

GRADE 7

**2010-2011
CURRICULUM
HANDBOOK**



**ELKHORN MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

WELCOME

We welcome you and your children to ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL. Our middle school curriculum is designed to meet the needs of a special group of students; the 10-14 year olds. It is academic, but also exploratory. While basic skills are emphasized in core areas, exploratory experiences expose students to additional areas to help them develop new interests, to appreciate the fine and applied arts, and to expand their talents.

We look forward to working with you to help your children move successfully and happily through these transitional years. Adolescents require understanding, love, and patience from their parents, teachers, and other adults in their lives. This handbook is designed to acquaint you with the middle school curriculum and activities. We hope it will answer your questions about our program and give you insight as you join us in helping your child(ren) make the incredible journey from childhood to adolescence.

ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and responsible environment for developing young adolescents into life-long learners through educational excellence.

TEAM CONCEPT

The ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL program is designed to promote success. Students are assigned to an academic team composed of five teachers in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade. The team serves several purposes. Team teachers are responsible for teaching Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. The team affords flexibility in scheduling. In addition, the team provides a small unit within the school to allow for more personalized instruction and interaction between teachers and students.

The team teachers, because of their common planning time, are able to work closely to plan appropriate instructional and social strategies for students. Planning time also provides a time to conference with parents and/or resource personnel regarding special learning and behavior needs of individual students.

Through a total team effort, ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL will work to provide each student with opportunities to grow in knowledge of the academic subjects, performance of life skills and the ability to accept and follow through with responsibilities. Self-discipline is probably the most important aspect to student success. Our team work is focused on helping each student develop that sense of self-responsibility.

GRADING

The grades that are earned at the Middle School become part of the student's permanent record. Grades from the Middle School help to determine which classes students may be eligible for at the High School. As daily grades are taken in class, regular attendance is essential. Due to the participation and class interactions, grades reflect academic knowledge, attendance, and responsibility. Students are encouraged to do their best and to prepare all work in the best possible manner. ALL subject areas use the 1-5 grading system, unless otherwise stated.

The grading scale is:

1 = 93%-100%
2 = 85%-92%
3 = 78%-84%
4 = 70%-77%
5 = 0%-69%

IN = Work Incomplete
P = Pass
F = Fail

LANGUAGE ARTS - 7TH GRADE **(CORE CLASS)**

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Seventh grade Language Arts continues to emphasize the development of both oral and written communication skills. Students are exposed to a wide variety of language arts experiences including the following:

1. Composition (a 6 trait writing model will be the primary tool for writing instruction: organization, conventions, sentence fluency, word choice, voice, and ideas).
2. Oral Communication (may include informative speech, persuasive speech, informal presentations, and class discussion)
3. Grammar, mechanics, and usage.
4. Vocabulary/Spelling

TEXTS: The Handbook, Holt, 2004

READING - 7TH GRADE **(CORE CLASS)**

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is divided into various components. The first component is individual class work involving reading and discussing, in large and/or small groups, a variety of short stories, novels, poetry and plays. The second component is vocabulary. This is a study of essential word parts and definitions designed to improve reading vocabulary and word recognition. The third component is AR, or Accelerated Reader. It is a learning information system that manages the testing, record keeping, and reporting on individual student progress. This learning system encourages increased reading time and works on the student's comprehension. The fourth component is the State Standards. This component includes time spent in class learning and reviewing the various elements that are tested in 8th grade.

The core texts for reading in 7th grade

Anthologies: Prentice Hall Literature – Bronze Level

Novels:

Non-Fiction: The Acorn People-Jones
 Farewell to Manzanar-Houston
 Journey to Topaz-Uchida

Mystery: The Westing Game-Rankin
 And Then There Were None-Christie

Sci-Fi: Singularity-Sleator
 A Wrinkle in Time-L'Engle
 The House With a Clock in its Walls-Bellairs

In addition to the core materials, the teacher may add other readings as needed or desired.

Other skills covered in this course will be:

1. Technology work for individual or group presentations
2. Alternative Reading Strategies
3. Oral presentations of individual and group projects
- 4.

Reading is a skill. The more you do it, the better you become! Reading aloud helps improve fluency skills; practice daily

MATH 7
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: Acceptance into 7th grade and a good working knowledge of the basic math skills; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Areas that will be covered are:

1. Understanding and interpreting data
2. Applying whole number and decimal operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
3. Using algebraic equations and formulas
4. Studying patterns with numbers and geometry
5. Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions
6. Using ratios, proportions and percents
7. Probability and statistics
8. Measurement
9. Integers and coordinate graphing

TEXT: Mathematics Applications and Connections – Glencoe/McGraw-Hill

PRE-ALGEBRA - 7TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: Teacher recommendation based on Stanford 10 Achievement scores and previous years Math performance.

* A 6th grader is eligible for this course with a teacher recommendation, a 1 in the previous years Math class, and exceptional performance on the Orleans-Hanna Aptitude test and the Stanford 10 Achievement test.

*A 7th grader is eligible for 8th Grade Algebra with a teacher recommendation, successful completion of 7th grade Pre-Algebra and exceptional performance on the Orleans-Hanna Aptitude test and the Stanford 10 Achievement test.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will cover all topics of math that will prepare the student for Algebra I, including:

1. Integers
2. Equations & Inequalities (solving and graphing)
3. Fractions
4. Rational Numbers
5. Ratio, Proportion & percent
6. Real Numbers & Right Triangles
7. 2 & 3 Dimensional figures
8. Probability & Statistics

TEXT: Pre-Algebra – Glencoe/McGraw-Hill

SCIENCE - 7TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an integrated science course covering Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. Units covered will include: Inside Earth; Astronomy; Motion, Forces, and Energy; and Human Biology and Health.

In addition to learning the science concepts of each discipline, students will gain an understanding of the skills necessary to perform scientific investigations.

TEXT: Holt Science & Technology Series

WORLD HISTORY - 7TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will trace the development of humankind from prehistoric times to modern times with perspectives on the future. Each unit will explore a different period of history and the variety of social studies found in the cultures of those periods. Units may include prehistoric hunter-gatherers, the ancient civilizations of the Middle East, Africa and Asia, the Greeks and Romans, The Middle Ages, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Revolution, Imperialism, war and peace, comparative systems and futures.

TEXT: History of Our World - Prentice Hall

EXPLORATORY BLOCK
(6 Weeks) All seventh grade students rotate through each program

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS – 7TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course allows students to use the computer technology to solve problems, create products, utilize information, and increase academic and personal productivity. Various types of technology and software programs will be introduced.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS: Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- use word processing software appropriately
- web page development
- develop Multi media projects
- explore internet safety
- graphics editing
- explore technology vocabulary
- use the internet for topic research and planning
- understand and recognize computer ethics and piracy.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY- 7TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course involves an applied approach to a newly developed Technology Education utilizing computer technology in office like modules. Designing and making a CO2 car will be incorporated as one of the hands-on activities. Curriculum will focus around the four components of industrial technology: Manufacturing Technology, Communication Technology, Construction Technology and Transportation Technology.

TEXT: Technology - Delmar Publications Inc.

EXPLORATORY FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE – 7TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Middle School Family and Consumer Science Program will be delivered in a student-centered, modular education classroom setting. The courses involve an applied approach to curriculum focused around the following areas: Food science and nutrition, cooking skills, basic sewing and design, fashion and textiles, interior design, family issues, child development, consumer knowledge and life skills. Students will be involved in research, challenging hands-on activities, experiments, problem solving practices and group work.

GRADING: A student's grade is based on points earned from classroom participation and modular work.

ART – 7TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will include a 2-D unit further exploring elements of art and design. It will also include a pottery unit that will include more advanced hand building techniques.

HEALTH – 7TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The seventh grade health class focuses on aspects of human growth and development and family life education. Topics include: making healthy choices, self respect issues, puberty and adolescence, human reproduction, pregnancy, prenatal development and child birth, relationship skills, dating, teen pregnancy, sexual harassment and abuse and sexually transmitted diseases. Parents/guardians are asked to be involved with this class by discussing take home assignment sheet questions with their child.

GRADING: A student's grade is based on points earned from classroom participation, worksheets, quizzes, written work, etc.

*Classroom resources are available for parent review. See the health teacher.

SPEECH & DRAMA – 7TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK – 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this exploratory class students will explore the basics of speech and theater. The goal of this class will be to develop communication and listening skills. The purpose of the class will be to introduce students to abstract communication. This class will focus on oral interpretation and theater. Students will identify with character and setting. They will present character through analysis of literature and presentation. They will develop both character and setting by working collaboratively to perform a scene for an audience.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 7TH GRADE
(REQUIRED CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: As a part of the total school curriculum, Physical Education offers an organized, sequential progression of activities which provide for the social, physical, intellectual, and emotional development of children through the medium of physical activity.

ACTIVITIES:

Soccer	Indoor Hockey	Basketball	Indoor Soccer
Cross Country	Physical Fitness test	Badminton/Ping Pong	Softball
Volleyball	Wrestling	Flag Football	Bowling
Weight Training	Ultimate Frisbee	Archery	

DAILY ROUTINE: Class period 43 minutes.
5 minutes - dress
8 minutes - exercise
5 minutes - shower

UNIFORM:

Tee shirt, shorts, tennis shoes, sweat socks, and towel.

GRADING: 1-5 (1=Excellent; 2=Good; 3=Average; 4=Pass; and 5=Fail) Grades are determined using a demerit system based on three areas: Skill-Improvement, Attitude/Dress and Written Test.

LOCKS: All lockers in the locker room will come with a lock. There is a \$5 fine for any lost lock.

WORLD LANGUAGE – SPANISH – 7TH GRADE
(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)
(EVERY OTHER DAY OPPOSITE P.E./MUSIC)

Course Description: This class is an all year class designed to focus on communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Students will enhance basic skills in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding the Spanish language as well as gain a greater understanding of Spanish culture. The Spanish course is designed to be a two-year offering leading into the high school. Students who successfully complete Spanish 7 and Spanish 8 will be able to enroll in Spanish II at the high school allowing for a total of 5 years of foreign language class to be taken if so desired.

CHORUS – 7TH GRADE **(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)**

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: To establish proper vocal technique and musical style by reinforcing what was learned in 6th grade chorus. Knowledge through singing choral music and vocal exercises. Skills developed in 3-part singing and introduction into 4-part singing. A variety of musical experiences and performances are covered throughout the year with three concerts. Seventh grade chorus students may audition for EMS “Classics” Show Choir.

Chorus is a yearlong commitment. A written note from the parent is required if a student would like to drop chorus.

TEXT: Sing From Octavos

BAND – 7TH GRADE **(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)**

PREREQUISITES: 6th grade band or permission of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The 7th grade band has as its goals the learning of a variety of music styles in full band arrangements. Rehearsal procedures and increased musical awareness, rhythm, key signature, and counting are stressed. Students will perform in three concerts plus one middle school music contest in the spring semester.

Band is a semester course with a semester commitment. Students enrolled must complete the full term of each semester. There is a one week period at the beginning of each semester during which a student may drop band. Students are asked to provide the director with a written note from the parent making this request.

TEXT: Standard of Excellence Book II

CONCERT DRESS: Students will need to wear black pants, black socks, black shoes, and an EMS “Noteworthy” t-shirt.

GRADING: Grades will be determined by participation, effort, and attitude in class; individual playing skills such as rhythms and scales; fingerings; vocabulary; home practice; and attendance at events.

SPECIAL EDUCATION – 7TH GRADE **Resource Room (Additional Offering)**

PREREQUISITES: Students must first be referred by a teacher or parent. Screening of student's records will determine if individual psychological tests are necessary. Placement is dependent on test results.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The resource program provides collaborative support for students in the regular classroom. Adaptations of assignments and tests, study guides, oral reading of tests, and use of technology such as the Kurzweil program are some of the options available where needed. Individual resource classes are offered when inclusion within the regular classroom is not conducive to student's needs and learning. Each student's program will be designed to meet individual academic, behavioral, social and emotional needs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION – 7TH GRADE
Life Skills Program (Additional Offering)

PREREQUISITES: Student's IEP Team Recommendation

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Life Skills Program is an integration of functional academic, community living and personal/social skills. Students will work on prevocational, recreation/leisure, and home living skills. Students also work on specific curricula to assist them in becoming active participants in the community.

HIGH ABILITY LEARNER EDUCATION – 7TH GRADE
(H.A.L.E.) - (Additional Offering)

PREREQUISITES: Admission to the H.A.L.E. program:

- Student must achieve 115 or above on a Scholastic Aptitude Measure
- Achievement level total composite of 95% or higher on a standardized achievement test
- Achievement level of 96% or higher on any sub test of a standardized achievement test in the areas of total reading, language arts, mathematics, science or social studies
- Nomination by teacher, parent, self, or peer using a specific list of characteristics

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Middle School program primarily employs interest based seminars and workshops to achieve program goals. Many of the enrichment activities are related to what is happening in the core classrooms. There are also competition based activities for students seeking additional challenges: SIGMA, Current Events, Geography Bee, History Day, Quiz Bowl, Future Cities, as well as other opportunities are available/offered during the school year.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

BOYS

FOOTBALL	INTERSCHOLASTIC – 7 TH & 8 TH
BASKETBALL	INTERSCHOLASTIC – 7 TH & 8 TH
WRESTLING	INTERSCHOLASTIC – 7 TH & 8 TH
TRACK	INTERSCHOLASTIC – 7 TH & 8 TH INTRAMURAL – RUNNING CLUB

GIRLS

VOLLEYBALL	INTERSCHOLASTIC – 7 TH & 8 TH
BASKETBALL	INTERSCHOLASTIC – 7 TH & 8 TH
TRACK	INTERSCHOLASTIC – 7 TH & 8 TH INTRAMURAL – RUNNING CLUB