

Kennedale Junior High School

Course Description Guide

7th Grade



2020-2021

Required Academic Courses

English/Reading

English Language Arts and Reading 7

The English language arts and reading Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) embody the **interconnected** nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the seven integrated strands of developing and sustaining foundational language skills; comprehension; response; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition; and inquiry and research. **The strands focus on academic oracy (proficiency in oral expression and comprehension), authentic reading, and reflective writing to ensure a literate Texas.** The strands are integrated and progressive with students continuing to develop knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

Honors English Language Arts and Reading 7

This advanced course will quickly move through the STAAR writing curriculum basics and expand on extensive writing techniques and advanced level strategies. There will be more in-depth and critical thinking involved, and additional writing skills will be directed toward higher level prompts, varied modes, and approaches to achieving clear, effective, and insightful written compositions. This course will require additional writing assignments or projects during the year.

***Please note that a Honors Placement must be signed by a parent/guardian in order to before the student will be scheduled into the class.**

In this course, higher level strategies and reading selections will be used to expand literature exposure and knowledge. Students will be expected to work at a faster pace. The novel(s) and story choices are more in-depth and involve critical thinking objectives. Through the use of extended study, students will be able to understand a variety of writing forms, vocabulary, and reading selections. **Students will be responsible for a summer reading list** and will be expected to achieve Accelerated Reading Millionaire status by the end of the first semester.

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Math

Math 7

The primary areas of focus in grade 7 math are number and operations, proportionality, expressions, equations, number relationships, and measurement and data. Students will develop math fluency in rational number operations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations.

Honors Math 7

This is an advanced math course for seventh graders who plan to take future advanced placement coursework. **Students must qualify for this class** based on criteria set by the district (see below). This class combines the 7th and 8th grade math TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) to prepare students for success in Algebra I in 8th grade. Students are expected to maintain an 80 average each six-week grading period, or the student may be moved to the on-level math class. Honors Math 7 is considered a Pre-Algebra course and is a prerequisite to taking Algebra I in eighth grade. (Students earn high school credit when they successfully complete Algebra I in eighth grade.) The primary areas of focus are proportionality, expressions, equations, relationships, foundations of functions (algebra), and measurement and data. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students begin to develop an understanding of functional relationships. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. While the use of all types

of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

Honors Math qualifiers – student must meet 3 out of the 4:

1. End of year math average in 6th grade – 90 or above OR teacher recommendation based on work habits
2. Algebra Readiness assessment – 70 or above (to be given in April)
3. 6th grade STAAR Math score – Advanced level
4. Advanced/CP on math state assessment in two prior grades (3rd-5th) OR Gifted/Talented identification
5. Students must go through a selection process to be considered for Honors Math

Science

Science 7

This course is an integrated study of the sciences and follows the TEKS standards for problem-solving and hands-on laboratory activities. The life science study will include organisms, organ systems, cell functions and characteristics, as well as heredity and genetic variations. The physical science study will include force, motion, and interactions between matter and energy. The Earth and space study will include natural events and human impact on Earth systems and components of our solar system. A study of objects in space and their relation to earth is also included. Students will participate in activities such as inquiry lessons, lab activities, and guided research projects.

Honors Science 7

Honors students will follow the Science TEKS as listed above, which includes the nature of science, life science, physical science, and Earth science. Students will be expected to participate at an accelerated pace. This course will include more complex lessons and in-depth studies as well as lab activities, independent projects, data analysis, and scientific article analysis. Pre-AP strategies of critical thinking, creativity, research, and mathematical problem solving will be applied in this course.

***Please note that a Honors Placement must be signed by a parent/guardian in order to before the student will be scheduled into the class.**

Social Studies

Texas History 7

Texas History students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including the cultures of Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration and the eras of mission-building, colonization, revolution, republic, and statehood. Students will be able to explain the influence of the U.S. Constitution on the Texas Constitution, and examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens. Students will use primary and secondary sources to examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas

Honors Texas History 7

In this course, students will expand on the Texas History curriculum with an emphasis on using higher level thinking skills which will prepare them for success in future Pre-AP social studies courses. This course is designed for those students who have a genuine interest in Texas history and are more interested in the detailed study of history. Emphasis will be placed on in-depth writing, the study of primary source documents, the interpretations of maps, graphs, and political cartoons, as well as the examination of complex historical issues. Students will be responsible for additional reading outside of the classroom. In order to participate in this class, students must meet the criteria and guidelines listed on the Pre-AP contract. A STAAR benchmark may be used as a measurement tool for Pre-AP placement.

***Please note that Honors Placement must be signed by teachers and a parent/guardian in order to before the student will be scheduled into the class.**

Physical Education

One-year of physical education (either strength and development or athletics) is required in 7th grade.

Strength Development- Boys or Girls

The purpose of this course is to teach each student a variety of sports that can be played at any age level. It is also our goal that each student learns the proper way to run, exercise, stretch, etc. Some of the activities that will be taught include softball, volleyball, flag football, basketball, soccer, and archery. Students are separated by gender for class. **(2 semesters)**

Athletics- Girls

This course provides girls with the opportunity to participate in volleyball, cross country, basketball, and/or track. **In order to participate in track only, students are required to sign up for athletics and will participate in the off-season program.** Students must demonstrate a desire to participate in the intense activities and training involved with each sport and show willingness to become a team-oriented player. All female athletes will be required to have a physical **by the first week of school** regardless of the sport played. All students enrolled in athletics will be required to participate in the district-approved, mandatory drug testing. All participants should expect to run and condition throughout the duration of this course. Students must be prepared and willing to participate in very warm and cool weather conditions. This course will require extra time after school for team practices and games. This is a UIL activity; students must be passing in all subjects to participate. Additionally, students must abide by the guidelines and rules in the KISD Athletic Handbook. Participation in athletics requires desire, discipline, and dedication to the high expectations required of KJHS athletes.

Athletics- Boys

This course provides boys the opportunity to participate in football, basketball, and track. If enrolled in athletics all year, students must demonstrate a desire to play each sport and be willing to become a team-oriented player. Participants should expect to run and condition throughout the duration of this course and must be prepared to participate in different kinds of weather. This course will require extra time **before or** after school for team practices and games. All boys enrolled in athletics in the fall will be required to play football. **Boys who desire to play basketball only** (no football), will begin in strength and development and have their schedule changed to athletics IF they make the basketball team. A student that is interested in track only will be enrolled in strength and development for semester 1, then athletics for semester 2. All male athletes will be required to have a physical **by the first week of school** regardless of the sport played. All students enrolled in athletics will be required to participate in the district approved mandatory drug testing. This is a UIL activity; students must be passing in all subjects to participate. Additionally, students must abide by the guidelines and rules in the KISD Athletic Handbook. Participation in athletics requires desire, discipline, and dedication to the high expectations required of KJHS athletes.

Elective Courses

Reading Improvement 7

Students will be scheduled in this required elective course if they do not meet the state requirement on the 6th grade Reading STAAR test. This course is designed to improve students' basic reading skills and performance on future STAAR Reading tests. It will cover vocabulary development, reading comprehension, and literary concepts. Students will be instructed in drawing conclusions, making inferences and generalizations, comparing and contrasting ideas, using inductive and deductive reasoning, as well as learning to detect style, tone and mood in an authors' piece. The course will also cover identifying genre of texts, using root words, prefixes and suffixes to determine meanings of words, and determine main idea.

Math Lab 7

Students will be scheduled in this required elective course if they do not meet the state requirement on the 6th grade Math STAAR test. This course is designed to improve math skills and performance on future math STAAR tests. Students will use the program Think Through Math which is an individualized learning system that allows students to practice skills from previously learned math concepts, identify areas of weakness, and receive immediate feedback on their performance. Math lesson concepts will be pre-taught as needed, as well as review of previously taught lessons from the core math classes. In addition, students will use Math Facts in a Flash to develop fluency and automaticity with basic arithmetic facts. **(2 semesters)**

W4S (Wildcats for Success)

This class prepares students for success in their academic classes. Students receive instruction in inquiry, collaboration and reading strategies in addition to note-taking and organizational skills that are necessary to excel in an academic environment. The skills learned in this class will benefit students in junior high, high school, and college. **(1 semester)**

MS Theater 1 (Beginning Theater)

This is an introductory course in which no previous theater experience is required. The student will develop concepts about self, human relations, and the environment while learning the basic elements of drama and conventions of theater. The student will interpret characters while using the voice and body expressively. Along with presenting projects to the class, students will be expected to perform on a limited basis. Students will gain an appreciation for theater history as well as demonstrate proper theater and audience etiquette. This course is a requirement for Theatre II in 8th grade. However, this course is not a requirement for students to participate in JTK's (Junior Thespians of Kennedale) after-school theater program. **(1 semester)**

Lego Robotics

This course provides an introduction to robotics for students with no programming background using LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 kits. Students will learn to construct, control and program these robots through investigative and exploration activities. Research projects will expose the students to the engineering process. Students will learn to apply science, technology, engineering, and math concepts (STEM), plus a big dose of imagination, to solve a problem. Along their discovery journey, they develop critical thinking and team-building skills, basic STEM applications, and even presentation skills. **(1 semester)**

MS Art 2 (Beginning Art)

This course reinforces creative perception using a variety of media such as clay, paint, fiber, graphite, and collage. Appreciating artistic works, learning how to evaluate art, and developing an awareness of individual designs skills are incorporated. Students will learn to appreciate recognized artists and their works. This class is open to all students with or without an art background. **(1 semester)**

Creative Writing

Unleash your imagination in Creative Writing. In this one-semester course, you will hone your creating writing skills by focusing on characterization and plot development. At the end of the year, student pieces will be published in the KJH Literary Magazine and a field trip to the North Texas Teen Book Festival will be taken to meet authors and attend writing workshops. **(1 semester)**

Fundamentals of Communication

Professional Communications blends written, oral, and graphic communication in a career-based environment. Careers in the global economy require individuals to be creative and have a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong and solid academic foundation, and a proficiency in professional oral and written communication. Within this context, students will be expected to develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, apply software applications, manipulate computer graphics, and conduct Internet research. **(1 semester)**

Investigating Careers

The goal of this course is to create a foundation for success in high school, future studies, and careers such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; Business and Industry; Public Service; Arts and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies. The students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment. Career and technical education instruction provides content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge and skills for students to further their education and succeed in current or emerging professions. **(1 semester)**

Leadership

Student Leadership is a course for students who seek opportunities to expand and deepen their group and individual leadership skills to positively impact their own lives and community. Building on collaborative skills and habits of mind, students gain knowledge and expertise in leadership skills including goal setting, effective communication, organization, time management, and collaborative strategies. The course prepares students not only for active participation in school but also in their community. Students solve relevant and current school and community issues by working collaboratively and independently on high-level, real-world tasks such as project proposals, portfolios, and presentations.

The course is adaptable across various student needs and student populations. **The course is customized to meet the needs of formal student organizations such as student council. (2 semesters)**

Concert Choir

This is a mixed 7th and 8th grade course, which is designed for students who wish to develop ability in musical performance and skills. Students will be trained in the fundamentals of music theory as well as individual and ensemble vocal technique. Since the KJHS Choir is a UIL performing ensemble, passing grades in all classes and excellent behavior is expected. Attendance at all rehearsals, concerts, and competitions is mandatory and students are expected to follow the UIL guidelines. **(2 semesters)**

***To ensure integrity and performance level, students who wish to join the KJHS Choir must participate in a brief private singing audition within the first week of school.**

Beginning Band

This class is designed for the students to develop ability in musical performance. Students will be given training in fundamentals of music theory as well as playing their instruments. Students are expected to practice outside of class. **Instruments taught in Beginning Band at KJHS include flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone.** Instruments require rental or purchase from a music company. Beginning band students attend one contest in the spring and perform at the winter and spring concerts. Therefore, passing all classes is highly important in order to participate. Band is a one-year commitment. **(2 semesters)*Schedules will not be changed without Band Director approval.**

Concert Band

Admission into this band is determined by an audition with the band director(s). This class is for students with some playing experience and note reading. Students will focus on improving their technical ability and increasing their knowledge of music theory. Performances will include a concert in the fall and one in the spring. This group will not have additional before or after school rehearsals or obligations. Band is a one-year commitment. **(2 semesters)**

***Schedules will not be changed without Band Director approval.**

Symphonic Band

Admission into this band is determined by an audition with the band director(s). Students will perform at pep rallies, solo/ensemble contest, festivals, winter and spring concerts, as well as UIL events. Attendance is required. All members are required to attend a sectional once a week, before or after school, in the fall and spring and one to two after school rehearsals throughout the year to ensure the success of this group. Students must pass all classes, attend rehearsals and performances as well as exhibit good behavior to maintain membership. Band is a one-year commitment. **(2 semesters)**

***Schedules will not be changed without Band Director approval.**

Honors Band

Admission into this band is determined by an audition with the band director(s). This is a varsity-level band mostly comprised of students with two years of playing experience. Students will audition for placement in this organization. This band performs at pep rallies, the solo/ensemble contest, festivals, winter and spring concerts, as well as UIL events. Attendance is required. Each member is required to attend a sectional once a week, before or after school, in the fall and spring as well as three to four after school rehearsals in the fall and spring to remain successful. Students must pass all classes, attend rehearsals and performances as well as exhibit good behavior to maintain membership. **(2 semesters)**

***Band is a one-year commitment. Schedules will not be changed without Band Director approval.**

College and Career Readiness

Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan. **(1 semester)**

Special Education

The Special Education Department offers a wide range of services for students with a category of disability as specified in federal and state law, and educational need for the Special Education program. Services are provided to meet the needs of eligible students. Our focus is for students to receive general education instruction with non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate. The student's schedule of services will be determined by the student's ARD committee.

Schedule Changes

Students are expected to complete courses for which they registered and are enrolled. Schedule/course change requests should be made in writing by completing a KJHS Schedule Change Request Form. This form must be returned to the KJHS counseling office by the deadlines established by the Campus Principal. Returning KJHS students will typically register during the Spring semester (for the upcoming year). KJHS students have until June 5, 2020, to submit requests for course/schedule changes for the Fall Semester (2020).

Honors changes:

Students may make a level change at the end of the first nine weeks (after grades for those nine weeks are final) and at the end of the first semester. Students wishing to drop an honors level course must have teacher approval as well.

