The following are descriptions of courses for 7th grade students:

**Language Arts**

**Seventh Grade English/Language Arts** students will continue to develop oral communication skills and will become more knowledgeable about the effects of verbal and nonverbal behaviors in oral communication. The student will continue to refine written composition skills, with special attention to word choice, organization, style, and grammar. The student will continue vocabulary development through a study of figurative language. The student will increase his/her proficiency in the use of print and electronic information resources and will learn how to give credit to secondary reference sources.

**Mathematics**

MCPS provides a comprehensive mathematics program to promote the achievement of every student. A key component of our program is ensuring that all secondary students are placed in mathematics courses that deliver an appropriate level of challenge. All MCPS middle schools collect and analyze multiple pieces of student data in order to make mathematics placement decisions, including; grades, test scores, and teacher recommendations. Parents will be informed of mathematics placement decisions for the coming school year before the end of the current school year.

Mathematics classes emphasize skills development and mastery of a variety of problem solving strategies in order to promote mathematics literacy. Courses are designed to develop connections between math concepts taught and the “real world.” Several levels of mathematics are taught in which students participate in a variety of interdisciplinary units of study and enrichment activities that increase students’ awareness of ways math connects with other subject areas. The following are the courses offered in 7th grade: Math 7, Advanced Math 7, Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors

**Math 7** is a general math course, covering topics including place value, numeration, whole number operations, problem-solving, ratio, proportion, geometry, fractions, decimals, percents, measurement, logical reasoning, integers, statistics, probability, linear equations and estimation.

**Advanced Math 7** is designed to develop the necessary skills for students to begin to think algebraically and to apply algebraic concepts. The emphasis will be on pre-algebra skill development, abstract problem solving, and some practical applications. Students who take this course may be eligible to take Algebra I in the next grade level.

**Algebra I Honors** is a high school-credit course. Algebra I is a rigorous college preparatory course, designed to help students understand the basic structure of the real number systems and to incorporate these real numbers as students learn to apply basic algebraic concepts and
skills with speed and accuracy. Problem solving techniques are emphasized and refined through practical applications. Algebra is the basic language through which all higher mathematics is communicated.

**Geometry Honors** is a high school-credit course for students who have successfully completed Algebra I Honors. This college preparatory course uses the Euclidean approach to explore the relationships between lines, angles, and shapes while developing logical reasoning, organization of thought, application, and analytical thinking. This course reinforces algebraic skills and problem solving.

**Science**
The science program incorporates interdisciplinary activities that enhance each student’s opportunity to build and utilize a wide range of middle level skills.

**Seventh Grade Life Science** students concentrate on biological concepts and ecological relationships.

**Social Studies**
**Seventh Grade Social Studies**
Students will continue to use skills for historical and geographical analysis as they examine American history since 1865. The standards for this course relate to the history of the United States from the Reconstruction era to the present. Students should continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography within the context of United States history. Political, economic, and social challenges facing the nation reunited after civil war will be examined as students develop an understanding of how the American experience shaped the world’s political and economic landscapes.

**Physical Education and Health**
Health education and physical education combine to motivate individuals to become focused on total body wellness. Health classes provide a foundation for developing skills, attitudes and behaviors that will assist students in establishing healthy lifestyles. Units of study focus on such topics as mental health, physical fitness, nutrition, family life and disease prevention.

Physical Education provides experiences which will enable students to become healthy, active and productive citizens. Conditioning, active participation, knowledge of rules, and development of skills are emphasized. Activities include traditional team sports, individual sports and leisure-time activities.

In order to ensure safety, comfort, and proper attire, students are encouraged to wear uniforms, athletic shoes, and sport socks in P.E. class. Uniforms may be ordered through the physical education department.

**Fine Arts**
**Intermediate Art 7**
Intermediate Art is a full-year course available to seventh graders. This course provides further investigation of two and three-dimensional art processes and continues to expose students to a
variety of artistic styles and concepts. Emphasis on the seventh grade level remains firmly rooted in the studio experience while developing critical thinking skills and a deeper, more personal commitment to the study of art. Students interested in continuing with Advanced Art in eighth grade are encouraged to take this course.

**2D/3D Art**
Two-Dimensional/Three-Dimensional Art is a semester course available to seventh and eighth grade students interested in exploring two-dimensional and three-dimensional art processes. Students will be exposed to a variety of artistic styles and concepts while using a number of different techniques and media.

**Intermediate Chorus 7**
Intermediate chorus is open to seventh and eighth grade students who have successfully completed one year of choral instruction or who can pass a performance proficiency evaluation. Students who were not in chorus in sixth grade need the choral director to initial their schedule request form. This full year course will review basic vocal techniques, music fundamentals, and basic sight reading skills. Students will continue to increase their musicianship and musical knowledge and will work toward becoming independent singers. Music from many genres, time periods, languages and cultures will be studied and performed. Students will sing in unison, two and three part harmony (and sometimes four part harmony). Grade I literature will be reviewed and grade II and III literature will be introduced. Performances will be given throughout the school year and the more advanced students will have the opportunity to audition for honor choirs.

**Bel Canto Choir**
The Bel Canto Singers is an auditioned choir made up of seventh and eighth graders who have excelled in the choral program. Students interested in this ensemble must audition with the choral director. Bel Canto Singers is a performance-based class. This ensemble will perform music from a variety of time periods (Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary), styles and cultures. Students will have the opportunity to perform as soloists, in small ensembles and as a full choir. The class emphasizes continued development in vocal and choral techniques, music reading and theory skills, and diction in a variety of languages. The choir sings unison, two- three- and four-part harmony both accompanied and a cappella. Grade III and IV literature will be performed. Performances are presented throughout the school year and many of these students participate in the honor choirs offered at the county, district, state, regional, and national levels.

**Intermediate Band 7**
Intermediate Band is open to seventh grade students who have successfully completed one year of instrumental instruction, or who can pass a performance proficiency evaluation. The full-year class reviews Level 1 materials (scales, rhythms, terms, etc.) and will complete Level II (and sometimes Level III) of a selected method series. Grade I literature will be reviewed, and
Grade II and III literature will be introduced. Further opportunities for students to perform as soloists, in small ensembles, and as a full band will be provided.

**Related Arts and Semester Courses**
Related Arts courses are designed to emphasize personal growth, development of values, responsibility, and exploration of career possibilities. Students in seventh and eighth grades may choose to pursue an area of interest by taking a semester course in that area. It is not necessary for students to have taken a related arts exploratory in sixth grade in order to take the semester course in an area. Likewise, choosing a semester of a related arts course in Seventh or Eighth grade that was taken as a Sixth grade exploratory is acceptable.

**Agriscience**: The Agriscience program is designed to help students gain an understanding of the agricultural industry. Students work in modules to learn about aquaculture, aquaponics and food, plant, soil, and animal science. Fish tanks and hydroponic systems serve as modern food production models. A greenhouse and lab with small animals give students hands-on opportunities with plants and animals. Students conduct several experiments in the modules listed above. In addition, projects are constructed in woodworking and metalworking, and leadership skills are developed.

**Digital Input Technologies**: Students develop skills in touch typewriting and correct manipulation of the computer keyboard. Students will also develop skills using word processing and learn to type personal and business letters, outlines, manuscripts, and tabulated reports. Digital Input Technologies introduces new and emerging input devices to prepare students for using tools that are becoming standard in the workplace and everyday life. It is a Montgomery County Schools requirement that each student will have taken a semester of Digital Input Technologies before beginning ninth grade.

Please note that the Digital Input Technologies course is a requirement. Students who did not take this course in 6th grade are required to take a semester of Digital Input Technologies in 7th grade.

**Intro to Technology Education**: The goal of Technology Education is to provide all students with a working knowledge of our technological world. Technology Education develops understanding of, and capability with, the principles, tools, materials, and processes integral to technological systems such as communication, production, power/energy, and transportation systems. Technology Education teaches students of all ages to apply knowledge, tools, and skills in designing, constructing, and evaluating solutions to “real world” technical problems.

**Introduction to Coding I**
Coding is what makes it possible for programmers to create computer software, apps and websites. Browsers, operating systems, cell phone apps, social media, and websites are all made with code. Learning coding will enable students to understand how these technologies that are shaping our world work, and will empower them to do many things they wouldn’t otherwise be able to do. This introductory course introduces basic programming concepts and
foundational concepts in coding using the Python programming language. Through project-based lessons, students will be first introduced to the interactive coding environment, variables, conditionals, and loops. Students will then complete a series of mini-projects designed to learn the basic syntax, structure, and process of writing programs in Python. These projects will include data-types, variables, conditionals, loops, lists, functions, algorithms, and debugging. Students will create a project at the end of this course. The curriculum is designed to meet CSTA Standards and prepare students for further study in coding/computer programming.

**Introduction to Coding II**

This course continues to introduce basic programming concepts and foundational concepts in coding using the Python programming language. Students will be introduced to additional coding languages such as C++ and SWIFT. Students will continue studying the interactive coding environment, variables, conditionals, and loops. Students will continue learning through a series of mini-projects designed to deepen their learning of the basic syntax, structure, and process of writing programs in Python. Students must complete Intro to Coding I before taking this course.

**Make It Your Business**

Students design, establish, and operate a small-group or class business, producing a service or product that meets an identified school or community need. Emphasis is placed on the introduction and application of business terminology, basic entrepreneurship concepts, and fundamental business principles. Basic academic skills (mathematics, science, English, and history/social science) are integrated into this course.

**Creative Writing:** This course is designed to improve student writing skills. Improvement will be accomplished through the use of weekly journals, short daily readings, workshops in various areas of writing technique, and conferences on projects. Students’ rough drafts are revised through peer editing before final drafts are produced. Tandem writings and paired collaborations on school chromebooks and computers will provide students opportunities to experience different styles in writing, as well as different storyline possibilities. Possible writing projects include poetry, narrative, seasonal, fiction, radio plays, and children’s stories.