

**IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LAKESIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
3 Lemongrass  
Irvine, CA 92604  
(949) 936-6100**

**2008-2009**

**7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**LANGUAGE ARTS/SOCIAL SCIENCE is integrated through an interdisciplinary team approach** in which the skills and content of both curricula complement each other. A language arts/social science teacher or team of teachers works closely with students throughout the two-year program in order to achieve continuity and build upon the skills mastered in the first year. This highly successful program allows teachers and students to establish a healthy student-teacher relationship, which leads to a meaningful middle school experience.

The language arts curriculum is a literature-based program integrated with the social science content. The program emphasizes learning experiences that build upon the student's prior knowledge to integrate reading, thinking, literature, writing, oral language, spelling, listening and research skills.

In social science, the curriculum is a study of medieval world civilizations, cultures and geography.

Active learning is incorporated into both the social science and language arts curricula through hands-on projects using research skills, writing activities, cooperative learning, dramatizations, oral presentations and use of higher level thinking skills. Additionally, language arts and social science classes also emphasize the application of word processing and Internet research skills.

In Lakeside's unique, comprehensive program, we address the needs of GATE and high achieving students in the classroom by providing opportunities to develop leadership and communication skills, higher level thinking skills and problem-solving techniques. In addition, our staff has developed specialized curricula for the advanced students in which they are clustered for literature lab.

**MATHEMATICS 7:**

This is a standards-based course, designed to prepare students for Introduction to Algebra or Algebra in grade 8.

**SCIENCE 7** is a full year program divided into three trimesters and based on the California Science Standards. All three trimesters are activity based and focus on science processes. The Health Science trimester focuses on teaching the students the information and skills they need to make good choices and live healthy lives. Physical and Life Science classes are lab and activity based. They emphasize science skills and processes necessary for a good foundation for scientific literacy. The Physical Science trimester covers basic chemistry and physics, and focuses on measurement, data collection and interpretation. The Life Science trimester covers cell structure and function and classification of the major kingdoms of living things and focuses on the inter-relationship between all living things on earth. All three trimesters include activities that reinforce general study skills as they relate to science. Students will learn to utilize PowerPoint and other presentation mediums to share the results of their science labs.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** is co-educationally based instructional program designed to encourage lifetime involvement in physical activity. Basic knowledge and skill acquisition in a variety of sports and activities are presented as part of a two-year curriculum. Sports and activities include, but are not exclusive to: basketball, bowling, dance, flag football, floor hockey, Frisbee, golf, lacrosse, pickle-ball, racquetball, soccer, softball, table tennis, team handball, track and field, volleyball and innovative games. Students will also receive instruction in a variety of health and fitness related concepts. The “Lakeside Physical Challenge” fitness test will be administered during the first and third trimesters allowing students the opportunity to assess their fitness and set goals. In order to maintain and/or improve fitness, students will perform cardio-respiratory and resistance training activities on a regular basis.

## ELECTIVES

### **TRIMESTER COURSES:**

- 164**    **PUBLIC SPEAKING/DEBATING** (grade 7/8) In this course, students will give individual speeches on various topics. The class will also include a debating section with students working in groups to prepare debates. Another facet of the class will be television shows and commercials, which will be written, produced and directed by the students utilizing video equipment.
- 221**    **BEGINNING SPANISH** (grade 7/8) This is a one-trimester class designed to expose students to the Spanish language through the development of basic Spanish vocabulary. The course will focus on listening and oral communication skills that will lay a foundation for success in future Spanish courses. Students will also be introduced to the geography and culture of various Spanish-speaking countries. It is recommended that anyone interested in taking Spanish I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or high school enroll in this course.
- 685**    **LAW IN SOCIETY** (grade 7/8) This is a one-trimester class designed to expose students to the various responsibilities of lawyers and judges while taking part in simulated, role-playing activities. Students will take part in a series of short trials using fun and timely fact scenarios. The course will focus on both the crafting and judging of persuasive arguments. Students will also explore the role that law plays in their daily lives and how teens earned the rights they have today.
- 710**    **ART APPRECIATION** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will be introduced to art and artists from Renaissance through Modern periods. After the introductions, students will recreate famous works using a variety of mediums including clay, pastels, tempera paint, and watercolors. A \$10.00 materials fee is requested.
- 711**    **JUST DRAWING** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will be introduced to a variety of drawing techniques such as sketching, contour, and technical drawing, using an assortment of mediums. There is a \$5.00 lab fee requested.

- 715** **VIDEO PRODUCTION** This class is designed to teach students the skills needed to produce and edit digital video projects. They will learn digital computer editing, sound mixing, lighting design and camera techniques. We will be applying a “hands-on” approach with the ultimate goal of producing our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade slide show videos.
- 717** **JUST PAINTING** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will explore a variety of painting techniques and skills, including murals, window painting, watercolor, tempera, oil pastels, acrylics and ink washes. Subject will include plants, trees, structures, the human form, animals, landscapes, self-portraits and more. There is a \$10.00 materials fee requested.
- 725** **CERAMICS** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will create clay projects using a variety of hand building techniques. Students will be introduced to the history of clay projects, fundamentals of ceramics, including types of clay, firing techniques and low-fire glazes. Students will also participate in a large-scale group project. There is a \$15.00 materials fee requested.
- 790** **DRAMA** (grade 7/8) This is a trimester class in which students perform plays during school assemblies and in the evening for parents, friends and families. Class includes lip syncs, stage directions, auditions, part memorization, and performances and stagecraft.
- 831** **HOME ARTS** (grade 7/8) Students will experience six weeks of sewing, the practical application of tools, vocabulary, safety, and measuring for completing one sewing craft project. The second six weeks are spent in the food lab learning about safety, measuring, and practical experience in food preparation and nutrition. There is a \$20.00 materials fee requested.
- 970** **STUDY SKILLS** (grade 7/8) This course is designed to assist students in completing school assignments and homework. When needed, students will be given access to the school technology to complete their assignments.

### **YEAR-LONG COURSES:**

- 751** **CONCERT BAND** This is an intermediate level wind and percussion ensemble. Students who have previous experience as well as motivated beginners are welcome to join. Although a limited number of school instruments are available for use, most students will need to rent or buy an instrument. Performances are mandatory.
- 763** **CONCERT ORCHESTRA** This is an intermediate level string ensemble. Students who have previous experience as well as motivated beginners are welcome to join. Although a limited number of school instruments are available for use, most students will need to rent or buy an instrument. Performances are mandatory.
- 775** **CHORUS** This performing class provides students with the chance to sing in a choral ensemble. Enrollment is open to all students regardless of previous experience. Students may enroll in this class for a single trimester or for the entire year. Performances are mandatory.

*7<sup>th</sup> grade course description 08-09  
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