



2023-24 LA PAZ INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 7th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

You may enter course requests through the PARENT portal from 3/30 through noon on 4/12/23.

Please Note: Students will select a first, second and third choice elective. Every effort is made to place students in their first choice, however enrollment is based on several variables and elective course offerings are subject to change. As a result, honoring a student's first choice may not be possible. Please make your choices carefully.

English 7 - English 7 begins the year studying the "Elements of the Short Story" and the narrative writing process. During the second trimester, students are introduced to dramatic literature when they read and analyze "A Christmas Carol," the theatrical version of the classic story by Charles Dickens. Writing the second trimester focuses on argumentative essays, as students conduct their own research on a variety of topics. They end the trimester with an in-depth analysis of a class novel, *The Outsiders*. In the third trimester, students learn informational writing. They end the year with a creative unit on poetry and are introduced to public speaking. Throughout the year, students also read independently and engage in several "Book Tastings," create Flipgrid book reviews, and post various projects to Padlet.

English 7 Honors - La Paz has an integrated honors program throughout 7th grade English. Students follow the same English 7 pacing but are given higher level questions, more challenging and thought provoking assignments, and have an honors reading project each trimester. Honors students should be highly motivated and independent learners.

Math 7: This course focuses on the five domains of the Common Core State Standards and is designed to prepare students for Math 8. In this course, students will work independently and collaboratively to solidify their mathematical foundation and improve their ability to communicate their mathematical thinking and reasoning. The course of study includes all operations with fractions, decimals and integers, ratios, proportions, percent, statistics, and probability. Geometry concepts covered include area of circles, area of composite figures, and volume of prisms. Algebraic concepts covered include: solving one-step and multi-step equations and inequalities.

Math 7 Accelerated: This course is designed to prepare students for Algebra in 8th grade. All of the above-mentioned Math 7 concepts will be covered but with more depth and complexity. In addition to all of the Math 7 concepts, students in the Accelerated (Honors) program will be studying half of the Math 8 curriculum. Some of these Math 8 components include linear functions, slope, X & Y intercepts, and complex equations.

World History 7 - The goal of this class is to engage students through the delivery of various educational experiences that teach students how to be creative, responsible, and collaborative critical thinkers prepared for college, career and global citizenship. Students will be expected to exercise an in-depth analysis of written text, video text, maps, and charts as they study the rise and fall of civilizations, the ways in which civilizations interacted, and the consequences of these interactions. Note Taking Skills, Evidence Analysis, and Document Based Questions are implemented in each unit of the curriculum along with the year long theme question: "How did different regions of the world become more interconnected through time?"

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Integrated Science 7 - Science 7 curriculum is guided by the robust Next Generation Science Standards. Students learn science content by regularly engaging in the eight Science and Engineering Practices. Students use the seven Crosscutting Concepts to deepen their understanding of the content, engage critical thinking skills, and observe connections across a variety of science disciplines. The school year starts with a focus on Physical Science as we explore the molecular nature of matter and chemical reactions. This sets a strong foundation that applies to the rest of the school year's topics. During Trimester 2, the content shifts to Earth Science with a focus on analyzing evidence of plate tectonics and explaining how plate movements result in Earth's features. Students also study the cycling of matter and flow of energy through Earth's systems. During Trimester 3, the science discipline is Life Science with a focus on the role of photosynthesis, resources, and relationships among organisms.

within ecosystems. Most assignments are completed within the class period. However, students who do not complete the assignment in class will need up to 15 minutes of time to complete it for homework.

Integrated Science 7 Honors - Science 7 Honors students follow the same curriculum within the same class as Science 7 students. Opportunities for all students to extend their learning are required for honors students who are designated as such because of their ability and desire to go above and beyond proficiency of the standards. Honors students spend approximately 30 min - 1 hour per week completing extended applications, research tasks or outside reading related to the unit of study.

YEARLONG ELECTIVES

MUSIC PROGRAM

Seventh grade students have the opportunity to participate in yearlong instrumental music at La Paz Intermediate, which includes intermediate band (beginners welcome), string orchestra (all levels) and jazz band (by audition only). If you have any questions, please email Mr. Robbins at: daniel.robbins@svusd.org. All instrumental classes occur during the school day. No tryouts are necessary. Students with no musical experience, but who are willing to practice and try new instruments, are welcome. There are no after-school rehearsals, but there are four evening concerts per year.

Intermediate Band - instruments include the following: flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, alto, tenor or baritone sax, horn trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, drums, bells, and percussion.

String Orchestra - instruments include violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Beginning students have the opportunity to try out different instruments to find the one with which they feel most confident.

Advanced Band - Experience is required. **If you are interested in advanced band please speak with Mr. Robbins (Daniel.Robbins@svusd.org)**

Jazz Band - This is a 0 period class, previous experience is expected, auditions held as needed, Class attends field trips including Disneyland, Magic Mountain, Monterey Jazz Festival. Auditions will be held after the 23-24 school year begins.

**Students enrolled in Jazz Band must also be enrolled in Advanced Band*

ASB/Leadership - ASB stands for Associated Student Body and it represents the interests and goals of the entire School Student Body. Our ASB class focuses on the development of leadership skills. Students who enroll in ASB do so because they recognize that there is more to being successful in school than simply doing homework. Having a positive atmosphere during the school day where students feel wanted and accepted is critical to their success. To that end, the officers and appointed members of the ASB class focus on providing engaging activities that ensure a well-rounded school experience. Students in ASB plan, organize, and participate in such activities as dances, Spirit Week, and cultural events throughout the year. Students are elected or appointed to the class each spring for the following school year. **Please pick up a paper application at your elementary school site.**

AVID - This program is designed to prepare students for four-year college eligibility and develop career readiness skills. AVID stands for Advanced Via Individual Determination. This

is a year-long elective class that supports the all-around student performance inside and outside of school by focusing on five major components. These components consist of writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. AVID has a proven track record in bringing out the best in students and helping them achieve their greatest potential. We also focus on having a family atmosphere where we can help our peers and our community by incorporating team building activities and participating in community service projects on and off campus. The benefits of being an AVID student are providing academic instruction and other support to students as well as learning to make and set individual goals. AVID motivates students to seek a college education/career path by attending field trips to four-year colleges to feel what it is like to be a college student, participate in team and individual research projects, increase career awareness and learn about each student's personal strengths and careers associated with these skills such as public speaking and service hours. We are building student leaders inside and outside the classroom. **To apply for AVID visit:** <https://bit.ly/LAPAZAVID>

International Art - this yearlong elective, students will work in various mediums including drawing, watercolor, painting, ceramics, oil pastels, and digital art. Students will learn techniques and concepts from artists from around the world and apply this learning to their own artwork. Throughout the year students will be adding their work to their own digital portfolio. In addition, this class prepares students for the high school course, Fundamentals of Art.

STEM Academy (Coding, Laser Cutting, 3D Printing, Electronics & Robotics) In this yearlong class students work in a project-based environment where they explore a variety of STEM related fields. They have the opportunity to work with advanced equipment such as 3D printers, laser cutters and robotics. Computer programming is infused throughout the projects that they design, build, and test. Developing 21st Century career skills, such as critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, is a priority. Students in this elective also have the opportunity to participate in STEM field trips.

Theatre Production 7- In the Theatre Production 7 course, the students will be introduced to the relationship of theatre to various cultures throughout history, and on the contributions of significant individual artists. This course introduces students to all elements of the production process including playwriting, acting, directing, technical design, theatre management, and criticism. Students will also survey different periods, styles and genres of theater such as Greek and Roman Drama, Shakespeare, Melodrama, and Musical Theatre through play reading, discussion, films, and viewing and critiquing live theater, including required attendance at theater production field trips. Students will meet artists and executives from TV, stage, film, and new media. **Students will participate in the Haunted Hallways - A La Paz Tradition and a Spring Production. After school rehearsals required. Times TBD.**

Yearbook - This course is designed to develop students' skills in yearbook production by providing experiences in selected aspects of yearbook production. Students learn basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills that include writing copy, captions and headlines; digital photography; desktop publishing and using appropriate technology tools for media production. The school yearbook will be completed by March. During the remainder of the school year, the students will use their yearbook production skills to create a personal yearbook. Yearbook Production supports student's development as writers, photographers, editors, independent users of technology and as responsible contributing members of the La Paz Intermediate School community.

EXPLORATORY ELECTIVES

This is an opportunity for students to try a new elective each trimester. The exploratory courses will be a combination of the following:

- **Intro to Mixed Media Art** – In this trimester-long class students experience various art mediums, including drawing, painting, ceramics, and digital art. Students study the elements of art, experience hand building with clay, practice drawing and sketching, and create both 2 and 3-dimensional products. Projects alternate each year so students do not repeat projects
- **PLTW-STEM (Coding, 3D Printing & Electronics)** - In this trimester class, students work in a project-based environment exploring a variety of STEM related fields. They have the opportunity to work with advanced equipment such as 3D printers and laser cutters. Students write code to create their own apps for Android devices. Computer programming is infused throughout the projects that they design, build, and test. Developing 21st Century career skills, such as critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, is a priority.
- **Intro to Drama** - In the Intro to Drama Trimester course, the students will focus on the relationship of theater to various cultures throughout history, and on the contributions of significant individual artists. This course introduces students to all elements of the production process including playwriting, acting, directing, technical design, theatre management, and criticism. Students will write and design their own 5-10 minute play that is performed in class. **Students MAY choose to participate in Haunted Hallways and work as crew members for the 7th and 8th grade productions.**

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

CHOIR (MIXED CHORUS) – Choir (Mixed Chorus) is an after school program that meets after school once per week. The MVHS Choir Director is the teacher for the La Paz Choir (Mixed Chorus). Choir (Mixed Chorus) is not a class with grades, but rather an opportunity for interested students. Please **REQUEST AS PRIMARY** course request if you are interested in participating in the Choir after-school program.