**7th Grade Educational Development Plan & Course Description**

**2016-2017 Surline Middle School**

**7th Grade Classes**

1. All 7th graders will have one class period all year long of the following **required classes**:
* ELA (English/Language Arts)
In 7th grade ELA, students explore the themes of survival, courage, and perseverance by making connections to characters in multiple genres through hands-on exploration.  Students are tasked with producing a variety of writings and presentations, including a wax museum, debate, and informative, narrative, and argumentative writing samples.  Daily warm-ups both freshen up and introduce new grammar skills.
* Social Studies

7th grade social studies will be using the *Mi Open Book Project (Ancient World History);* this book is downloaded on our chrome books. We will also use Prentice Hall’s *World Studies Eastern Hemisphere* as a resource*,* along with a wide variety of supplemental material*.* This year we will be using our own classroom set of chrome books to explore ancient world history, world religion, and the geography and culture of different regions. One of the favorite activities in 7th grade social studies is the European Food Festival.

* Science

7th grade science is transitioning to an earth and life science curriculum focus. Hands on activities are stressed and include student discovery, lab experiments, problem solving, model building, cooperative learning, computer usage, classroom discussion, teacher demonstrations and writing opportunities.

* Math---either 7th grade Math or Pre-algebra (which students qualify for based on factors such as: state standardized tests scores, report card grades and teacher input)
* 7th grade Math

The goal of 7th grade Math is to finalize the mathematical foundations for students to progress into higher level mathematics.  The main topics we cover are ratios, proportional relationships, rational numbers, expressions, equations, percentages, statistics, probability and geometry.

* 7th grade Pre-algebra

The goal of 7th grade Pre-Algebra is to prepare students for Algebra the following year.  The main topics we cover in this class are integer exponents, scientific notation, concept of congruence, similarity, linear equations, geometry and an introduction to irrational numbers using geometry.

* Special Education---If students receive special education services, they will receive accommodations as indicated in the IEP.
1. All 7th graders will have a required “**rotation class**” (which rotates every 12 weeks).

In some order, 7th graders will have 12 weeks each of:

* Art

In this 12 week class, students will explore many media and be influence by many artist styles.  Projects range from collages, coiled basketry, paper mache', oil pastels, pencil charcoal and colored pencil drawings, painting, and include experience on throwing on a clay wheel.

* IT-7 (Instructional Technology/Computers)

IT 7 will focus on mid-level features in Microsoft Word and be introduced to Microsoft Excel.  This class will also take a look at Microsoft Publisher along with Microsoft Powerpoint.  We will also start working on a careers unit.  Students will continue working on increasing their computer vocabulary.  Students will continue working on improving their typing skills.

* Spanish (which if successfully completed between 7th & 8th grades fulfills the foreign language requirement of the MI Merit Curriculum for high school graduation)

This course will provide the students with a general introduction to the Spanish language through the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will also gain a basic understanding of grammar concepts, vocabulary, and Hispanic culture.

1. All 7th graders will have a 30 minute **intervention class**---designed to improve ELA and math skills.
2. All 7th grader will have one hour each school day all year long of an **enrichment class**.

Below is a list of the enrichment classes available to 7th grade students at this time for the next school year. These classes are called enrichments because we believe that any class you are assigned will “enrich” your education. We try to offer a wide variety of enrichment classes.

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**(LAST NAME) (FIRST NAME)**

**\*\*\*Please check from the following for your enrichment class for 7th grade:**

\_\_\_\_\_**I am currently a band student and I would like to continue with band**. I understand that it is a FULL YEAR class and that I will be in band class all year long. There are outside of school performances and uniforms required for performances.

7th grade band students perform two concerts each year, one being in December and the other in the Spring.  Also, in addition we have added a Middle School Jazz Band which rehearses once a week during the winter and is open to 7th and 8th grade students.

---------------------------------------------------------OR--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

\_\_\_\_\_**I would like to participate in choir class**. I understand that it is a FULL YEAR class and that I will be in choir class all year long. There are outside of school performances and uniforms required for performances.

Choir class offers students a chance to develop their singing voices, to learn about how music is put together and to perform with a fantastic group of students. We sing a variety of music in concerts, in school and community events and have a great time making music together.

---------------------------------------------------------OR--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

\_\_\_\_\_**I would like to participate in LINKS class**. I understand that it is a FULL YEAR class and that I will be in LINKS class all year long. As a LINK I will be guiding and working with a student with an Individual Educational Plan and will be expected to lead as well as take direction from the supervising staff. Students who mark this choice will need to get a form to participate from the counselor. Teacher recommendation is required.

The purpose of the LINKS/Peer to Peer support class is to provide opportunities for general education students to learn to relate to people with different needs and develop an increased understanding of individual differences. LINKS are matched with a student with an IEP and asked to model and reinforce socialization and independence skills.

---------------------------------------------------------OR--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Students who have not selected from the above class choices will have 2 semester Exploration classes (half-year). Students will rank those following classes from #1 (most wanted) to #4 (least wanted) for themselves.

The choices are listed below with a brief overview.

As we schedule, our goal is to schedule students to their most desired classes as room allows.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS MAY CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR; A TEACHER INSTRUCTING A CLASS THIS YEAR MIGHT NOT TEACH THE SAME CLASS NEXT YEAR. Do not base course preferences on the teacher.

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**(LAST NAME) (FIRST NAME)**

**[Rank from #1 (most desired class) to #4 (least desired class).]**

\_\_\_\_\_EXPLORE: PE & Health

Rules, procedures, and participation in leisure sports activities: table tennis, climbing, badminton, bowling, archery, table tennis, pickleball, golf, ultimate Frisbee and/or disc golf. Nutrition/Health topics- Dangers of Smoking “Secrets Through the Smoke” and Obesity “Supersize Me”.

\_\_\_\_\_EXPLORE: Social Studies

Students will relate current news stories to historical events, and predict how they may affect us in the future. They will also learn geography skills to survive a “zombie apocalypse”.

\_\_\_\_\_EXPLORE: Music & Stories

Students will participate in dramatic story-telling through song-writing and theatre production.

\_\_\_\_\_EXPLORE: Science

Students will engage in Paper-making and study the technology of Paper as well as engage in labs and observations of Magnets and Motors.

**Remix**---Students may be assigned this semester class to specifically focus on math and/or ELA skills.

**Academic Strategies**---A student may be assigned this year long class based on their IEP.

We have read and understand the 7th grade classes at Surline Middle School. We have discussed these classes together and agree with what has been marked on this paper.

STUDENT SIGNATURE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please:**

* **Tear off** the back page on which you have written. **Keep** the first page if you have any questions about your classes when you get your schedule.
* **Return** the back page to your **homeroom teacher** by **Friday,** **May 13, 2016**.