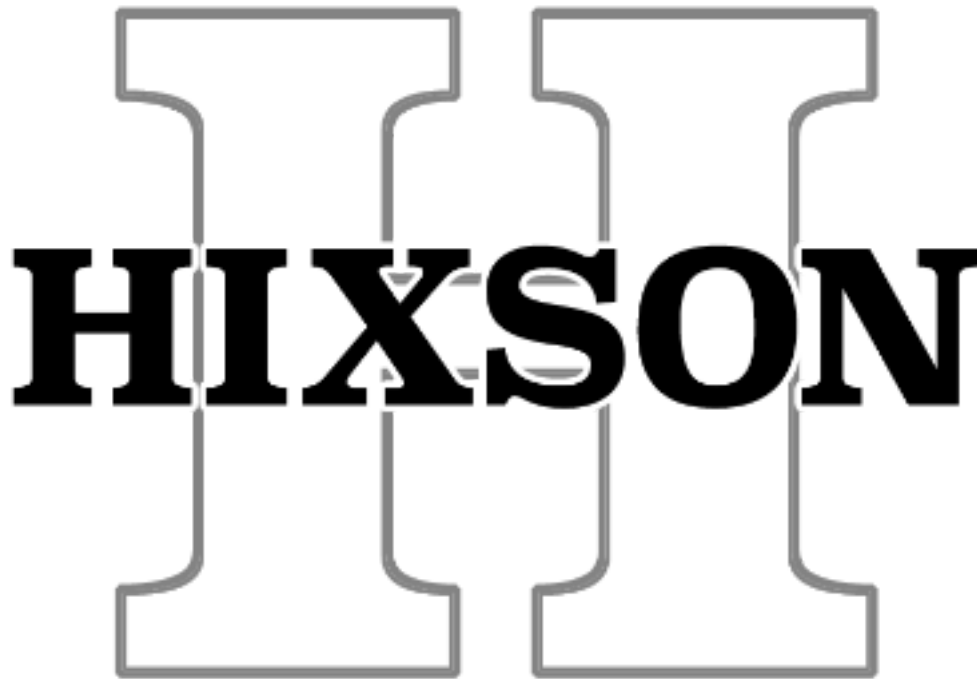


# **Hixson Middle School**

**7th Grade Course Descriptions  
and  
Guide to Student Program Planning**



**2020 - 2021**



**Hixson Middle School**

630 S. Elm Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-963-6450

**Principal**

Dr. Grace Lee

**Assistant Principals**

Mr. Michael Hazelton, *7th grade*  
Dr. Aimee Vogt, *8th grade*

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Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

The teachers, counselors, administrators, and staff at Hixson Middle School are looking forward to the start of the 2020-2021 school year! We have begun planning challenging and interesting courses, programs, and activities and we look forward to sharing these with you.

The following *Course Description and Guide to Student Program Planning* is provided to all students to assist in planning course work for seventh grade. Inside you will find the course descriptions offered in seventh grade and the course selection form. In order to take advantage of this valuable tool, it is essential that both guardians and students thoroughly review the contents. **Please read the information thoroughly and make your selections carefully. All course requests are final.** Staffing and scheduling are based on your course selections; therefore, making your choices wisely is very important. Your choices are one of the most important factors that go into our planning for the upcoming school year, so we thank you in advance for thoughtfully selecting courses and taking this process seriously.

Your counselor will be happy to answer any further questions you may have. Please feel free to contact your grade-level counselor directly.

**Seventh Grade Counselor:**

Mrs. Sarah Bodi  
bodi.sarah@wgmail.org  
918-4555

As a part of the Webster Groves School District community, the mission of Hixson Middle School is to develop confident, responsible citizens of strong character who value learning and diversity and who can realize their aspirations and contribute to a changing world. We are sure that your time at Hixson will be a challenging and rewarding educational experience.

Sincerely,

Dr. Grace Lee  
Principal

Mr. Mike Hazelton  
Grade Level Principal

**\*\*\*\*\* Staff is hired and a schedule is built on the basis of course requests. As a result, all course requests are FINAL. \*\*\*\*\***

# Schedule Planning Guidelines

The Webster Groves District secondary schools offer a balanced program of required and elective subjects designed to prepare students to satisfy their personal and social needs as well as to meet the economic, civic, and social demands of our complex world.

Some subjects are required of all students in the middle schools. These are subjects that provide basic understandings, knowledge, skills and attitudes that are the foundation of our social, civic, and economic life. These subjects constitute the base of the broad educational program essential for all students.

The elective subjects provide opportunities for the exploration and development of new fields of interest and for the further development of special interests and abilities already discovered in the elementary school. The elective program, like the required program, contributes to the general education of students, enriching the educational experience and strengthening self-confidence and poise through satisfying academic achievement.

Sound guidance in planning your program of studies is essential in both the middle and senior high schools. Among the elective subjects, select those that will contribute the most satisfaction to your personal goals.

Hixson Middle School provides special sections of some classes for the purpose of adjusting the program to the ability and interest of students. Students are assigned to these classes on the basis of examination, previous records, and staff recommendations. Teachers and counselors are available to help students plan their programs. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss any questions about program planning.

In planning a program, it is important to consider your non-academic workload when selecting your subjects. Music lessons, club activities, sports, and home responsibilities are all important factors to consider when planning your schedule.

# Mathematics Course Placement

In March of the 6th grade year, we will assess students for 7th grade math course placement. The majority of 6th grade students will continue onto Math 7. A very small number of 6th grade students show a need for an alternative curriculum.

All students enrolled in 7th grade math are assessed in the spring of 7th grade to determine course placement for 8th grade. Again, the majority of 7th grade students continue onto Math 8. Some 7th grade students show a need for an alternative curriculum, specifically Algebra 1.

Algebra 1 is offered as an elective choice for all students in grades 7 and 8. It can be taken in conjunction with Math 7 and/or Math 8. Algebra 1 is a high school level course, typically taken as a freshman. It is an intense course that requires a lot of hard work and perseverance in problem solving. You can view the course curriculum at <https://www.webster.k12.mo.us/domain/320>.

## How are 7th Grade math course placement decisions made?

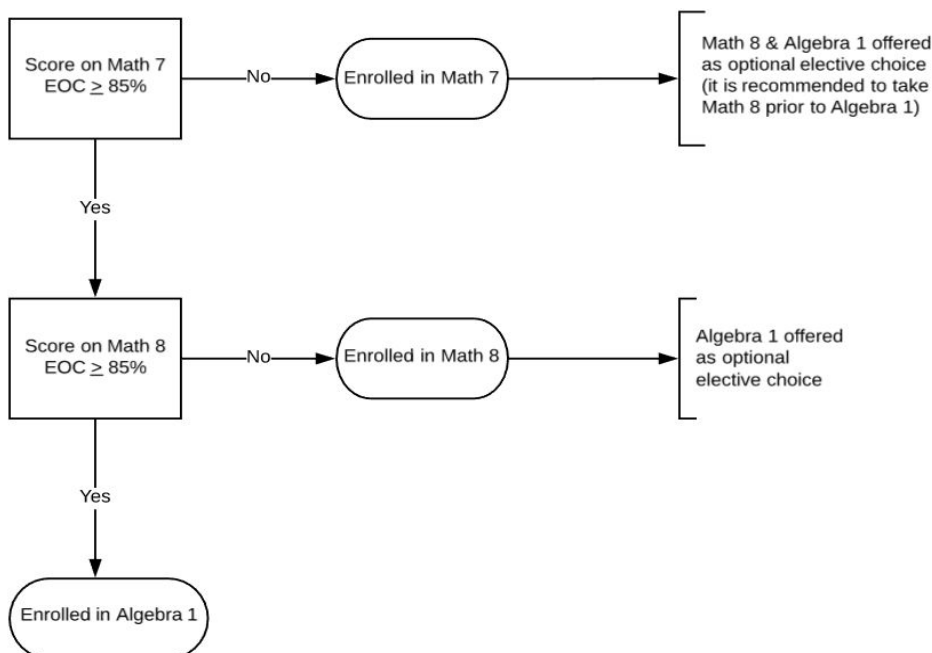
All students in 6th grade will take the Math 7 End of Course Assessment.

The majority of students will be placed in Math 7. Students who are passionate about math have the option to choose Math 8 or Algebra as an elective course (it is recommended that students complete Math 8 prior to enrolling an Algebra), taken in conjunction with Math 7.

A small number of students with proficiency of 85% or more of the Math 7 content will take the Math 8 End of Course Assessment. Students showing proficiency with more than 85% of the Math 7 content, but less than 85% of the Math 8 content will be enrolled in Math 8. Students who are passionate about math have the option to choose Algebra as an elective course, taken in conjunction with Math 8.

A few students with proficiency of 85% or more of the Math 7 content and Math 8 content will be placed in Algebra.

The flowchart below outlines the process. The results of the math placement exam will be mailed in April.



# Seventh Grade Course Offerings

## Hixson Middle School

### REQUIRED COURSES

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The following courses are required and each make up one period of a student's seven-period schedule:

- English/Language Arts 7
- Math 7, Math 8, or Algebra (based on District placement criteria)
- Physical Education/Health 7
- Science 7
- Social Studies 7, or Gifted Social Studies (based on District placement criteria)

### ELECTIVE COURSES

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Students may choose from the following courses to complete their schedule.

#### **Fine Arts - Semester Courses**

- Art 1
- Drama 1

#### **Music - Full-Year Courses**

- 7th Grade Band
- 7th Grade Choir
- 7th Grade Orchestra

#### **Practical Arts - Semester Courses**

- Family and Consumer Science 1
- Shop 1
- Technology Education 1

#### **World Languages - Full-Year Courses**

These classes are high school level courses. **Therefore, these classes are for students who are able to manage the pace and workload of high school courses.**

- French 1
- German 1
- Spanish 1

#### **Algebra - Full-Year Course**

*(Students who did not meet the placement criteria to enroll in Algebra may elect to take it in place of an elective course.)*

#### **Study Skills - Semester Course**

### OTHER COURSE OFFERINGS

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Students must qualify for these classes in order to be enrolled in these full-year courses.

- GFA (Gifted Fine Arts)
- Special Education

# Course Descriptions

## REQUIRED COURSES

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### **M1100 English/Language Arts 7**

Prerequisite: English/Language Arts 6

The seventh grade English-Language Arts class continues to develop the reading, writing, listening and speaking skills of students through the workshop model. Over the course of the year, students engage in the writing process to produce narrative, informational and argumentative writing pieces. In addition, students cultivate a reading identity and share their thinking with peers in a variety of ways. Targeted mini lessons aim to lift the level of students' reading and writing skills. Students use class time to independently apply skills and strategies in their reading and writing. Teachers actively confer with students about their individualized goals, which furthers students' growth as lifelong readers and writers.

### **M1200 Math 7**

Prerequisite: Math 6

Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing 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.

### **M4220 Math 8**

Prerequisite: Math 6 and District Placement Criteria

Instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (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 and (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

### **M7220 Algebra**

Prerequisite: Math 6 and District Placement Criteria

This is the beginning course in a sequence of college preparatory courses. Topics covered include solving formulas, graphing functions, analysis of linear functions, analysis of quadratic functions, analysis of basic exponential functions, solving inequalities, solving systems of equations, and sequences. At the end of first semester of Algebra, students who are performing at a 75% or below will be moved out of Algebra and will be placed in Math 8 or 7.

**M1300 Science 7**

Prerequisite: Science 6

Seventh grade science students will explore concepts related to the motions of objects in the Universe, cell structure and function, genetics, and factors that control weather and climate. Throughout the school year, students will practice identifying and solving problems, research related topics based on areas of interest, participate in hands-on activities, engineer solutions to identified problems, and evaluate the human impact on each topic of study.

**M1400 Social Studies 7**

Prerequisite: Social Studies 6

Students will continue their journey through the history of the United States from 1930 to present day. This course will delve into United States history through multiple cultural lenses. Students will investigate major events in American and world history that have affected the world we live in today. Students will engage in a number of activities that include compare/contrast analysis, identifying patterns (movement of people, goods, services, geography), and cause and effect relationships (people, government systems, environment). Learning will engage multiple modalities including inquiry learning, investigations of primary sources, and interpreting charts, graphs, and maps.

**M0010 Gifted Social Studies**

Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

This course is for students who participate in the district's gifted program. Learning goals and targets for the class have been developed by incorporating the WGSD Social Studies and Gifted curricula, creating a unique class with content and teaching methods for this special population of students. Much of our Gifted curricular goals will be met through our social studies work, but we will also incorporate projects and activities during the year which will specifically address Gifted needs.

**M3600 Physical Education/Health 7**

Prerequisite: Physical Education 6

Physical Education is designed to help students develop a love for physical activity and to instill in them the importance of a sound mind and body. Through Physical Education, students will obtain skills, abilities, and attitudes to participate successfully in lifetime activities. Physical Fitness and Health topics will be integrated throughout the program.

## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

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Elective classes must have adequate registration requests to become part of this year's school schedule. Students requesting courses that are not offered due to low enrollment will be notified by their counselor and assigned their alternate elective choice.

### **Fine Arts - Semester Courses**

#### **M8410 Art 1**

Prerequisite: None

This is a semester-long course in which Teaching for Artistic Behavior (TAB) is the foundation for how students will explore art. Students will make sketchbooks and learn basic skills in drawing, painting, ceramics, and sculpture. Students will learn how to develop ideas, organize and plan, work, and edit to refine and complete their art. In addition to the creation of art, students will also focus on responding to art. Responses will be made with art critique and by comparing/contrasting works of art. By the end of the course, students will turn in a portfolio presentation of all their hard work.

#### **M8450 Drama 1**

Prerequisite: None

Drama 1 is a course that explores several aspects of drama that will enhance or develop the foundational basics of theater including:

- scriptwriting,
- basic theater terminology,
- basic theater history,
- vocal and physical warm-ups,
- reflective writing,
- exploration of voice and body,
- ensemble building,
- pantomime,
- Improvisation, and
- reader's theater.



## **Music - Full Year Courses**

### **M7000 Band 7**

Prerequisite: Band 6 & Teacher Recommendation

Seventh-grade Band is a continuation of Steger's beginning Band program. It is open to all students who have successfully completed sixth-grade Band and who have the recommendation of their sixth-grade Band teacher. Students who are new to the district may join the Band if they have had a comparable experience in another school and complete a brief audition for the Hixson Band Directors. Seventh-grade Band members will continue to learn new fingerings and rhythms, and will concentrate on proper tone production. Students will complete lessons in music theory, music history, music technology and will perform a variety of middle school band music. The Band will give three concerts during the school year.

### **M8111 Choir 7**

Prerequisite: None

Seventh-grade Choir is a continuation of Steger's choral program. It is open to all students. Students new to the program are encouraged to attend some help sessions to help them catch up. This class is designed to strengthen individual voices, as well as develop choral singing abilities. The class will focus on learning to sight read notes and rhythms, sing in 3-4 part harmony, and sing in different styles, languages, and genres. The 7th grade Choir class will perform one mandatory concert per semester. Students who are interested in performing with WGHS choir in the future are strongly encouraged to take this class.

### **M7003 Orchestra 7**

Prerequisite: Orchestra 6

Seventh grade orchestra is a continuation of the Steger Orchestra Program. It is open to students who have successfully completed the sixth-grade Orchestra program. New students to the district and/or students who have studied privately are encouraged to audition with the orchestra teacher to determine if placement is appropriate. Orchestra students will work as a team to successfully perform three concerts a year. New playing techniques, like shifting, will be introduced in class and practiced individually outside of the school day. Students will learn how their performance literature relates to music theory, music history, and current global cultures. Regular practice outside of class is required as homework. Orchestra members are also invited to audition for the Hixson String Symphony, an after school group that collaborates with Wind Ensemble and Choir for two Sounds of Hixson concerts per year.

## **Practical Arts - Semester Courses**

### **M8510 Family and Consumer Science 1**

Prerequisite: None

FACS 1 is designed to give students an introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences. Topics covered include:

- Food Prep,
- Nutrition,
- Hand & Machine Sewing, and
- Child Development/Babysitting.

## M8610 Shop 1

Prerequisite: None

This semester course is designed to allow students to gain hands-on experiences with power tools as well as hand tools. In the lab setting, this course will involve drafting, measurement, safety, and constructing projects. Students must pass a safety final, with 70% proficiency, before working with power tools/equipment in the lab.

Project choices in this class may include:

- lettering,
- puzzle/scroll saw object,
- truss/bridge,
- catapult,
- cutting board,
- large cooking spoon or spatula,
- triangle game, and
- a paper towel rack.

## M0033 Technology Education 1

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to offer students useful tools for their learning, daily life, creativity, programming, and the basics of computer hardware. Students in this course will gain practical knowledge of various tech related software, online tools, extensions, and education related tools. Students gain problem solving skills as they encounter and resolve issues while using technological tools. Students will be challenged to apply technology to solve real world needs.

## World Languages - Full Year Courses

Students who are interested in pursuing a foreign language in middle school may plan on a two-year course of study beginning in seventh grade with Level 1 and continuing with Level 2 in eighth grade. These two years count as the equivalent of Level 1 and 2 at the high school and allow a student the possibility to enroll in Level 3 as a freshman, depending on teacher recommendation. **Therefore, these classes are for students who are able to manage the pace and workload of high school courses.** Students may also begin a foreign language path by taking Level 1 in eighth grade or high school.

## M8210 French 1

Prerequisite: None

French 1 consists of a concentrated examination of the vocabulary, grammar, writing and culture of the language. Reinforcement of these concepts is achieved through conversations, games, skits, music, songs and cultural activities, in addition to textbook and workbook exercises in the target language. This course of study is for students who desire an intense view of a specific foreign language. Students completing this program may move on to a higher level upon entry to high school.

## **M8400 German 1**

Prerequisite: None

German 1 consists of a concentrated examination of the vocabulary, grammar, writing and culture of the language. Reinforcement of these concepts is achieved through conversations, games, skits, music, songs and cultural activities, in addition to written exercises in the target language. This course of study is for students who desire an intense view of a specific foreign language. Students completing this program may move on to a higher level upon entry to high school.

## **M8300 Spanish 1**

Prerequisite: None

Spanish 1 consists of a concentrated examination of the vocabulary, grammar, writing and culture of the language. Reinforcement of these concepts is achieved through conversations, games, skits, music, songs and cultural activities, in addition to textbook and workbook exercises in the target language. This course of study is for students who desire an intense view of a specific foreign language. Students completing this program may move on to a higher level upon entry to high school.

## **Algebra - Full Year Course**

### **M7220 Algebra**

Prerequisite: Math 6

**Students who did not meet the placement criteria to enroll in Algebra may elect to take it in place of an elective course.** (Students who enroll in Algebra as an elective will take two math classes.) This is the beginning course in a sequence of college preparatory courses. Topics covered include solving formulas, graphing functions, analysis of linear functions, analysis of quadratic functions, analysis of basic exponential functions, solving inequalities, solving systems of equations, and sequences. It is highly recommended that students complete Math 8 prior to enrolling in Algebra. At the end of first semester of Algebra as an elective, students who are performing at a 75% or below will be moved out of Algebra and will be placed in a different elective course.

## **Peer Support - Semester Course**

### **M0156 Peer Support**

Prerequisite: Counselor Recommendation

This course is for students that have an interest in exploring mentoring, social justice, inclusion, and leadership. Students will work with peers of differing abilities to support their learning of vocational and life-long skills. This semester-long class is an opportunity for students to develop relationships, mentor others, and demonstrate leadership.

## **Study Skills - Semester Course**

### **M0154 Study Skills**

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn study skills such as note-taking, time management, monitoring grades, and reading strategies. In addition to 20 minutes of daily silent reading and mini lessons on study skills, students will be able to apply the skills learned in class to their regular classwork and homework.

## **OTHER COURSE OFFERINGS**

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### **Gifted Fine Arts**

Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

This course offers eligible students the opportunity to explore fine arts in three areas: visual art, music and drama. Students develop skills in communication and perception, cultural and historical awareness, response and evaluation, creative expression and performance, and leadership.

### **Special Education**

Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

Special School District staff provides Special Education services for any student who currently has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Academic and/or behavioral services may be implemented in a variety of settings based upon the student's individual needs. Settings may include consultative monitoring, class-within-a-class or special education classes. Students who receive Special Education services may follow a modified schedule in order to maintain their individualized program. Scheduling is based upon each student's IEP.