding of self and the world of work for college and career readiness. Career research and decision-making with education and training plans for exploration and development will be core standards. Students will be knowledgeable of career options, and their personal skills, aptitudes, and employer expectations of future careers of choice. Students will identify personal traits and characteristics for a better understanding of self in their pursuit of finding a meaningful, fulfilling, and rewarding career through better recognition and understanding of personal interests, values, aptitudes, and abilities.

Special Programs

Course Name:

EL Achieve

Requirements: Non-native English speakers

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

7, 8

Description: EL Achieve classes are available at all levels for students who are using English as a second language. Instruction is taught in English with support from ESL teachers for English instruction.

Self-Contained

Requirements: Student must have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

7, 8

Description: Self-contained classes meet the educational, social, and vocational needs of students with extremely limited academic skills.

Resource

Requirements: Students must have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

7, 8

Description: Resource classes emphasize the practical application of skills and content for students who are not able to succeed in the regular classroom.

Inclusion

Requirements: Student must have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Course Length

1 Year

Grade

7, 8

Description: Inclusion classes provide some direct specialized instruction and implementation of modifications by a special education teacher within the regular classroom.

Administration

Quintin Cain—Principal

Greg Jones—Assistant Principal

Pearce Peacock—Assistant Principal

Perry Parr—Assistant Principal

Counselors

Aaron Leverette

Michelle Williams

Phone

501-771-8200