

7th Grade Course Guide 2020-2021



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2020-2021 PGMS Course Selection Guide

7th Grade

Purpose

Pleasant Grove Middle School is committed to the general purpose that education should provide appropriate learning experiences for every child in the school. Experiences provide each child to continually develop and improve - emotionally, physically, morally, socially, and intellectually. PGMS acknowledges that the student of today will live in a society demanding knowledge and skills related to the use of computers and other technologies. The school is committed to the development of the "whole" child.

The curriculum is in a state of continuous study and revision, readily adaptable to meet the changing needs of children and provide a foundation of knowledge. Methods of instruction reflect recognition of individual differences among students. Instruction equips students with real world work skills, human relations skills, respect for authority, appreciation of our American heritage and other world cultures. Students are exposed to knowledge of how and where to obtain needed information, and an understanding of computers and other technologies which will enable them to function in an ever changing global society.

Well-trained and highly competent staff members demonstrate pride in their professional commitment to the intellectual, social, and moral development of school children. Continuous staff development and professional growth experiences are encouraged. Discipline is considered vitally important to a vigorous educational program. Overall, the school's efforts are directed to help each student become a productive member of our global society, capable of making a definite and positive contribution to society and to himself or herself.

Mission Statement

The mission of Pleasant Grove Independent School District, in collaboration with the community, is to empower students through experiential learning to successfully navigate the opportunities of a competitive and complex world.

Vision

Our Students:

- Embody school pride and display character and citizenship
- Recognize their potential and value and are confident in their ability to compete in an ever-changing society
- Are empowered through learning that cultivates curiosity and individual interest
- Are creative problem solvers who are prepared to actively engage and excel in their community

Our Learning Environment:

- Is driven by teachers and staff who set high expectations and are passionate about education
- Fosters an active relationship between home and school
- Cultivates positive parental and community involvement

- Nurtures each student's physical, mental, emotional and social well-being
- Promotes engaging, interactive instruction that focuses on real-world application and problem solving
- Provides total immersion in technology

Our District Along with the Community:

- Recruits and retains quality teachers and staff who are well-compensated, highly-trained and skilled
- Provides a safe learning environment
- Is innovative and proactive to meet the changing and diverse needs of our students
- Invests resources to promote student success
- Builds and extends partnerships with local businesses, civic organizations, and educational entities
- Promotes awareness of school and student accomplishments

Shared Beliefs

1. What is it we want our students to learn?
2. How will we know if each student has learned it?
3. How will we respond when some students do not learn it?
4. How can we extend and enrich the learning for students who have demonstrated proficiency?

**7th Grade Pleasant Grove Middle School Course Requirements and Descriptions
2020-2021**

Course Requirements (by grade level) Three-Year Plan

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
English Language Arts	1 unit	English Language Arts	1 unit	English Language Arts	1 unit
Mathematics	1 unit	Mathematics	1 unit	Mathematics	1 unit
Science/Health	1 unit	Science/Health	1 unit	Science/Health	1 unit
Social Studies	1 unit	Social Studies	1 unit	Social Studies	1 unit
Reading	1 unit	Reading	1 unit	Technology Applications	1 unit
P.E./Pre-athletics	1 unit	P.E./Athletics	1 unit	Elective	1 unit
Fine Arts	1 unit	Elective	1 unit	Elective	1 unit

7th Grade Core and/or Required Courses and Numbers

1007 English Language Arts (ELA)
1017 Honors English Language Arts

2007 Mathematics
2017 Honors Mathematics

4007 Science
4017 Honors Science

3007 Social Studies
3017 Honors Social Studies

7th Grade Electives and Numbers

Fine Arts

7006 Art 1
7010 Art 2 *Art 1 is a prerequisite.

9024 Dance

Middle School Band 1 *Select one of the following instruments:

- 0001 Percussion
- 0002 Trombone
- 0004 French horn
- 0005 Trumpet
- 0006 Baritone/Tuba
- 0007 Clarinet
- 0008 Flute
- 0009 Saxophone

0010 Middle School Band 2

- 7107 Middle School Theatre 1

Physical Education (P.E.)

Students must take one category of P.E. Credit.

9007 Athletics Boys'

9002 Athletics Girls'

9011 Cheerleading *Tryouts are held in the Spring.

9010 Cheerleading *Physical Education *Tryouts are held in the Spring.

9013 Dance *Physical Education Credit

9027 Drill Team *Physical Education *Tryouts are held in the Spring.

9020 Physical Education *P.E.

9025 Tennis

Technology/Digital Learning Offerings

8037 Digital Video and Audio Design *PG TV/Announcements *Spring application required.

8027 Web Communication/Digital Newspaper

8017 Journalism Yearbook *Spring application required.

8105 STEAM: Mythbusters/Forensics

8071 STEAM: Robotics Programming and Design

Foreign Language

8047 Exploratory Foreign Language Spanish

Other Elective Options

9037 Study Hall

Use the Course Requirements Three-Year Plan chart on page 2 as a guide for creating a schedule.

Core and/or Required Courses

English Language Arts (ELAR) Grade 7: Course number 1007

English Language Arts students are expected to demonstrate mastery with critical thinking skills in reading and writing. Various genres of literature such as poetry, drama, short stories, nonfiction, and novels will be used for analyzing literature requiring open-ended responses. Literary elements will be used as springboards for writing a variety of paragraphs, compositions, and detailed compositions. Students will be exposed to a broad range of relevant and engaging topics of interest. Students will be introduced to new vocabulary and apply it when speaking, reading, and writing.

Honors English Language Arts (ELAR) Grade 7: Course number 1017

Students will follow the above course description *ELA with a focus on working independently. Students will implement and master a flexible range of metacognitive reading skills in both assigned and independent reading to understand an author's message. Students will continue to apply earlier standards with greater depth in increasingly more complex texts as they become self-directive, critical speakers, readers, and writers. For admission into accelerated English in grades 7, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level ELA class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Mathematics Grade 7 Course number 2007

Students will demonstrate mastery in the primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. 8th grade math also includes the foundations of functions. The mathematics curriculum follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill adopted by the Texas Education Agency.

Honors Mathematics Grade 7: Course number 2017

The Honors math classes challenge motivated and responsible students to understand and demonstrate mastery in-depth, rigorous content. The primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. 8th grade math also includes the foundations of functions. Honors math coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments in class and outside of class. For admission into accelerated mathematics in grade 7 the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level math class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Science Grade 7: Course number 4007

Students will master and study a wide range of topics which are outlined in the TEKS. Those topics are flow of energy in ecosystems, force and motion, factors impacting earth systems, life in our solar system, organisms and the environment, structure and function of cells and living things, physical, chemical and energy changes in digestion, homeostasis, genetics, genetic variations and adaptations. Students will dissect frogs in the science lab.

Honors Science Grades 7: Course number 4017

The Honors science class requires mastery of the same TEKS as the on grade-level class, but will require more higher-order thinking and independent study. There will be at least one project per marking period to be completed outside of class. Also, students will work at an accelerated pace and cover the material more in-depth. For admission into accelerated science in grades 6, 7, and 8, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level science class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Social Studies Grade 7: Course number 3007

(Texas History) Students will demonstrate mastery in the study of the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras.

Honors Social Studies Grade 7: Course number 3017

(Texas History) Students will demonstrate mastery in the study of the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. A student shall have (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level Social Studies class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

7th Grade Electives

Fine Arts

Art 1: Course number 7006

Students will implement techniques with perception and expression with emphasis on media, creative expression, and performance mastering the TEKS. This class is for 1st year Art students: grades 6 and 7..

Art 2: Course number 7010 (Art 1 is a prerequisite)

Students will implement techniques with perception, creative expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage and critical evaluation.

Middle School Band 1: Course numbers - 0001 for Percussion, 0002 for Trombone, 0004 for French horn, 0005 for Trumpet, 0006 for Baritone/Tuba, 0007 for Clarinet, 0008 for Flute, 0009 for Saxophone

Instrument specific, basic musicianship and performance techniques are mastered on individual woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Beginning band emphasizes proper performance technique, breath control, tone, quality, range, and proper posture. Students are assigned a musical instrument based upon a student assessment. Performance opportunities are included.

Middle School Band 2: Course number 0010

Performance techniques and fundamentals are reinforced, adding new material to repertoire by learning new music and mastering additional technical exercises and advanced musical expression; built upon previous knowledge and skills, continue to advance musical abilities. Performance opportunities are included.

Middle School Dance 1: Course number 9024

Students are expected to master four basic strands-perception, creative expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage, and critical evaluation-provide broad, unifying structures for organizing knowledge and skills. Through perceptual studies, students increase their understanding one's self and others and develop clear ideas about the world. Through a variety of theatrical experiences, students communicate in a dramatic form, make artistic choices, solve problems, build positive self-concepts, and relate interpersonally. Students will increase their understanding of heritage and traditions through historical and cultural studies in theater. Student response and evaluation will promote thinking and further discriminating judgment, developing students who are appreciative and evaluative consumers of live theater, film, television, and other technologies. Students will earn fine arts credit for this class.

Middle School Theatre 1-2 Course number 7107

Students will be given an overview of dramatic and theatrical arts that will increase their communication and interpersonal skills, critical and creative thinking, and willingness to work collaboratively as part of a team. The course develops students who are appreciative and evaluative of theatre, film, and other storytelling techniques by promoting a cultural and historical understanding of theatre; using theatre to master and cultivate reading, writing, and public speaking skills; and inspiring creativity and problem-solving through physical and vocal expression.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Middle School Athletics:

Course number 9007 for Boys' Athletics

Course number 9002 for Girls' Athletics

Athletics requires rigorous physical training, daily participation, and regular UIL competition in up to three sports; after-school practice will be required. Before and after school practice may be required. Boys may participate in football, basketball, and track and field events. Girls may participate in volleyball, basketball, and track and field events. Boys and Girls may participate in Cross Country. *Outside of school hours; practices before school and competitive meets on Saturdays.

Cheerleading : Course number 9010

The focus of cheerleading is to create school spirit and promote a sense of pride and dignity in PGMS. While experiencing teamwork, we will strive to develop a sense of fair play and learn the importance of doing one's best. Cheerleaders will cheer at pep rallies, PGMS sporting events, and other special events and competitions as required. Tryouts take place during the spring (second) semester for the following school year. Students will earn P.E. credit for this class.

Dance *Physical Education: Course number 9013

Students will learn the fundamentals of various types of dance, including ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance.

Drill Team : Course number 9027

Drill Team is a physical conditioning and performance-oriented course. Drill Team includes various areas of performance preparation for athletic events, parades, pep rallies, and other school and community related functions. Such preparation shall include the following areas of concentration: warm-up and stretching techniques, dancing techniques, and marching techniques. Tryouts are held during the spring (second) semester for the following school year. Students will earn P.E. credit for this class.

Physical Education (P.E.): Course number 9020

Students will master and acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. The student will exhibit a physically-active lifestyle and understand the relationship between physical activity and health throughout the lifespan. Students understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Students learn to use technology such as heart rate monitors to assist in measuring and monitoring their own performance. Identifying the types of activities that provide them with enjoyment and challenge and that will encourage them to be physically active throughout life is reinforced during instruction in these grades.

Tennis: Course number 9025

The goal for Tennis class is educate, build character, and help develop skills from hard work . Players will learn the basics and scoring, and progress to matches and prepare them for high school tennis. The mission is to expose all players to the importance of working together for a common goal and to create a high level of teamwork.

Technology/Digital Learning

Digital Video and Audio Design

Digital Video & Audio Design (DVAD), is the fusion of creative and intellectual skills with technological innovations to create interactive and participatory media products. It connects traditional journalism skills and ethics with expertise in video production, audio mastering, podcasting, and convergent media packages for the web. A strong foundation in production methods including pre-production, production, and post-production will be developed. This course incorporates project-based and cooperative learning to develop the next generation of writers and news media entrepreneurs.

Journalism Yearbook: Course number 8017

Students will demonstrate and master creativity, responsibility, and cooperation in producing the school yearbook. While learning desktop publishing, they will have the opportunity to plan theme concepts, design and photography coverage as well as writing and editing copy. To be eligible for this class, students must have an 85+ average for the first semester in English Language Arts courses, submit a writing sample, and teacher recommendations. Limited space.

Web Communications-Digital Newspaper: Course number 8028

In Web Communications, students will learn to make informed decisions and apply the decisions to the field of IT. Students will implement personal and interpersonal skills to prepare for a rapidly evolving workplace environment. The knowledge and skills acquired and practiced will enable students to successfully perform and interact in a technology-driven society. Students will enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and critical thinking and apply them to the IT environment.

STEAM: MythBusters/Forensics: Course number 8105

MythBusters - (1st semester)

Students will master Discovery Education and solve “Myths” using science and technology. Separating truth from fiction can be tough. This elective allows students to endeavor and find the truth as myths are put to the test in the classroom! Students will problem-solve, collaborate, and make new discoveries. This class is inspired by the hit TV show “Mythbusters.” Myth Busting activities follow the STEAM initiatives.

Forensics - (2nd semester)

Students will be introduced and master the field of forensic science as they explore different areas of Crime Scene Investigation, including DNA analysis, forensic biology, ballistics, fingerprinting, serology, and physical evidence. This course will use web-based and hands-on activities to create authentic, interactive learning experiences.

Robotics Programming and Design

Robotics Programming and Design will foster students' creativity and innovation by presenting opportunities to design, implement, and present meaningful robotic programs through a variety of media. Students will collaborate with one another, their instructor, and various electronic communities to solve problems in designing and programming robots. Through data analysis,

students will identify task requirements, plan search strategies, and use robotic concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. By using robotic knowledge and skills that support the work of individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create solutions, and evaluate the results. Students will learn digital citizenship by researching current laws and regulations and by practicing integrity and respect. Students will gain an understanding of the principles of robotics through the study of physics, robotics, automation, and engineering design concepts.

Foreign Language

Exploratory Foreign Language Spanish: Course 8047

The purpose of the course is to provide opportunities for mastery and improvement in student self-development through the study of Spanish language and culture. The content includes, but is not limited to exploration of basic principles of Spanish language, cultural concepts related to the Spanish-speaking world, and comparisons between the students' own language and culture and that of Spanish-speaking countries. Exploratory Spanish introduces students to the target language and its culture. Student will learn beginning skills of listening and speaking and be introduced to basic skills in reading and writing in Spanish. Also, culture and comparisons are included in this course.

Other Elective Options

Study Hall: Course number 9037

This course is designed to provide an environment conducive to studying, preparing for exams, completing assignments and projects, and completing missed assignments due to absences. Students must come prepared daily with specific course assignments. Reinforcement programs for state assessments are also included.