Seventh-Grade Curriculum

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**Required Full-Year Courses**

**English (B-MS711; G-MS710):** The emphasis of English is the communication of ideas through written and oral expression. In a single-gender setting, this course integrates the study of writing, literature, grammar, and oral presentation skills.

The writing curriculum focuses on the further development of multi-paragraph essays for the critical discussion of literature, description, narration, and research. Through the writing process and a study of the six traits of writing, students will learn various revision strategies and techniques to produce more clearly written communication.

The literature program provides an opportunity for students to develop an appreciation for both classic and contemporary texts. Through the reading of a variety of literary genres, students will explore more complex and abstract ideas while learning to express and defend their own thoughts in class discussions and prepared written responses.

Supporting both the writing and literature programs is the grammar strand that runs throughout the year. Grammar instruction builds upon prior study, and students are expected to apply more complex concepts to enhance their own writing. The study of vocabulary through literature is used to support reading comprehension and precise communication.

**Pre-Algebra (B-MS719; G-MS720):** In a single-gender setting, students in the seventh grade use multiple approaches to solving problems as they develop the ability to think logically. The algebraic ideas of variables, expressions, equations, factors, fractions, and exponents are utilized as students write and solve equations and inequalities. Students also investigate and apply linear functions. Students are introduced to probability, statistics, ratios, and proportions.

**Advanced Pre-Algebra (B-MS723; G-MS722):** In a single-gender setting, this course provides students with a rigorous study of pre-algebra and algebraic concepts. Students use reasoning, abstract thinking skills, and communication skills to investigate and develop the concepts of equations, inequalities, linear functions, statistics, probability, ratios, and proportions.
Advanced Algebra I (MS721): This course provides thorough development of the fundamentals of algebra. It includes a study of the real number system, operations with and factoring of polynomials, problem solving with first- and second-degree equations in one and two variables, graphing first-degree equations and inequalities in one and two variables, an introduction to irrational numbers, quadratics, word problem applications, and integral exponents. The students use graphing calculators to record and display data and to explore the concept of functions and their graphs. Advanced Algebra I students complete projects that demonstrate the application of algebra concepts in a “real world” setting.

Life Science (B-MS731; G-MS730): In a single-gender setting, this course emphasizes the study of living things, their chemical makeup, function and cellular organization, and their relationship to the environment. An introduction to the cell, genetics and heredity are given. Understanding of ecology and of how living things change over time are included in life science. Laboratory experiences provide an understanding of the techniques involved in observing, recording, reporting, and analyzing scientific data in a variety of ways. Students focus on accurate metric measurement, data collection and interpretation (including graphing), and the development of research skills in the investigation and study of living things.

Global Issues (MS750) challenges students with real-world problems by introducing the question: “What innovative, low-cost design solution or policy could be created to address critical global problems and transform the lives of those who need it the most?” In putting this guiding essential question before our 7th grade Global Studies students, it is our mission in the Lovett Middle School to provide relevant and purposeful learning experiences. Consideration of world events and issues in relation to the student in the expanding framework of the Lovett community, metro Atlanta, the United States, and the world which creates opportunities for students to define and explore how these issues become global issues. In this way, class instruction provides students with the opportunity to tackle authentic problems from local, national, and global perspectives.

Chinese IA (MS450): This first-year study of Chinese presents students with an introduction to the basic sounds and structure of the language. The course will focus primarily on listening and speaking during the first part of the year, and then begin slowly introducing the written language through systematic instruction in Chinese characters. Creating short dialogues, singing popular Chinese songs, writing and videotaping skits, keeping a character notebook, and having the chance to work regularly with native Chinese speakers will all be a part of this course.

French IA (MS402): The first year of study presents the student with an introduction to the basic structure of the language and covers half of a traditional Level I course. Students focus on the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. From early in the course, students practice all four skills, both individually and collaboratively. Class activities incorporate authentic texts such as newspapers, advertisements, magazines, songs, and videos, semi-authentic texts such as novels and children’s stories, as well as teacher-prepared texts. In writing and speaking, students focus on the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. There is also an emphasis on the diverse cultures of the Francophone world.
French I Advanced (MS403): The first level of study is designed for students who are interested in a more challenging and fast-paced language class. Students at this level are presented with an introduction to the basic structures of the language and will complete Level I French. Students focus on the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. From early on in the course, students practice all four skills, both individually and collaboratively. Class activities incorporate authentic texts such as newspapers, advertisements, magazines, songs, and videos, semi-authentic texts such as novels and children’s stories, as well as teacher-prepared texts. In writing and speaking, students focus on the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. There is also an emphasis on the diverse cultures of the Francophone world. Placement in French I is based on Language Department recommendation. This course is a prerequisite for French II.

Latin IA (MS460): The first year of Latin is an introduction to the reading of the Latin language. This course will emphasize Latin grammar (five noun declensions and all six tenses of verbs in the active voice and indicative mood), syntax, vocabulary, and English derivatives, so that each student can successfully translate and comprehend Latin passages. First-year Latin is also designed to acquaint the student with Roman life, history, and mythology.

Spanish IA (MS422): The first year of study presents the student with an introduction to the basic structure of the language and covers half of a traditional Level I course. Students focus on the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. From early in the course, students practice all four skills, both individually and collaboratively. Class activities incorporate authentic texts such as newspapers, advertisements, magazines, songs, and videos, semi-authentic texts such as novels and children’s stories, as well as teacher-prepared texts. In writing and speaking, students focus on the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. Culture is fully integrated into the class.

Spanish I Advanced (MS423): The first level of study is designed for students who are interested in a more challenging and fast-paced language class. Students at this level are presented with an introduction to the basic structures of the language and will complete Level I Spanish. Students focus on the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. From early on in the course, students practice all four skills, both individually and collaboratively. Class activities incorporate authentic texts such as newspapers, advertisements, magazines, songs, and videos, semi-authentic texts such as novels and children’s stories, as well as teacher-prepared texts. In writing and speaking, students focus on the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. Culture is fully integrated into the class. Placement in Spanish I is based on Language Department recommendation. This course is a prerequisite for Spanish II.

Reading (MS700): The purpose of this year-long course is to provide students with the opportunity to become more fluent readers. They will review the steps of the reading process as well as learn strategies to improve reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and test taking skills. Students will learn to recognize their reading challenges and determine the best strategies that will address these challenges. Various genres will be incorporated using works from both fiction and non-fiction.
Physical Education/Health (B-MS790; G-MS792): This physical education course encourages the enhancement of motor skill combinations used in increasingly complex games. Knowledge of movement concepts and principles are used to analyze and improve participation in physical activities. An introduction to the rules and strategies of individual and team sports is emphasized at this level. The achievement of a health enhancing level of physical fitness is established by comparing personal scores to healthy standards and by setting goals for improvement or maintenance. Participation in some form of daily physical activity is required throughout the year. In addition, current health topics will be covered. A continued respect for others and an acceptance of peers of all skill levels will continue to be promoted. Health topics include disease prevention, body awareness, basic first aid, CPR, cyber bullying, and awareness of alcohol and illegal drugs.

Fine Arts and Computer Courses

Year-Long Courses

Band (MS785): In this year-long course, students learn basic skills on their individual instruments. Great emphasis is placed on the proper use of breath, rhythm reading, posture, and individual practice habits. More advanced exercises and repertoire designed to emphasize the importance of developing musicianship are used on a daily basis. All students perform in a holiday concert, the Spring Prism Concert, and Music in the Parks Festival. In addition, select seventh-grade band members participate in the seventh grade jazz band. Students are encouraged to take private lessons in addition to their class instruction and many pursue All-State membership.

Chorus (MS781): In this year-long course, singers are viewed as “choral artists” who develop skills in singing, music reading, and aural training. Students will study a varied and diverse repertoire. This carefully chosen literature will broaden student’s perspective of the world, strengthen musical skills, and build self-confidence. Choral singing helps the young artist make a significant step towards discovering what it means to be in community. Students will come to understand that the shared efforts of each person will create a product much greater than the sum of the individual talents. Performance opportunities include a Lessons and Carols Service, singing for chapels, and a spring concert. Students have the opportunity to audition for Honor Choirs and GMEA All-State Chorus. Applied Voice Lessons are encouraged, but not required for MS students participating in a choral ensemble. The Applied Lessons program offers lessons for an additional fee, with registration at the beginning of each semester.

Orchestra (MS789): In this year-long course, the seventh grade string orchestra class offers a continuation of the work accomplished in sixth grade. Past instrumental experience is expected, but beginning students are accepted on an individual basis. In addition to the continuing development of instrumental facility, students learn more about music history and music theory and an emphasis continues to be placed on technique, scales, and sight-reading. Students develop compositional skills. The chamber orchestra performs various styles of music, but concentrates on music in the classical tradition. Many students also participate in small chamber ensembles.
The orchestra performs at several concerts during the year, including a winter concert, the String Spectacular in early spring, and the Music in the Parks Festival. Performances in chapel and for the community are also part of the orchestra’s calendar. Students are encouraged to take private lessons in addition to their class instruction and many pursue All-State membership and other extra-curricular orchestra experiences.

Semester Courses (offered both semesters)

**Dance (MS707):** This semester course is an introductory class for seventh grade students. It offers students the opportunity to study several styles of dance, including jazz and modern. This class focuses on dance techniques that help students learn the proper use of the body as an instrument of dance and form of physical fitness. Additionally, students learn different aspects of dance: fundamentals of technique (ballet, jazz, modern, and contemporary), history, vocabulary, discipline, performance quality, and the choreographic process. Students in this class will participate in the dance concert scheduled during the semester.

**Drama—Introduction to Theatre Arts (MS704):** This semester course is open to any seventh grade student. Beginning theater students will explore a variety of acting/performing exercises to sharpen their senses, establish proper physical/vocal warm up techniques, improvisation, vocal production, ensemble/teamwork and scene study. Students learn self-confidence in front of groups and peers, as well as valuable social skills for life. Students may have the chance to present scenes at the end of the semester.

**The First Byte: Introduction to Digital Design**
Over the course of one semester, students will be introduced to a variety of digital skills through the application of computer concepts, tools and media. This course introduces students to basic computer science concepts leading to the production of various artifacts including digital images, audio, animation, computer games, and 2D structures. Concepts that will be introduced include critical thinking, creative problem solving, and design. Students will use design tools, programs, and programming languages to solve problems and design creative solutions.

**General Art (MS702):** Students may apply for this course by submitting three of their best artworks and a written artist statement. Students will be creating artwork in several different media including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, digital photo, and printmaking. They will be learning how to communicate in the language of art using the Elements and Principles of Design. They will also archive their artwork in an online portfolio and daily journal. Students will learn to develop original concepts, cultivate ideas, master art tools, to create work with a high level of craftsmanship, and be able to articulate their process.