

GRADE 7

**2010-2011
CURRICULUM
HANDBOOK**



**ELKHORN RIDGE
MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

WELCOME

We welcome you and your children to ELKHORN RIDGE 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 children make the incredible journey from childhood to adolescence.

ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Elkhorn Ridge Middle School to:

- Provide a safe learning environment that nurtures, challenges and encourages each to reach his or her full learning potential.
- Create an educational program teaching to the needs and characteristics of early adolescents.
- Work collaboratively with students, families, school district personnel, and the community in equipping students with the necessary skills to become productive and responsible citizens.

TEAM CONCEPT

The ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL program is designed to promote success. Students are assigned to an academic team 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 behavioral and instructional 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, the ELKHORN RIDGE 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 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. Middle School grades 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 performance and attendance. 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

POWERSCHOOL

Parents have the ability to view their child's academic progress through the internet. Parents can request a username and password for each child that would allow them to track homework completion and current grade status.

COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY

Communication is an essential part of Elkhorn Ridge Middle School. At no time should parents be in doubt of what and how their child is doing in school. If parents are concerned about their child's progress or have questions about the curriculum at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School please use one of the communication tools available for parents/students or check out the full curriculum on the school web site at www.elkhorn.esu3.org. Curriculum is located under the school programs link.

We will make a sincere effort to keep you informed about your child's educational progress, needs and successes. We also encourage you to keep us informed of any problems your son or daughter is experiencing that may be affecting his or her adjustment and performance at school. Together, as partners in education, our youth will be provided with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and character development necessary to lead productive lives.

Elkhorn Ridge Communication Tools:

- Teacher – Voicemail - 334-9302
- Counselor – Ms. Sideris - 334-9302
- Assistant Principal – Mr. Soupir - 334-9302
- Principal – Mr. Riggert - 334-9302
- Power School - See grading description
- Myelearning (teacher web page) (located on school web page under teacher web page tab)

Reporting Student Progress

The school year is divided into four periods called quarters. Each quarter is approximately nine weeks in length. Grade reports are issued at mid-quarter and at the end of the quarter. Teachers may issue progress reports for their individual courses on a more frequent basis. The quarter schedule for 2009-2010 is:

- Quarter 1 – October 22nd
- Quarter 2 – January 15th
- Quarter 3 – March 18th
- Quarter 4 – May 27th

HIGH FIVE CURRICULUM

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens

By Sean Covey

In the 21st century, our students need to be better equipped to handle and manage a schedule that can easily be overloaded with information. An effective tool for learning time management is found in this book by Covey. This is a step-by-step guide to building self-image, identifying priorities, setting goals, building relationships with friends and parents, and resisting peer pressure.

The foundation for instruction is built around the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. The examples included in the book are stories by today's teens. The workbook includes activities that help students to identify where they spend their time and how to use it more efficiently.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES FORMAT

We will be using a student-led conference format for sixth grade. Student-led conferences provide a stronger sense of accountability among students, a stronger sense of pride in achievement among students, more productive student-teacher relationships, improves student-parent relationships, and develops leadership skills among students.

Each student invites his or her parents and teachers to attend a meeting concerning their educational goals and progress in meeting those goals. The meetings are facilitated by the student and follow an agenda that the student has developed prior to the meeting. During the meeting, the student shares his or her educational goals and examples of his or her work (portfolio). The student also analyzes his or her strengths and weaknesses, and reflects upon the educational consequences of choices the student has made. Together, the student, teachers and parents determine what each will do to help the student move closer to the student's educational goals.

Parents will be notified with details when your child will be presenting their student-led conference.

If this format does not meet your needs, please notify your child's teacher to schedule a conference with them.

COURSES OFFERED

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
High 5	High 5	High 5
Core: Math 6 / Pre-Concepts Language Arts Reading Social Studies Integrated Science	Core: Math 7/Pre-Algebra Language Arts Reading Social Studies Integrated Science	Core: Pre-Algebra/Algebra Language Arts Reading Social Studies Integrated Science
Exploratory: (6 weeks) Art Family Consumer Science Fitness for Life Health Industrial Technology Key Boarding	Exploratory: (6 weeks) Art Family Consumer Science Fitness for Life Health Industrial Technology Computer Applications	Exploratory: (6 weeks) Art Family Consumer Science Fitness for Life Health Industrial Technology Advanced Applications
Specials: *Chorus *Band Physical Education Language Experience	Specials: *Chorus *Band Physical Education *Spanish	Specials: *Chorus *Band Physical Education *Spanish

* See registration for further explanation

ACTIVITIES AT ELKHORN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Athletics:

Boys Athletics:

Sport	Season	Grade Level	Interscholastic/Intramural
Football	Fall	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic
Basketball	Winter (Nov. – Jan.)	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic & Intramural
Wrestling	Winter (Jan. – March)	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic
Track	Spring	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic

Girls Athletics:

Sport	Season	Grade Level	Interscholastic/Intramural
Volleyball	Fall	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic & Intramural
Basketball	Winter (Jan. – March)	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic & Intramural
Track	Spring	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic

Non-Athletics:

Activity	Season	Grade Level
Science Bowl	Fall – Winter	All
Math Counts	Fall – Winter	All
Computer Club	Fall – Spring	All
Year Book	Fall – Spring	All
Student Council	Fall – Spring	All
Chess Club	Fall – Spring	All
Science Olympiad	Fall – Spring	All

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
5. Library/Research Skills

TEXT: **Holt Handbook First Course**, Holt/Rinehart/Winston, 2003.

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

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Reading is a skill. The more you do it, the better you become.

This course is divided into various components. The first component is class work involving reading and discussing a variety of short stories, novels, poetry and plays. The second component, Accelerated Reader, is a learning information system that manages the testing, record keeping, and reporting on individual student reading practice. This learning system encourages increased reading time and works on the student's comprehension. The third 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

Anthology: **Prentice Hall Literature – Bronze Level**

Novels: **The Acorn People** - Jones

A Wrinkle in Time - L'Engle

Farewell to Manzanar - Houston/Journey to Topaz-Uchida

The Westing Game - Raskin

And Then There Were None - Christie

Red Scarf Girl - Jiang

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. Vocabulary – including tests
3. Library skills
4. Reading Fluency

MATH - 7TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course students will have acquired a good working knowledge of the basic math skills; addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They will acquire information in the following areas: Understanding and interpreting data; Applying whole number and decimal operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; Using algebraic equations and formulas; Studying patterns with numbers and geometry; Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions; Using ratios, proportions and percents; Probability and statistics; Measurement; and Integers and coordinate graphing.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Problem solving
2. Statistics and data analysis
3. Applications with scientific notation/metric system
4. Patterns and number sense
5. Applications with fractions
6. An introduction to Algebra
7. Integers
8. Investigations into geometry
9. Area
10. Surface area and volume
11. Ratio, proportion, and percent
12. Application with percent
13. Discrete math and probability
14. Functions and graphs

TEXT: **Mathematics Applications and Connections Course II** – Glencoe/McGraw/Hill, 2006.

PRE-ALGEBRA - 7TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: In this course students have already been identified and have taken the 6th grade pre-concepts math course. If a student is new to the district and wants to be placed in Pre-Algebra, they will need to provide their scores, in all of the core classes, from their previous school and take the Orleans-Hanna. On the Orleans-Hanna they will need to score a minimum of an 85%.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will cover topics that prepare the students for Algebra I, including the following: Evaluating expressions (numeric or variable), Order of operation, Commutative, associative, and distributive properties, Integer operations, Problem solving (equations and non-equations), The decimal system and the metric system, Bases other than ten, Fractions, Using formulas, Squares and square roots, Ratios, proportions, An introduction to computers, Adding and subtracting variable expressions, Multiplying and dividing variable expressions, Geometric figures, and Linear graphing.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Exploring Patterns
2. Investigating in Algebra
3. Modeling Integers
4. Exploring the Language of Algebra
5. Data and Graphs
6. Number Theory
7. Rational Numbers and Percents
8. Proportion, Percent and Probability
9. Real Numbers and Inequalities
10. Geometry Concepts and Spatial Thinking
11. Congruence, Similarity, and Transformations
12. Measurements in Geometry
13. Exploring Linear Equations
14. Exploring Data and Polynomials

TEXT: **Pre-Algebra 7** – Glencoe/McGraw/Hill, 2005

ALGEBRA - 8TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: Teacher recommendation based on Stanford 10 Achievement scores, Orleans Hanna Aptitude test and previous years Math performance.

* A 7th grader is eligible for this course 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.

* An 8th grader could take Geometry with teacher recommendation and successful completion of Algebra.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will cover topics of math that will prepare students for Geometry, including:

- * Real Numbers
- * Equations, Inequalities, and Functions
- * Systems of Equations and Inequalities
- * Polynomials
- * Data Analysis and Probability

TEXT: Algebra I, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2007.

WEB: go.hrw.com

INTEGRATED SCIENCE - 7TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an integrated science course covering all 4 scientific disciplines – Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics. Units covered will include: Human Biology and Health, Inside Earth, Astronomy, Earth's Changing Surface and Electricity and Magnetism.

TEXT: Holt Science and Technology short course series, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2007.

WORLD HISTORY - 7TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will trace the development of humankind from prehistoric to modern times. Each unit will explore a different period of world history from a variety of social science perspectives. Units will include prehistoric hunter-gatherers, the ancient civilizations of the Middle East, Africa and Asia, world religions, the Greeks and Romans, The Middle Ages, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Revolutions, Imperialism, war and peace, comparative systems, modern issues and the future.

TEXT: Human Heritage, Glencoe McGraw /Hill, 1999.

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to be a two- year commitment focusing 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. With successful completion of 7th grade Spanish and teacher recommendation, the student will be registered for Spanish 8. Additional options are possible based upon parent/ teacher/ administrator discretion.

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	Softball
Volleyball	Track & Field	Flag Football	Bowling
Weight Training	Special Development	Frisbee	Archery
Wrestling			

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

UNIFORM:
Must wear tennis shoes and have change of clothes.

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.

CHORUS - 7TH GRADE (ADDITIONAL OFFERING)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: To establish proper vocal technique and musical style. 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.

Chorus 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 chorus. Students are asked to provide the director with a written note from the parent making this request.

TEXT: Sing From Octavos

GRADING: Grades will be determined by participation and attitude in class and performances, individual skills such as solfege, rhythm, notes, and classroom work.

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 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

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

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

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.

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
- develop Multimedia projects
- learn to properly navigate the web
- use the internet for topic research and planning
- understand and recognize computer ethics and piracy
- plan and develop a flowchart that can be followed to create a project
- develop a web site that incorporates text, graphics, links, and provides useful information

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.

FITNESS FOR LIFE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will gain the necessary tools to develop their own fitness plan that they can apply throughout their entire life. Each student will learn how to maintain their fitness plan while taking into consideration certain health concepts such as healthy nutrition, caloric intake and proper hydration. By learning fitness and health concepts, students will hopefully create positive lifetime habits.

GRADING: Grading 1-5 scale

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.

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 Pub. Inc.

GRADING: Students will be graded on orientation (100 pts) and 3 Module Rotations (100 pts each).

SPECIAL EDUCATION - 7TH GRADE
(Resource Room) - (Additional Offering)

PREREQUISITES: Students must 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 90% 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 independent study to achieve program goals. Appropriate pacing of curriculum ensures that the rapid learner is challenged. Curriculum compacting is available for those students able to demonstrate mastery of skills. Creative activities such as Destination Imagination are also included. Competitions such as Math Counts, Sigma, American Junior High Mathematics Competition, Math Olympiad, Science Olympiad, Speech Contest and History Day are some of the activities available for students seeking additional challenges.