

7th Grade Course Descriptions

Forensic Science I is an introduction to the science of solving crimes and mysteries. Students will learn the basics of crime scene investigations through hands-on learning and active participation. Each child will become a detective as they analyze fingerprints, dental records, bones, and many other types of evidence throughout this semester long course.

Forensic Science II is the follow up course for Forensic Science I. In this class, students will become more of a scientific sleuth as they study and analyze blood, hair and fiber, chromatography, DNA, and much more. We will also explore real-life crimes and forensic mysteries. If you've taken Forensic Science I and want to learn more, then this is the class for you!

Marine Science exposes students to science grade concepts related to the water planet we live on. The marine science elective supports Sherwood's advanced science curriculum as it reinforces concepts in physical, life and earth sciences as they relate to water. Overall, marine science is a good fit for any student who enjoys science and who has a curiosity about our water planet.

Beginning Art is focused on exploring the basic elements of art: line, shape, form, value, texture, and color. Much of the focus is on basic drawing, shading, and color mixing. Students will create projects using a variety of mediums including pencil, pen, oil pastel, charcoal, and paint, with the possibility of some 3-D design.

Computer Science will help students learn to operate computers and related technologies efficiently. They become familiar with how computers operate, how to use hardware, software and the internet, as well as digital citizenship skills and an introduction to coding. This course is a required pre-requisite for Game and Application Design and Web Design, which is a 7th and 8th grade course.

Video Editing will help students explore the creation, editing, and publishing of videos, pictures and other types of media utilizing many types of software and tools.

Drama offers a thorough introduction to acting in a fun and supportive atmosphere. Ideal for those with little or no acting experience, providing the chance to explore acting techniques in a playful, unintimidating and practical way.

Intermediate Drama (by audition only) Travels further into the realm of theatre and focuses more on the behind-the-scenes components that bring a production together. This year-long course will allow students to learn about promoting, producing, costuming and scenic design, as well as offer two productions where these components will be displayed!

Intermediate Piano is for students who want to build on their basic piano skills. Students will learn and practice more advanced musical techniques, concepts, and skills, as well as perform several recitals throughout the year. This course is only available to those who have already taken Beginning Piano at Sherwood Middle.

Desktop Publishing will teach skills in advanced desktop publishing including, the Microsoft suite and various other web 2.0 multimedia presentation tools

Robotics I puts students into teams of various abilities to inventory robot kits, learn and explore the programming software, and design/program EV3 Lego robots. Engineering skills and the design process will be the cornerstone skills. This course is a pre-requisite for Robotics II, a group that travels to robotics competitions.

Girls Concert Choir is for ANY girl in grades 7-8 interested in singing and performing, even if she has not been in choir before. Students will learn a more advanced level of singing techniques, music theory, and sight-reading and performance skills. Students will participate in many concerts and competitions, including traveling, and will also be eligible to audition for the school's show choir.

Boys Concert Choir is for ANY boy in grades 7-8 interested in singing and performing, even if he has not been in choir before. Students will learn a more advanced level of singing techniques, music theory, and sight-reading and performance skills. Students will participate in many concerts and competitions, including traveling, and will be eligible to audition for the school's show choir.

Advanced Girls Choir is for girls in grades 7-8 who have taken at least one year of choir at Sherwood. Students will either graduate automatically into this choir from Girls Concert Choir, or be placed directly into this choir at the discretion of the choir director. Students will learn a much higher level of singing techniques, music theory, and sight-reading and performance skills in this class. Students will participate in many concerts and competitions and will also be eligible to audition for the school's show choir.

Beginner Band is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who have **never** been in band before. The course will include learning about the various instruments, choosing an instrument, understanding basic musical symbols, and increasing one's personal ability on his/her instrument. This band will perform at on at least two concerts per school year.

Intermediate Band is for those 6th-8th grade students who have at least 1 year of prior band experience (either at Sherwood or at a previous school). The course will focus on increased understanding of musical symbols and notation, concert music, and increasing one's personal ability on his/her instrument. This band will perform in at least 4 concerts per school year, with the potential to participate at both in and out of town concerts/festivals.

Advanced Band is for those 7th and 8th grade students who have completed at least 1 year of prior band experience (either at Sherwood or at a previous school). This band is composed of the most technically proficient student musicians and they must already possess a very strong understanding of one's instrument. The course will focus on an advanced understanding of musical symbols and notation, concert music, and increasing one's personal ability on his/her instrument. This band will perform in at least 6 concerts per school year, with the potential to participate at both in and out of town concerts/festivals.

Beginning Orchestra is for students who haven't been in a strings program, or who haven't had a lot of experience playing stringed instruments. The focus of this class is to teach basic rhythms and string techniques. Students will learn to read music notes and rhythms.

Intermediate Orchestra is for students that have been in a strings class before. Students will review basic rhythms and techniques, while learning more complex skills. Reading music will be a focus in the class, as students will be exposed to intermediate level pieces of music.

Advanced Orchestra Participation in this class is by audition only. Students will be expected to know basic rhythms and techniques. Students will be exposed to more challenging music, with a large focus on quality of sound and reading more complex rhythms.

Pre-Law This class visits the basics of law. Students will explore topics such as criminal and civil law, constitutional rights, forensics, the courtroom and courtroom strategy. The students will participate in a mock trial, playing the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and jury. Students will learn correct public speaking and how to defend an argument bases on supporting evidence.

Intermediate Art is for students who have taken a beginning art course in middle school. This course builds on the concepts learned in Beginning Art while also focusing on the elements of design. More emphasis is placed on students creating themes and concepts for their own projects. Students will continue to improve their skills in critiquing artworks.

Ballet Dance helps students learn basic beginner steps and techniques of ballet, along with vocabulary and a brief history of ballet figures. This class require a motivated learner, a performance level attitude from all students as this class can be challenging

Movement & Dance A students will explore beginning dance forms (modern, jazz, ballet, contemporary, tap) and applying the dance elements, principles of design, and dance benchmarks. They develop collaboration, critical thinking, and social skills.

Movement & Dance B students will continue exploring dance forms (modern, jazz, ballet, contemporary, tap) and continue applying the dance elements, principles of design, and dance benchmarks. They develop collaboration, critical thinking, and social skills.

Intermediate/Advanced Piano is a full-year course only open to 7th & 8th graders who have already taken Beginning Piano or Intermediate Piano at Sherwood. Students will continue learning and developing their piano skills and techniques, as well as continue to read and perform more advanced music, moving at their own individualized pace. Students will perform in several recitals throughout the school year. Must have teacher approval to sign up for this course.