



ISLANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Islander Families,

We hope this letter finds you well! We miss you and look forward to getting back to school soon. Despite this unprecedented school closure, we are going forward with our preparation for the 20-21 registration process for incoming 7th and 8th grade students. We want to give you an overview of how the process will work during this very unusual time. We will be posting registration packets and guidelines on the website:

1. **Monday, March 23rd**, IMS will be placing short videos on the website about frequently asked questions regarding the registration process. These videos will be the primary method for parents to receive information about topics such as foreign language, fine arts requirements, PE waivers and filling out the registration worksheets.
2. **March 23rd through April 3rd**, all current 6th and 7th graders can review the registration materials on the IMS website (under Students tab on IMS website, see Registration 20-21) and complete the online registration of IMS electives.

Parents who still have questions after watching the videos, reviewing the instructions on course selection, registration materials, and talking with their student are welcome to email our registrar, Marcy Berejka at marcy.berejka@mercerislandschools.org.

By **Friday, April 3rd**, students must have completed the online registration process. Students can plan on turning in their physical completed registration form to their Gator Time teacher, once school resumes.

We hope you will find this process efficient and personalized to meet your needs.

Sincerely,

Weston Lucas, Aaron Miller, and Mary Jo Budzius

2020-2021

Seventh-Grade Curriculum Guide

Seventh Grade

Islander Middle School teachers support seventh grade students in their growing independence and self-awareness. The academic program is based on an understanding of the needs of adolescents and teachers provide support, guidance, and academic challenge to assist seventh graders in their academic progress. Students are exposed to a wide range of learning opportunities this year, including their ability to select electives. Students are provided with continuing opportunities to understand that their learning is valuable and worthwhile and to apply their knowledge to situations outside of the classroom.

All 7th and 8th grade students have a fine arts requirement to be completed over the course of their 7th and 8th grade years. Choices include at least a full year of band, orchestra, or choir or the completion of a two trimester Drama (Drama I and Drama II) or Art (Art I and Art II – must be completed in same school year) sequence. Students may also elect to take additional fine arts courses while at IMS.

Required

Language Arts 7

Social Studies 7

Math 7, or Pre-Algebra, or Algebra, or Geometry Science 7

P.E. – 1 Trimester required (May be waived with directed athletics. Waiver available in counseling office)

Health 7 – 1 Trimester

Electives

Choose from list of Year-Long and/or Trimester-Long classes

Seventh-Grade Curriculum

Language Arts 7

Literacy skills are the focus of the seventh grade language arts program and include the teaching of reading both literary and informational text, writing, speaking, listening, and language. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for seventh grade.

Reading instruction (both literary and informational) takes place through the study of a large variety of genres with particular emphasis on analytical and higher-level thinking skills, while specific foundational reading skills are intentionally taught and assessed throughout the year. Reading skills are also integrated into research and writing tasks.

Writing instruction includes the expository, argumentative, and narrative modes, and focuses this year on students incorporating information from nonfiction texts in all of these genres in order to enhance the content and logically convey ideas and provide relevant support. Students write routinely over short and extended time frames for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Speaking, listening, and language skills are practiced throughout the year and integrated into a variety of classroom discussions as well as informal and formal speaking opportunities.

Social Studies 7

The social studies curriculum incorporates all reading and writing skills within the study of Washington State history. The study of the state, from its earliest times to modern day, is examined through the four strands of social studies: history, civics, geography, and economics. Students will study the past and its connection to the present through the stories of the many individuals who helped define the uniqueness of Washington. All seventh grade students will participate in a culminating research project utilizing language arts, social studies, and technology skills. Passing this course completes a Washington State high school requirement.

Math 7

Students in Math 7 will be addressing several learning targets with an emphasis on problem solving, communicating mathematically, application of concepts, and building a foundation for Algebraic thinking. The concepts of ratio, proportion, percent, and geometric figures are applied in algebraic contexts. Measurement formulas are extended to include spheres, pyramids, and cones. Plane geometry extensions include the classification of polygons, identification of special angles and angle relationships in polygons, as well as indirect measurement using the Pythagorean theorem and similar triangles. Other areas covered are data analysis and statistics, graphing including an introduction to slope, and probability.

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra extends and culminates previous math skills and concepts from 7th grade targets, transitioning students to the more specialized math courses of Algebra and Geometry. The formal methods of Algebra introduced in seventh grade math are extended as students explore linear functions and solve more complex equations and inequalities. Students model problems with mathematical functions represented by graphs and equations, eventually learning to interpret the slope of various functions in contextual situations. They connect measurement and geometry by exploring properties of geometric figures by solving problems involving sides/angles of triangles to find unknown measures. Students work with squares and square roots using basic geometric theorems such as the Pythagorean Theorem. They build on their experience of organizing and interpreting data, creating displays for 2 data sets in order to compare, analyze and draw conclusions. Mean, median and mode are used to summarize and describe information and students expand their work with probability to deal with more complex situations and displays. To prepare for high school level math courses, students deal with additional key topics involving numbers and operations. This includes scientific notation and exponents in expressions containing both numbers and variables. To better understand the full breadth of the real-number system, students are introduced to sets of numbers including rational and simple irrational numbers. Additionally, students refine their reasoning and problem-solving skills as they move more fully into the symbolic world of algebra. They learn to communicate mathematical ideas, to make generalizations, to draw logical conclusions and to verify the reasonableness of their solutions.

Algebra

Algebra is the first year in a three-year college prep math sequence. Algebra focuses on the structure of the real number system. This course examines symbolic representations in solving real-world problems. Linear functions, quadratic functions, systems of equations, and problem solving are some of the topics within the enriching course outline. Graphing, both as a means of displaying data and analyzing data in one or two dimensions, is an integral part of this course. A solid foundation in arithmetic and pre-algebra skills is essential for success in this course.

A scientific calculator, ruler and graph paper are required.

When IMS students become juniors at Mercer Island High School, they will have the option to have their middle school Algebra grade posted to their Mercer Island High School transcript. If a student chooses not to have their Algebra grade on their transcript, they will not receive high school credit for the course.

Honors Geometry

Honors Geometry is the second year in a three-year college prep math sequence. In this course, students will develop a logical system of thought. Honors Geometry focuses on plane geometry with integration of some space and coordinate geometry. This course develops geometric concepts using formal proofs and algebraic applications. Algebra is used extensively for areas, volumes, lengths, angle measures, and graphing. Thus, successful completion of Algebra I is essential.

A scientific calculator, ruler, protractor, compass, and graph paper are required.

When IMS students become juniors at Mercer Island High School, they will have the option to have their middle school Honors Geometry grade posted to their Mercer Island High School transcript. If a student chooses not to have their Honors Geometry grade on their transcript, they will not receive high school credit for the course.

Health 7

Health is a required course for all seventh grade students and is one trimester in duration. The curriculum focuses on nutrition, communicable diseases, personal health care, stress management, conflict resolution, and substance abuse. Also included in the course will be the Washington State mandated teaching of HIV and AIDS education.

Science 7

Seventh grade science focuses on life and chemical science and encourages the investigation, observation, and discovery of the nature of science. Classroom activities will teach the scientific method, laboratory/experimental procedures, and scientific analysis. The 7th grade science curriculum is aligned with the Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements and Grade Level Expectations.

Students will have the opportunity for hands on learning activities using the STC (Science and Technology Concepts) kits: “Properties of Matter” and “Human Body”. Additional topics include Cells, Genetics, and Evolution. Students will learn the proper format for lab write-ups and generate and complete lab write-ups and journals for lab activities and science demonstrations. Students will also use models of abstract scientific concepts and understand the limitations of models. Students use technology by accessing the World Wide Web and computer-based software for research, enrichment, interactive learning and multimedia presentations. Expected homework includes, but is not limited to, reading assorted science selections, lab reading, and Glencoe texts.

Electives

Aerospace

From hot air balloons to airplanes to rockets, how has humankind developed the science of flight? Where will the space age take us? Aerospace students build five major hands-on projects: hot air balloons, kites, gliders, airplanes, and rockets, as well as a multitude of other small flight experiments and demonstrations—all designed to teach and reinforce the four forces of flight and Bernoulli’s Principle. Students also investigate the physics of air pressure and past and future developments in the space program. Class may include both 7th and 8th grade students, but is not repeatable. Lab/supply fee required.

Art Series: (Art I & II) (Two - one trimester classes)

Art and Design is a comprehensive visual art course that introduces the basics of design and creative expression. Students learn to think and create like an artist. They will craft artworks by tapping into their creativity, using their imagination and learning to apply the concepts of the elements and principles of design. Art and Design takes students on an exploration of a variety of art mediums and techniques such as drawing, painting, ceramics, mixed media and photography. Each unit of study will focus on an art style from a variety of artists, cultures and times. The second trimester is a continuation of the first trimester but with more focus on the principles of design and longer-term projects that require the technical and conceptual skills learned in Art I. Students who complete Art & Design I & II will take the Washington State Classroom-based Assessment in the visual arts.

Art III (Pre-requisite - Art I and II Series and this class can be repeated)

This is a trimester-long class that continues the format of the ART I and II series in that students will work with a variety of media in ceramics, drawing and painting. Each unit of study will emphasize the creative process and critical thinking. Art III students are encouraged to pursue their artistic style of seeing and using visual imagery as a means of communication. Student input is encouraged in the selection of projects to allow for more personalized instruction. Classes can be repeated because projects will be different depending on the students' interests. This course has a \$20 supply fee.

Drama I (No pre-requisite)

Drama I will introduce students to many different areas of theatre. Students will study basic theatre history, movement, voice acting, character development through monologue study, as well as scene development and improvisation in both individual and group exercises.

Drama II (Pre-requisite-Drama I or Instructor Approval)

Drama II offers students the chance to further explore theatre. Studies will focus on scene work, movement techniques, improvisation character work. Students will also be exposed to Shakespearean theatre, script writing, and technical elements of theatre such as makeup, costume, and set design. The course work will vary from trimester to trimester, therefore this class is repeatable.

Fitness

This course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students. The Fitness class is designed to provide students with the skills and information needed to begin a personalized exercise program to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. Students participate in pre- and post-fitness assessments in which they measure and analyze their own levels of fitness based on the five components of physical fitness: muscular strength, endurance, cardiovascular fitness, flexibility, and body composition. In this course, students research the benefits of physical activity, as well as the techniques, principles, and guidelines of exercise to keep them safe and healthy. Activities include but are not limited to: strength training, cardio-based games, walking, yoga and fitness technology.

French 7 (Two-trimester course)

In this two-trimester class, students will complete the first two of five trimesters of French. The five trimesters are equivalent to the first year of high school level French. Students will practice listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in the target language along with studying the French culture in French-speaking countries around the world. There will be a workbook fee.

Leadership (Year-long course)

Calling all leaders! Leadership class a community of students who are passionate about helping enhance the culture of IMS. Play a key role in creating spirit days, appreciation projects, school-wide activities, and much more. In this project-based course you will learn how to lead with confidence, work in groups, and take your dreams for IMS and make them a reality. Leadership is open to 7th and 8th graders. ASB officers must take this elective all year.

Mandarin Chinese 7 (Two-trimester course)

Students will learn the basic fundamentals of the written and oral Chinese language. Students will explore the language through hands-on activities as well as through Chinese text. Students who successfully complete Chinese 7 will be prepared to take Chinese 8 as an 8th grader. In this two-trimester class, students will complete the first two of five trimesters of Chinese. This course is for non-native Mandarin Chinese speakers. Students who are native Mandarin Chinese speakers or have extensive background in the Mandarin Chinese language, should sign up for Mandarin Chinese Advanced.

Marine Biology

Our oceans are one of the last frontiers of exploration. Current issues that affect our oceans will eventually impact us all. In this course, students investigate, research and discuss topics including ocean exploration, ocean water chemistry, the impact of society on oceans, and of course, marine life. Through hands on activities including several dissections, students will learn about plant and animal forms ranging from microscopic plankton all the way up to some of the largest animals on earth. If you are fascinated by life at sea and the blue abyss, this course is for you! This course is open to both 7th and 8th grade students, but is not repeatable. Lab/supply fee is required.

Media Technology – Digital Storytelling

Have you ever wanted to make a movie or podcast? Do you have great ideas? Interested in sharing your stories with the school on Gator Vision? Or maybe you just want to get better at tech. In this class, students will use a variety of technological tools to be part of the ever-evolving field of digital storytelling. A mix of video, audio design, and animation will be used to bring student ideas to life. Both fiction and nonfiction formats will be explored in this class. Students will work individually and in groups throughout the trimester. This is a fun class to learn how to work with others, share creative ideas, and demonstrate school spirit. Students will leave here ready to use the latest digital tools for future school projects and whenever else life calls for good storytelling.

Music (Year-long courses)

Band, Choir, and Orchestra

The seventh grade music program is a continuation of the program which started in the elementary and sixth grade. Seventh grade music is taught daily as a part of the regular school day and is a year-long class. Fee may be required.

Band 7

The seventh grade band is offered for students who have participated in the sixth grade band. The seventh grade band curriculum builds upon the heavily skill based curriculum of the sixth grade, to include more performance literature and less technique building material. This class is typically a much larger ensemble than the divided sections of the sixth grade thereby creating the appropriate opportunity to develop ensemble skills—i.e. communication with the conductor, balance and blend, etc. Active and focused participation in the ensemble learning process is essential for success in this course. Theoretical and structural understanding and expressive techniques become a central focus of student learning. Interested seventh grade band students have the opportunity to play in smaller chamber groups in addition to the full band experience. Fee \$15.00 shirt and \$4 binder.

Choir

Students who enroll in the choir develop fundamental skills in choral singing such as breathing, posture, music reading, three and four part harmony, performance technique, etc. No previous singing experiences or voice training is required, rather the desire and joy of learning a variety of songs in a fun, disciplined class setting. The choir participates in the school's music concerts, choral festivals, district wide Showcase concert as well as special school assemblies. Classes may include both 7th and 8th grade students.

Orchestra 7

7th grade Orchestra is taught in conjunction with the 8th grade and meets on a daily basis. There is an increased sophistication of literature and performance skills. The orchestra rehearses as both a string and a full orchestra. The 7/8 Orchestra meets at the same time as 8th grade band and has selected wind/percussion players who rehearse with both groups, providing the “full orchestra” experience. Students participate in the Eastshore Orchestra Festival and other activities throughout the year. Fee- Shirt \$18 (used both years).

PE 7/8

PE is required for one trimester; classes may include both 7th and 8th grade students with focus on advanced team sports. The curriculum will still meet Washington State Expectation but through recreational activities and strategies. Students will be required to change into an IMS PE uniform. This uniform has not been changed for many years. We encourage students to reuse previous uniforms from siblings or family members. Students are also required to wear supportive athletic shoes to decrease a chance of injury.

Photo/Film/Music

This course will provide opportunities for students to further appreciate the mass media forms of photography, film, and music. Students will be given experiences in creating digital photography, gain further understanding about components of film and movies, and understand the significance of music in our modern society. **NOTE: This course does not meet the criteria for completion of IMS's fine arts requirement.** No repeats.

Introduction to Programming

This course teaches students the basics of drawing and animation using the JavaScript programming language. The structure and syntax of JavaScript are similar to those of other entry level programming languages, so this class creates a solid foundation for future programming. No programming experience is necessary for students to be successful in this class.

Intermediate Programming

The intermediate programming course teaches students the fundamentals of the Apple programming language X-Code/Swift with the objective of being able to write simple interactive programs for iOS devices. Students who take this course should have studied programming outside of school or have taken the introduction to programming course as a prerequisite as they will encounter situations that require higher than entry-level programming skills.

Global Robotics

In this engineering elective course, students will cultivate their awareness and understanding of global issues facing us today through researching imminent social problems pertaining to global health, a safer world, and our environment. Students will then work through the engineering design process to develop a solution to a specific problem. Lego Mindstorms drag and drop coding software and EV3 kits will be used for building prototypes. STEM connections (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) are woven in throughout the learning. Innovation, creativity, and collaboration will drive this trimester long course. Experience programming Lego Mindstorms is required.

Social Justice – Race/Ethnicity, Sex/Gender, Sexual Identity

This course examines the role that identity and privilege play in everyone's lives, specifically examining the areas of race/ethnicity, sex/gender, and sexual identity. The class gives students a chance to learn about what goes on in our country and to empathize with people from many different backgrounds—starting with the other students in the class. You will have opportunities to create group projects, conduct individual investigations, and participate in group discussions about society and our place in it. If you love learning about our communities, our rights, each other, and the differences we can make together, then this is the class for you!

Social Justice – Socioeconomic Status, Ability/Disability, Mental Health, Appearance

This course examines the role that identity and privilege play in everyone's lives, specifically examining the areas of socioeconomic status, ability/disability, mental health, and appearance. The class gives students a chance to learn about what goes on in our country and to empathize with people from many different backgrounds and in many different life situations—starting with the other students in the class. You will have opportunities to create group projects, conduct individual investigations, and participate in many group discussions about society and our place in it. If you love learning about our communities, our rights, each other, and the differences we can make, then this is the class for you!

Spanish 7 (Two-trimester)

In this two-trimester class, students will complete the first two of five trimesters of Spanish. The five trimesters are equivalent to the first year of a high school level introductory Spanish course. Students learn the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students are introduced in a variety of ways to the diverse cultures of Spanish speaking countries, including, but not limited to, geography, customs and holidays. Student are expected to communicate in the Spanish language as they progress in the Spanish language program. Workbook fee.

"Speak Up!"

The ability to speak publicly (whether the group is large or small) is one of the most vital skills you can develop. In "Speak Up!" you will learn how to tell a captivating story, introduce a new concept, make a compelling argument, and even tell a joke that actually gets a laugh! Some of the types of speeches you will learn to deliver are Informative, Demonstrative, Persuasive, Q&A, and Entertaining. "Speak Up!" will provide you the opportunity to grow in your public speaking in a fun, supportive, and engaging environment.

Student Mentor

Student Mentors help peers with special needs by participating in electives, working on academic skills and assisting in social settings. The student mentor will explore issues involving diversity and leadership skills. Assignments include: goal setting and a final reflective essay. Motivation, compassion, initiative and responsibility are characteristics needed by student mentors.

Study Hall

Not being offered because of 30 minutes of Gator Time, scheduled for all students every day except Wednesday.

Teacher's Assistant

**Teacher's Assistant - Business Center, Library, Teacher
(One Trimester; Pass/Fail Grading)**

Business Center TA - log in all students coming in and out of the Business Center and assist students to print documents from thumb drives, server and email. Students will routinely troubleshoot issues, including jammed printers, new printer cartridges, etc. Students may also inventory and clean technology equipment in classrooms and iBook carts, fix iBook carts, check power cords and replace when necessary, replace missing keys from keyboards, check printer for tone, and may assist with rebuilding laptop and desktop computers.

Teacher TA - work in an assigned classroom. Routine tasks may include preparing handouts, creating bulletin boards, organizing classroom papers, running errands, correcting papers, filing, or other duties as assigned.

Library TA - staff the circulation desk, where they check books in and out of the library and provide basic library information to library users. Other duties include shelving books, processing library materials, and keeping the library tidy and clean.

Being a Library TA requires an aptitude for detail-oriented work:

- * Ability to learn library shelving systems
- * Ability to alphabetize
- * Consistent attention to detail
- * Ability to work independently
- * Initiative to identify and complete tasks

A Library TA is expected to perform their duties in a courteous and helpful way. They act as positive role models for other students by following library policies and regulations at all times. The best candidates for this job are enthusiastic about books and reading. A Library TA will learn how to use libraries well, and develop lifelong skills.

Inspired Writing

Do you want to become a better writer and have a bit of fun doing it? If so, this class is definitely for you. In Inspired Writing we will combine critical reading and purpose driven writing to help you to write powerfully and mindfully. We will inform, persuade, and entertain a variety of audiences through our writing of poetry, essays, memoirs, and many other writing forms.

Yearbook (Trimesters one and two)

Want to know the theme, or better yet, *pick* the theme of the yearbook? Want to publish a real book, take photographs, and write creative stories? Want to learn software you can use the rest of your life? Seventh and eighth grade students will work collaboratively on theme, page layout and design, photography, interviewing, and copy/caption writing in order to produce this historical document.

Familiarity with photo-based and publishing-based computer software programs is helpful; however, Pixler and OnLine Design will be taught. Returning yearbook students are encouraged to apply as editors for the new yearbook staff. This elective is challenging and requires each student to take responsibility for meeting real deadlines for a real publishing company, but it is also very fun!

Yoga

Decrease stress and take deep breaths while improving strength, power and flexibility. This trimester course supports the IMS Physical Education requirement while placing emphasis on individual activity and personal health. Students will be required to change for Yoga into comfortable clothing that will support their ability to move confidently. Students should avoid wearing low cut necklines, skirts, pants or shorts with a low-waist, and shoes that are non-supportive (boots, flats, open-toe shoes, etc.).

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