

Avondale Middle School

7th Grade

Curriculum Guide

2021-2022



Jason Ohrt, Principal

Katie Gomez, Assistant Principal

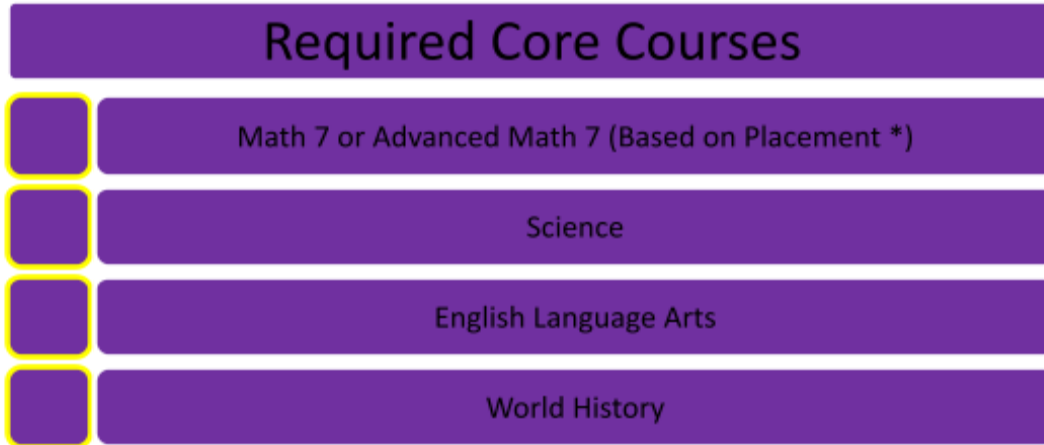
Jill Amico, 7th Grade Counselor (Last Names A–L)

Michelle Wilson, 7th Grade Counselor (Last Names M-Z)

Seventh Grade

An Avondale Middle School 7th grade schedule consists of 6 academic class periods in a year. The school year is comprised of three trimesters. All students are also assigned to a daily 32 minute advisory period.

Seventh grade students are required to take 4 periods of required core courses. Students also have 2 periods of exploratory courses. These exploratory courses consist of trimester grading periods. Required exploratory courses include one trimester of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and Health. Based on whether the student is a music student determines exploratory offerings.



7th Grade Exploratory Course Offerings	
Music Students	Non-Music Students
<p>Choose one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concert Band 7 (Experience Required) ● Choir 7 (Audition Required) <p>All students are required to take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health – one trimester ● STEM 7 – one trimester ○ or STEM 7 Foundations of Code <p>Choose 1 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art 7 ● Careers ● Music Technology/Composition ● Spanish 7 ● Physical Education 7 	<p>All students are required to take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health – one trimester ● STEM 7 – one trimester <p>Remaining exploratory offerings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art 7 ● Careers ● Music Technology/Composition ● Spanish 7 ● Physical Education 7
<p>Remediation in reading and math may be recommended for students who would benefit from these classes based on standardized test scores and screeners in reading and math.</p>	

*Advanced Math 7 placement will be finalized with successful completion of Advanced Math 6 (earning 80% or better in each card marking) in 6th grade or criteria met on Advanced Placement testing.

Seventh Grade Course Descriptions

Advisory - Year-Long

Students at AMS begin their day with a 32 minute advisory period referred to as “Mustang Roundup”. Student advisory groups are made up of grade level students that are led by teacher mentors. The goal of Mustang Roundup is to provide a personalized connection to our learning environment where all students will be well known by at least one adult advocate. This relationship and connection to school is fostered through intentionally scheduled lessons, group activities, and one-to-one interactions with the advisor. The structure of this program will provide opportunities for character education, bullying prevention lessons, positive behavior support, independent reading, academic monitoring, organizational meetings, school wide initiatives, and fun cooperative activities.

CORE COURSES

Advanced English 7 - Year-Long

Students are placed in this course through a set of placement criteria. This course teaches students to be analytical consumers of informational and literary texts and provides a critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Students are encouraged to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, use of textual evidence, drafting, and revision. In reading, students are introduced to texts of increasing levels of difficulty. Using narrative texts, students practice and improve their skills in recognizing basic literary elements and terms, as well as compare literary themes, and identify author’s purpose and perspective. They monitor their reading by pausing, self-correcting, questioning, and reflecting. Students explore a wide range of literary genres including the short story, memoir, mystery, poetry, historical fiction, autobiography/biography, and informational text. A year-long Independent reading program focuses on reading stamina, close reading strategies, and oral communication skills. Students are expected to independently read a minimum of four books per trimester. Analytic and expository writing assignments provide the main vehicle for the development of composition skills, although expressive writing is also explored. Writing instruction targets the awareness of audience and purpose and the development of tighter focus, thoughtfully developed organization, more specific language and more sophisticated sentence structure. Writing experiences include personal narrative, compare and contrast, literary text analysis of both narrative and nonfiction writing (poetry), argument writing, and research. Students write a 4-5 minute speech for the Optimist Speech Competition; oral communication skills are advanced through the delivery of this speech. Vocabulary study includes direct instruction as well as application of proper usage of words in all their variant forms and the utilization of context clues to convey and interpret meaning. Grammar instruction is also directly taught and students are consistently held accountable for use of proper writing conventions throughout the year.

Advanced Math 7 - Year-Long

Students are placed in this course through a set of placement criteria. Advanced Math 7 is a rigorous pre-algebra course designed for students who learn at an accelerated pace; both 7th and 8th grade math concepts are taught. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The critical areas for Advanced Math 7 include: solving multi-step equations, exploration of transformations in the coordinate plane, triangles and other polygons, angle relationships given two parallel lines, graphing linear equations, solving systems of linear equations, functions, Pythagorean’s theorem, the real number system, surface area and volume of solids, exponents, inequalities, and various concepts concerning probability and statistics. Students will be placed into Advanced Math 7 upon successful completion of Advanced Math 6. Students will be placed into Algebra after successful completion of Advanced Math 7 (earning a minimum of 80% average for the school year).

English 7 - Year-Long

Over the course of 7th grade, students will study literature of various genres and informational text. This course follows a standard-based curriculum focused to deepen reading comprehension, analysis, and vocabulary development. Writing to communicate ideas and information using conventional writing skills is woven throughout instruction in narrative, argument, and informational areas. Students will express information and enhance understanding of presentation through strategic use of digital media and a visual representations.

Math 7 - Year-Long

Math 7 is a grade level course designed to prepare students for 8th grade math. This course offers problem solving lessons and activities with real world connections. Upon completion of this class, students will gain an understanding of fundamental concepts and specifically explore integers, rational numbers, expressions and equations, inequalities, ratios and proportions, percent, circles, surface area and volume, along with probability and statistics.

Science 7 - Year-Long

Seventh-grade students will focus on integrating three core disciplines: scientific processes, physical science and life science. Students will continue to utilize scientific methods and the Metric System. This course includes units on alternative energy, thermal energy, properties of matter, cells & heredity, living things and photosynthesis. Students will show their scientific understanding through investigation and dynamic scientific modeling. Emphasis will be placed on addressing real world phenomena, collaborative teams with students sharing their ideas and defending their scientific arguments with evidence.

Social Studies 7 - Year-Long

The seventh-grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient world history and geography with a deliberate focus on the content literacy. Students investigate human history from the beginning until around 1500. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. Students examine how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of people, resources, and ideas. Students will end the course with a comprehensive study of the beginnings of government and the functions of economic systems.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

7th GRADE EXPLORATORY PROGRAM*

Every seventh-grade student will have 2 exploratory hours/classes in their schedule. *Students may choose Concert Band 7 or Choir 7 as a full year exploratory course OR if they are not interested in the music option, they will be scheduled into trimester exploratory courses listed below.

7th GRADE TRIMESTER EXPLORATORY COURSES

ART 7 - Trimester-Long

This is a Middle School Level Visual Arts Curriculum class including experiences in a variety of 2D and 3D media. Prerequisite: Sixth-grade Art recommended but NOT required. Students will participate in concentrated efforts to apply design elements and principles in organization, creation, reflection and self-evaluation of all projects. Extensive explanation, instruction, demonstration and skill practice prior to major project work. Students will explore visual examples of various designs through world and art history, contemporary work, multi-disciplinary connections and problem-solving. Minimal homework required.

Careers 7 - Trimester-Long

This course is designed to develop an understanding of career pathways and employment opportunities for students to explore the world of work. Students will develop a clearer understanding of their personal interests,

values, and emerging aptitudes. The class engages students in a variety of classroom exercises and will conclude with a project in which they research a career of their choice and present it to the class.

Health Education - Trimester-Long

This is a trimester-long mandatory class for seventh-grade students. This class is designed to teach students about the important social, emotional, and physical issues that they face today. This curriculum follows the Michigan Model for Health. Topics covered in this course are: decision-making and problem solving skills, recognizing and managing stress, recognizing bullying and prevention skills, understanding emotions, healthy relationships, healthy eating, positive body image and physical activity, understanding the importance of being drug and tobacco free and the consequences of drugs on their health, reproductive anatomy, abstinence-based sex education, HIV, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Music Technology and Composition - Trimester-Long

This course will explore the world of music technology, including future career opportunities in the field. Students will learn basic music theory, music notation software, composition, introductory sound mixing software, and music coding software. This is a trimester course and is a NON-performing music class.

Physical Education 7 - Trimester-Long

Boys and girls participating in seventh-grade physical education will be challenged with a variety of fitness conditioning activities that will increase their muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance. Students will develop skills to be used to play a variety of team sports along with a basic understanding of team sport rules. Indoor and outdoor activities include; basketball, volleyball, soccer, speedball, floor hockey, softball and group games. Students will participate in fitness testing. Sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership are emphasized.

Spanish 7 - Trimester-Long

Students are introduced to the Spanish culture and language in this trimester course. The emphasis is on listening, reading, writing and speaking about topics such as colors, food, numbers, greetings, weather, seasons, days and months, sports, and likes and dislikes. Hispanic culture, such as greetings, customs, traditions, foods and holidays are also discussed. We play games, do activities and end the course with a “fiesta” where students sample Spanish food.

STEM 7 - Trimester-Long

Students are introduced to the concept of computer programming, app development, and the Code.org, scratch, and MIT App Inventor development tool. They learn about the Model-View-Controller (MVC) design pattern, app graphical design, event-driven programming, debugging, and algorithm creation using variables and conditional logic. They create engaging apps and fun interactive games that apply these concepts and use basic user interface features, media, and animation.

STEM 7 Foundations of Code - Trimester-Long (PILOT)

Computer Science of Coding teaches students block programming skills so they can develop solutions to real world problems. Using algorithms and computational thinking, students code and upload programs to robots that perform authentic tasks, and code microbits to respond to real world input. Students will also be exposed to video game creation and animation. Students strengthen general computer skills and understandings with the regular use of Google Suites and daily keyboarding practice.

7th GRADE FULL YEAR EXPLORATORY COURSES *

*Year-long music classes may not be dropped – this is a year-long commitment.

Concert Band 7 - Year-Long

Concert Band 7 is a performing ensemble designed for seventh graders that will focus on intermediate-level skills, techniques and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the Avondale High School Concert and Marching Bands. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of 6th Grade Band. Additional placements are determined by audition. This class will include at least four performances, including MSBOA District XVI Solo & Ensemble Festival. Participation at all performances is required.

OR

Choir 7 - Year-Long

Placement in choir is by audition only. Participation in all performances is mandatory. This class is designed for 7th grade students who are interested in studying vocal music. Students will learn specific skills in the art of singing such as proper posture, breath support and vowel placement. They will also study music theory and sing to develop skills in vocal techniques. The winter concert, spring concert, district, state, pre-festival and festival performances are mandatory. Auditions are required. Class size is limited.

You may contact the Avondale Middle School Counseling Department if you have any questions:

- Jill Amico, 7th Grade Counselor (Last Names A-L), 248-537-6313 or jill.amico@avondaleschools.org
- Michelle Wilson, 6th Grade Counselor, (Last Names M-Z), 248-537-6315 or michelle.wilson@avondaleschools.org