This packet contains information regarding seventh grade academic and elective offerings for the 2020-2021 school year. Seventh grade academic course level descriptions are listed below, as Language Arts and Math are offered at on grade level and advanced/honors level. **Seventh grade History and Science are not leveled.**

**Language Arts 7** is offered to students working at or slightly below seventh grade instructional level. The Language Arts 7 classes meet for a full block each day. Instruction will focus on skills and strategies for content, but will also develop and reinforce abstract thinking skills, higher-level critical thinking skills and study skills.

**Language Arts 7 Advanced/Honors** is offered to students working independently one or more grade levels above seventh grade. Students are expected to keep up with a rapid pace, work independently as well as with others, and complete assignments outside of class such as independent reading and in-depth projects. In the Advanced/Honors Language Arts class, students will analyze and synthesize literature with teacher instruction, as well as engaging in self-instruction, independent reading assignments and projects.

**Math 7** students will master whole number operations and have a sound background in problem-solving involving fractions and decimals. Emphases of study are geometry, percentages and ratios. This class meets for **a full block every day.** Math 7 is to prepare students to potentially take Algebra 1 in the eighth grade.

**Math 8** is for students who completed Math 7, but are not yet ready for Algebra 1. This course will meet **every other day** and will be a mixed class of seventh and eighth grade students. Instruction will cover algebra, geometry, probability, number sense, and graphing. By the end of the course, students will have a deep understanding of algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, as well as how to represent algebraic relationships graphically.

**Honors Algebra 1** includes the study of properties and operations of the real number system, evaluating rational algebraic expressions, solving and graphing first-degree equations and inequalities, translating word problems into equations, operations with and factoring of polynomials, and solving simple quadratic equations. In seventh grade, Algebra 1 is only offered **every other day. This course is for high school credit.**
Important Information

*PLEASE READ*

- School counselors will be visiting classrooms the week of March 9 to individually meet with students and enter their elective requests for next school year. Please have your student complete the attached elective course request form prior to the week of March 9. **Students need to bring the completed form with a parent/guardian’s signature to the meeting with their school counselor.**

- **February 28 - April 3** Henley families are able to VIEW ONLY (not make any changes), as school counselors will be meeting individually with all rising seventh and eighth grade students.

- If you have questions concerning your student’s **academic recommendations** for next year, please contact your student’s **current teacher**. If you would like to request a change in the academic level, an Academic Course Change Request form may be completed and returned to the School Counseling Office by **Friday, April 24**.

- If families would like to change elective requests, please contact your student’s school counselor by **Friday, April 24** as all changes need to be made by this date.

- If your family does not have computer access, please notify Ms. Warnick and a paper copy of your student’s academic recommendations will be given to your student if you would like a copy. Course Requests will be mailed to all families in early April.

- We have the utmost confidence that every member of the Henley staff will provide a strong and nurturing education for all students. Because of the number of students we schedule and other complexities, we cannot honor teacher requests.

**SEVENTH GRADE ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS**

Elective courses are an integral part of the curriculum at Henley Middle School. The term "elective" refers to courses offered for a year or a semester. Elective grades are based on progress, attitude, cooperation, and effort. This packet contains the course descriptions and related information necessary to register for next year's electives.

Please note that if your placement in an elective class conflicts with your placement in a recommended academic class, we will, of course, place you in the proper academic class.

*The electives described in this packet are offered pending appropriate staffing and adequate student requests. Changes in either of these areas may make it necessary to change or delete affected program offerings.*
**ALL YEAR ELECTIVES**

**Art 7** is a year-long course that will provide seventh grade students the opportunity to advance their art skills and knowledge by making two-dimensional and three-dimensional art using a variety of art materials. Students will be introduced to Art History, Art Appreciation, Aesthetics, Criticism, the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Students will draw using a variety of media including pencil, marker, chalk, oil pastel and ink. Paintings will be explored using watercolor, tempera and acrylic paint. Students will build sculptures using clay, wire, plaster and found objects.

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)** is a nationally recognized program for students who have the capability to achieve in rigorous, college preparatory courses but may currently not be achieving at that level. The AVID elective will provide students with academic support and motivational activities. Students must apply to AVID and meet national and local requirements for participation. Please contact your child’s school counselor for more information.

**Broadcast Journalism** is a year-long class. Students will be responsible for producing the video announcements, learning and integrating state-of-the-art equipment, and producing and distributing public service announcements.

**Design** students will engage in the study of basic art design concepts, learn photo imaging, understand the use of color, use templates, draw from scratch, and develop a portfolio consisting of lessons and individual projects. Students will become familiar with the formats of computer imaging such as PDF, JPEG, and TIFF. Real-world skills will carry over to high school and give a foundation for possible career choices.

**Newspaper** students will be part of a staff responsible for writing, editing, and producing several newspaper publications throughout the school year. Through the use of interviews, research and perseverance, students will write and rewrite articles that will pass through several stages of editing by peers and the teacher. Use of the Adobe publishing program InDesign is mandatory. Students will also be responsible for the use and care of expensive photography equipment. This is a class where everything you write will be public, accessible and read by the student body and staff.

**Yearbook** students will design and publish the school yearbook. Students will be involved in activities such as selling ads, collecting money, photography, proofreading, drawing layouts, art work, and inputting the layout and words on the computer. During interim periods, students will work on various school-related activities, such as publications and art works.

**WORLD LANGUAGES**

**Novice French**

This is a yearlong course in which we mimic the process by which children acquire their first language. The children are immersed in a language-rich environment through the use of body language, visual aids and abundant repetition in a variety of contexts. The teacher uses story-based activities to bring the language to life. Students will develop proficiency and be able to use French in real-world situations that are spontaneous and unrehearsed. Through songs, web based programs, and class activities, the students will hear French spoken in a variety of countries and be exposed to the diverse cultures of the Francophone world. This is a proficiency-based program.
and the target for students at the end of the this course is to reach Novice High proficiency, as outlined by the American Council of Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Students who continue their language studies the following year will have the opportunity to earn up to two High School credits toward World Language.

Novice Spanish

This is a yearlong course in which we mimic the process by which children acquire their first language. The children are immersed in a language-rich environment through the use of body language, visual aids and abundant repetition in a variety of contexts. The teacher uses story-based activities to bring the language to life. Students will develop proficiency and be able to use Spanish in real-world situations that are spontaneous and unrehearsed. Through songs, web based programs, and class activities, the students will hear Spanish spoken in a variety of countries and be exposed to the diverse cultures of the Spanish speaking world. This is a proficiency-based program and the target for students at the end of the this course is to reach Novice High proficiency, as outlined by the American Council of Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Students who continue their language studies the following year will have the opportunity to earn up to two High School credits toward World Language.

ALL YEAR MUSIC ELECTIVES

Band 6 is for the student who wishes to learn to play a musical instrument. No previous experience is needed and band students must either rent or purchase an instrument. This is the last opportunity to begin band and only if the master schedule allows.

Concert Band is for the student who has successfully completed Band 6 and is technically ready to move to a more advanced level of playing. The band director’s recommendation is needed.

Choir 7 is open to all seventh and eighth grade students. Students learn and use healthy singing technique and sing more advanced harmony parts. We sing a variety of musical styles, from classical to folk, jazz, and Broadway. Singers support each other as they sing solos or small-group numbers. Singers learn music reading and listening skills, along with creating some music of our own. All members are required to attend concerts and activities scheduled throughout the year. Note: Students who are accepted into Jazz Singers must be a part of Hornet Choir, Band, or Orchestra, unless there is a conflict in the master schedule.

Jazz Ensemble is for students recommended by the band director. The class plays jazz and popular music on an advanced level. This class meets before school (and therefore not listed on ranked electives). Teacher nomination is required.

Orchestra 6 is for students with little or no instrumental experience. This option is available for seventh grade students only if the master schedule allows.

Orchestra 7 is for students who have successfully completed Orchestra 6 and are ready to perform more advanced music. Depending on approval from the orchestra director, students with instrumental experience before their enrollment at Henley Middle School may join Orchestra 7 without having to participate in Orchestra 6.
18 WEEK (SEMESTER) ELECTIVES

2D Studio Art students will continue to develop their drawing and painting skills. Students will learn to reflect, envision, stretch and explore their visual ideas, while developing their craft. Group mural paintings as well as individual canvas painting will be available options in this class.

3D Studio Art students will continue to develop additive and subtractive sculptural skills while working with a variety of media including clay, plaster, paper, aluminum, wire, natural elements, wood and found objects. There will be opportunities to work on group artwork as well as individual pieces.

Creative Writing students write poetry, myths, fairytales, comic books, mysteries, and a silent movie screenplay.

CTE STEM Engineering Exploration (formerly Engineering/Technology) is a semester long seventh/eighth grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course where students will explore the engineering design process and real-world problem solving through the use of technologies including computer-aided design software, electronics, 3D-printing and CNC machining to discover their related applications. Students make models of significant inventions that have advanced society. After studying these developments, they explore contemporary technological problems facing them, their community, or the world and apply systematic procedures to invent new products or innovations as solutions. (CTE Verso Code: 8454)

CTE Leadership Exploration (formerly Life Skills) is a seventh/eighth grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that offers students many opportunities to further build their talents and interests in food preparation, textiles, consumerism, money management and “Making” in general. Leadership Exploration is often considered one of the major hubs of DIY (Do It Yourself) in middle school and creativity, teamwork and personal choice are integral parts of the course. Leadership Exploration implements various facets of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) throughout each unit. This class is directed to students that would like to improve their cooking and sewing skills, be savvy shoppers and develop more independence. The class is project-based, supports team efforts and uses technology frequently.

CTE STEM Design and Construction Exploration (formerly Mechatronics): is a semester long seventh/eighth grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that students will learn how to modify and control the world around them through exploring, designing, analyzing and evaluating the systems of design, programming, and electronics. Students will learn programming and electronics through the use of microcontrollers. Students will use computer-aided design software and advanced manufacturing technologies (3D printing, die-cutting, CNC machining, etc.) to create physical objects. The three systems of computer programming, electronics and design will be combined to create mechanical-electrical devices that are computer-controlled. Students will also explore technology-oriented careers. (CTE Verso Code 8457)

Debate students will become better at the business of argument. Everyone knows how to argue, but few people know how to argue well. As you study the practice of debate, you will become more competent at making arguments as well as listening critically to the arguments of others. These skills are necessary for success in debate and life.
Drama 7 is an introductory class open to students in seventh grade and will be a mixed class of both seventh and eighth graders. Students will learn improvisation, the basics of acting, as well as technical aspects of theatre. Students with the desire to learn the technical side of theatre will also have the opportunity to learn how to operate lighting and sound equipment as well as some of the basic concepts behind stage design. This class will culminate in a production for the school and for the public in the evening. Every drama student is required to attend performances.

Environmental Studies students will learn about how humans impact our environment and how we can make better choices to ensure the future of our planet. The course will cover the basics of climate change, ecology, botany and sustainable living. We will be participating in projects which will start at our school level, but impact our local and global community.

Guitar is open to seventh and eighth grade students who have had no previous guitar experience. Students will learn to read from traditional music notation at a beginning level, learning chords and melodies. Acoustic guitars will be used, with the occasional electric guitar.

Mixed Media Art students will continue to develop their artistic skills while learning to combine media such as wood, metal, clay, plaster, wire, found objects, paint, text and paper. Large and small-scale projects will be explored, working in small groups and individually.

Photography is offered for a semester and enhances student ability to notice and observe their surroundings. The course covers the history of photography, elements of art and principles of design, aesthetics, self-critiquing skills, and how to use photo editing software (Adobe Photoshop) to improve and manipulate their photographs. The course assignments are project-based. Small digital cameras provided for use in class (with release form) allow students to become more proficient with photography in general, and students may notice that their cell phone images improve as well.

World Peace Game is a hands-on political simulation that gives players the opportunity to explore the connectedness of the global community through the lens of the economic, social, and environmental crises and the imminent threat of war. The goal of the game is to disengage each country from dangerous circumstances and achieve global success with the least amount of military intervention. As “nation teams,” students will gain greater understanding of the critical impact of information and how it is used.
2020-2021 J.T. HENLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

SEVENTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE SELECTION SHEET

Please read the course descriptions carefully and, after deciding upon selections, rate your desired choices. Please indicate your choice by placing a number from 1-8 opposite of the courses listed below using both sections to create your top 8 list. Number one is your most desired choice with number eight as your least desired choice. Please complete this form by March 9 and bring it with you when you meet with your counselor. Any changes to your course requests must be submitted through your school counselor before April 24.

Year Long Electives

_____ Art 7
_____ AVID
_____ Band 6 (If schedule allows)
_____ Broadcast Journalism
_____ Choir 7
_____ Concert Band
_____ Design
_____ French
_____ Newspaper
_____ Orchestra 6 (If the schedule allows)
_____ Orchestra 7
_____ Spanish
_____ Yearbook

Semester Electives

_____ 2D Studio Art
_____ 3D Studio Art
_____ Creative Writing
_____ CTE STEM Design and Construction Exploration (formerly Mechatronics)
_____ CTE Leadership Exploration (formerly Life Skills)
_____ CTE STEM Engineering Exploration (formerly Engineering and Technology)
_____ Debate
_____ Drama 7
_____ Environmental Studies
_____ Guitar I
_____ Mixed Media Art
_____ Photography
_____ World Peace Game

Student’s Signature ____________________________________________ Date _____________

Parent’s/Guardian’s Signature ______________________________________ Date _____________
PLEASE BRING THIS COMPLETED SHEET WITH YOU WHEN YOU MEET WITH YOUR COUNSELOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9.