

**7th Grade
Course Guide
2017-2018**



**Pleasant Grove Middle School
5605 Cooks Lane, Texarkana, TX 75503
www.pgisd.net
Phone: 903-831-4295
Fax: 903-831-5501**

2017-2018 PGMS Course Selection Guide 7th Grade

Purpose

Pleasant Grove Middle School is committed to the general purpose that education should provide appropriate learning experiences for every child in the school. Experiences provide each child to continually develop and improve - emotionally, physically, morally, socially, and intellectually. PGMS acknowledges that the student of today will live in a society demanding knowledge and skills related to the use of computers and other technologies. The school is committed to the development of the "whole" child.

The curriculum is in a state of continuous study and revision, readily adaptable to meet the changing needs of children and provide a foundation of knowledge. Methods of instruction reflect recognition of individual differences among students. Instruction equips students with real world work skills, human relations skills, respect for authority, appreciation of our American heritage and other world cultures. Students are exposed to knowledge of how and where to obtain needed information, and an understanding of computers and other technologies which will enable them to function in an ever changing global society.

Well-trained and highly competent staff members demonstrates in their professional commitment to the intellectual, social, and moral development of school children. Continuous staff development and professional growth experiences are encouraged. Discipline is considered vitally important to a vigorous educational program. Overall, the school's efforts are directed to help each student become a productive member of our global society, capable of making a definite and positive contribution to society and to himself or herself.

Mission Statement

The mission of Pleasant Grove Independent School District, in collaboration with the community, is to empower students through experiential learning to successfully navigate the opportunities of a competitive and complex world.

Vision

Our Students:

- Embody school pride and display character and citizenship
- Recognize their potential and value and are confident in their ability to compete in an ever-changing society
- Are empowered through learning that cultivates curiosity and individual interest
- Are creative problem solvers who are prepared to actively engage and excel in their community

Our Learning Environment:

- Is driven by teachers and staff who set high expectations and are passionate about education
- Fosters an active relationship between home and school
- Cultivates positive parental and community involvement
- Nurtures each student's physical, mental, emotional and social well-being
- Promotes engaging, interactive instruction that focuses on real-world application and problem solving
- Provides total immersion in technology

Our District Along with the Community:

- Recruits and retains quality teachers and staff who are well-compensated, highly-trained and skilled
- Provides a safe learning environment
- Is innovative and proactive to meet the changing and diverse needs of our students
- Invests resources to promote student success
- Builds and extends partnerships with local businesses, civic organizations, and educational entities
- Promotes awareness of school and student accomplishments

Shared Beliefs

1. What is it we want our students to learn?
2. How will we know if each student has learned it?
3. How will we respond when some students do not learn it?
4. How can we extend and enrich the learning for students who have demonstrated proficiency?

**7th Grade Pleasant Grove Middle School Course Requirements and Descriptions
2017-2018**

Course Requirements (by grade level) Three-Year Plan

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
English Language Arts	1 unit	English Language Arts	1 unit	English Language Arts	1 unit
Mathematics	1 unit	Mathematics	1 unit	Mathematics	1 unit
Science/Health	1 unit	Science/Health	1 unit	Science/Health	1 unit
Social Studies	1 unit	Social Studies	1 unit	Social Studies	1 unit
Reading	1 unit	Reading	1 unit	Technology Applications	1 unit
P.E./Pre-athletics	1 unit	P.E./Athletics	1 unit	Elective	1 unit
Fine Arts	1 unit	Elective	1 unit	Elective	1 unit
Technology Applications	1 unit	Elective	1 unit	Elective	1 unit

7th Grade Core and/or Required Courses and Numbers

1007 English Language Arts *ELA
 1017 Pre-AP English Language Arts
 2070 Writing Academy *Replaces one elective.

2007 Mathematics
 2017 Pre-AP Mathematics
 2060 Mathematics Academy *Replaces one elective.

5007 Reading
 5017 Pre-AP Reading
 2065 Reading Academy *Replaces one elective.

4007 Science

4017 Pre-AP Science
3007 Social Studies
3017 Pre-AP Social Studies

7th Grade Electives and Numbers

Fine Arts

7006 Art 1
7010 Art 2 *Art 1 is a prerequisite.

Middle School Band 1 *Select one of the following instruments:

- 0001 Percussion
- 0002 Trombone
- 0004 French horn
- 0005 Trumpet
- 0006 Baritone/Tuba
- 0007 Clarinet
- 0008 Flute
- 0009 Saxophone

0010 Middle School Band 2

- 0016 Guitar Class

Physical Education *P.E. Students must take one category of P.E. Credit.

9007 Athletics Boys'
9002 Athletics Girls'
9011 Cheerleading *Tryouts are held in the Spring.
9010 Cheerleading *Physical Education *Tryouts are held in the Spring.
9013 Dance *Physical Education
1227 Drill Team *Tryouts are held in the Spring.
1217 Drill Team *Physical Education *Tryouts are held in the Spring.
9020 Physical Education *P.E.

Technology/Digital Learning Offerings

8037 Broadcast Journalism 7 *PG TV/Announcements *Spring application required.
8027 Digital Newspaper
8017 Journalism Yearbook *Spring application required.

8105 STEM: Mythbusters/Forensics
8071 STEM: Robotics
8085 STEM: Web Design

Foreign Language

8047 Exploratory Foreign Language Spanish

Other Elective Options

5162 Dyslexia Therapy

0051 English as a Second Language

9037 Study Hall

Use the Course Requirements Three-Year Plan chart on page 2 as a guide for creating a schedule.

Core and/or Required Courses

English Language Arts *ELA Grade 7: Course number 1007

English Language Arts students are expected to demonstrate critical thinking skills in reading and writing. Various genres of literature such as poetry, drama, short stories, nonfiction, and novels will be used for analyzing literature requiring open-ended responses. Literary elements will be used as springboards for writing a variety of paragraphs, compositions, and detailed compositions. Students will be exposed to a broad range of relevant and engaging topics of interest. Students will be introduced to new vocabulary and apply it when speaking, reading, and writing.

Pre-AP English Language Arts *ELA Grade 7: Course number 1017

Students will follow the above course description *ELA with a focus on working independently. Students will use a flexible range of metacognitive reading skills in both assigned and independent reading to understand an author's message. Students will continue to apply earlier standards with greater depth in increasingly more complex texts as they become self-directive, critical speakers, readers, and writers. For admission into accelerated English in grades 7, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level ELA class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Writing Academy: Course number 2070

Writing Academy provides support for students who score near or below the minimum expectations on state assessments. This course is a supplement to the student's on grade-level *ELA course and is taken in place of an elective.

Mathematics Grade 7 Course number 2007

The primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. 8th grade math also includes the foundations of functions. The mathematics curriculum follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill adopted by the Texas Education Agency.

Pre-AP Mathematics Grade 7: Course number 2017

The Pre-AP math classes challenge motivated and responsible students to understand in-depth, rigorous content. The primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. 8th grade math also includes the foundations of functions. Pre-AP math coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments in class and outside of class. For admission into accelerated mathematics in grade 7 the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level math class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Mathematics Academy: Course number 2060

Provides support for students who score near or below the minimum expectations on the state math assessment. This course is a supplement to the student's on grade-level math course and is taken in place of an elective.

Reading Grade 7: Course number 5007

Reading requires that students meet and master the criteria as outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students are expected to build on their prior knowledge and skills to improve their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, giving the student greater opportunities to achieve academic success. Reading is designed for students to read grade-level text with fluency and comprehension.

Pre-AP Reading Grade 7: Course number 5017

Reading requires that students meet and master the criteria as outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students are expected to build on their prior knowledge and skills to improve their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, giving the students greater opportunities to achieve academic success. Reading is designed for students to read grade-level text with fluency and comprehension. A student shall have (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level reading class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Reading Academy: Course number 2065

Reading Academy provides support for students who score near or below the minimum expectations on the state reading assessment. This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level reading course and is taken in place of an elective.

Science Grade 7: Course number 4007

Students will study a wide range of topics which are outlined in the TEKS. Those topics are flow of energy in ecosystems, force and motion, factors impacting earth systems, life in our solar system, organisms and the environment, structure and function of cells and living things, physical, chemical and energy changes in digestion, homeostasis, genetics, genetic variations and adaptations. At the end of the 7th grade year, students will dissect frogs in the science lab.

Pre-AP Science Grades 7: Course number 4017

The Pre-AP science class requires mastery of the same TEKS as the on grade-level class, but will require more higher-order thinking and independent study. There will be at least one project

per marking period to be completed outside of class. Also, students will work at an accelerated pace and cover the material more in-depth. For admission into accelerated science in grades 6, 7, and 8, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level science class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Social Studies Grade 7: Course number 3007

*Texas History Students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras.

Pre-AP Social Studies Grade 7: Course number 3017

*Texas History Students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. A student shall have (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level social studies class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

7th Grade Electives

Fine Arts

Art 1: Course number 7006

Students will implement techniques with perception and expression with emphasis on media, creative expression, and performance.

Art 2: Course number 7010 (Art 1 is a prerequisite)

Students will implement techniques with perception, creative expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage and critical evaluation.

Middle School Band 1: Course numbers - 0001 for Percussion, 0002 for Trombone, 0004 for French horn, 0005 for Trumpet, 0006 for Baritone/Tuba, 0007 for Clarinet, 0008 for Flute, 0009 for Saxophone

Instrument specific, basic musicianship and performance techniques are learned on individual woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Beginning band emphasizes proper performance technique, breath control, tone, quality, range, and proper posture. Students are assigned a musical instrument based upon a student assessment. Performance opportunities are included.

Middle School Band 2: Course number 0010

Performance techniques and fundamentals are reinforced, adding new material to repertoire by learning new music and mastering additional technical exercises and advanced musical expression; built upon previous knowledge and skills, continue to advance musical abilities. Performance opportunities are included.

Guitar Class: Course number 0016

All students provide their own guitars. The class is designed to be a beginning guitar class for students with little or no previous instruction. Students will learn basic guitar skills and how to continue playing and improving after the class is completed. Curriculum includes chords and strumming patterns, finger placement, reading music, chord symbols, and tablature, introduction to a wide variety of styles including rock, pop, country, blues, etc. and basic guitar maintenance for acoustics and electrics.

Physical Education *P.E.

Middle School Athletics:

Course number 9007 for Boys' Athletics

Course number 9002 for Girls' Athletics

Athletics requires rigorous physical training, daily participation, and regular UIL competition in up to three sports; after-school practice will be required. Before and after school practice may be required. Boys may participate in football, basketball, and track and field events. Girls may participate in volleyball, basketball, and track and field events. Boys and Girls may participate in Cross Country. *Outside of school hours; practices before school and competitive meets on Saturdays.

Cheerleading *Elective: Course number 9011

The focus of cheerleading is to create school spirit and promote a sense of pride and dignity in PGMS. While experiencing teamwork, we will strive to develop a sense of fair play and learn the importance of doing one's best. Cheerleaders will cheer at pep rallies, PGMS sporting events, and other special events and competitions as required. Tryouts are held during the spring (second) semester for the following school year.

Cheerleading *Physical Education: Course number 9010

The focus of cheerleading is to create school spirit and promote a sense of pride and dignity in PGMS. While experiencing teamwork, we will strive to develop a sense of fair play and learn the importance of doing one's best. Cheerleaders will cheer at pep rallies, PGMS sporting events, and other special events and competitions as required. Tryouts take place during the spring (second) semester for the following school year. Students will earn P.E. credit for this class.

Dance *Physical Education: Course number 9013

Students will learn the fundamentals of various types of dance, including ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance.

Drill Team *Elective: Course number 1227

Drill Team is a physical conditioning and performance-oriented course. Drill Team includes various areas of performance preparation for athletic events, parades, pep rallies, and other school and community related functions. Such preparation shall include the following areas of concentration: warm-up and stretching techniques, dancing techniques, and marching techniques. Tryouts are held during the spring (second) semester for the following school year.

Drill Team *Physical Education: Course number 1217

Drill Team is a physical conditioning and performance-oriented course. Drill Team includes various areas of performance preparation for athletic events, parades, pep rallies, and other school and community related functions. Such preparation shall include the following areas of concentration: warm-up and stretching techniques, dancing techniques, and marching techniques. Tryouts are held during the spring (second) semester for the following school year. Students will earn P.E. credit for this class.

Physical Education *P.E.: Course number 9020

Students acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. The student exhibits a physically-active lifestyle and understands the relationship between physical activity and health throughout the lifespan. Students understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Students learn to use technology such as heart rate monitors to assist in measuring and monitoring their own performance. Identifying the types of activities that provide them with enjoyment and challenge and that will encourage them to be physically active throughout life is reinforced during instruction in these grades.

Technology/Digital Learning

Broadcast Journalism PG TV/Announcements: Course number 8037

Students will learn the concept of communication through digital media while producing and broadcasting a daily news video shown campus-wide. Using the live news concept, they will be involved with script writing, filming and editing while highlighting and announcing MS activities and events. To be eligible for this class, students must have an 85+ average for the first semester in English Language Arts courses, submit a writing sample, and get teacher recommendations. Limited space. Completed applications are required in the Spring.

Digital Newspaper: Course number 8027

Students will create the web-based school newspaper while learning the fundamental skills of journalism and publication production, including writing, technical writing, research, editing, interviewing, layout and design, teamwork, and collaboration. To be eligible for this class, students must have an 85+ average for the first semester in English Language Arts courses, submit a writing sample, and get teacher recommendations.

Journalism Yearbook: Course number 8017

Students will demonstrate creativity, responsibility, and cooperation in producing the school yearbook. While learning desktop publishing, they will have the opportunity to plan theme concepts, design and photography coverage as well as writing and editing copy. To be eligible for this class, students must have an 85+ average for the first semester in English Language Arts courses, submit a writing sample, and get teacher recommendations. Limited space.

STEM: MythBusters/Forensics: Course number 8105

MythBusters - (1st semester)

Discovery Education and solving “Myths” using science and technology. Separating truth from fiction can be tough. This elective allows students to endeavor and find the truth as myths are put to the test in the classroom! Students will problem-solve, collaborate, and make new discoveries. This class is inspired by the hit TV show “Mythbusters.” Myth Busting activities follow the STEM initiatives.

Forensics - (2nd semester)

Students will be introduced to the field of forensic science as they explore different areas of Crime Scene Investigation, including DNA analysis, forensic biology, ballistics, fingerprinting, serology, and physical evidence. This course will use web-based and hands-on activities to create authentic, interactive learning experiences.

STEM: Robotics: Course number 8071

Students will apply knowledge and skills related to engineering, math, science and technology to build and program robots using LEGO Mindstorm EV3 kits to accomplish specific tasks. This course utilizes hands-on, collaborative learning experiences to introduce students to robotics, programming, and engineering concepts.

STEM: Web Design and Graphics: Course number 8085

Students will learn the foundational knowledge and skills to create their own websites; these include design principles, planning, structure, color theory, content, and development. Students will also be introduced to programming languages, coding, animation and digital graphics.

Foreign Language

Exploratory Foreign Language Spanish: Course 8047

The purpose of the course is to provide opportunities for improvement in student self-development through the study of Spanish language and culture. The content includes, but is not limited to exploration of basic principles of Spanish language, cultural concepts related to the Spanish-speaking world, and comparisons between the students' own language and culture and that of Spanish-speaking countries. Exploratory Spanish introduces students to the target language and its culture. Student will learn beginning skills of listening and speaking and be introduced to basic skills in reading and writing in Spanish. Also, culture and comparisons are included in this course.

Other Elective Options

Dyslexia Therapy: Course number 5162

This Course is designed to assist students with dyslexia or dyslexia characteristics.

English as a Second Language: Course number 0051

Students must develop the ability to comprehend and process material from a wide range of texts using the guidelines established by the Texas Education Agency.

Study Hall: Course number 9037

This course is designed to provide an environment conducive to studying, preparing for exams, completing assignments and projects, and completing missed assignments due to absences. Students must come prepared daily with specific course assignments. Reinforcement programs for state assessments are also included.