2020–2021
Course Guide

Royal Valley Middle School
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Welcome to our Royal Valley Middle School Course Guide. It is our hope that this guide will provide you information about the classes available to you at Royal Valley Middle School. We continually evaluate our curriculum and student needs so changes to the guide may occur based on providing the best educational opportunities for our students.

Seventh and eighth grade student schedules are made up of required courses and elective courses. This guide will inform you as to what is required for each grade, the elective courses, a description of each course, the length of the course and credits earned. If an elective course has a fee, it will be posted in this guide.

Sincerely,

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USD 337 MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Royal Valley Public Schools is to ensure that each student is actively engaged in the learning process and in developing the citizenship skills necessary to become a responsible, productive member of the global workforce.
7th and 8th Grade Course Descriptions
2020-2021

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7th Grade Required Courses

7th Grade English Language Arts
Course ID - RC750B
2 Semesters
Credit: 1

This course addresses all aspects of language including literature, writing, and oral communications. This course is aligned and tested according to the Kansas College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading and Writing. Units covered include curriculum vocabulary, reading comprehension, grammar, the writing process, Writing focusing on the Six Trait Model, novels and short stories.

7th Health
7th Grade Course ID - HLT742
Nine Week Course
Credits: 0.25

The Health Education Course is designed to enhance the awareness and knowledge of healthy lifestyle choices. The six adolescent risk behaviors (tobacco use, dietary patterns that contribute to disease, sedentary lifestyles, sexual behaviors, alcohol and drug use, and behaviors that result in intentional and unintentional injury) will be addressed while advocating for the students to make healthy choices for their overall health. We will also cover mental and emotional health, nutrition. Students will learn CPR.

Kansas History
Course ID - SS720
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

This course concentrates on the development of the state of Kansas, world geography, economics, civics, and government. Students will learn about different regions of the world, which will include but not limited to North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Far East, and Oceania. The students will learn about each region using the five themes of geography with an emphasis on the economic and governmental influences that shape people's lives in the region.

7th Grade Accelerated Math
Course ID - MA780
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

The instruction will concentrate on developing various skills. Students will be required to demonstrate fluency in application and conceptual understanding. The following topics will be covered: the number system (including rational, irrational, and radicals), ratios and proportions, expressions and equations (including monomials, polynomials, laws of exponents, multi-step equations, and multiplying and factoring binomials), graphing linear equations and slope, geometric concepts, and probability and statistics.

One Credit of Math-
7th Grade Mathematics
Course ID - MA701
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on three 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.
Physical Education
Course ID - PE892
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

This course consists of physical education concepts and activities including team games, individual activities, rhythmic activities and health.

Life Science
Course ID - SC760
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

This course provides students with the opportunity to learn that Life science is the study of living things. The life sciences comprise all fields of science that involve the scientific study of living organisms, like plants, animals, and human beings.

8th Grade Required Courses

8th Grade English Language Arts
Course ID - RC850B
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

Students will build on their writing skills by writing narratives, analytical pieces, informative works, and argumentative essays. They will use the writing process, starting with brainstorming and ending with publishing (to the class) their works. Emphasis will be placed on citing sources, including quotes and other textual evidence, and learning to support ideas expressed.

8th grade students will also collaborate and present ideas to groups, plus they will make presentations to the class as well, demonstrating an understanding of critical thinking, organization, and a knowledge of literary elements.

Readings will include classic and contemporary literature, poetry, drama, novels, and non-fiction articles, with an emphasis on increasing vocabulary and articulate expression.

American History
Course ID - SS870
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

This course begins with a review of the major ideas, issues, and events of the founding of the nation and Constitutional Period. Students will then concentrate on the critical events, people, groups, ideas, and issues of the period from 1800 to 1900 - including Westward Expansion, sectionalism, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Populism, and Imperialism. The course should be rigorous and relevant with instruction that integrates thinking skills, historical processes, and content so that students are able to apply the learning to their own lives. Instruction should include the integration of concepts and principles from history, economics, geography, civics, and the humanities.

8th Health
8th Grade Course ID - HLT892
Nine Week Course
Credits: 0.25

The Health Education Course is designed to enhance the awareness and knowledge of healthy lifestyle choices. The six adolescent risk behaviors (tobacco use, dietary patterns that contribute to disease, sedentary lifestyles, sexual behaviors, alcohol and drug use, and behaviors that result in intentional and unintentional injury) will be addressed while advocating for the students to make healthy choices for their overall health. We will also cover mental and emotional health, nutrition. Students will learn CPR.

Throughout the course, students will practice communication, creativity, critical thinking, and analytical skills through close readings and analysis, academic discussions, listening and speaking skills, and individual and collaborative projects.
One Credit of Math-
8th Grade Mathematics
Course ID - MA801
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

Designed to transition into the abstract mathematics of algebra at the high school level, the curriculum is focused on preparing all students to enter Algebra I in the ninth grade. The curriculum is aligned with the eighth grade 2017 Kansas Mathematics Standards. Sixth and seventh grade topics are extended with emphasis upon pre-algebra skills of Cartesian graphing, operations involving integers, the concepts of variables and equations as mathematical models, understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem and solving real-world and mathematical problems involving measurements.

Algebra 1
Course ID - MS880
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

This is a first year algebra course in which you will learn to reason symbolically. Students have covered the eighth grade 2017 Kansas Mathematics Standards during their accelerated seventh grade math course. The key content involves writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations in two unknowns. Quadratic equations are solved by factoring, completing the square, graphically, or by application of the quadratic formula. The course also includes study of polynomial expressions, inequalities, exponents, functions, rational expressions, ratios, and proportions. Algebraic skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Physical Education
Course ID - PE892
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

This course consists of physical education concepts and activities including team games, individual activities, rhythmic activities and health.

Physical Science
Course ID - SC860
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

Students will use research, processes and analysis to investigate their universe. Units of instruction could include:
- Physical and chemical interactions that affect the world around us
- Factors that affect organism survival and reproduction
- Factors that influence the Earth and our solar system
- How to optimize design solutions

8th Careers
Course ID - MS888
Nine Week Course
Credits: 0.25

Careers is a nine week course designed to help 8th grade students become future leaders of our families, communities, government, and workforce. It is imperative that today’s students develop the skills they need to succeed in work and life. This course is designed to peak the student’s interest and help them to gain a small sample of what is available for their future, helping to prepare them academically for a vocation. Instructional materials will focus on and are organized into 7 units of study: 1) Introduction to Career Exploration, 2) Skills For Success, 3) Lifestyle Cost, 4) Academic Planning, 5) Managing a Job Search, 6) Being A Successful Employee, and 7) The Balanced Life.

During the nine weeks, students will complete three in-depth assignments: 1) a Career and College Research Project, 2) an Entrepreneurship Project using a “SHARK” Tank theme, and students will wrap up this class with a 3) First Job “MOCK” Interview.

Students will also use the school’s Xello module that is an Internet-based career exploration and planning tool to explore career and college options. The Xello program can be accessed from school, from home, or wherever your son or daughter has access to the Internet. Features of the program include: assessments, career
profiles, multimedia interviews, and employment guide - where your child has the opportunity to create an online portfolio to develop and reflect on his or her academic and career options. This platform will be used in creating your student’s yearly spring Student Led Conference information as well as being used for their Career and College Research Project.

7th and 8th Grade Elective Courses

7th/8th Advanced Art
7th Grade Course ID - AR761
8th Grade Course ID - AR861
One year course
Credits: 1
Prerequisite: Art
Fee: $15.00

Open to 7th and 8th grade students (pending prerequisites). Students who take this course will have a greater appreciation for the development and purpose of creating projects, utilizing the knowledge, skills, and responsible studio practice they have cultivated in their two previous Visual Art courses. Students need to have the ability to work independently on projects, pay attention to details, think critically, and problem solve. Students will use new mediums, experimental techniques, and an incorporation of various mediums in their projects, as well as develop their own strong voice and vision within their projects.

7th/8th Intermediate Art
Course ID - AR620
1 Semester
Credits: 0.50
Fee: $7.50

Open to 7th and 8th grade students. Students will continue along their creative journey exploring new depths of the creative process. A wide variety of art will be discussed and created (both 2D and 3D). Students will experience new mediums, techniques and processes. Students will also fine-tune their artistic skills for further art classes. Projects will be held to a higher level of conceptualization, implementation, and the critiquing process than in previous art classes.

7th/8th American Military History: Revolution to Modern Day
Course ID - MS
Semester Course
Credits: 0.50

Students will examine the role of the U.S. military and the conflicts it has fought in. Students will then analyze how those military engagements impact(ed) the history of the United States and how it affected US political policies at home and abroad, as well as how social and political policies have changed the US military. Students will research and analyze the strategic, technological, cultural, and political influence of warfare on American history and the development of the United States from a new nation to becoming a world power.

7th/8th Art
7th Grade Course ID - ART977
8th Grade Course ID - ART988
Nine Week Course
Credits: 0.25

Students will continue to explore and build on their knowledge of the fundamentals of Visual Art through the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Students will create unique 2D and 3D works, integrating concepts such as line, shape, space, color, texture, value and form.

7th/8th Band
7th Grade Course ID - MU970
8th Grade Course ID - MU921
2 Semesters
Credits: 1

Band is a course that requires both ensemble and solo activities, which are designed to develop elements of musicianship, including tone production, technical skills, intonation, music reading skills, listening skills, analyzing music, studying historically significant styles of literature, and integration of other applicable disciplines. Experiences include improvising, playing by ear, sight-reading, and researching music. Students
develop the ability to understand and convey composers’ intent in the performance of music. Students that enroll in band must have been in band the previous year. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of performances throughout the year.

**7th/8th Computer Science and Coding**  
Course ID - MSCS 106  
Nine Week Course  
Credits: 0.25

Computer Programming Introductory Course. Students are introduced to object-oriented programming and basic concepts in software development.

**7th/8th Creative Writing and Photography**  
Course ID - MSCW105  
1 Semester  
Credits: 0.50

A class where you can let your imagination go wild. Do you want to write a mystery? Have you ever met a monster or alien you want to write about? Let your mind do some wandering and have some fun at the same time. We will learn a little bit about photography, and then you will take pictures that inspire your imagination. We will be experimenting with a variety of writing. Who knows, we might have the next J.K. Rowling in our midst.

**7th/8th Ed Tech**  
7th Grade Course ID - ET937S  
8th Grade Course ID - ET930S  
Nine Week Course or 1 Semester  
Credits: 0.25 or 0.50  
Fee: $9.00 per nine weeks  
$18.00 per semester

Students work in pairs as responsible, independent learners across a variety of content. They are frequently engaged in solving real-world problems. Students are guided by educational technology to engage in tasks and activities using equipment specific to the content of each module.

**7th/8th Future Leaders**  
Course ID - MSTL 107  
Nine Week Course  
Credits: 0.25

Students will explore the principles of relational leadership and learn to develop individual and group leadership skills to impact their lives and their communities. Content areas include decision-making, goal setting, effective communication, servant leadership, organization and time management skills, and concrete strategies to implement change.

Students will promote anti-bullying strategies and being kind to others through poster projects and speaking to other classes. They will recognize staff on national appreciation days and make hard copy and digital posters to promote leadership throughout the school. They will participate in “Volunteer Wednesdays,” where they volunteer to help RVMS staff with tasks throughout the school. Future Leaders will learn how to become RVMS leaders by their words and actions, and they will demonstrate positive attitudes as representatives of the class and the school. Then, going beyond RVMS, they will present projects they create on what leadership is to elementary students, and they will demonstrate leadership and service in various community settings, as well.

**7th/8th History Explorations**  
Course ID - MS78  
Nine week course  
History Explorations with Project 2 Semesters  
Credits: 0.25 or 1  
Fee: Based on student project

History Explorations is a nine weeks class in which students will explore three of five categories the Kansas History Day and National History Day competitors prepare for in History Projects Class. Students will choose a historical topic to explore in one of three areas: World, Kansas, or American History. Students will begin exploring their chosen topic with specific instruction in primary and secondary source research by actually “touching history” (documents and artifacts) or “doing history”, if you will, in order to study the
past. Likewise, students will learn many skills used today by historians helping to create a “Thinking Like A Historian” mindset. This deeper level thinking helps students to analyze, evaluate, and discern the information they are researching in an ever increasingly complex and changing present world.

History Explorations with History Project is a year long course with both 7th and 8th grade students preparing National History Day projects, emphasizing the importance of primary sources. Students delve into libraries and archives in search of original documents relating to their chosen topic, and, where possible, seek out eyewitnesses of important historical events for direct interviews. The outcome of their research is a contribution to one of a number of National History Day categories of project. Students can write a paper about a historical topic, or, alternatively, construct an exhibit, present a dramatic performance, or produce a documentary, such as a video or slideshow. This allows students with different kinds of skills to participate in National History Day, selecting the category that best suits their talents. The program culminates with the national competition held each June at the University of Maryland at College Park.

7th/8th Money Savvy
Course ID - MS 102
1 Semester
Credits: 0.50

This class teaches personal finance such as getting a job, balancing checks, and saving money. Meal planning, saving money, working with a budget, insurance, buying a car, and home party planning.

7th/8th Real World Robots and CAD
Course ID - MSSP106
1 Semester
Credits: 0.50

Students will explore Robotics and Computer Aided Design (CAD). In this project-based course, students will work for an extended time to investigate and respond to a complex question, problem, or challenge applying robotics and/or CAD. They will assemble and program robots to model their use in real-world scenarios. Students will use the Engineering Design Process (EDP) in team activities by researching, designing, and implementing solutions to real-world projects.

7th/8th Piano Keyboarding
Course ID - MS101
1 Semester
Credits: 0.50

This semester course is designed for students who wish to develop basic piano skills, or expand on their existing skills. In addition, students will learn basic music theory and will be able to read note names and rhythms as well as identify and play basic chords. There will be a required piano recital one evening at the end of the semester. Students will also perform around the community during the school day.

MTSS Math
Course ID - MAE700
8th Grade Course ID - MAE888
Nine Week Course
Credits: 0.25
Prerequisite: Must have teacher/administration approval

MTSS Math is a course for students needing more targeted instruction in math. Instruction is based on individual needs determined by diagnostic testing.
MTSS Reading
7th Grade Course ID - RCE700
8th Grade Course ID - RCE700
Nine Week Course
Credits: 0.25
Prerequisite: Must have teacher/administration approval

MTSS Reading is intended to improve a student's phonics skills, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension pending areas of need based on individual student needs determined by diagnostic testing.

7th/8th Student Success
Course ID - MS990
Nine Week Course
Credits: 0.25

Student Success is a course that helps students build their organization and executive functioning skills such as prioritizing tasks, listening, following a plan and much more. This course allows students time to do homework and have guided direction with subjects such as math, language, history, and science. Students must have teacher/administration approval.

7th/8th Vocal Music
7th Grade Course ID - MU977S
8th Grade Course ID - MU977
Nine Week course or 1 Semester
Credits: 0.25 or 0.50

This is a mixed chorus that is open to any student who has the desire to sing and be educated in music history, theory, and vocal technique. We will sing a variety of music from different time periods and genres. This class will meet for a semester and students will be required to perform at a concert. Concert attire will consist of a white shirt, black pants, and black shoes. In addition, to an evening performance, we will give performances around the community during the school day.