

# CMS-East

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Catalog



Home of the Broncos

## **Summer Opportunities for Enrichment**

### **Math 6 to Pre-AP Math 7**

This course is designed for students who were in a regular math course in grade 6 and are enrolling in a Pre-AP math course in grade 7. Students attending this optional course will receive instruction in missed content that was included in the Pre-AP Math 6 course.

### **Math 7 to Pre-AP Algebra 1**

This course is designed for students who were in a regular math course in grade 7 and are enrolling in a Pre-AP math course in grade 8. Students attending this optional course will receive instruction in missed content that was included in the Pre-AP Math 6 course.

# Middle School GT Program

Gifted and Talented classes are offered in mathematics, language and literacy, social studies, and science. GT students must take at least one GT class to continue as an active GT student.

The following describes the GT curriculum for middle school:

## Concept based curriculum

- Teach established generalizations surrounding concepts
- Focus instruction around essential questions
- Students learn independently to acquire grade specific content

## How this meets GT Program Goals:

- Self-Directed Learning
  - Students regularly engage in independent research on grade specific content
- Research
  - Students will be specifically taught to do independent research and write in appropriate formats to communicate what they are learning.
  - Development of sophisticated research skills will be a hallmark of this GT Program.
- Thinking
  - (Critical) Students will be taught critical thinking skills through the conceptual thinking, generalizations, and essential questions.
  - (Creative) Students will develop multiple products to reflect creative thinking based on the research and content of the GT courses.
  - (Analysis and Application) Students will learn to apply knowledge in new and novel situations and analyze all new information in light of principles and generalizations.
- Communication
  - Students will develop communication skills through presentations including multiple forms of media.
  - Students will learn authentic forms of communication within each discipline including most current digital forms of communication.
  - All forms of independent learning and research will culminate in a product that effectively communicates.

## How this program fits well for gifted learners:

- Open-ended curriculum and instruction
- Authentic assessment with products and performances
- Student choice to focus on topics of interest through independent research
- Conceptual learning beginning with the big picture and classical questions in each discipline
- Self-directed learning with student choices in research promotes self-understanding
- Potential to develop sound liberal foundations while also developing specialized competencies within each discipline

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Course Descriptions

### Required Courses

#### **Language Arts 7 (1 Period)**

Students will improve their skills in oral and written communication in four basic areas: grammar, spelling, writing and literature. The writing process is emphasized throughout the year. Students will continue to improve reading skills including decoding, vocabulary building, and comprehension. Critical thinking skills are developed as an integral part of all language arts activities.

#### **Pre AP Language Arts 7 (1 Period)**

The Pre-AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. The middle level Pre-AP Language Arts classes are designed to support and prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

#### **GT Language Arts (1 Period)**

GT language arts and reading engages gifted learners in the major concepts of literacy and language development through advanced content instruction. This course emphasizes critical, creative, and analytical thinking; self-directed, independent research; and communication with writing, speaking, and interactive media. Students in the GT language arts and reading course will read widely from required and self-selected texts; they will write regularly in multiple formats including persuasive and expository modes. Students will select independent research topics and develop skills of academic research as they explore concepts and ideas in greater depth. Students will develop advanced level products and performances which reflect complex thinking and innovative applications of ideas and concepts connecting the intellectual heritage of the past to the dynamic culture of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *Students must be identified gifted according to CISD selection criteria.*

#### **Math 7 (1 Period)**

This course continues from MATH 6 to build an algebraic foundation within the five content strands of mathematics: Number Sense and Operations, Algebraic Reasoning, Geometric Reasoning, Measurement, and Probability and Statistics. The development of the rational number system (fractions and decimals), the use of the variable to solve mathematical problems, and the Cartesian coordinate system are emphasized. This course also assists students in developing analytic skills such as problem solving, estimation, and mathematical reasoning

### **Pre AP Math 7 (1 Period)**

Students will study how to apply graphing and algebraic techniques to describe the linear relationship between two variables. Students also begin an understanding of rate of change and accumulation of area. Students will constantly use the rational number system, multiple variables, and the Cartesian coordinate system to demonstrate a mature understanding of how to solve complex problems that involve multiple concepts. Students will be expected to demonstrate independence in their ability to reason analytically at a demanding pace. It is important to note that this course covers all 8<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS and a portion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS. *\*CISD strongly recommends Pre-AP MATH 7 to students who have completed Pre-AP MATH 6.*

### **GT Mathematics (1 Period)**

GT mathematics engages gifted learners in the major concepts of number sense, problem solving, and mathematical analysis. Students will develop mathematical thinking and reasoning skills including making conjectures and developing sound deductive arguments as a basis for developing new insights and promoting further study of mathematics. Students in GT mathematics will learn new concepts and skills in the context of solving problems. The advanced content of GT mathematics will allow students to grapple with open-ended questions and challenges that encourage students to develop alternative and creative solutions to problems. Students will develop advanced level products and performances which reflect complex thinking and innovative applications of ideas and concepts connecting the intellectual heritage of the past to the dynamic culture of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *Students must be identified gifted according to CISD selection criteria.*

### **Science 7 (1 Period)**

Science 7 is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. Through scientific investigation and reasoning, students develop an understanding of the structures, functions and processes of living things and the interactions of organisms with their environments. Other areas of study include matter and energy, force and motion, and earth and space science. Throughout the course, student scientists become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry.

### **Pre AP Science 7 (1 Period)**

The Pre-AP Science 7 course is designed to help students improve their ability to collect, analyze and synthesize data into understandable models and frameworks and to convey their understandings in a variety of formats, including narrative, numeric and graphic. The purpose of the course is to prepare students for the challenges of an AP science course.

### **GT Science (1 Period)**

GT science engages gifted learners in the major concepts of science and the scientific method of inquiry. Students will study the nature, structure, and processes of science focusing on how one arrives at scientific conclusions. Open-ended laboratory experiences will develop the scientific thinking talents of students as they engage in self-directed, independent research. The GT science course emphasizes critical and creative thinking as students explore in-depth topics and appreciate the role science places in the research and innovation. Students will practice skills of scientific literacy including methods of scientific communication and discourse. Students will develop advanced level products and performances which reflect complex thinking and innovative applications of ideas and concepts connecting the intellectual heritage of the past to the dynamic culture of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *Students must be identified gifted according to CISD selection criteria.*

**Texas History 7 (1 Period)**

The scope and sequence of Texas History in seventh grade involves the study of geography, Native Americans, explorers, founders, and modern Texas. Special emphasis is given to Texas heroes, the study of family and ethnic heritage, and local history. A major objective of the course is to introduce the student to the legends and truths that combine to make Texas such a unique and colorful state.

**Pre AP Texas History 7 (1 Period)**

This course is designed to provide students an opportunity to obtain a more in-depth study of Texas history. Emphasis is placed on developing knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable students to research projects, analyze materials, and draw conclusions based on academic reasoning. Course content includes studies of the history and development of the state from early times through the present.

**GT Pre-AP Texas History (1 Period)**

GT social studies engages gifted learners in the major concepts of culture and history through advanced content instruction. This course emphasizes critical, creative, and analytical thinking; self-directed, independent research; and communication with writing, speaking, and interactive media. Students in GT social studies will develop historical research capabilities and practice historical analysis and interpretation through a concept-based curriculum. Students will gain historical and cultural knowledge, learn to examine assumptions and conclusions, and conduct their own research using inquiry methods of the social scientist. Students will develop advanced level products and performances which reflect complex thinking and innovative applications of ideas and concepts connecting the intellectual heritage of the past to the dynamic culture of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. ***Students must be identified gifted according to CISD selection criteria.***

## **Electives**

### **(Full year - 1 period each)**

#### **Grammar & Composition/ESL Communication:**

This course is required for beginning and intermediate English Language Learners in grades 6-8. Students will focus on language acquisition skills necessary for proficiency in oral and written basic interpersonal and academic communication in order to be successful in grade level academic classes in English. *(Students must qualify for this course.)*

#### **READ 180**

##### **Prerequisite: Teacher and Committee recommendation (RTI, 504 or ARD)**

This course utilizes the READ 180 instructional program designed for students who experience difficulty in reading. The class focuses on equipping students with the skills and strategies necessary to independently comprehend a wide range of texts. Students divide their time between independent reading, teacher-directed small group sessions, and individualized computer interaction. *(Students must qualify for this course.)*

#### **MTA**

##### **Prerequisite: Teacher and Committee recommendation (RTI, 504 or ARD)**

This course is designed to follow the CISD approved curriculum for students with dyslexia – MTA. (Multi-sensory Teaching Approach) Instruction is strategy oriented and addresses graphophonemic knowledge, reading proficiency, fluency, comprehension, and spelling. MTA includes Language Structure instruction that encompasses morphology, semantics, syntax, and pragmatics.

#### **Math Science Investigation**

The Math and Science Investigations course engages students in problem solving in the areas of engineering, forensic science and emerging media. Through inquiry and project based learning, students will hypothesize, acquire and analyze data, and formulate conclusions. Student investigators will experience science and mathematics as a vehicle for making meaning within a scientific investigation.

#### **Creative Writing/Reading Studio**

Students will be immersed in various fictional styles such as prose, poetry, and drama through self-selected and guided reading choices. Student discussion groups, author studies, and communication with Young Adult (YA) authors will provide rich ideas, models and feedback. While in this studio setting, students will discover their own writing style while crafting their own original texts. An emphasis will be on exploring genre-specific design features, imitating published authors' works, incorporating effective stylistic choices, and understanding the power of the purpose/audience filter. Students will build a portfolio of work throughout the course with the goal of publishing an original work at the end.

#### **Introduction to Chinese Culture**

This is an introduction to Chinese Culture designed for seventh graders. The approach will be one which sees **culture** as *the system of shared ideas and meanings, which a people use to interpret the world and which serve to pattern their behavior* [Patricia Ebrey]. Through an exploration of the Chinese culture, students will develop an understanding of the customs and the tradition of a civilization marked for over 3000 years. Students will

engage in hands-on activities, discussions and research. It will be engaging and enlightening in light of China's economic presence in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Multimedia 7**

#### **Prerequisite: Teacher approval**

Students learn the foundations of media, broadcasting and communications. Students will learn to create film segments, operate equipment to capture the scene and edit to a final product, while producing regular broadcast for our campus. Students will create interactive projects as outlined on the syllabus and a digital media portfolio.

### **Desktop Publishing/Yearbook 7**

#### **Prerequisite: Application and teacher approval**

This course is designed to help students learn about publishing. Students are selected for their reliability, character, enthusiasm to work and journalism skills. A current average of 85 or above in all classes and a 90 or above in English Language Arts & Reading is required. Students will produce the school yearbook and other print and digital publications.

### **Art A**

#### **This is for students who did not take Art in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.**

This beginning course provides students an opportunity to explore different artists, and a variety of techniques. Students will study skills and mediums including drawing, print-making, one-point perspective, Prisma Pencil techniques, color wheel, painting, human proportion, sculpture, calligraphy, ceramics, collage and fiber. Art history and aesthetic judgment are integrated into the course along with a study of other cultures and their art. Sketchbooks will be a weekly assignment for this class. *Art Supply fee of \$40.00 for students consumable materials.*

### **Art B**

#### **Prerequisite: Art A or teacher approval**

Skills learned in Art 6 will be extended. The skills may include shading forms, papier mache monsters, silk screening, linoleum prints, facial proportions and shading, mask making, ceramics, pen and ink, painting, and scratch board. Major units include self-portraits, animals, and papier mache. Art history and aesthetic judgment are also included. *Art Supply fee of \$40.00 for students consumable materials.*

### **Symphonic Band**

#### **Prerequisite: Audition or teacher approval**

The primary goal of the Symphonic Band is to challenge second and third year students and provide them an opportunity to strengthen technical skills on their instruments. This is accomplished through disciplined rehearsals, sectionals and participation in music festivals/competitions. Students must maintain academic eligibility in order to take full advantage of all band activities. Auditions for the symphonic/honor band are held at the conclusion of the previous year. Students signing up for this class are expected to attend all required band activities.

### **Honors Band**

#### **Prerequisite: Audition or teacher approval**

The primary goal of the Honor Band is to prepare students to enter the high school band program while continuing to strengthen musical and technical skills. This is accomplished through disciplined rehearsals, sectionals and participation in music festivals/competitions. Students must maintain academic eligibility in order to take full advantage of all band

activities. Auditions for the symphonic/honor band are held at the conclusion of the previous year. Students signing up for this class are expected to attend all required band activities.

### **Treble Choir**

Treble Choir is a performance class open to all seventh and eighth grade girls who enjoy singing. Students will learn the basics of proper singing with emphasis placed on solid musicianship. Performances throughout the year include school concerts, contests, festivals, and U.I.L. competition. These may include trips to surrounding districts and amusement parks. Opportunities for greater involvement as a soloist and in groups are available through Solo & Ensemble Contests, as well as Regional Honor Choirs.

### **Boys Choir**

Boys Choir is a performance class open to all boys in grades 6, 7, and 8 who enjoy singing. Students will learn the basics of proper singing with emphasis placed on solid musicianship. Performances throughout the year include school concerts, contests, and festivals. These may include trips to surrounding districts and amusement parks. Opportunities for greater involvement as a soloist and in groups are available through Solo & Ensemble Contests, as well as Regional Honor Choirs.

### **Select Choir**

**Prerequisite: Audition or teacher approval required.**

Select Choir is a performance class made up of auditioned seventh and eighth grade girls who enjoy singing at a more advanced level. Students will continue to learn the techniques of proper singing, with emphasis placed on advanced musicianship. Performances throughout the year include school concerts, contests, festivals, U.I.L. competition, and community events. Opportunities for greater involvement as a soloist and in groups are available through Solo & Ensemble Contests, as well as Regional Honor Choirs.

### **Applications in Music (Percussion)**

**Prerequisite: Teacher approval**

This course broadens the appreciation of music through a variety of musical pathways from choir to jazz band. One specific pathway will be determined and emphasized throughout the year. This class places strong emphasis on the technical and musical abilities of its students so that they will be able to perform literature appropriate to the musical ability of the students within this ensemble. Musical analysis and individual performance are also strongly emphasized to exhibit proper musical techniques.

### **Theatre**

Dramatic structure, acting techniques, and technical elements will be covered in greater depth in both production and scene studies. Other units of study will include Shakespearean Comedy and Theatre History. Theatre students will produce at least one play as well as several performance pieces. This class focuses on improving performance and technical skills.

### **Physical Education**

Two years of physical education is required in middle school. Students can take P.E. in 6th, 7th or 8th grade. Physical education is a non-competitive class which is considered recreational. The activities include volleyball, basketball, soccer, softball, and introduction to weight lifting, track/field, kickball, speedball, ultimate Frisbee, ping pong, badminton, flag football, fitness conditioning and the Fitness Gram Test. ***A P.E. uniform is required and can be ordered through the PTO.***

## **Athletics**

Athletics is an extracurricular activity that is made up of highly competitive sports. Athletics can take the place of a P.E. credit and is offered to 7th and 8th graders. The programs are governed by the rules and regulations of the University Interscholastic League. Athletics includes volleyball, football, basketball, cross country and track and field. Students participating in only cross country or tennis do not need to enroll in athletics. These sports take place outside of the athletic period. Students must try out for at least 1 sport per semester and must be prepared to tryout against other individuals for their designated sport. Students not competing on a team will participate in off season activities, including fitness conditioning, weight training and drills to improve strength, speed, endurance and agility. ***A uniform is required and may be purchased from the coaches. A physical must be turned in to the coaches before the first day of practices begin.***

# PLACEMENT PROCESS

A variety of language arts classes and math classes are offered to meet the many and varied needs of our students. Students who qualify for placement in *GT LANGUAGE ARTS* and/or, *GT MATH*, and *RESOURCE MATH* and/or *RESOURCE LANGUAGE ARTS* will be hand scheduled by the counselor prior to schedule pick-up.

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

One of the most critical functions performed by a school is the pre-registration of students. Based upon pre-registration information, courses are scheduled and teachers are employed for the next school year. Schedule changes are made only under the conditions listed below:

- A change is needed as a result of summer school.
- A change is needed to balance classes within the master schedule.
- Any change which, in the judgment of the principal, is in the best interest of the student and/or teacher.
- Students can request schedule changes before school begins. Although all requests will be taken into consideration, ***we cannot guarantee changes***. It will depend on the master schedule. At CMS East, classes, especially elective classes, quickly reach their maximum numbers. For this reason, it is feasible that students may receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> elective choices. Every effort is made to accommodate student choice as much as possible.
- **Students may request pre-registration changes until the end of May. These are the times to discuss changes, after school begins there will be limited schedule changes.**

**All courses are subject to CISD School Board approval, scheduling constraints, and the availability of campus staffing.**

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENTS

1. No administrative officer or employee of the Coppel Independent School District, acting in his/her official capacity, may discriminate on the basis of a person's sex, race, religion, color, or national origin regarding: personnel practices, including assigning, hiring, promoting, compensating, and discharging employees; use of facilities, awarding contracts, and participation in programs.
2. No student shall, on the basis of sex, race, religion, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by this school district except as specifically provided in the Title IX Implementing Regulations.
3. No qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored by this school district except as specifically provided in Section 504 Implementing Regulations.

Inquiries regarding any of these policies should be directed to the Superintendent's Office (214-496-6000).

### DISCLAIMER

CISD course offerings for the 2011-2012 school year are subject to appropriate funding, teacher availability, and/or class size.