

7TH GRADE

Holmes Middle School

We dare to empower the whole child to profoundly impact our world

COURSE SELECTIONS MUST BE MADE USING THE ONLINE FORM BY January 23rd.

We appreciate you choosing Holmes for your student's educational needs. The course selection process is used to help guide the classes that will be offered in the coming year.

- The Guardian and Student need to review the course listing and select classes that are of interest.
- The Guardian will be emailed the course selection link that needs to be filled out to record student/guardian preferences. This form can also be found on the Holmes Counseling web page.
 - Please contact Laura Kelley (laura.kelley@d11.org); 718-328-3812) for help accessing the form.
- Course Selections MUST be entered by Monday January 23rd, in order for your student's preferences to be considered when determining Exploratory schedules.

Should you have any concerns or questions about classes or course selection please contact your student's counselor. Mrs. Tara Falslev (tara.falslev@d11.org) OR Mrs. Nichole Navarro (nichole.navarro@d11.org)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2023-2024 – 7TH GRADE REQUIRED CORE COURSES

Advanced class placement will be determined by a body of evidence to include: parent and student request, standardized assessment data, teacher recommendations, and possible placement exams. Advanced math equates to accelerating one or more grade levels. Advanced Language Arts is taught at a quicker pace and with higher level expectations and rigor associated with assignments and assessments.

Language Arts

Math 7

Science

Adv. Language Arts

Adv. Math 8 – Pre Algebra

History – Eastern Hemisphere

Double Adv. – Algebra

ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective course scheduling is based on interest. By choosing and ranking your classes we have the opportunity to build a schedule that best meets the students' interests. Because we work to meet those interests, there is also an expectation that those are the classes that you are committing to. Please be aware that specific exploratory classes will not be scheduled if requested numbers do not reach a minimum class size, or available teaching staff does not allow for a class.

FULL YEAR ELECTIVES:

Students commit to completing the entire year when selecting a yearlong course. Concert Band, Orchestra and Choir are all taught during the same period so the student will need to pick just one.

Concert Band 7/8 Grade

Concert band provides the opportunity to develop an understanding & appreciation of music through performance. This band performs for school & community events throughout the year & may also participate in the state music contest. Students are required to participate in all scheduled performances as part of the requirements for the course. Student must know how to read music.

Jazz Band – 7th Grade only - Requires Audition

Only those students who demonstrate an advanced level of performance proficiency will be considered for inclusion in this band. Instrumentation includes saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, electric guitar & drum set. Jazz band performs at festivals, assemblies, concerts & community events. Students are required to participate in all scheduled performances as part of the requirements for the course. PREREQUISITE: Students are required to take I Semester of Concert Band.

Intermediate Orchestra 7-8

Intermediate Orchestra provides the opportunity to develop an understanding and appreciation of music through performance. This orchestra performs for school and community events throughout the year and may participate in state music festivals and contests. Practice of 30 minutes per day is expected for every orchestra member. Students are required to participate in all scheduled concerts and performing events.

Intermediate Choir 7-8

Students learn/reinforce fundamentals of good choral singing, as well as elements of theory, ear training, sight-reading, & musical terminology. Students will develop an appreciation for the art of excellence in vocal production, both in rehearsal & performance settings. There is a concert held towards the end of each academic quarter to demonstrate skills learned.

SEMESTER ELECTIVE CLASSES (2 Quarters)

You will be asked to rank the classes 1 – 5;

1 Being the class you want the most & 5 being the class you want the least.

Physical Education 7 1 – MOST STUDENTS WILL BE TAKING THIS CLASS

The purpose of our P.E. program is to increase student's physical competence; health related fitness, self-esteem, & enjoyment of physical activity so they can be physically active for a lifetime. Activities include learning new fitness concepts, resistance training, fitness testing, team & individual sports. Uniforms can be purchased if student does not have one from the previous year.

Intermediate Family & Consumer Sciences A- FCS (Home Ec)

Offers an in-depth approach to personal management skills is emphasized in this course. It is designed to aid the student in the development and application of practical skills. The topics of study include personality and character traits, building positive and relationships, foods and nutrition and meal management skills, child development with a focus on babysitting and sewing & textile unit. The 7th grade learns and develops more basic skills while creating an apron. Student will be asked to furnish some supplies.

Encounter with the Visual Arts 1

This class provides students with opportunities to explore and experiment with more advanced techniques in drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture. Use of these techniques will emphasize creative solutions to design problems in both two- and three-dimensional works of art. Cultural and appreciative aspects of art will be incorporated into the course through art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Design and Modeling (DM) – (Wood Shop)

This course will be a Hybrid PLTW class and Woodshop. The first part of the semester students will have a STEM unit of study. DM provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons. Students learn to use methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for a child with cerebral palsy, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution. The second part of the semester students will apply lessons learned from DM to fabricate and design projects in the Holmes Woodshop.

PLTW (Project Lead The Way) CS Innovators

Students trace the history, development, & influence of automation & robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation & computer control system. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build & program real world solutions to solve an existing problem. Students will learn that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors & actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. Designing algorithms & using computational thinking practices, they code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks.

Consumer Awareness A: 7/8 Grade

This course is designed to acquaint students with consumer skills. The basics of personal finance are introduced and include saving, budgeting, inflation, taxes and investing. The virtual investing in the Stock Market experience allows students to research and make investing decisions. This is a team-based project that students compete in at the state level. After learning how big business operates, we take it down to the small business perspective. Students learn how to run their own business. The capstone project is a student-led Entrepreneur Fair. All enrolled must participate in this Project and create an item to sell at Holmes.

Foundations of Design 1 7/8 Grade

Students will learn the basics of graphic design, using vector artwork, images and typography to convey information. Students explore the capabilities of design programs through basic tutorials and then build on their skills to create original logos, cartoon characters, and use typography/text to create portraits, and posters. If time allows in the semester, students will learn the screen-printing process to create posters and t-shirts.

GTT Intro to Comp Science 2 7/8 Grade

Students will continue the fundamentals of programming code using introductory concepts in Python. We utilize the OZARIA program. The program is self-paced, yet structured with assignment deadlines. Further exploration in Scratch and Code.org will be used to strengthen their coding knowledge. Using Sphero robotics helps students to apply what they have learned. Sphero has a semester competition that students may participate in. Everyday examples and clear explanations are used, so students with no prior programming experience can have success.