

# ROBERT FROST

**Livonia Public Schools**

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## GRADE 7 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2023-24

***“Preparing for Tomorrow’s Challenges”***



# Frost Middle School

## *Seventh Grade Course Descriptions*

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### **Required Courses**

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**1172/2172**

***ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7***

***Full Year***

The seventh grade English Language Arts class is based on the Common Core State Standards and focuses on analysis, argumentation, fluency, and other literacy-based skills. These skills are achieved through a format where students are regularly engaged with multiple types of authentic reading and writing processes. Units of study, in both reading and writing, continue to follow a carefully sequenced set of building blocks that students mastered in sixth grade in both reading and writing. The units offer students an authentic and predictable structure that help them live more authentically as readers and writers and provide them with an intentional way to continue teaching themselves after the unit is over. A variety of texts will be read and discussed in a reader's workshop approach, wherein teachers immerse students in close reading and talking about texts, thus helping students to analyze how these texts are written. A writer's workshop approach to teaching writing helps support students' development as writers. This approach provides students with continuous evaluation of their work and the work of other writers.

**1272/2272**

***SOCIAL STUDIES 7***

***Full Year***

The seventh-grade social studies curriculum focuses on early world history and geography with a deliberate focus on content literacy. Students begin their exploration into world history with a focus on historical thinking. By unpacking historical and geographic thinking, students learn how these disciplines are distinct in how they ask questions and frame problems to organize and drive inquiry. Students learn that historians must have some evidence to support the claims they make in their accounts. By introducing students to the "invisible" tools that historians use to create historical accounts the course deepens students' historical habits of mind and builds students' social and content literacy.

In this class, students investigate human history from the beginning until around 1500. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. In studying the origins of farming and its impact upon emerging human cultures, students analyze evidence from the fields of archaeology and anthropology and employ a wide range of data sources including artifacts, photographs, and geographic information. Students examine how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of people, resources, and ideas.

**1372/2372**

***MATHEMATICS 7***

***Full Year***

Our curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The Common Core places equal emphasis on Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practices. The Mathematical Practices describe various skills mathematically proficient students should exhibit, such as problem solving, reasoning, communication, procedural fluency, and conceptual understanding, to name a few.

The seventh grade content standards focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

**1373/2373**

**ACCELERATED MATH 7**

**Full Year**

**Prerequisite: By invitation only.** This class is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional mathematical ability along with the ability to read and comprehend at or above grade level. Students are selected for this class based on a combination of standardized test scores and teacher recommendations from the upper elementary school.

This accelerated course teaches all the seventh-grade math content standards and approximately half of the eighth-grade content standards in one year to prepare students for an accelerated eighth grade Algebra 1 course. Topics of study include proportional relationships, rational numbers, integers, solving linear equations, inequalities, statistics, probability, two-and-three-dimensional geometry, and problem solving.

Our curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The Common Core places equal emphasis on Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practices. The Mathematical Practices describe various skills mathematically proficient students should exhibit, such as problem solving, reasoning, communication, procedural fluency, and conceptual understanding, to name a few.

**1472/2472**

**SCIENCE 7**

**Full Year**

This course empowers students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers by promoting scientific literacy and taking a hands-on approach to learning. Students take on the role of scientists to investigate relevant, real world phenomenon using the science and engineering practices as defined in the Next Generation Science Standards. Scientific practices include claim, evidence, reasoning, developing, and using models, as well as collaboration and discussion. Several units are followed by internship units where students further develop their conceptual understanding by applying their new knowledge and engineering sense to finding a solution to complex problems. Seventh grade unit covers NGSS standards from life, physical and Earth Science disciplines. Units include metabolism, chemical reactions, and Earth's changing climates.

**0573**

**COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY 7**

**10 Weeks**

This course is intended to ensure students have basic computer skills including an understanding of the computer system, keyboarding, and use of integrated word processing, PowerPoint, and spreadsheet software. Employability skills will be integrated into the curriculum. By the end of the course, students will be expected to complete a performance task that assesses their ability to format and save a word processing document, insert a graphic, and create a simple spreadsheet that will be used to develop a chart.

**0972**

**HEALTH 7**

**10 Weeks**

Health education is a mandatory 10-week course for seventh grade students. This class is designed to help the student better understand ways to live a longer, healthier, and happier life. Content areas included in this course are personal health and wellness; mental, social, and emotional health (including violence prevention); nutrition and physical activity; tobacco, alcohol, and other drug prevention; and healthy sexuality. Students

will be responsible for homework, in class work, quizzes, parent/guardian discussions, and interaction within the classroom.

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## Full Year Electives

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**1881/2881**

**CONCERT CHOIR**

**20 weeks/Full Year**

This course will cover varying styles of choral music, along with some exploration of musical theatre and movement. Students will have multiple opportunities to perform, including at least two required concerts per semester. Opportunities will include whole group, small ensemble, and solo singing.

Students will also be introduced to basic music theory, sight singing, and vocal health and maintenance. If you have a desire to be part of a supportive and welcoming group, while enjoying the process of making music together, Concert Choir is for you! **Note: Concert Choir may be taken as a semester elective or a full year class.**

**1873/2873**

**CONCERT BAND**

**Full Year**

This course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students. The band explores music in contemporary, classical, rock, pop, and movie styles, and performs 3 - 4 concerts a year. Students involved will have many opportunities throughout the year to perform, travel, and work with professional musicians in the area, and will also perform at the MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival, compose music, and utilize various technologies in music. In addition, the students learn music theory, become skilled at critical and creative thinking, build leadership and teamwork skills, and strengthen communication skills through performance. Since Concert Band is a year-long course, you will have the opportunity to make personal connections and develop your musical skills to their fullest potential.

**1875/2875**

**CONCERT ORCHESTRA**

**Full Year**

This course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students. The orchestra explores music in contemporary, classical, rock, pop, and movie styles and performs 3 - 4 concerts a year. Students involved will have many opportunities throughout the year to perform, travel and work with professional musicians in the area, and will also perform at the MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival, compose music, and utilize various technologies in music. In addition, the students learn music theory, become skilled at critical and creative thinking, build leadership and teamwork skills, and strengthen communication skills through performance. Since Concert Orchestra is a year-long course, you will have the opportunity to make personal connections and develop your musical skills to their fullest potential.

**1889/2889**

**FUNDAMENTALS OF GUITAR**

**Full Year**

In this class students will be learning the basic fundamental skills needed for learning to play the guitar. Students will work on fundamental music theory skills, note reading, finger mechanics, rhythm, melody, chords, and building their ears to excel in music. Students will also explore various genres of music. No prior music experience is needed. You will learn the fundamentals of music and the basic skills necessary to play a wide variety of music styles. This class is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and meets all school year.

Students work together in creating an inclusive yearbook for the entire school. Students are responsible for taking photographs, creating layouts, interviewing staff and students, attending school events, writing articles, assembling pages, and editing. In addition to the yearbook, students also work together in publishing the school newspaper. This class is open to all students. Students must be responsible, reliable, trustworthy, and self-motivated. **Students interested in this class must complete a small application and obtain a teacher recommendation.**

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## Semester Electives

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**0971****PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7****20 weeks**

Physical education is a sequential, developmentally appropriate program that provides students with the knowledge, skills, fitness, and attitudes needed to live a healthy, productive life. The focus is on building skills with numerous opportunities to practice in competitive and non-competitive settings. This course is aligned with Michigan state standards for physical education. The units could include fitness, basketball, soccer, team handball, softball, volleyball, and racquet sports. **Note: All students are required to complete one semester of physical education during 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**1881/2881****CONCERT CHOIR****20 weeks/Full Year**

This course will cover varying styles of choral music, along with some exploration of musical theatre and movement. Students will have multiple opportunities to perform, including at least two required concerts per semester. Opportunities will include whole group, small ensemble, and solo singing.

Students will also be introduced to basic music theory, sight singing, and vocal health and maintenance. If you have a desire to be part of a supportive and welcoming group, while enjoying the process of making music together, Concert Choir is for you! **Note: Concert Choir may be taken as a semester elective or a full year class.**

**0677****EXPLORING FOODS****20 weeks**

Do you like to cook? Are you interested in learning? Whether you are a beginner or more experienced, Exploring Foods could be right for you. Exploring Foods provides hands-on experience in the kitchen. The goal is to help you grow more independent in the kitchen so you will be better prepared to live on your own someday. Topics covered include safety, following a recipe, nutrition, budgeting/grocery shopping, and career opportunities. Various cooking units will be covered such as desserts (cookies, pies & cakes) quick breads (pancakes, muffins, and biscuits), breakfast foods (various style eggs and omelets), and extras like tacos, spaghetti, quesadillas, and crepes. We also have creative food days, Chopped style cook-offs, and a Next Great Restaurant contest. This course is offered to 7th & 8th grade students. Come join the fun and sample the food!

**0676**

**FOODS & FABRIC**

**20 weeks**

Want to have an opportunity to be creative? Here is your chance to learn new skills in the areas of cooking and sewing. Most students who take this class have never used a sewing machine before, but they all learn to use the sewing machine to make a drawstring backpack and a stuffed animal. Students practice hand sewing and sewing on a button. There is a materials fee for these projects.

During the food portion of the class, students prepare cookies, biscuits, scones, muffins, breadsticks, cinnamon rolls, and eggs. Lessons focus on kitchen safety, proper measuring, correct use of kitchen tools, basic cooking procedures, and teamwork. We wrap the semester up with a Next Great Cafe contest. This course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students.

**0953**

**PEER LINK**

**20 weeks**

This Peer Connections class is designed for student leaders who have a desire to mentor and work with students in special education, but do not have room in their schedule for the full year class. Leadership skills, communication skills, goal setting, patience, empathy, and advocacy are crucial for success in a peer connections link elective. Students enrolled in this class will be a mentor, role model and friend to special education students and will be scheduled into one of their elective class periods. Class numbers are limited, and placement is not guaranteed. **Students interested in this class must complete a small application and obtain a teacher recommendation.**

**0569**

**TOOLS & MATERIALS PROCESSING**

**20 weeks**

This introductory shop class is open to all 7th and 8th grade students wanting to learn how to work with tools and build things. Class will focus on shop safety and will cover basic hand and power tool use. Students will practice what they learn by working with woods, plastics, and metals that are commonly used in industry today. Some of the in class hands-on projects are the sculptured fish, jig saw puzzle, aluminum rings, air-power race car, airplane, hockey board, etc. (Projects are subject to change.) Emphasis is placed on safety, time management, behavior, and responsibility. This is an excellent life-skills class for all students and will give insight towards related jobs and high paying skilled-trade careers. Class can be continued into various high school and career center programs. This life-skills, activity-based, hands-on class is one that every student should have!

**0469**

**WORLD LANGUAGE ADVENTURES**

**20 weeks**

Fasten your seat belts, adventurers! Take the role of a world explorer as you journey through four different languages and cultures: French, German, Japanese and Spanish. Earn your passports as you learn basic words and phrases while engaging in games and projects. Interact with your classmates in other languages while having the time of your life!

This course will introduce you to the four world language options. However, the class will not earn a credit towards a language requirement. Discover the traveler in you in this exciting exploration of world languages and cultures! World Language Adventure is open to both 7th and 8th grade students.

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## 10-Week Electives

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**0670**

**ART AND DESIGN I**

**10 weeks**

Students explore the elements of design and incorporate these principles into creating their own works of art. Projects will be based on real life art surrounding us in our everyday lives. Students will create art using their imaginations and creativity while experiencing drawing, painting, paper mache, ceramics, oil pastels, and many other techniques.

**0671**

**ART AND DESIGN II**

**10 weeks**

Students will continue in the exploration of real-life everyday art by looking at the art that surrounds them on a daily basis. They will have the opportunity to look at everyday items in a new and exciting way and will also look at how art is used in different careers. In addition to drawing, painting, and sculpture, students will be discovering their creativity in graphic design, photography, printmaking, and cartooning.

**0191**

**CREATIVE WRITING**

**10 weeks**

Seventh and eighth grade students in this course will experiment with different genres of writing. Students will be given many opportunities to create a variety of writing products. The students will focus on developing skill in all phases of the writing process. Various writing styles will be explored, along with imaginative ways for the writers to display their final written pieces. Students will be given ample opportunity to talk about strategies for revising and polishing their writing.

**0574**

**DIGITECH**

**10 weeks**

This course will guide students deeper into technology as they learn about programming by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills. Students will create relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Students will use computers and other digital devices.

**0982**

**SPORTS AND FITNESS I (Outdoor)**

**10 weeks**

Sports & Fitness I is a semester course for 7th and 8th grade students who enjoy physical activity, conditioning, and exercise. Sports & Fitness units may include team sports (basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey, softball), yoga, fitness training, individual sports (pickleball, badminton, disc golf), etc. **Outdoor sports will be in the first and last 10-week marking periods.** Foundational units covered in PE 7 or PE 8 will be expanded on to include tournaments and higher-level play. **Sports & Fitness is an elective class which can be taken in addition to (not in place of) PE 7 or PE8. Students will minimally have 1 semester of PE during middle school and a maximum of 4 semesters with a combination of PE7, PE8 and Sports & Fitness classes.**

**0983**

**SPORTS AND FITNESS II (Indoor)**

**10 weeks**

Sports & Fitness I is a semester course for 7th and 8th grade students who enjoy physical activity, conditioning, and exercise. Sports & Fitness units may include team sports (basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey, softball), yoga, fitness training, individual sports (pickleball, badminton, disc golf), etc. **Indoor sports will be in the second and third 10-week marking periods.** Foundational units covered in PE 7 or PE 8 will be expanded on to include tournaments and higher-level play. **Sports & Fitness is an elective class which can be taken in addition to (not in place of) PE 7 or PE8. Students will minimally have 1 semester of PE during middle school and a maximum of 4 semesters with a combination of PE7, PE8 and Sports & Fitness classes.**

**0185**

**STAGE & PERFORMANCE BASICS I**

**10 weeks**

Would you like to improve your public speaking ability? **Stage & Performance I is a 10-week course** that aims to make students more comfortable presenting to an audience. Activities include giving speeches and storytelling. The goal is to

improve articulation, control breathing, and learn how to project. We will work towards helping students speak confidently in front of a crowd, a skill which has immediate and lifelong benefits.

**0193**

**STAGE & PERFORMANCE BASICS II**

**10 weeks**

Are you interested in performing? Stage & Performance II is a 10-week course that teaches acting basics. Students will learn basic stage direction, body positioning, blocking, memorization and more! This is a fun, energetic class that encourages cooperation, giving and receiving feedback in a positive way, active listening, and observational skills. Whether you want to perform on stage or simply get better at giving class presentations, this class can help!

**0669**

**VISUAL ART I**

**10 weeks**

Students will create two- and three-dimensional artwork inspired by several different artists. This class explores famous artwork and artists and encourages students to use their own creativity, adding a twist to their artwork. Students are given the opportunity to work with watercolor, paint, oil pastels, colored pencils, paper mache, and clay.

**0687**

**VISUAL ART II**

**10 weeks**

Students will continue to use their creativity in making two- and three-dimensional artwork, while focusing on many different types of media. The projects continued in this class will include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and etching.

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**Project Lead the Way**

**10-Week Electives**

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PLTW students engage in hands-on activities, projects, and problems that are reflective of real-world challenges. This compelling, real-world approach empowers students to learn essential, in-demand skills validated by the world's leading companies, while also providing an invaluable connection between what students are learning in the classroom today and how it applies to the paths they'll take in the future.

**0578**

**AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS**

**10 weeks**

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

**0577**

**COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR INNOVATORS AND MAKERS**

**10 weeks**

Throughout this STEM class, students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.

**0588**

**DESIGN AND MODELING**

**10 Weeks**

In this STEM class students discover the engineering design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students will work both independently and as part of a team to develop design skills such as 2D and 3D sketching, measuring, and 3D modeling using computer aided drawings (CAD) to accurately



communicate design ideas to others. Students are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the semester to design and present a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

**0579**

***MEDICAL DETECTIVES***

***10 Weeks***

In this STEM class students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. This class will include a dissection lab activity.