

EGJH 7th Grade Course Descriptions 2023-2024

Please look over these course descriptions as a family prior to completing the 7th Grade Course Request Google Form that will be emailed to each parent/guardian. Once you receive the course request form via email, please complete and submit that form. If you have any questions about courses, please email Mrs. Shelton at mshelton@tanq.org. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Sam Baires, Office Manager, at 749-3838. Thank you for choosing Emily Gray Junior High. We look forward to a wonderful 2023-2024 school year.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 7

Areas emphasized are reading, writing, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. Students are expected to read, discuss, and write about various pieces of literature and nonfiction grade-level texts. Seventh-grade Language Arts includes short writing assignments and structured work on a research paper and argumentative paper, as well as projects in the Spring semester. The overall focus is on structured, individual work in order to build independence, balanced with group and class learning. Students will learn to compare/contrast various forms of writing, as well as conduct literary analysis. Students should expect homework, and to stay caught up using Google Classroom and other academic resources.

Honors Language Arts 7

Students will develop their literacy skills as they read, discuss, and write about grade-level literature and nonfiction at an accelerated pace. Students will exercise their critical thinking and evaluative skills as they discuss, write about, and analyze the literary elements and structures of articles, essays, short stories, novels, drama, and poetry. Strong emphasis is placed on developing formal writing skills, including embedding, citing, and evaluating textual evidence and composing structured informational and argumentative essays. Students will also expand their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary through the study of advanced grammar practices and Latin and Greek roots. Multimedia presentations, small-group and whole-class discussions, and long-term, collaborative projects will also be required. Students should enjoy reading, writing, and analyzing the structure of literature. Interested students need to exceed current grade-level writing expectations and be self-motivated learners with higher-level critical thinking skills. *This rigorous course will help prepare students for Honors and AP English classes in high school. Sixth grade teacher recommendation is strongly encouraged and considered for placement in Honors Language Arts.*

Resource Language Arts 7: Special Education Placement (IEP required)

This course is designed to help students work towards their IEP goals in Reading and Writing. It involves the study of Reading strategies that will improve comprehension, fluency and vocabulary through literature and non-fiction texts. It also involves the study of Writing strategies that will improve conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and sentence structure), fluency, and organization in writing structured paragraphs and essays. This course is to assist students with study skills including note taking, time management, test taking strategies and organization.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 7

This course focuses on Modern World History. It examines how world events are shaped by geographic, economic, political, and social factors. Students will make connections between historic and current events. They will also analyze primary and secondary sources from multiple points of view and formulate unique conclusions. Strong emphasis is placed on geographic awareness, comprehending informational text and developing basic academic writing skills.

Honors Social Studies 7

This course focuses on Modern World History. It examines how world events are shaped by geographic, economic, political, and social factors. Students will make connections between historic and current events. They will also analyze primary and secondary sources from multiple points of view and formulate unique conclusions. Strong emphasis is placed on geographic awareness, comprehending informational text, analyzing primary source materials, and developing advanced academic writing skills. It is recommended that interested students exceed grade-level reading and writing expectations and that they are able to think critically. *This rigorous course will help prepare students for Honors and AP History classes in high school. Sixth grade teacher recommendation is strongly encouraged and considered for placement in Honors Social Studies.*

MATH

7th Grade Math

This course is designed to develop skills and concepts necessary to prepare students for success in 8th grade math by applying knowledge of Rational Numbers in the areas of Ratios & Proportions, Algebraic Expressions & Equations, Geometry, and Statistics & Probability. Mathematical Practices will be enhanced through real-world application in all concept areas to foster perseverance in problem solving, develop critical thinking strategies, and increase mathematical fluency.

7th Grade Resource Math: Special Education Placement (IEP Required)

Students learn the state standards for Math at the 7th grade level taught by a Special Education teacher. Students will learn math skills focusing on number sense, word problems and operations of more complex math problems. Math instruction occurs at individual grade levels with emphasis on math domains as identified by state standards. Students in this course must have an IEP.

8th Grade Math (For 7th graders who meet prereqs. For Advanced Math)

This course follows the Math 8 Standards and is designed to deepen students' understanding of the fundamentals of Algebra with emphasis placed on preparing the intense rigor of Algebra I during their 8th grade year where they can earn High School credit. Concepts include Algebraic Expressions & Equations with both Rational & Irrational Number solutions; Solving, Graphing & Analyzing of Linear Functions and Simultaneous Pairs of Linear Equations; and Geometric Transformations & Theorems. Mathematical Practices will be enriched and extended through real-world application in all concept areas to foster perseverance in problem solving, develop critical thinking strategies, and increase mathematical fluency at a level that exceeds grade level courses. **Prereq:** The following criteria are required: 1) Students must have earned an "A" in advanced math for each quarter of 6th grade. 2) Teacher recommendation and previous scores of highly proficient on AASA Math assessment are necessary to indicate the student is prepared for the rigor of 8th Grade Math Concepts. 3) Sixth grade teacher recommendation and parent approval required. Note: An override of teacher recommendation requires a signed Parent Waiver & Academic Agreement Form. Completion of a summer math readiness packet is recommended prior to the first day of school.

Algebra 1 (H.S credit: 9th Grade Math) (For 7th graders who meet prereqs. For Advanced Math)

Emphasis is placed on teaching the concepts, fundamentals, application and word problem solving of the first year of high school algebra. Algebra standards include solving and graphing linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. Additional standards include linear systems, statistics, and probability. This is a **high school course** and will prepare students for geometry and other high school advanced mathematics courses. Mathematical Practices will be enhanced through real-world application in all concept areas to foster perseverance in problem solving, develop critical thinking strategies, and increase mathematical fluency. **Prereq:** 1) Students must have earned an "A" in an Advanced 7th grade Mathematics Course for each quarter of 6th grade. 2) Sixth grade teacher recommendation and parent Approval required. 3) Prior to entering Algebra in the Fall, student's previous AASA Math assessment scores must show them as "Highly Proficient." Note: An override of teacher recommendation requires a signed Parent Waiver & Academic Agreement Form. Completion of a summer math readiness packet is recommended prior to the first day of school.

SCIENCE

Interactive Science 7

Students will learn the 7th grade curriculum through the inquiry process and developing science and engineering practices by engaging in hands-on activities, projects and labs. Students will develop good note taking, graphing, organizational, communication and collaborative problem solving skills to take them to the next level of science. Students will have the opportunity to develop both the skills and content knowledge necessary to be successful in high school.

Honors Interactive Science 7

Students will learn the 7th grade curriculum through the inquiry process and learn science and engineering practices by engaging in hands-on activities, projects and labs. Students will develop good note taking, graphing, organizational, communication and collaborative problem solving skills to take them to the next level of science. Students will have the opportunity to develop both the skills and content knowledge necessary to be successful in high school as well as scientifically literate members of the community. Students will need to show a scientific aptitude, exhibit responsible behavior, and be self-directed. Writing highly proficient reports and labs are expected. **Course Requirement:** A STEM project requiring students to research, execute and present is mandatory. *Sixth grade teacher recommendation is strongly encouraged and considered for placement in Honors Science.*

ELECTIVES

Physical Education 7

The general purpose of physical education is to provide each student the opportunity to participate in a variety of physical activities. These activities are designed to promote physical fitness through individual and team activities that will encourage students to have a positive attitude towards physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle. Physical Education will meet every day. Physical Education is a co-ed class for 7th graders.

Beginning Band (New Class)

No Band experience; no problem. This class is for students interested in band with no prior experience playing at school or in an organized group. Emphasis is placed on introducing students to counts, individual skill and learning to play together as a group. No prior band experience required. This is your opportunity to try an instrument for the very first time, or try a new instrument.

Cadet Band: Bobcat Band

Bobcat Band offers the intermediate level student an opportunity to play instrumental music. Emphasis is placed on playing and improving individual instrumental skill, including (but not limited to) tone, intonation, technical ability, and blend. Emphasis is also placed on developing more life skills for students, such as leadership, independence, confidence, and hard work. This is a performance based class. **Prereq:** One year of previous experience recommended.

Advanced Band: Emily Gray Wind Ensemble

This course offers the advanced level student an opportunity to play instrumental music. Emphasis is placed on playing and improving individual instrumental skill, including (but not limited to) tone, intonation, technical ability, and blend. Emphasis is also placed on developing more life skills for students, such as leadership, independence, confidence, and hard work. This is a performance based class. **Prereq:** Three to four years of playing experience, teacher recommendation and/or audition required.

String Orchestra (must have prior playing experience)

The course is open for all students who have some experience playing the violin, viola, cello, and double bass, either through a previous orchestra class at a different school or through some teacher instruction. Students will need to rent or purchase their own instruments for the program. Fundamentals will be built upon through the use of technique books and various styles of music. This class will emphasize tone production, instrument technique, music theory, and ensemble playing. Students will perform at semester performances and district festivals. Grades are based upon in-class participation, concert performances,

and at-home practice. **Prereq:** One year experience

Chamber Orchestra (audition required)

This class is designed for all advanced orchestra students who play the violin, viola, cello, and double bass. Students will need to rent or purchase their own instruments for the program. Students will continue to develop individual and ensemble playing skills, advanced techniques, ear training, listening skills, and music reading through a varied repertoire of music. More emphasis will be placed on developing musicianship skills: leadership, independence, collaboration, and musicality. Students will perform at semester performances, district festivals, school events, and advanced/honor festivals. Grades are based upon in-class participation, concert performances, and at-home practice. **Prereq:** Audition or teacher approval.

Music Theory & Composition

This course is designed for students who would like to have a deeper understanding of the way in which music functions, and utilizing those skills to create it. While being an extremely rigorous course, it is ultimately rewarding and will benefit the student's musical pursuits and passions. Students will hone and develop their musical language skills, including elements of written and aural theory. Students will take these skills and apply them to the composition process in a variety of styles. **Prereq:** One year of Band Orchestra or Choir.

Performance Choir

This is a performance-based class focused on developing proper singing techniques, intonation, rhythm and harmony. Music theory will also be taught so students will be better equipped to sight-read songs. Students will sing a wide variety of songs from different music genres including Pop/Modern, Oldies, Broadway, Classical and Folk. Students are expected to participate in choir performances throughout the year.

Musical Theater

This class will focus on all performance aspects of Musical Theater: acting, singing and dancing. Students will perform junior versions of Broadway musicals, and/or create their own musicals or Broadway revue shows including popular songs and themes. Instruction will focus on the fundamentals of stage acting, vocal technique, and dance/choreography to enhance performance. Students are expected to participate in two musical productions over the course of the school year which will include some rehearsals outside of school hours.

Spanish 1

The goal of this course is to provide students with a firm foundation in the fundamentals of listening, reading, writing and speaking in Spanish. Students develop and demonstrate proficiency through the introduction of vocabulary, grammar, sentence structures, and immersive practice. Students are also presented with the history and culture of Spanish-speaking people and communities from Europe, Africa, and the Americas in order to compare and contrast the similarities and differences between communities. Students should be aware that this course is a one year course at a high school level pace and may be eligible to receive high school credit if the student earns a B or higher in the course. High school credit is always at the discretion of the receiving high school. **Disclaimer:** Students who have struggled in core classes as a 6th grader should focus on those core classes and choose a less rigorous elective..

Strength & Fitness

This course is an opportunity for students to become physically stronger and improve cardiovascular fitness. The course is based on the principles of weight training and cardiovascular endurance. Students will understand human musculature and the proper mechanics and technique to improve overall fitness and strength. All students will develop individualized exercise programs that are designed specifically for the body type and personal experience.

Health

This course is a comprehensive study of all current health issues that challenge young teens. This course explores the opportunity to get a better understanding of issues that encompass mental, social and physical health. Areas of study in health include nutrition, communication skills and fitness for life.

Students will learn and set goals for lifetime fitness, create personal menus for nutrition and practice methodology for active communication skills. Additional areas of interest in health are Human body systems, substance abuse, disease, personal hygiene and sun safety.

Art

During this class, artists will develop their technical skills in a variety of media types in both two-dimensions as well as three-dimensions. Artists will practice techniques in drawing, painting, sculpting, and printmaking. Students will apply knowledge, experience, and inspiration to their art planning, designing, making, and presenting. Artists will follow the artistic creative process to develop projects that are original and personal. Art builds on previous skills but is a time to experiment and grow, giving students the opportunities to develop new skills, choices and exposure to art materials.

Advanced Art

This course is designed for the serious art student who is considering studying art in high school or who is interested in acquiring new skills and further developing their talents. Students are encouraged to pursue new avenues in the field of drawing, painting, graphics, printmaking, and sculpture, while studying in depth the areas of art and design that are of greatest interest to them. Advanced students will create artwork with a greater emphasis on choice. Students will be continually encouraged to expand their creative ideas as well as their technical potential.

Art Animation

During this course students will develop skills in multiple areas required to create stop motion animations. Students will create fictional stories as well as nonfiction and instructional animations using storyboards to determine the story sequence and visual layout of each scene. These young animators will have access to over one hundred different animation techniques. They will learn about special effects, voice acting, and character creation, while calculating spacing, timing, and movement. These animating artists will also build their own scenery as well as working with lighting and sound for each animated production they create. This class will use the Stop Motion Studio app to create animations with high standards for appropriate use and responsibility with digital media.

STEAM

Calling all innovators! Do you like designing, developing, and creating solutions? The goal of STEAM is to foster a learning environment in which students are challenged to produce original ideas and structures using concepts and skills from Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Through these disciplines students will actively engage in critical thinking, research, and project development. There will also be a strong robotic component as students learn to define STEAM related concepts through Friction Force, Mission to Mars, Rovers, and Python programming. This class focuses on project based learning with many hands-on activities and challenges to propose solutions to real world problems.

Keyboarding & Technology

Students will build and refine touch typing skills to lead to proper keyboarding fluency. While doing so, students will think critically about technology in society while exploring Google applications, computer history and technological advancements, digital citizenship, online research skills, beginner-level coding, and careers in technology. The course will conclude with an individual research project on a technology topic of their choice.

Computer Science

This course introduces students to the fundamental applications of computer programming, the basics of programming languages, coding, graphic creation, memory, resolution, and data storage. Students will learn about occupations in the ever changing world of computer science. This course will explore legal and ethical issues associated with computer use and ways computers influence modern society. Students do not need prior experience with coding or extensive knowledge of computers to take this course.