

# Trojans

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**2024-2025**

## **Course Descriptions**

**Grades 7-8**

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### **Seven Period Day**

**We have 7 periods a day with an average 47 min per day, 5 days a week.**

### **Homeroom**

Homeroom is attached to first period with some extra minutes allotted each day. This is where we make school announcements, say the Pledge of allegiance, and distribute flyers. This also allows time for teachers and students to look at Skyward together, clean lockers, and have special assemblies. These activities help students stay organized and celebrate student success in academics and athletics.

## **Core Classes**

### **Science for 7-8th Grade Students**

All students are enrolled in science year-round for 1 period, averaging 47 min per day, 5 days a week. With the challenging new NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards), this is critical to student success. In addition to Science, students may choose from our science electives such as Lego robotics, medical careers, project-based learning, and horticulture.

### **Social Studies for 7-8th Students**

At the 7th-8th grade levels, students take one semester each year: 7th grade takes Social Studies and 8th Grade takes WA State History. Social Studies is also integrated through reading, writing and presenting about Social Studies topics in their ELA and Reading Support classes.

### **CORE Math and ELA for 7-8th Grade Students**

Most students in 7th and 8th grade take two periods of math and one period of ELA. Students who consistently demonstrate on or above level performance on the SBA, classroom and district assessments in ELA and/or Math, take one class of ELA and one class of Math, averaging 47 min per day in each subject.

### **Opportunities for Advanced ELA Class**

Students in Grades 7-8 who qualify for advanced ELA take one period of advanced ELA rather than general ELA. They work at a faster pace and work with more challenging text. To qualify for advanced ELA, students must consistently perform at a high level on the SBA, school wide assessments (iReady), and in -class assignments.

### **Opportunities for Advanced Math Class**

Students in Grades 7-8 who qualify for advanced math take one period of advanced math rather than general math. They work at a faster pace and cover more material. To qualify for advanced math, students must consistently perform at a high level on the SBA, in- class assignments and on school wide assessments (iReady). Depending on the grade level, these courses are Pre-Algebra, Algebra, or Geometry. Algebra and Geometry are eligible for high school credit.

# ELECTIVES

## YEAR LONG OPTIONS

### 7/8 choir (One Semester or All Year)

This choir will focus on singing a variety of music styles prominent in the choral world today. Students will continue to learn music notation, rhythm, as well as learn how to read sheet music. Students will continue to develop part independence and sing in a variety of 2 and 3-part music. There will be an evening concert near the end of each quarter.

## SEMESTER LONG OPTIONS

### 7/8th Art Studio (One Semester):

In 7/8th Art Studio we will focus on building the skills and techniques of an artist. We will have 4 core units: realistic drawing and shading, painting and color theory, printmaking, and ceramics.

### Advanced Art 7/8 (One Semester):

Advanced Art will start off with reviewing and advancing the skills learned in 7/8<sup>th</sup> Art Studio and applying those skills to meaningful art. The end of the semester will be a large project that is designed by the student in the media of their choice.

### Drama (One Semester):

The course objective is to become familiar with basic drama skills while also becoming comfortable performing and presenting ideas to an audience. Topics covered include: the history of theater, basic stage work, vocal interpretation, characterization, movement, improvisation and pantomime. Students will participate in informal ensemble scenes as well as monologue presentations.

### Office/Teacher/Library Aide (By Approval-application required-One Semester):

This course is designed for students who want to assist staff at the school in a variety of areas. Students must maintain outstanding attendance and GPA to be considered for one of these positions..

### Digital Creations (One Semester):

7/8 Students will be using technology to make their photos and videos come alive. This introductory course deals with controlling computer technology to produce a variety of Digital Creations. Students will learn computer illustration techniques, image manipulation, animation, and how to use their phones/cameras to produce high quality photos and videos. As students are introduced to various fields in Digital Creations, they will learn and apply the fundamentals of design with various software applications as well as study the language and principles of design.

### Horticulture (One Semester):

Horticulture is a hands-on class that teaches seed germination, plant propagation hydroponics, greenhouse management, garden planning, soil testing, soil treatment, organic gardening, composting, irrigation, and utilization of cover crops. This is done by planting and maintaining a community garden that produces fresh organic produce for the local food bank.

### Leadership (By Approval) (One Semester):

Through large and small group activities, students will learn and develop a variety of useful skills as they plan and organize activities for the middle school. Students must fill out an application form to be considered for this class. **Leadership is a requirement for ASB and Class Representatives (schedule permitting).**

### Weights (One Semester):

Students will explore the principles of strength training through various hands on methods. Fundamental abilities such as strength, flexibility, speed, agility, and explosive power will be taught, practiced, and implemented. Students will also learn the importance of diet as it pertains to goals both sport related, and lifestyle related.