

## Springville Junior High Seventh Grade Course Descriptions

### REQUIRED COURSES

**LANGUAGE ARTS 7 (full year)** Focuses on effective reading, writing, and communication skills. Students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts as a class, in groups, and individually. Students will produce a variety of writing projects including argument, informational, and narrative essays, as well as creative projects.

**MATH 7 (full year)** Students will focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 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 drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

**MATH 7/8 HONORS (full year)** Students will cover the core concepts from both Math 7 and Math 8 courses in this accelerated hybrid class.

**SCIENCE 7 (full year)** integrates physical, earth and life science concepts. Curriculum includes the particulate nature of matter, earth structure, cellular biology, genetics and classification of living things according to structures and characteristics they have in common.

**UTAH STUDIES (one semester)** Utah is an amazing place, rich in resources, in geographic wonders, in inspiring history, and in the diversity of its people. The study of Utah permits students to understand more deeply the place they call home, while developing essential skills unique to the social studies disciplines. Within these standards, Utah Studies offers an opportunity for students to learn about their own families and cultures as well as those of others. The Utah Studies standards are based on four social studies disciplines: history, geography, economics, and civics. Students will explore the complex history of Utah, with examples of creativity, sacrifice, conflict, innovation, inequity, compromise, and leadership. Students will also learn about Utah's diverse physical geography, encounter Utah's economic systems and dynamics, and explore local and statewide political systems.

**COLLEGE AND CAREER AWARENESS (full year)** offers exploration and preparation in college and career pathways focusing on jobs that are high skill and high demand, as well as satisfying and financially rewarding. The College and Career Awareness course is designed to help students identify their interests, abilities, and skills. With appropriate developmental information related to careers, educational pathways, and self-knowledge, students are able to begin to make college and

career goals for the future. College and Career Awareness is designed to acquaint students with the Utah labor market and the employment opportunities for which they can prepare by defining a College and Career Ready Plan. (\$20 class fee required)

**P. E. (one semester)** This course is an all-inclusive activity based class that allows students to experience a wide range of physical activities and skills. The class promotes lifelong fitness so students know how to participate in the designed activities as they get older. Activities and skills are designed to build confidence and enhance enjoyment for lifelong fitness and activity. Activities offered include, but are not limited to: weight lifting, aerobic activities, golf, disc golf, land paddling, badminton, pickle ball, archery, and many other games and sports. (\$10 class fee required)

### FINE ARTS

**BAND 1 (full year)** is a beginning band class. Curriculum includes basic musicianship skills. Students will need to list which instrument they would like to learn, as well as a second choice in case there are too many students choosing the same instrument. Instruments include: flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, and baritone. Students desiring to play percussion will need to have completed 2+ years of formal piano lessons. (\$20 class fee required, \$100 instrument rental fee if applicable)

**ORCHESTRA I (full year)** Students will learn to be musical as they improve current performance skills on the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students will also improve their listening, note reading, and music theory skills. (\$20 class fee required, \$100 instrument rental fee if applicable)

**CHOIR (one semester)** Beginning level choir class. Students are taught two and three-part vocal harmony as well as healthy singing habits. Students also learn definitions and symbols associated with music. This class is recommended for students who like to sing, or want to learn to sing, and have a positive attitude about working with a large group. (\$15 class fee required)

**ART FOUNDATIONS IA (one semester)** is an introductory course to the elements and principles, (the tools for making art). Students will have the opportunity to explore the basics in a variety of mediums and have hands on creative experiences individually and collaboratively to foster appreciation, creative thinking and problem solving skills. **This class is a pre-requisite for all other art classes.** (\$10 class fee required)

**DRAMA 1 (one semester)** This Class is designed to improve students' ability to speak and present themselves in front of an audience. We learn scriptwriting and movement through Three Stooges scenes, build character through Improv Games, and improve our voice through performing Phineas and Ferb voiceovers. We conclude all drama classes with an after school performance for the parents. (\$10 class fee required)

**TECH THEATER (one semester)** In Tech Theater we learn to design and run technical performance of a theater production. We communicate ideas, moods, and feelings through technical theater methods. These methods include stage management, set design, lighting design, sound effects, scene painting, property management, costume design, and technical abilities to support these functions. A lot of this class is designing, building, and running the theater productions in the school. (\$10 class fee required)

### ELECTIVE COURSES

**FILM STUDIES (one semester)** This class is for students who enjoy stories, whether they are reading or watching movies. This course is divided into three units: film elements, the Hero's Journey, and adaptation. Students will learn the basic elements of film, and analyze the choices made by directors, screen writers, and actors in the film making process. Assignments include: pitching ideas for movie adaptations, writing movie reviews, and analyzing movies.

**SPEECH (one semester)** This hands-on class will empower students as they learn the lifelong skill of communicating wisely and effectively for different purposes and settings. Students will enjoy participating in a variety of creative exercises and problem-solving activities meant to strengthen their communication skills and gain confidence for gathering information and presenting. Students will prepare and, after plenty of practice, deliver various types of speeches, such as debates, character sketches, and oral readings, in a positive environment focused on improvement.

**CREATIVE WRITING (one semester)** This class is for those who enjoy writing stories, poems, children's books, and writing in multiple genres. It is a writer's workshop format with plenty of time for creating, collaborating, sharing, and publishing. Grading is based on participation, genre and grammar conventions, and writing completion.

**READING FOR ENJOYMENT (one semester)** This class is for students who love reading, want more time to read independently, or have the hope of renewing their love of books. This is not a remedial or reading skills class; however, it is a class where students get to interact and process the texts they are reading through a variety of engaging activities. Students are encouraged to read from differing genres and will have the opportunity to share and discuss these books with

other students. The intention of this class is to get students to talk about books (and everything about them), which gives students the opportunity to add good reads to their reading list.

**INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH (one semester)** This beginning class emphasizes language acquisition through the use of comprehensible input. Proficiency is the goal. All four modalities will be used. Students will listen, read, write, and speak Spanish in class and are encouraged to practice outside of class. Students will use stories, songs, film, articles, art, legends, and history (all in Spanish) throughout the year to aid in their quest to become proficient in Spanish.

**SPANISH FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS (one semester)** This class is designed for students who speak Spanish as their first language and wish to improve their literacy skills in Spanish. The class will enable students to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in Spanish by providing them the opportunity to listen, speak, read and write in a variety of contexts. The course will also allow students to explore the cultures of the Hispanic world.

**SPANISH 3 DLI HONORS (full year)**

**CHINESE 3 DLI HONORS (full year)**

This course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the native country are taught through reading selections. For dual immersion students only. (\$25 class fee required)

**DLI SPANISH CULTURE & MEDIA (one or both semesters)**

**DLI CHINESE CULTURE & MEDIA (one or both semesters)**

This course builds skills in cultural-linguistic competencies necessary for successful communication with native speakers (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students utilize media and authentic texts to discuss the diverse cultural products, practices and perspectives of the Spanish or Chinese-speaking world. The Culture and Media class is composed of four modules taught in the four semesters of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They are independent of each other and do not need to be taken in sequence. For dual immersion students only.

**PE EXPLORATION (one semester)** This course is a continuation of regular PE. Students are given additional opportunities to experience a variety of games and sports and discover enjoyable activities to build confidence and enhance lifelong fitness.