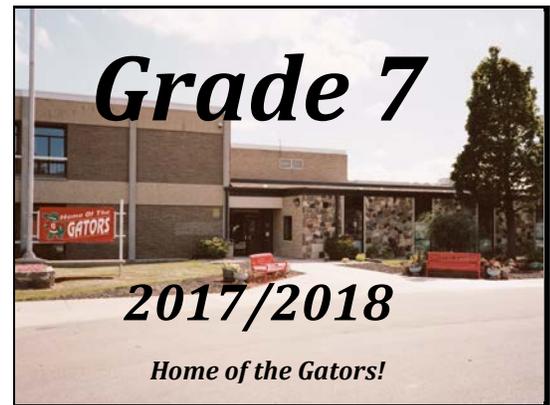


# Welcome

## to J. R. Gerritts Middle School



Welcome to J. R. Gerritts Middle School where we focus on ***Learning, Leadership & Laughter***. We hope you find your journey as enjoyable and educational as have thousands of students before you.

This pamphlet has been designed to provide students and families with information regarding our course offerings. If you have any questions regarding scheduling, please feel free to contact JRG Middle School office at 788-7905.

Classes offered to 7<sup>th</sup> graders for the 2017/2018 school year are found below. Students will be completing online registration at home this year. If no Internet access is available at home, arrangements will be made to have the student register at school. We ask that parents assist students with this registration process to provide input and oversight in their child's academic planning. After reviewing and registering for classes, please return the course selection form included in this packet **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 16th.**



### **CORE Classes**

(Core classes are required of all students)



#### ■ **Language Arts 7**

In Language Arts, students will develop their reading, writing and critical thinking skills in concept-based units that include Survival, Speculative Fiction, Facing Adversity, Argument, Twist & Turns and more. Writing concentrates on creating narratives as well as pieces designed to inform and persuade. Reading focuses on developing a love of reading and improving reading stamina. (Full Year)

#### ■ **Science 7**

Science 7 is a project-based inquiry learning class where students investigate scientific content and learn scientific practices in the context of attempting to address challenges and answer questions about the world around them. Major units include Digging into Science (Intro to Science Inquiry), Living Together (Ecology) and Genetics. (Semester)

#### ■ **Academic Core Extension (ACE) - Science 7**

ACE - Science 7 is designed as an extension to the general Science 7 curriculum. The focus for the course will be weather, climate, and the human impact on Earth systems. (Semester – Every Other Day)

#### ■ **Social Studies 7**

World Cultures: Students will be learning about various areas of the world located in the Eastern Hemisphere. The geography, history, and culture of the each region will be explored. (Semester)

#### ■ **Academic Core Extension (ACE) - Media Literacy**

ACE Social Studies 7 focuses on the framework and specific roles of media in our society. Students will come away with the knowledge of themes/recurring topics in the media and strategies for being proficient consumers of media. The course will culminate with a final project, asking students to produce their own newscast.

### ■ **Math 7**

Students using CPM Core Connections employ problem solving strategies to question, investigate, gather evidence, and communicate rigorous arguments to justify their thinking. With the CPM instructional materials and manipulatives, students can tackle mathematical ideas set in everyday contexts to help them make sense of otherwise abstract principles. Students are taught how to gather and organize information about problems, break problems into smaller parts and look for patterns that lead to solutions. Students often learn in collaboration with others, sharing information, expertise and ideas. Students also get multiple opportunities to practice and develop proficiency in their math skills. (Full Year)

### ■ **TLC (The Learning Community)**

Meets for 18 minutes each day. The time allows teachers and students to work together to make a positive impact on each student's learning at J.R.G., and helps shape our students' academic, social and emotional well-being. TLC advisors serve as academic coaches, help create support networks for our students and encourage students to challenge themselves personally and academically. **Instruction** in TLC focuses on Academic and Career Planning (ACP), which will include students reflecting on their strengths and interests, setting goals for the school year and for the future, and exploring career possibilities, as well as decision making, the importance of staying drug and alcohol free, and bullying prevention. (Full Year)



## **ACADEMY CLASSES**

(These "Academy" classes are required of all students)



### ■ **Physical Education 7**

This required class meets every other day (alternates with ACE-Science/ACE-Social Studies) for the entire school year. Students will participate in a variety of activities focusing on fitness as well as team and individual sports. Students will also be trained on equipment in the Fitness Center. (Full Year – Every Other Day)

### ■ **Health 7**

This required class meets on a daily basis for one quarter. Students will discuss ways to improve and maintain their physical, mental, and social well-being. (Quarter)

### ■ **French 7** (All 7<sup>th</sup> graders must choose either French or Spanish)

This class is the first half of high school Level 1 French. The second half of high school Level 1 French will be offered to students as 8<sup>th</sup> graders. With successful completion of these two classes, students can be placed in French 2 at KHS. Students will learn introductory skills in speaking, writing, listening and reading. Students will compare the similarities and differences between the English and French sound systems, grammar and culture. (Semester)

### ■ **Spanish 7** (All 7<sup>th</sup> graders must choose either French or Spanish)

This class is the first half of high school Level 1 Spanish. The second half of high school Level 1 Spanish will be offered to students as 8<sup>th</sup> graders. With successful completion of these two classes, students can be placed in Spanish 2 at KHS. Students will learn introductory skills in speaking, writing, listening and reading. Students will compare the similarities and differences between the English and Spanish sound systems, grammar and culture. (Semester)



## **ACADEMY CLASSES**

(These "Academy" Classes are electives)



### ■ **Art 7 - This course is REQUIRED for students NOT taking band and/or choir**

Students in 7th grade Art are offered a variety of experiences to nurture their creativity and develop their technical skills. Art lessons are influenced by many topics such as famous artists, styles, cultures as well as the students own personal experiences and imagination. Students continue to apply the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design in their art work. Art experiences include creating a functional ceramic (clay)

pot, exploring new techniques to create a painting, and applying various techniques with different mediums to create drawings. (Quarter)

■ **Band 7**

Through participation in our 7th grade Band, students will continue to develop performance skills on their instrument allowing them to experience a wide variety of music. Students will establish the foundation for a life-long appreciation of music that will benefit them intellectually, socially and emotionally. Band meets every day and fills up ONE class period. (NOTE: a student can take band AND choir – this will fill up ONE class period as they will meet every other day) (Full Year)

■ **Choir 7**

Through participation in JRG choir, students experience a wide variety of music, learn to sing as part of a musical team, and establish a life-long relationship with music. (NOTE: a student can take band AND choir – this will fill up ONE class period as they will meet every other day) (Full Year)

■ **Computer Applications 7 - This course is REQUIRED for students NOT taking band and/or choir**

In Computer Applications students are exposed to a variety of programs and web applications with the focus on Google Apps for Education and Coding. Student learn to appropriately and professionally use email, calendars, documents, spreadsheets and more. They will learn how to perform better searches, and how to determine which sources to use. In the process, students learn about digital citizenship and the importance of a positive “digital footprint.” (Semester)

■ **Technology Education - This course is REQUIRED for students NOT taking band and/or choir**

Tech 7 Design is an introductory course that offers students a glimpse into how products are designed from start to finish. This course follows a pre-engineering based curriculum that allows boys and girls to use concepts they have learned from math and science and apply them to real world problems. Students will work both independently and in groups to solve a variety of hands-on problem solving and risk assessing projects. Drafting, and 3D modeling skills will be introduced and will help students communicate their designs with their peers and the instructor. At the end of the 9 week course students should also have gained a strong understanding of how technology has impacted our society and the way we live today. (Quarter)

Tech 7 Manufacturing is an introductory course that offers students an opportunity to use a wide variety of tools and processes to create a finished project. During the course students will work with a variety of materials, with a focus on wood. Concepts include measurement, safety, and manufacturing strategies that will emphasize teamwork, efficiency, communication, accuracy, and waste control. Past project include a shelf, shut-box game, stool, and candy machine. (Quarter)

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***Student Schedule Samples:***

*These sample schedules represent one semester only.  
A student may have either Science or Social Studies each semester*

<b><i>Student Sample: WITH Band/Choir</i></b>		<b><i>Student Sample: WITHOUT Band/Choir</i></b>	
<i>TLC</i>		<i>TLC</i>	
<i>Hour 1</i>	<i>Language Arts</i>	<i>Hour 1</i>	<i>Language Arts</i>
<i>Hour 2</i>	<i>Language Arts</i>	<i>Hour 2</i>	<i>Language Arts</i>
<i>Hour 3</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Hour 3</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>
<i>Hour 4</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Hour 4</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>
<i>Hour 5</i>	<i>Band</i>	<i>Hour 5</i>	<i>Phy Ed/ACE Rotation</i>
<i>Hour 6</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Hour 6</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>Hour 7</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Hour 7</i>	<i>Math</i>
<i>Hour 8</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Hour 8</i>	<i>Math</i>
<i>Hour 9</i>	<i>Spanish or French (Q1 &amp; Q2)</i> <i>Health (Q3), Art or Tech Ed (Q4)</i>	<i>Hour 9</i>	<i>Spanish or French (Q1 &amp; Q2)</i> <i>Health (Q3), Art (Q4)</i>
<i>Hour 10</i>	<i>Phy Ed / ACE Rotation</i>	<i>Hour 10</i>	<i>Computers (S1) / Tech Ed (S2)</i>

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The Kimberly Area School District does not discriminate against students on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap in its educational programs or activities. Federal law prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or handicap.