**Course Description Book**

**Language Arts**

**English 7**

English 7 covers the Utah Core State Standards for English Language Arts – reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language.  Units include short story, drama, literature, informational texts, argument writing, informative/explanatory writing, narrative writing, grammar, vocabulary, and spelling.

**English 7 Honors**

English 7 covers the Utah Core State Standards for English Language Arts – reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language.  Units include short story, drama, literature, informational texts, argument writing, informative/explanatory writing, narrative writing, grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. Honors students will read higher level texts at a more independent level.  Students will also write more often and learn more complex writing skills.

**English 8**

“Through writing, reading, speaking and listening, and language, the English 8 students will learn the Common Core State Standards which are as follows:  Key ideas and Detail from text, Craft and Structure of text, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas and the Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity.”

**English 8 Honors:**

“Through writing, reading, speaking and listening, and language, the English 8 students will learn the Common Core State Standards which are as follows:  Key ideas and Detail from text, Craft and Structure of text, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas and the Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity.”

Students will read higher level texts at a more independent level.  Students will also write more often and learn more complex writing skills.

**English 9**

Students will learn to comprehend and evaluate complex texts and become discerning readers who seek to understand the perspectives of others.  They will learn to construct effective arguments, convey intricate information, and create nuanced narratives.  They will also increase their proficiency in Standard English, acquire wide-ranging vocabulary, and employ technology. **Honors English 9** Students will learn to comprehend and evaluate complex texts and become discerning readers who seek to understand the perspectives of others.  They will learn to construct effective arguments, convey intricate information, and create nuanced narratives.  They will also increase their proficiency in Standard English, acquire wide-ranging vocabulary, and employ technology.  Honors English 9 is an accelerated course and will require students to read more complex texts than a regular English 9 course.  There will be more emphasis on literary analysis in order to prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam. **Creative Writing** An elective course for students who enjoy writing.  During the course, students will strengthen their own mastery of the writing process.  Students will create a professional writing portfolio throughout the semester that will highlight their work, which may include a multi-genre paper, short stories, poetry, an excerpt of a novel, a screenplay, a children’s book, personal writing, descriptive pieces, etc.  Students will work hard to produce and publish their pieces and will write on a daily basis.  Students who enroll in Creative Writing should be enthusiastic writers and should come to class every day excited to express themselves in the written word. **Introduction to Journalism** The Introduction to Journalism class covers three areas: news, yearbook, and broadcasting.  Students will learn the basic elements of news writing for multiple areas of news writing and will apply their learning of journalism elements to write *The Rebel* monthly school newspaper.  They will also learn basic yearbook design elements and will apply their learning of yearbook design to create *The Retrospect* yearbook.  Finally, students will learn the elements of news broadcasting and will apply their learning of elements of news broadcasting by producing the RJH TV News and creating group news broadcasts.

**Math**

**Math 7**

This course develops and deepens mathematical understanding. Concepts covered include: ratios and proportional relationships, number systems (applying and extending operations with rational numbers and integers), expressions and equations (solving one/two-step equations and applying those equations to real-life applications), geometry (construction of geometrical figures, surface area, area, and volume) as well as statistics and probability (discussing different sampling methods and making conclusions based off those results). \*Honors courses will learn about ancient number systems, computing within different base systems, and other interesting mathematic concepts.

**Math 8**

This course develops and deepens mathematical understanding. Concepts covered include: the number system (exploring rational and irrational numbers), expressions and equations (working with radicals and integer exponents, understanding the connections between proportional relationships, lines and linear equations), functions (define, evaluate and compare functions), geometry (understand congruence and similarity, Pythagorean Theorem and solving volume problems including cylinders, cones and spheres), as well as statistics and probability (investigating patterns of association in bivariate data). \*Honors courses will learn about ancient number systems, computing within different base systems, and other interesting mathematic concepts.

**Secondary Math 1**

This course introduces students to functions and expands their knowledge of abstract thinking.  This course also teaches students how to effectively analyze data and use data to solve problems.  Geometry concepts of translation, distance, and regular polygons are also included. \*Honors courses move faster and cover more material so that at the end of Secondary 3 Honors they are prepared to take calculus.

**Science**

**7th grade science**

In this class, students study the structure of matter (atoms and molecules) and properties of matter. Then they study the structure of the Earth, and the structure of cells. Additional units cover the classification system used by Biologists and also genetics/ adaptations.

**Eighth Grade Integrated Science**

Physical, earth, and life science content are integrated in a curriculum with two primary goals: students will value and use science as a process of obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence, and students' curiosity will be sustained as they develop the abilities associated with scientific inquiry.

The themes for Eighth Grade Integrated Science are change and energy. The "Benchmarks" in the eighth grade Core emphasize change as an organizing concept to understand matter and energy. Eighth graders should understand the relationship between energy and changes in matter.

**Biology**

Students at Riverview Junior High will learn how to use science process, problem solving and thinking skills. They will learn the following topics throughout the year: ecology, diversity of life, the cell, genetics, evolution and organ systems.

**Earth Systems**

Earth Systems is a high school level course that counts towards science graduation credit. The areas of study are astronomy, meteorology, oceanography and plate tectonics.

**Physical Education**

**Participation/Skills/PE/7th Beginning Fitness**  Students will continue to develop sports skills. While the emphasis is on getting activity, strategies and teamwork will be a key component. Our uniform is a gray shirt and red or black shorts.  Red, black, or gray sweats.  Small logos and stripes down the leg are also ok.

**Social Studies**

**Geography**  Students will learn to understand and appreciate how the histories of diverse peoples and cultures around the world have been affected by the geography of their countries and regions. In addition to interpreting maps, charts, and graphs, students will consider thoughtfully the impacts of technology, diminishing resources, and industrialization on world systems. They will examine similarities and differences of human experience in the following spheres of activity: social, scientific, technological, economic, religious, philosophical, geographic, and political. **AP Human Geography** This a course that gives the opportunity to earn college credit.  The class is based on seven different units that include: Introduction, Population and Migration, Culture, Political Geography, Agriculture and Rural Land Use, Economic Geography and Urbanization.  Students will use real world and current case studies to acquire the college level material. Due to the nature of the class, students must be committed to staying caught up on homework and studying on a regular basis. **US History** Students will study the history of the United States from Colonization to Civil War and Reconstruction.  The course will focus on the development of the United States as a strong and free nation.  And to help students understand the scope and sequence of events in U.S. History, and promote appreciation for multi-cultural values and differences.  Students will also be able to connect historical events with current events. **Utah Studies** 7th grade students. It is designed to help students understand the state of Utah at a deeper level by reviewing Utah's early history and particularly emphasizing Utah from statehood to the present.

**Health**

**Health**

This class offers students an opportunity to acquire knowledge, practice skills and develop attitudes necessary for enjoying a healthy lifestyle.  Students will explore many areas including: nutrition, fitness, eating disorders, self-esteem, substance abuse, human sexuality, stress management, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and accident prevention.

**Fine Art**

**Art Foundations I**

Art I is an intro to the elements and principles of design with assignments based on the Utah state core. Shading, positive/negative space, painting, and 3D will be covered along with artists and careers that tie into the given assignments. Emphasis is placed on understanding and completion until students become more comfortable with the mediums. There is a minimal fee attached to this class.

**Art Foundations II**

Art II builds on the previous assignments, taking the students into more complicated projects with the elements and principles. Different color mediums and painting techniques, cartooning and further clay exploration are introduced at this level. Artists and careers will also be expanded. There is an $8 fee attached to this class.

**Art Foundations IIB**

This is a third year class that has a studio approach to the students’ art. Color layering, calligraphy, carving, oil and silk painting are introduced. The students have three weeks where they determine their own projects. Emphasis is geared more toward art as a career and the students will be selecting and introducing various careers for the other students. Students may need to bring some of their supplies and they have an $8 fee.

**Beginning Band** This class is for students with little or no experience in music. Students taking this class will learn to play a woodwind or brass instrument. Basic playing techniques will be stressed with emphasis on tone production and rhythm. There will be some public performance required. Home practice is expected and required. It is recommended that students provide their own instruments, but some school instruments are available to rent on a limited basis.

**Beginning Orchestra** This class is for students with little or no experience in music. Students taking this class will learn to play violin, viola, or cello. Basic playing techniques will be stressed with emphasis on tone production and rhythm. There will be some public performance required. Home practice is expected. It is recommended that students provide their own instruments, but some school instruments are available to rent on a limited basis.

**Beginning Percussion**

This beginning class will cover learning how to read and interpret basic music notation, learn proper ways to play and care for instruments, work cooperatively with a group to perform in front of audiences and to develop proper skills and habits in practicing instrument at school and home. Students will be working with the percussion keyboard, drum pad and eventually larger band percussion instruments.

**Advanced Orchestra**   
This class is for string players who have played for at least one year and wish to continue their string playing experience in a school ensemble. Students will play basic ensemble literature and take part in required public performances. Home practice is expected. **Cadet Band** This class is designed for students who wish to expand their woodwind or brass playing techniques. At least one full year of successfully completing Beginning Band is recommended. There will be some public performance required. Home practice is required as well. **Symphonic Band** This is an audition-only band for advanced woodwind, brass and percussion students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in musical performance.  There will be required public performances throughout the school year. Home practice is required.  **Percussion Ensemble** This ensemble is an advanced percussion class by audition-only.  Students will continue their study of all instruments in the percussion section.  There will be some public performance required.  Home practice is required as well.

**Beginning Men’s Choir**

Beginning Men’s Choir has members of all grades that are joining choir for the first time. All are encouraged to join, even if they have no prior music experience. Anyone with a willingness to sing and learn to read and understand music is welcome. Class time focuses on teaching proper singing techniques for boys with changing voices. Basic music reading skills are also taught in order to learn to read your own music. Singers are arranged into several sections based on singing range and have opportunities to sing in two, three, and sometimes four parts. Songs range in style from renaissance to barbershop, world music to pop, doo-wop to rock, or any other style you can find.

**Beginning Women’s Choir**

Beginning Women’s Choir has members of all grades that are joining choir for the first time. All are encouraged to join, even if they have no prior music experience. Anyone with a willingness to sing and learn to read and understand music is welcome. Class time focuses on learning to read music from the page and sing independently from a piano. Reading your own notes and rhythms are skills taught and assessed so that members can be strong parts of the large choir. Singers in this choir spend half the year singing soprano (the higher notes) and half the year singing alto (the lower notes) with the sections swapping mid-year. All will have opportunities to learn to sing both melody and harmony in two, three, and even four parts.

**Advanced Women’s Choir**

Advanced Women’s Choir is made up of 8th and 9th grade singers who have sung in the Beginning Women’s Choir at least one year or have other background in reading music. Sight-singing will be assessed and singers will have opportunities to sing in all vocal ranges to encourage even growth as their voices mature. This choir travels each year to the Murray District Festival where singers are able to receive ratings and feedback from judges in order to experience what high level festivals are like in high school. Music ranges from classical or contemporary choir music to a capella style to gospel, jazz, or even pop. Estimated costs of concert attire for this class are $30, but some can be purchased from past members for less.

**Concert Choir**

Concert Choir is made up of both male and female 8th and 9th grade singers who have auditioned the previous year. Auditions are held during 4th term of every school year in order to be part of Concert Choir for the next year. Singers are experienced musicians who are confident in reading their own part and singing with a strong voice. Members of Concert Choir can apply to be considered for the Utah State Junior High Honor Choir that performs each winter in concert halls across the valley, such as Abravanel Hall or the Salt Lake Tabernacle. This choir travels each year to the Murray District Festival where singers are able to receive ratings and feedback from judges in order to experience what high level festivals are like in high school. Concert Choir also travels to perform at elementary schools that feed into Riverview Junior High. Music selections range from classical or contemporary choir music to a capella style to gospel, jazz, or even pop. Estimated costs of performance attire for this group are $70, but there are options to purchased used dresses and ties from past members for a reduced cost.

**General Music**

General Music discusses what makes up music in all its forms across the world. Students will learn what musical symbols represent and learn to read basic notation of notes and rests. Students will be exposed to musical styles from around the world and discuss similarities and differences. Students will learn the names and sounds of popular musical instruments from our own culture as well as other cultures. Time will be spent learning about music throughout history and how music we hear today is affected in large ways by the music of famous composers over the past several centuries.

**Creative Dramatics(Technical Theater)**

This course was designed to teach students the basics of theatre preparation and performance.  In order to communicate ideas, information and emotions more effectively, students will focus on using eye contact, facial expression and vocal inflection.  Actors will work to develop the confidence and self-esteem required to successfully create a character and perform before an audience.

**Speech**

This course was designed to teach students the basics of speech preparation and delivery.  In order to communicate ideas, information, and emotions more effectively, students will focus on developing eye contact, facial expression and vocal inflection.  Emphasis will also be placed on speech organization as well as social and listening skills.  Each student will gain the confidence and self-esteem required to successfully stand and speak before a group of people.

**Business Computer & Marketing**

**Keyboarding I**  
During the first quarter of this class, all students will learn proper keyboarding techniques.  Major emphasis will be placed upon learning all keys by touch along with using proper finger positioning.  Editing and Spacing rules will be introduced along with basic formatting of documents.  Microtype software will be used as a supplement to help students learn the correct fingering.  The second quarter students will be learning how to apply these keyboarding skills to format tables, columns, margins, tabs with leaders, shading, borders, etc.

**Keyboarding II/Word Processing Basics**

This course builds upon skills acquired in Keyboarding I. Proper Keyboarding technique will be reviewed. Students will create a variety of documents using basic software features including Email, Merging documents, how to perform a mail merge using a letter, certificate, and a memo.  Students will create spreadsheet formulas and charts, PowerPoint slides with links, multi-page documents in Word with Quick Parts, Cover pages, creating new style lists, etc.

**Computer Technology**

Computer literacy is a foundational element of success in today’s technology-driven world. This course is intended for students to learn concepts associated with key application software, basic computing fundamentals, and ethics and appropriate behavior while using technology as a tool in the classroom and in life.

**World Language**

**German 1**

German 1 provides students with the opportunity to explore the German language and culture.  Students will acquire basic vocabulary which will enable them to talk about themselves and their immediate surroundings.  They will be introduced to basic grammar concepts, and they will learn about the geography and customs of Germany.

**German 2**

German 2 will have a greater emphasis on writing and speaking than German 1.  In addition to reviewing and building vocabulary, students will learn more complex grammatical structures.  Students will learn about the geography and customs of Austria and Switzerland as well as Germany. **Spanish 1** Beginning Spanish will focus on developing the five language skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture. You will begin building vocabulary, working through grammar and simple sentence structures, as well as conducting simple conversations in Spanish. You will be introduced to Hispanic culture and geography. **Spanish 2** In this course you will continue your study and development of the five language skills. You will build on your vocabulary, grammar, and verb tense foundation. We will focus on speaking proficiency. You should be able to speak in real-life situations. More of the Hispanic culture will be introduced.

**Career (Family/ConsumerSkilled and Technical)**

**CTE Intro 7th grade – Business Rotation**  CTE Intro is a required course for seventh grade students. Through CTE Intro, students participate in activity-centered lessons to utilize technology, develop beginning skills, and explore careers by expanding awareness. CTE Intro provides information regarding future classes and training related to each student’s career field of interest. Technological advances and global competition have changed the nature of work. Jobs today require increased levels of knowledge and advanced technical skills. Learning is a lifelong process, and students need to be prepared for the future. CTE Intro creates an awareness of the knowledge and skills students will need for ongoing success in college, career, and life. A skill learned today is a skill for life.

The CTE program is taught by four teachers, with the guidance counselor delivering specific career guidance activities. Through this activity-centered curriculum students are exposed to career skills in the following content areas:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agriculture | Business | Economics | Family & Consumer Science |
| Health Sciences | Information Technology | Marketing | Technology & Engineering |

In the Business Rotation, we focus on Accounting and Personal Finance including managing a checking account, counting back money from a cash register, dealing with Human Resources in the workplace, Desktop Publishing, 10-Key, Agricultural careers, etc. **Construction Intro A**  This course is a beginning woodworking class that teaches the basic use of many different woodworking tools. This class will focus on the safe use of power machines, wood technologies, and measuring skills, while building small projects. Projects built in this class may include a CO2 car, cutting board, pen turning, and a storage box with clock. **Construction Intro B** This is an intermediate woodworking class that builds on the fundamentals taught in the Construction Intro A class. This class is for students that have successfully completed Construction Intro A. Here the focus will also be on the safe use of woodworking tools, wood technologies, and measuring skills while building projects with more advanced skills. Projects may include skate boards, woodturnings, and end tables. **Construction 1**  This is an advanced woodworking class that builds on the fundamentals taught in the Construction Intro A & B class. This class is for students that have successfully completed Construction Intro A & B. Here the focus will also be on the safe use of woodworking tools, wood technologies, and measuring skills while building projects with more advanced skills.  Students will design and build whatever they would like within the guidelines dealing with size, complexity, and cost. **Explore Clothing 8**  This basic course will introduce students to understanding beginning concepts of clothing choices and fashion, textiles, sewing and pressing equipment, operating and caring for a sewing machine and completing sewing applications on four projects completed during the semester class.

**Clothing I**  This course introduces students to basic sewing skills and applications. Students will study and work with sewing and pressing equipment, analyze the characteristics and care of specific textiles, use pattern envelope and guidesheets for pre-construction skills and complete sewing applications required on projects completed throughout the semester.

**EXPLORING FOODS 8** This course is designed for students who are interested in a basic understanding of the principles of nutrition and in maintaining a healthy life style. Attention will be given to the selection and preparation of food, the essential nutrients and personal well-being. It is an extension of what students have learned in their 7th grade CTE-FACS class, but not as detailed as the 9th grade Food and Nutrition 1 course. It is NOT a prerequisite for the 9th grade course.

**FOOD AND NUTRITION 1**

This class is designed to develop leadership skills in teens. Students will be learning about personal, social, and community responsibility. Students will also be involved in various group and team activities designed to build team-working skills. Students will become more aware of the community around them as they participate in current event discussions, papers and journals.

**Student Success**

**School Success 7, 8 and 9**

This is a Riverview Junior High class, which is designed to provide support and structure for students who are struggling to be successful in their school career.  The students may be challenged by failing grades, behavior issues, attendance problems, homework and/or test difficulties, lack of school organizational skills, social or emotional concerns, or an overall apathy toward school. The class will strive to teach the students study skills, organizational skills, time management, behavior management and modification, self-advocacy, and better decision making skills.  The goal of School Success is to empower your student with the tools necessary to help him/her become a successful student this year and in the future.

**Peer Tutoring:**

This is a class available to 8th and 9th grade students. Students who take this course work with students with moderate to severe cognitive disabilities. They assist in taking them to different classes, working with them in the special education class on subjects such as reading, basic math and functional skills.

**Peer Leadership Team**

This class is designed to develop leadership skills in teens. Students will be learning about personal, social, and community responsibility. Students will also be involved in various group and team activities designed to build team-working skills. Students will become more aware of the community around them as they participate in current event discussions, papers and journals.