

7th Grade Course Descriptions 2026-2027 School Year

Dear Prospective Seventh Grade Students / Parents / Guardians,

The attached subject selection and registration material were prepared to assist you in making informed choices regarding course selections for your seventh grade school year. Students should work with current teachers to evaluate their fundamental skills and goals. The attached course descriptions should be used to select the most appropriate classes to continue academic development while at Tupelo Middle School. Please read the course description information to help with course selection.

Tupelo Middle School offers advanced classes designed for students who demonstrate maturity, self-motivation, strong study skills, high aptitude, strong work habits, and consistent academic excellence. Advanced courses should be selected if the student meets the prerequisites and plans to take advanced courses at Tupelo High School.

DISCLAIMER

This document is subject to change due to staffing, academic needs, and course offerings.

7TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2026 - 2027

REQUIRED CLASSES

7th LANGUAGE ARTS - will concentrate on vocabulary, critical thinking, and writing skills. Students study different genres of literature and read at least one extended text every nine weeks. Vocabulary work will be enriched through lessons. Additionally, students write informative, narrative, and argumentative essays.

7th ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS - will concentrate on vocabulary, critical thinking and writing skills, advanced literary selections, and analytical reading skills. Reading selections will include the classics, as well as some more contemporary works from recent authors. Additionally, students will write informative, narrative, and argumentative essays.

Recommended prerequisites for Advanced Language Arts: score 4 or 5 on MAAP, score 4 or 5 on Spring District Common Assessment, 85 or above final average and teacher recommendation.

You must maintain a 85 average throughout the year to stay in the advanced class.

7th MATH - focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

7th CCR Compacted Math (one Carnegie unit) - includes the content for grade 7 and also focuses on three critical areas from Grade 8: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence. Students must have the maturity to complete homework and study nightly, as well as use organizational skills.

Recommended prerequisites for 7th CCR Compacted Math: Score of 4 or 5 on MAAP, score 4 or 5 on Spring Common Assessment, 85 or above final average, and teacher recommendation.

You must maintain a 85 average throughout the year to stay in the advanced class.

7th SCIENCE - will focus on the **2018 Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for Science**. Three strands will be explored: **Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth and Space Science**. The inquiry strand involving the ability to ask questions, make observations,

conduct experiments; measure, gather data, solve problems; and communicate the experiment results will now be embedded throughout the other three strands.

7th UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1877 - covers six early civilizations for the first nine weeks and then will cover major events and historical themes from the pre-Columbian era through Reconstruction. There is an emphasis on both historical knowledge and social studies skills. The rights and responsibilities of United States citizens are stressed throughout the course.

CYBER FOUNDATIONS I - Students will earn a Carnegie unit for high school graduation upon completion of the course. Students will be introduced to various computer science and technology concepts and career exploration throughout the year. Students will use Google Drive, TypingClub.com, Xello, and Code.org. Some examples of content are digital citizenship, keyboarding, technology applications, problem-solving, and programming (HTML and block coding).

ELECTIVE COURSES

7th ART LAB - is the Middle-Level III program of study that defines what students should know and be able to do at the end of the 7th-grade art program. In visual arts, students respond to life experiences with both two and three-dimensional solutions. Students continue to learn the language of art, interpret visual symbols, and involve technology in their design processes. This program involves creating critical analysis, history, aesthetics, and connections among the visual arts, other content areas, and everyday life. Middle-Level III builds on the knowledge, concepts, and skills of the 6th grade Middle-Level II course.

7th CERAMICS - In this course, students will explore the histories, uses, vocabulary, and methods of working with ceramics in functional and representational forms. Each student will create several pieces throughout the year using multistep processes that have been perfected over the course of our human history. As one of the oldest and most versatile materials, humanity has used clay to create since the dawn of our civilization and is still using it today. This course adheres to visual art state standards and requires a B average or above to attend.

7th JUNIOR VARSITY BAND - **is for those 7th-grade students who were enrolled in the band during their 6th-grade year. The students/parents should already have obtained an instrument and maintain any reeds, valve oil, mallets, sticks, and method book for this class.** This course provides instruction in both individual and ensemble instrumental performances. Concert band techniques will be taught. The students will perform in concerts and solo/ensemble festivals. **Attendance at these activities is part of the course requirements and will be graded.** This course is geared toward students' continued band participation throughout their middle and high school years. Students must audition to be placed in this second year performing ensemble at the end of the sixth grade. Remedial students should register for TMS

Beginning Band. Inclusion in public performances is performance and participation based. Students must pass off performance pieces before being included in public performances. There will be approximately six after school rehearsals. These rehearsals will be scheduled at the beginning of the first and third terms. (See MHSAA note on page 7.)

7th/8th WINTER GUARD (competitive) - Students will receive instruction on the flag, rifle, and saber and thoroughly explore the fundamental principles of each piece of equipment on a higher level than Color Guard I. Students will also build on fundamental dance and body principles. This class has a fee; however, fundraising opportunities are available to help cover the fee. Students may participate in band and Color Guard II; therefore, students currently enrolled in the band may NOT withdraw from band to participate in Color Guard II.

Prerequisite: Audition and three teacher recommendations.

7th Choral (7th & 8th grade mixed chorus) - This chorus includes girls' and boys' chorus and focuses on the development of comprehensive choral musicianship through the performance experience. Members will be exposed to a breadth of music literature with an emphasis on high quality performance and thorough understanding. Attendance is mandatory for any after-school rehearsals and all performances. Each performance counts as a major test grade. (See MHSAA note on page 8.)

Recommended prerequisite for Choral: Audition, no major disciplinary infractions, academic requirement of a 2.0 gpa or higher in all classes is mandatory for participation per MHSAA

7th/8th GENERAL MUSIC - This non-performance music course is designed to be a music appreciation course that teaches students about the “ingredients” of music such as melody, harmony, notation, texture, style, rhythm and form. Students will explore the basics of music as well as sing, perform on classroom instruments, and listen to various examples of music from around the world from varying time periods and cultures.

7th/8th SPLASH SHOW CHOIR - Students wishing to participate in Show Choir should plan on auditioning. Auditions for entering 7th graders will be held in the Tupelo High School Small Auditorium. Audition dates TBD. Students in Splash show choir have all the same duties and requirements of 7th CHORAL MUSIC plus and are required to pay a splash fee (a portion is paid and a portion is raised). Attendance is required for any after-school rehearsals and performances.

Prerequisite: Audition

7th/8th THEATRE ARTS - is an introduction to the dramatic arts. Course requirements include activities such as acting in groups, analyzing plays, writing scenes, memorizing lines,

and improvisational acting. The course promotes reading, movement, accountability for one's work through performance, and a sense of confidence among peers. Opportunities will be given to learning skills important for success in social and professional situations, especially public speaking.

7th/8th DISCIPLINES OF THEATRE (D.O.T.) - is a course designed to provide students with the opportunity to pursue an exploration of technical stage design, criticism, dramatic and comedic acting, and performance. Students will produce plays for the general public and possibly for competition as part of the TMS Theatre Department's Season. Students will also be inducted into the TMS Jr. Thespians Troupe 88196 upon course completion.

Prerequisite: Students must audition for this course. Any upcoming 7th grader can audition whether or not he/she took 6th grade theatre. No previous theatre experience is required.

7th INTRODUCTION TO PUBLICATIONS & PRODUCTION - is a project-based class focusing on individual student work that can be published, such as newspapers, comic books, short stories, and photographs. Students will be introduced to various interviewing techniques and broadcast journalism. Students will learn basic Journalism principles, which will aid them as they create a school newspaper and practice basic graphic design and photography skills.

7th Girls/Boys PHYSICAL EDUCATION - includes units from the following: badminton, basketball, handball, physical fitness, soccer, softball, tennis, ultimate frisbee, ping-pong, flag, dodgeball, football, track, kickball, floor hockey, and volleyball. Notes and a written test will be given for each unit. Appropriate clothes that meet the school dress code are required. All students are **required to participate daily** and wear appropriate shoes. **No sandals, slides, boots, open toes, or Dexter shoes are allowed.**

7th WEIGHT TRAINING - is a course that focuses on muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, and safety. The core lifts in this course include parallel squats, cleans, and bench presses. Weight room safety, warm-up/cool down procedures, lifting technique and safety for all lifts, major muscle identification, and individual goal setting are all important components of this course.

7th ORCHESTRA - is open to students who want to **continue** to study one of the four orchestral string instruments: violin, viola, cello, and bass. The student/parent must rent or purchase an instrument. Students will be required to practice their instruments at home. Attendance at concerts and various community performances is mandatory and is part of the

course requirements. In addition, extracurricular ensembles and experiences may include All-State Honor Orchestra, North Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the LOU Symphony.

Competitive Robotics - This course is a highly competitive, team-based robotics program designed for students who are motivated, committed, and ready to work at an advanced level. Students participate in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), where they design, build, program, and iterate on a competition robot to solve complex, real-world engineering challenges. Participation requires regular after-school practices, weekend work as needed, and attendance at regional competitions. Students develop advanced skills in mechanical design, programming, electronics, strategy, and project management while working under strict deadlines and performance expectations. Emphasis is placed on professionalism, teamwork, resilience, and strategic thinking in a fast-paced, high-pressure environment that mirrors real-world engineering and competitive STEM fields.

Prerequisite: Application Required

Robotics (Non-Competitive)- This course offers a relaxed, hands-on introduction to robotics and engineering concepts through creative building and experimentation. Unlike a competitive robotics class, the focus is on exploration, collaboration, and learning at a comfortable pace. Students design, build, and program LEGO® robots, with opportunities to explore FTC-style robotics as interest and skill levels grow. The course also introduces students to Makebots and drone technology, allowing them to experiment with coding, mechanics, and problem-solving across multiple platforms. Emphasis is placed on curiosity, creativity, and teamwork while developing foundational skills in robotics, coding, and engineering design in an engaging, low-pressure environment.

E-Sports - This course is building off of our success in the 25-26 school year where we were #1 overall in the Central Time Zone for Splatoon and Super Smash Bros. There will be a tryout during the last nine weeks of the school year.

Prerequisite: Audition Required

Students must maintain a C average in core subjects. Also, students who receive OSS or Structured Day Program placement will be removed from the courses.

NOTES

Carnegie Unit: A Carnegie unit of credit is awarded for successfully completing high school courses. A Carnegie unit is a full academic year of “high school” credit in a recognized subject. TMS seventh grade students who are scheduled into a course that awards a Carnegie unit of credit must achieve a numerical average of 65 percent or above to receive credit. Seventh grade students can earn up to two credits-one Carnegie unit for Cyber Foundations and/or one for CCR Compacted Math.

TMS Competitive Teams Sports: Teams **are not** associated with 7th grade Physical Education classes. Some TMS competitive athletic teams will meet/practice after school. Announcements will be made to notify students when and where all competitive athletic team tryouts will be held. (See MHSAA note below.)

TMS Competitive Academic Teams: Teams will meet after school. Announcements will be made to notify interested students when and where all competitive academic team tryouts will be held. (See MHSAA note below.) (Math Counts, Robotics, and Science Bowl)

Mississippi High School Activities Association: To be eligible to participate in interschool MHSAA activities (middle school or high school), a student must meet all MHSAA eligibility rules that include but are not limited to the following: a 7th grader must not have reached 14 years of age before August 1 of his/her 7th grade year. A 7th grader must have passed his/her previous grade level by achieving at least a 2.0 grade point average. Please contact your MHSAA coach or teacher for all eligibility rules.

Physical Education Requirement: The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards require physical education to be a part of the basic curriculum in any configuration of grades K-8. The curriculum must include 150 minutes of activity-based instruction per week and 45 minutes of instruction in health education per week. All of the electives offered at TMS meet the PE requirement.

Promotion & Retention Policy: Academic achievement and progress on the curriculum as adopted by the TPSD for students in grades 7 and 8 shall be reflected by a minimum grade average of 65 in each of the four major subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. **Students must pass the four major subject areas to be promoted to the next grade.**

Transferring from Advanced Classes to General Classes: The deadline for transferring from an advanced class to a general class is prior to Term 2 (2nd nine weeks).

