

## **7th AND 8th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

The standard seventh and eighth grade curriculum is designed to provide basic academic skills and opportunities for exploration in a variety of subject areas.

### **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

#### **English (Grade 7)**

Seventh grade class will include a study of basic grammar mechanics, with emphasis on parts of speech, punctuation, and spelling. An English grammar text will be used. Students will read novels. Reading comprehension, vocabulary, and an introduction to the basic components of a short story will be included in the curriculum.

#### **English(Grade 8)**

An in-depth review of grammar mechanics is supplemented by the use of a grammar text. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge of grammar to creative writing. They will read several novels. In addition to a review of the components of a short story, students will be introduced to basic literary terms. Reading comprehension and vocabulary study will be included in the literature units.

### **MATH DEPARTMENT**

#### **Seventh Grade Math**

This course covers the following concepts: order of operations, decimal numbers, fractions, mixed numbers, linear measure, area and perimeter of basic figures, volume, place value, percent, ratio, proportion, unit conversion, rounding, square root, angle measurement, rectangular coordinates, probability, statistics, number theory, and solving equations. The four basic operations are used with the various number systems as well as some of their basic properties.

#### **Eighth Grade Math**

This course covers the following concepts: fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, word problems, area, percent, ratio, proportion, order of operations, positive and negative number facts, exponents, square roots, solving equations, geometry facts, rectangular coordinates, inequalities, probability, statistics, and beginning concepts of algebra in order to give a good foundation for algebra I.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of Department

#### **Eighth Grade Math (Algebra I)**

Topics studied in Algebra I will include: variables; evaluating expressions, the distributive property in combining like terms; word problems; signed number practices; solving linear equations; various methods of factoring polynomial; and coordinate plane, along with adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing algebraic fractions.

Prerequisite: recommendation of the department

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

\*\* 7th graders are required to take either Band or Choir or may take both. 8th Grade - music is an elective.

### Junior High Band

Band members will use standard concert band literature and method books to improve their individual playing skills and develop their performance as a group. Some of the concepts that will be further explored and enhanced will include tone production, rhythm, correct playing posture, concert scales, and basic music theory as it relates to the concert band setting. Students will have the opportunity to perform solos at contest, or participate in clinics if they so desire. Junior High Band will meet three times a week. Attendance at concerts, contest, and public performances is required. A uniform of black pants and white tuxedo shirt is required.

### Junior High Choir Boys and Girls

This course will include learning music fundamentals, appreciation and singing. A variety of styles of music will be introduced and proper singing techniques will be emphasized as will appropriate concert behavior. Attendance at public performances and contests is required. A uniform of black pants and white tuxedo shirt is required.

### Junior High Show Choirs (7th grade & 8th grade)

These groups will perform for various functions as well as at concerts. Proper singing techniques and simple choreography will be emphasized.

Tryouts will be held for second semester to create a smaller select group. Others will be reassigned to a study hall.

Prerequisite: approval of instructor

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### Girls Physical Education (Grades 7 and 8)

The primary goals of the program are to promote growth and development of the body system, to improve muscle and nerve coordination and to allow wholesome situations in competitive and cooperative activities. The curriculum will include: volleyball, basketball, track and field, weight training for 8<sup>th</sup> grade only, conditioning, and miscellaneous games.

A non-credit unit on weight training is available after school but not required in the eighth grade.

### Boys Physical Education (Grades 7 and 8)

The goals of the program are to promote growth and development of the body system, to improve muscle and nerve coordination and to allow wholesome situations in competitive and cooperative activities. A majority of this will be done during football, basketball and track practice. The curriculum will include: skills testing, flexibility testing, contact football, miscellaneous games, basketball, wrestling, weight training for 8<sup>th</sup> grade only, and track and field.

A non-credit unit on weight training is available after school but not required in the eighth grade.

## **RELIGION DEPARTMENT**

### **7th Religion - Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life**

In this course students will discover who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him. They will be invited to become closer to Jesus in faith, hope and love.

### **8th Religion - The Church - Its Mystery, Tradition and Witness**

The course is designed to help students grow in their appreciation and understanding of the Church, its place in God's plan and in their lives as mother and teacher.

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**

The seventh graders will be presented an overview of using scientific skills such as using the metric system, scientific method, explaining various concepts, and applying these to real life situations. Topics to be covered will include: metric measurements, density, scientific explanation, chemistry, microscopes, cells, heredity, plate tectonics, rocks and minerals, and weather. The class involves lectures, note-taking, labs, individual works, and putting together a portfolio each quarter.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**

The eighth graders will continue to use scientific skills learned in Science 7. Topics to be covered will include: ecology, environmental science, diversity, evolution, astronomy, chemistry, energy, forces and motion, and plants. The class involves lectures, note-taking, labs, individual works, and conducting a science fair project.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

### **Nebraska History/World Geography (Grade 7)**

In Nebraska History, students will study the history and development of Nebraska, including state and local governmental departments, as they now exist. Special emphasis will also be placed on current events as they relate to life in Nebraska.

In World Geography, students will study the physical and cultural features of the Western Hemisphere. The course will focus on how people use the earth and how the earth influences the way people live. Students will cover modern topics including cultures as well as current and past occurrences in the regions.

### **American History (Grade 8)**

Students will study about the American way of life, its history, government, economy and international relationships from the discovery of the Americas up to and including (1850) the Civil War period.