

ACADEMIC COURSES:

Language Arts (Standard)

The ELA curriculum in grade 7 is a standards-based mix of literature and non-fiction and of creative endeavors and text-based analysis. There is a strong focus on comparing pieces of text to one another to give students critical skills that will let them discern the accuracy of a text by focusing on authorship, context, reliability, and alternative viewpoints. We reinforce reading skills through a variety of texts that students will need to understand for their futures, academic and beyond. We move beyond the textbook and into real life by analyzing stories, movie clips, poetry, music, and images, both still and animated. Students build their writing skills through essay writing (informative and argumentative), evidence-based responses, poetry practice, journal entries, and creative prompts. In addition, students practice oral communication skills through formal and informal speeches and class presentations. We also practice necessary skills including grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

Language Arts 7th (Advanced)

The ELA advanced curriculum in grade 7 is recommended for students who read at grade level or higher. The pace is faster and the content is more rigorous than a regular ELA class and is not for remediation. ELA is a standards-based mix of literature and non-fiction and of creative endeavors and text-based analysis. There is a strong focus on comparing pieces of text to one another to give students critical skills that will let them discern the accuracy of a text by focusing on authorship, context, reliability, and alternative viewpoints. We reinforce reading skills through a variety of high-level texts that students will need to understand for their futures – high school honors, college, and beyond. We move beyond the textbook and into real life by analyzing stories, movie clips, poetry, music, and images, both still and animated. Students build their writing skills through essay writing (informative and argumentative), evidence-based responses, poetry practice, journal entries, and creative prompts. In addition, students practice oral communication skills through formal and informal speeches and class presentations. We also practice practical skills including grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

Math 2 (Standard)

Students will:

- Develop an understanding of and apply proportionality, similarity, and formulas to determine surface areas and volumes of three-dimensional shapes including pyramids, prisms, cylinders and cones.
- Develop an understanding of operations involving integers and other rational numbers, as well as solving linear equations.
- Identify and plot ordered pairs in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane and predict the results of transformations.
- Convert between customary & metric systems.
- Construct and analyze histograms, stem-and-leaf plots and circle graphs.
- Determine, compare and make predictions based on experimental and theoretical probability of independent & dependent events.

Math 2 (Advanced)

Students will:

- Develop an understanding of and apply proportionality, similarity, and formulas to determine surface areas and volumes of three-dimensional shapes including pyramids, prisms, cylinders and cones.
- Identify and plot ordered pairs in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane and will predict the results of transformations.
- Determine, compare and make predictions based on experimental and theoretical probability of independent & dependent events.
- Construct and analyze histograms, stem-and-leaf plots and circle graphs.
- Analyze and represent linear functions and solve linear equations & systems of equations.
- Analyze two and three-dimensional figures by using distance and angle relationships.
- Analyze and summarize data sets including box and whisker plots, scatter plots and lines of best fit.

Algebra I Honors (Must successfully complete GEMS) High School Elective Credit; cannot be dropped after the 1st week of the 1st 9-Weeks

This course includes a rigorous, in-depth study of all of the topics included in Algebra I, as well as absolute value equations and inequalities, operations with rational expressions, solving rational equations and characteristics of quadratic graphs

Comprehensive Science 2 (Standard and Advanced)

A comprehensive science course that has been designed to support understanding through big ideas in science. Based on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science, this course will allow students to learn content across six interconnected units that will build from the content covered in 6th grade and will be developed further in 8th grade. The major concepts covered: *Cell Structure and Function, Homeostasis in Cells, Heredity, Weathering and Erosion, The Hydrosphere and Atmosphere, and Stars and Galaxies*. The class will be supported by digital content as well as hands-on, cooperative, and literacy based activities. Students in Advanced and Gifted classes will be provided opportunities to dive deeper into the content and to make even more connections across science and with other disciplines. Students will maintain an academic notebook throughout the course.

Civics (Standard and Advanced)

The seventh grade social studies curriculum consists of the following content area strands: Civics, Geography, and Economics. The primary content for the course pertains to the principles, functions, and organization of government; the origins of the American political system; the roles, rights, responsibilities of United States citizens; and methods of active participation in our political system. The course is embedded with strong geographic and economic components to support civic education instruction. **Note: Students are required to take a Florida Standard's Assessment, End-of-Course exam in Civics.**

ELECTIVE COURSES (YEAR LONG):

Beginning Band - Band 1 (Year Long)

No previous musical experience is required. Students will learn the basics of instrument fundamental, reading music and rhythmic notation, and independent musical performance. Students will have an opportunity to participate in various musical performances throughout the year. Instruments taught in Band are flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and orchestral percussion. **Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.**

Concert Band - Band II (Year Long)

Concert Band is open to students at an intermediate level of development. Students should be proficient in music reading, scales, tone production, and articulation. All of the basic techniques that were introduced in Beginning Band are further developed in Concert Band. Greater emphasis is placed upon performing band music at an intermediate level. Students will have after school rehearsals when necessary for concert preparation. **Performances are an integral part of the curriculum.**

Chorus 1 (Year Long)

Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique skills, music reading and notation skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through various periods of time. Performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. **Students will be required to participate in the 3 major performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.**

Chorus II (Year Long)

Students build on previous choral experience to expand vocal, technical, musical, and ensemble skills through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality choral literature. Performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. **Students will be required to participate in performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. Director approval is required.**

Digital Art (Year Long)

This rigorous course involves controlling computer technology to produce artistic images. Students will learn computer illustration techniques, image manipulation and graphic design visual literacy. As students are introduced to various fields in the digital arts, they will learn to apply the fundamentals of design with software applications to include Photoshop CC. Knowing how to work with Photoshop is an increasingly useful skill for students embarking on many career paths, from photography to graphic design, marketing and small business ownership. Students will be given the opportunity to earn the Adobe Certified Associate Photoshop CC certification and will be **required to take the Adobe Photoshop Certified Associate Exam.**

7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Experimental Science (Year Long)

Experimental Science is a research class that focuses on *experimental research* during Semester 1, culminating in a science project, and *investigative research* during Semester 2, focusing on both Rube Goldberg machines and other investigative scientific avenues, culminating in a final project. **Participation in the school and district Science Fair is a required part of the coursework.**

Exploratory Wheel – Introduction to World Languages (Year Long)

Semester 1: Spanish

This course is designed to introduce students to a foreign language. During the semester students will explore basic principles of Spanish Language, the cultural concepts related to the Spanish-speaking world and compare the students' own language and culture with that of Spanish-speaking countries. In addition, fundamentals of Latin vocabulary will be introduced to emphasize a better understanding and a more precise use of English.

Semester 2: French

This semester course is a beginning exploratory course that will introduce students to French language and culture. Students will learn beginning skills in listening and speaking and an introduction to basic skills in reading and writing. In addition, fundamentals of Latin vocabulary will be introduced to emphasize a better understanding and a more precise use of English.

Law Studies (Year Long)

This academic elective course will review the principles, functions, and organization of the American legal system. The content should include, but not be limited to the purpose of the law, the role of citizens, the impact of laws on the lives of citizens, civil and criminal laws, fundamental civil and criminal justice procedures, causes and effects of crime, consumer and family law, comparison of adult and juvenile justice systems, and career opportunities in the legal system. Students will study methods of historical inquiry and primary and secondary historical documents.

Musical Theatre 1 (Year Long)

Students with little or no experience will develop basic acting, basic vocal performance, basic dance/movement, non-dance movement, and staging, which transfer readily to musical theatre literature. Performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. **Students will be required to participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.**

Physical Education – PE (Year Long)

The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences, which includes, but is not limited to: Fitness Activities, Educational Gymnastics and Dance, and Team Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

T.V. PRODUCTION 3 (Year Long)

Students must have completed **Intro to T.V. Production 1 and 2** in order to take this yearlong course. Students in this class will broadcast the morning announcements. The course focuses on utilizing shooting and editing video techniques to build basic journalism skills. Students will learn different script formats for writing broadcast news stories and learn how video and sound play a role in broadcast journalism. Students who enroll in this course must have a genuine interest in broadcast journalism, and must be self-motivated in order to cover the events that take place at Rock Lake Middle School, as well as provide video production support at the request of teachers and administrators. Students will work to become **certified in Adobe Photoshop with an industry certification**.

The following courses are by application only:

P.I.T. Crew (Semester or Year Long)

RLMS is offering students the opportunity to participate in an interactive peer inclusion program that provides benefits to all students involved. Peer tutors provide support primarily to students with disabilities or any students who may benefit from additional assistance. This elective class will provide the students with training in diversity and how to work with their peers with disabilities or other struggles. The tutors will always be supported and monitored by the class instructor, classroom teachers and paraprofessionals. An applicant should be friendly, compassionate, responsible, outgoing and willing to help others. **Please see Ms. Singer for an application.**

Leadership - Engaged Citizenship through Service Learning 1 (Year Long)

This course provides an introduction to service-learning and civic responsibility for Grades 7, and 8. Academic, personal and career skills needed for effective service-learning project implementation will be taught and applied through structured service projects that meet real school and/or community needs. In order to develop leadership skills and positive habits that will allow students to be successful with service learning, we will incorporate author Sean Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* as the primary text for the course. Students will actively participate in meaningful service-learning experiences for at least 20 hours during the school year. **Please see Ms. Singer for an application.**

Yearbook (Year Long)

Students must apply for this class in the spring of the previous school year. The application looks at Language Arts grades, writing ability, and character. This yearlong course will give students real-world experience on how to make a product, market the product, and obtain advertisements to help fund the product. Because the product is the yearbook, students will learn photography, journalism, and graphic design skills required in covering and documenting the year at Rock Lake Middle School. **Please see Ms. Levkulich for an application.**

ELECTIVE COURSES (SEMESTER):

Art 2D / 3D (Semester)

Art 2D/3D is designed to develop confidence and facility in foundational artistic skills, regardless of the students' previous training or artistic ability. Students refine techniques used to create a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks through developing skills in drawing and painting, while also using various techniques and mediums to create 3D artwork. Composition, technique, the elements and principles of design, and attention to detail are explored. The student artists develop perceptual, creative, technical and problem-solving skills as they design and produce works of art with personal expression.

Critical Thinking (Semester)

Gain strategies to find important information quickly, transfer it to long-term memory, and perform better on assignments and tests. You will learn to become a more efficient learner, find balance, and prioritize goals.

Introduction to Programming and Gaming (Semester)

In this hands-on course, students will apply the basic principles and processes of game design and object oriented programming to the development of their own games. Throughout this process we will incorporate several game design programs to help students learn by playing. We'll prepare for an industry respected certification test – **ICT Gaming Essentials**.

T.V. PRODUCTION 1 (Semester)

Students learn basic skills and techniques for shooting and editing video in this semester-long course. The quarter project at the end of the first nine weeks is a performance assessment of those skills. The second quarter begins with a unit on studio production. Students will learn the roles and duties of every position in the television studio. The rest of the semester will focus on script writing and creating storyboards for commercials and short films. Students will be able to choose one of those formats as their final project at the end of the semester.

T.V. PRODUCTION 2 (Semester)

Students must have completed Intro to T.V. Production 1 in order to be enrolled in this semester-long course. Students will expand on the shooting and editing skills and techniques learned in T.V. Production 1 with more challenging assignments and projects that give closer attention to technical detail. The second half of the semester will focus on basic journalism concepts involved in producing studio productions and news stories. Student work will contribute to the broadcast of the morning announcements.

Web Design (Semester)

In this course, students will learn how to safely navigate within the electronics-based society of today, as well as how to create web pages using HTML5 coding and drag-and-drop programming. This process includes many hands-on projects and group interactions as we explore issues that affect cybersecurity and as we plan our own websites. This course allows students to earn certifications in ICT Cybersecurity Essentials and ICT Web Design essentials by taking an industry respected certification test.

7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

iSeries Courses

The Student Progression Plan requires **iJourney** (semester course) **and** either **iConnect** (high school credit, semester course) **or** **iChallenge** (yearlong course).

Rock Lake Middle School presents the **Raider Triple Crown Challenge**: Over the course of your middle school career, take **iJourney**, **iConnect**, & **iChallenge** and

- Earn an overall A, B or C grade for each course
- Take and pass the certification exams in all three courses

Meeting the **Raider Triple Crown Challenge** will earn distinction at the eighth grade awards assembly and honor on the future Raider Triple Crown Challenge Wall of Fame.

iChallenge (Year Long)

Are you ready for your future? By the year 2020 there will be 1.4 million computing jobs and only 400,000 Computer Science students. With so many opportunities in Computer Science, choose iChallenge and learn about this growing field and how it will impact your future, regardless of the career you choose! This coding and game based course will allow you to earn a digital tool certificate and prepare you to take AP Computer Science Principles in high school. This class uses a combination of online learning, teacher instruction, and project based learning. You will have the ability to choose projects that excite you, with topics you want to learn more about relating to coding and Computer Science. “Coding is today’s language of creativity. All our children deserve a chance to become creators instead of consumers of computer science” (Maria Klawe). **This course provides an opportunity to earn one digital tool certificate.**

iConnect (Semester) (Cannot be dropped after the first nine weeks)

This course provides one .5 elective credit for high school and meets the online course requirement for graduation. How much do you know about technology? Discover how “Technology, like art, is a soaring exercise of the human imagination” (Daniel Bell). This semester, you will discover new possibilities and learn about technology applications and communication techniques through this innovative and interactive course. In addition, you will have the opportunity to “show off” your skills by producing a culminating activity that includes your favorite projects from the course and will be added to your ePortfolio! **This course provides an opportunity to earn two digital tool certificates.**

ePathways (Classes through Seminole County Virtual School)

Seminole County Schools recognize that today's students learn using multiple methods, at different rates, and on different schedules. Our schools now offer the flexibility to accommodate today's students and families through a variety of educational pathways.

Full-time and part-time virtual coursework is available to students in grade six through twelve. These programs offer a wide-range of acceleration opportunities," as well as credit recovery and remediation, through blended schedules that permit students to take some face-to-face courses and some virtual courses, depending on each student's most optimal learning situation.

With ePathways, students can choose the learning pathway that best suits their learning style, personal interests, and academic strengths. Students have a variety of course options, both core and elective, that can be taken in a modern classroom setting or in a virtual environment.

Please visit the Seminole County Virtual School website for more information and course descriptions:

<http://virtualschool.scps.k12.fl.us/>