

Golden West 7th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Note: Seventh grade students must choose up to two semester courses per year or one-year long course. Semester courses have the (S) after the title, while year-long courses have the (Y) after the title. *Elective course choices are not guaranteed and are dependent on teacher and course availability.

Semester Electives – (S)

These courses are introductory and designed to provide students an opportunity to explore different electives. Students will have a semester of Art, Conversational Spanish, Wood, Drama or InfoTech. Different combinations are possible based on teacher availability. **Students must select two courses for the year.**

- **Art (S)**

This course is an introductory course where students learn how to identify and organize the elements of Art in a creative way. It is a hands-on class with daily activities and projects in which students explore drawing, painting and sculpture mediums. Students will be provided with the materials to complete the curriculum.

- **Woodshop 7 (S)**

Students will be introduced to basic hand tools and power hand tools, as well as stationary power tools. Safety will be covered in depth. Students will construct projects requiring the use of many tools, such as routers, drills, planer, drill press, jig saw, sanders, etc. Students will be provided with the material needed for the curriculum. Students have the option of paying for projects and materials that will be taken home.

- **Conversational Spanish (S)**

In this course students will get a brief introduction to basic conversational Spanish. Students will learn basic phrases and vocabulary, study a Spanish speaking country and learn about the Hispanic world.

- **Computer Literacy (S)**

This course teaches students the basics of computer literacy, from typing skills to document formatting. Students will learn how to navigate through and become competent in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, as well as web navigation. Students will complete projects to show what they have learned.

- **Information Technology (Y) (Open to 7th and 8th grade students)**

Students will acquire 21st century technology skills as they learn more advanced use of applications such as word, excel, Story Board That, and PowerPoint. Students may have already taken Computer Literacy prior to this course, but it is not required.

- **Poetry and Creative Writing (Y) (Open to 7th and 8th grade students)**

In this course learn different types of poetry and poetic devices including figurative language, beat, and meter. Students will have exposure to poets and their different techniques. There is an emphasis on Creative Writing in this course. Students will explore different ideas and methods to create stories as well as developing stronger writing skills and learn to use applications such as Story board That.

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Performing Arts-Year Electives (Y)

Students may only choose one course per year.

- **Beginning Band 2021-22 (Y)** is open to any student who wants to learn a wind or percussion instrument. Wind instruments include Tuba, Euphonium, Trombone, F-Horn, Trumpet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, Clarinet, or Flute.
- **Concert Band 2021-22 (Y)** is for any incoming 6th grade student who is currently in band or completed one year of band as a 5th grader. In addition, current 8th graders who have one year of band in elementary school or middle school (new students) can join Concert Band
- **Symphonic Band 2021-22 (Y)** will be 7th/8th grade elective with no audition for current GW Concert Band students. Symphonic Band is for continuing Concert Band students. New 7th or 8th grade students with two or more years of band instruction can audition by sending me a recording of their performance on a band instrument. They can contact me at my email for more audition information.
- **Jazz Band 2021-22 (Y)** will be an 8th grade elective class during the regular school day, this year it's 2nd period. Any 8th grader at GW who is not in GW Band this year will need to audition with me by sending me a video recording of their playing. They can contact me at my email for more audition information. Generally students who are currently in the GW Band program don't have to audition. All Jazz Band students will also be registered for Symphonic Band. I will work on compiling a list of students in Concert Band who want to be in 2021-22 Jazz Band.
- **Piano 2021-22 (Y) (This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students)**
This class is designed for students who want to learn basic piano skills. Students will learn keyboard orientation, hand position, key note names, treble clef, bass clef, grand staff, dynamics, intervals, basic scales, music notation and more. Students will study from the Alfred Basic Piano Library Complete Level 1.

****Performances are integral part of the learning process. Dates will be announced at the beginning of the school year. There are some school instruments available for student use. Parents may also rent or buy an instrument.**

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Application Required Electives-Year Electives (Y) Students may apply to only one course per year. These courses require student commitment.

- **Robotics (Y) (This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students)**
The Golden West Middle School Robotics teams, the RoboStangs, build and program their own robots to complete a specific task each year. Each team must work together through all stages of the process, from concept designs to competition. Within each team, students will be assigned to particular duties (which can sometimes overlap): designer, builder, programmer, or driver. **If selected for the team, you will be notified and enrolled in the robotics elective.** Robotics ALSO meets for an hour after school 2-3 times a week, therefore students and parents must arrange transportation (there is a late bus when robotics ends for bus riders). All parts, computers, and required materials will be provided to student.
- **Leadership-(Y) (This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students)**
Leadership is a yearlong, activity-based course designed to develop skills in planning, implementing, and evaluating projects for the school and our community as a whole. The goal of this class is to develop student leaders that positively represent the voices of the school, while selflessly serving the community, both on and off campus. Students will learn techniques to develop skills and behaviors of good leadership, including: goal-setting, time management, communication skills, human relations, managerial skills, project management, evaluation, and self-awareness. These techniques will be studied and applied in a real world setting as students carryout the business of student government, while promoting a positive school environment for all students, through various school projects such as dances, spirit days, rallies, and fundraising events.