



2023-2024 Course Guide

Royal Valley Middle School
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Welcome to our Royal Valley Middle School Course Guide. This guide provides 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

*Strengthening lives in our community by building relationships
and educating students.*

7th and 8th Grade Course Descriptions 2022-2023

7th Grade Required Courses

- English Language Arts
- History
- Mathematics
- Physical Education/Health
- Science

8th Grade Required Courses

- English Language Arts
- History
- Mathematics
- Physical Education/Health
- Science

7th/8th Grade Electives

- Art 1
- Intermediate Art
- Advanced Art
- Music, Vocal
- Musical
- Piano Keyboarding
- Band
- STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology, Math)
- Financial Literacy
- American Military History
- Native American History: 1491-Present Day
- History Explorations
- Hands on World Geography
- The Write Stuff
- Speech and Forensics
- From Page to Screen

Royal Valley Middle School is committed to providing our students with Multi-tier Systems of support (MTSS). In our students' school day we are working to create a system of prevention, early intervention, and support to ensure that all students are learning from the instruction. In this time we also utilize Lions Quest as our social and emotional learning curriculum. The Lions Quest program teaches skills in the following four main areas: self-discipline, responsibility, good judgment, and respect for others. For more information on Lions Quest please visit www.lions-quest.org.

7th Grade Required Courses

7th Grade English Language Arts

One Year Course

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.

Kansas History

One Year Course

This year-long course focuses 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 be 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. Kansas History will begin with the development of the state from Native American settlements to the present. As students learn about Kansas History, they will develop historical thinking skills that will help them to think critically about issues in the present and the future. Students will learn to use primary and secondary sources, like historians, in order to piece together stories of the past, solving mysteries very much like a detective. Students will also learn to spot bias and understand perspective in order to draw their own conclusions about historical events.

The 1st nine weeks the students will engage in current world and Kansas geography learning activities; 2nd nine weeks Kansas History 1820 to 1865; 3rd nine weeks researching and completing History Fair projects; and 4th nine weeks Economics of Kansas Agriculture & Industry. We read two historical fiction novels, one during the 1st nine weeks and one during the 2nd nine

weeks; these are: "Girl Of Kosovo" by Alice Mead and "Jayhawker" by Patricia Beatty. History Fair Projects, created during the 3rd nine weeks, will be on display at the Annual History Fair. This event is held on the first Friday in May in the RVHS Gymnasium.

One Credit of Math-

7th Grade Mathematics

One Year Course

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.

Accelerated Math 7

One Year Course

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. Placement into this class will be determined by RVMS staff and will be based on grades, standardized test scores, work habits and teacher referral.

Science 7

One Year Course

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

One Year Course

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.

Eighth 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.

American History

One Year Course

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.

One Credit of Math- 8th Grade Mathematics

One Year Course

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.

Accelerated Math 8

One Year Course

This course will cover concepts of algebra in which you will learn to reason symbolically. 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. Placement into this class will be determined by RVMS staff and will be based on grades, standardized test scores, work habits and teacher referral. Upon completion of this course, RVMS staff will determine placement into the appropriate freshman math course based on set criteria.

Science 8

One Year Course

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

7th and 8th Grade Required

P.E. Elective Options

(Choose one of the two)

Physical Education and Health

One year Course

This course consists of physical education concepts and activities including team games, individual activities, rhythmic activities and health. The Health Education Course is embedded 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 wellness and emotional health, and nutrition. Students will learn CPR in this class. PE shoes (non-marking), athletic shorts, T-shirts, sweatpants, and/or sweatshirts that are school appropriate are required, as well as shower supplies.

Weightlifting and Health

One year course

Students will demonstrate the ability to identify a variety of weightlifting techniques and the muscles that are used. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of strength training and physical conditioning. The Health Education Course is embedded 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 wellness and emotional health, and nutrition. Students will learn CPR in this class.

7th and 8th Grade Elective

Courses

Art 1

1 Semester

Open to 7th and 8th grade students. 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.

Intermediate Art

1 Semester

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.

Advanced Art

One year Course

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

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.

Financial Literacy

1 Semester

This course provides learning of personal finance skills and knowledge for informed decision making with earning, spending, saving, investing and borrowing money. Students will use reading, writing and math skills throughout this course.

History Explorations

1 Semester (Fall semester)

This is a semester 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 projects. The students enter these projects into competitions in the late winter and early spring at local and state levels where they are evaluated by adept historians and educators. The program culminates with the national competition held each June at the University of Maryland at College Park. (Note: There are fees associated with this class for the competition if students move on in each of the competitions.)

Hands-On World Geography

1 semester course (spring semester)

This is a semester class in which both 7th and 8th grade students have a chance to explore modern World Geography. Students in this elective will have a chance to take their background knowledge of ancient world history and geography, and apply this to how countries throughout the world have been affected by natural, local, and world events from the past and present. Students will engage in hands-on learning activities including creating maps using the ArcGIS platform, exploring cultural traditions such as music and food, writing to a pen pal, geocaching, participating in a weekly classroom GeoBee contest, as well as a small project focused on a country of their choice. There will also be guest speakers brought into the

classroom to help us explore careers in some of the eight branches of the field of Geography.

American Military History: Revolution to Modern Day

1 Semester

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.

Native American History: 1491- Present Day

1 Semester (Spring Semester)

Students will examine the Native Peoples of North America prior to European colonization. They will also learn the history of the United States from native perspectives from 1776 to present day, including the participation of Native nations in political and military conflicts leading to America's independence and maintaining independence. Students will also learn about Federal Indian Policy as the US grew and attempted to force detribalization and assimilation of Native peoples and the resurgence of Indian identity and self-determination in the 20th century.

Band

One Year Course

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.

Music- Vocal

1 Semester (Fall Semester)

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.

Musical

1 Semester (Spring Semester)

At the end of this course, students will present a musical. Auditions for parts will take place at the beginning of the semester. Students will be required to learn lines, songs and dances as part of this course.

Piano Keyboarding

1 Semester

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.

The Write Stuff-

1 Semester

This class is dedicated to the craft of writing, editing, photographing, filming, and documenting life at Royal Valley Middle School. In this course students will learn how to gather information, organize ideas, format stories for different forms of news media, and edit their

stories for publication. The course will also examine the historical development of journalism and the role of journalism in society.

Speech and Forensics

1 Semester

In this class, students learn how to use oral skills effectively in formal and informal situations. This course introduces students to numerous public speaking situations as they learn a variety of speaking methods, aims, and styles. Students will participate in duet acting, improvisation, monologue, and other Forensic competition style performances.

From Page to Screen

1 semester

This class teaches students about the art of storytelling, character development, and plot. Students will be able to compare and contrast elements of the movie with the corresponding book.

STEM

1 Semester

Fee: \$16.00

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