2026-2027 GMS Exploratory Descriptions

Classes for Rising 7th Graders

Health-Based Classes (Must pick one)

- **Physical Education and Health:** This course is a semester-long course and is a combination of Physical Education and Health. The major emphasis of the course is physical fitness, including aerobic capacity, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility. Along with physical fitness activities, students will participate in team and individual games/sports and develop skills associated with each. The Fitness Gram Physical Fitness Test will be administered. The state mandated Reproductive Health course will be taught within the Health curriculum along with nutrition; smoking, alcohol, and illegal drug use; heredity and genetics; personal and community health; injury prevention and safety; and mental, social and emotional health.

- **Outdoor Education (Semester)** Outdoor Education is an activity-based course designed to build confidence, teamwork, and an appreciation for the outdoors through hands-on learning experiences. Students develop age-appropriate outdoor skills that promote problem solving, cooperation, leadership, and personal responsibility. Throughout the year, students will also participate in combined Physical Education activities to encourage fitness, collaboration, and school community. Learning experiences may include ropes course challenges, knot-tying, outdoor safety, and introductory camping skills that emphasize preparation and teamwork.

Semester-Long Options

- **Art Foundations: 2D & 3D Design** This course introduces students to the elements of art and principles of design through both two-dimensional and three-dimensional media. Students will develop technical skills, creative expression, and visual communication by completing 4–5 major projects that may include drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, sculpture, clay, wire, paper-mâché, and found-object assemblage. Emphasis is placed on composition, color theory, form, space, texture, and structural integrity while encouraging creative problem-solving and artistic exploration. Through hands-on experiences, students will learn to translate ideas into both visual and physical forms while strengthening their understanding of contemporary and traditional art practices.
- **Family & Consumer Science:** This course preparing for Life 1 is a one-semester Family and Consumer Science course for 7th-grade students. This course provides students with opportunities to explore clothing care, hand and machine sewing, nutrition, kitchen safety, and food preparation. Instruction is delivered primarily through hands-on projects and real-world learning experiences designed to build practical life skills.
- **Guitar:** Students will learn basic fundamentals of playing the guitar. Instruments will be provided for use in the classroom.
- **iCivics:** This class offers an engaging exploration of the American Government through a blend of inquiry-based lessons with infusions of the Family and Consumer Science program. Students will explore the branches of government, checks and balances, and future ready citizenship. Students will also explore the basics of goal setting, future planning, and basic nutrition.
- **Introductory to Agriculture:** This Introduction to Agriculture course helps seventh-grade students investigate how science, technology, natural resources, and human systems connect to agriculture. Through hands-on labs, field observations, projects, and communication tasks, students will develop scientific inquiry skills, explore soil and

plant systems, study animal science, analyze natural resource and conservation issues, and learn leadership and career connections in AgroSciences.

- **Introductory French or Spanish**: This courses for exploratory 7th grade Spanish/French semester-long classes that will equip you with the fundamental building blocks of the language. You'll learn essential greetings and farewells, master introductions. We will also explore how to express your likes and dislikes, enabling you to engage in basic conversations and connect with Spanish speakers on a personal level.
- **Music Appreciation**: Students will learn about music genres, music history and musical instruments.
- **Musical Theatre:** Do you love to use your imagination? If so, this class is for you! Theatre class encourages creativity, group work and fun. You will learn how to plan, practice and perform small skits in front of small audiences. Some of the units of study include Reader's Theatre, Fairy Tales, Greek Theatre and mask making. Get ready to let your creativity flow while building your self-confidence and speaking skills. Audience behavior is also an important element of this class.
- **Musical Movement:** Do you love to move and dance? Come explore the basic elements of dance and build your self-confidence along the way. Students will learn how to choreograph, count music and think about dance in a totally different way. Students will study various dance genres, learn about famous choreographers and make connections between dance and other arts disciplines. Audience behavior is also an important element of this class.
- **Pro-Team:** Have you ever thought about being a teacher? If so, then this class is for you! ProTeam explores lessons in communication, self-reflection and teaching as a profession. This class will focus on skills needed to complete college and possibly consider education as a career choice. Show your creative and academic sides through meaningful projects and important class discussions. Students with A-B averages are highly recommended.
- **Spanish Passport**: This course is required for Spanish Immersion students only. They will study the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.
- **STEM Academy 7th:** This course is an inquiry-based course aligned with South Carolina Science and ISTE Standards that challenges students to apply scientific and mathematical thinking to real-world engineering problems. Through hands-on investigations, students explore the connections between technology, biology, and physical science while strengthening research, problem-solving, and innovation skills needed for future success.

Year-Long Exploratory Classes: These 4 courses take two of the six exploratory spots.

Fine Arts

7th grade Band: Band is a year-long course. Seventh Grade band students will perform a varied repertoire of music. Students will improve technique, tone, timing and tuning through sight-reading, listening and playing their instruments daily. The ensemble will develop and improve stylistic playing, dynamics, blend and balance and develop an appreciation for performing. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the South Carolina all-state and regional honor bands. The seventh-grade band will perform several concerts throughout the year. Prerequisite: One year of prior study.

Orchestra: Orchestra is a year-long course. Seventh grade orchestra students will continue to develop their skills on the violin, viola, cello, or bass. This group will perform quality orchestral music while developing musical concepts and insight to the value of music through sight reading, listening,

rehearsing, performing, and playing technique. Students will also have the opportunity to learn music theory, brief music history, and compete as soloists or part of a small ensemble. The orchestra presents concerts several times throughout the school year. Prerequisite: one year of prior study.

Chorus: This is a year-long course that covers various aspects of vocal and choral music. Students will study varied vocal repertoire while learning proper vocal technique, reading music notation, enhancing music listening skills, and singing daily. The chorus performs at many school and community functions throughout the year during and after school hours. There is no prerequisite.

World Languages (Year Long-High School Credit Bearing Course)

7th Grade Spanish Immersion: Spanish 2 Honors This is required for Spanish Immersion Students. These students must have been a 6th grade Spanish Immersion student. These students will continue to study Spanish Language Arts during this year-long course.