



HighMark Charter School

Course Descriptions

2022-2023

Language Arts

7010-English Language Arts 7 Grade 7 (Required)

1.0 Credit

This course offers instruction and assessment for college and career readiness for anchor standards into reading literature, informational text, writing, speaking and listening and language that are developmentally appropriate for 7th grade students.

*Honors Option: As a part of the change to Summit, every student now has the chance to earn an Honors mark on their Core class transcript. Each teacher will have a certain set of extra work that a student can do to earn such a mark, a specific Honors class will no longer be offered.

8010-English Language Arts 8 Grade 8 (Required)

1.0 Credit

This course offers instruction and assessment for college and career readiness for anchor standards into reading literature, informational text, writing, speaking and listening and language that are developmentally appropriate for 8th grade students.

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9010-English Language Arts 9 Grade 9 (Required)

1.0 Credit

This course offers instruction and assessment for college and career readiness for anchor standards into *reading literature, informational text, writing, speaking and listening and language* that are developmentally appropriate for 9th grade students.

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Mathematics

7020-Mathematics Grade 7 Grade 7 (Required)

1.0 Credit

In Grade 7, instructional time will 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.

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8020-Mathematics Grade 8

1.0 Credit

Grade 8 (Required)

In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

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9020-Secondary Math I Grade 9 (Required)

1.0 Credit

Students in Secondary Mathematics I will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomenon, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas are tied together. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

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Science

7030-Integrated Science 7 Grade 7 (Required)

1.0 Credit

This course is designed to introduce science literacy to 7th graders, focusing on cause and effect relationships in nature and the mechanisms that drive them. Science is a way of knowing, a process, of gaining knowledge and understanding of the natural world. Earth's environments provide the conditions for life as we know it – forces within our planet, systems ranging from simple to long-term, and Earth's environments show the transfer of energy and the cycling of matter. Students will explore how forces can cause changes in motion and are responsible for the transfer of energy and the cycling of matter.

This course includes engineering with the fields of science, technology, and mathematics to provide solutions to real-world problems. Students will learn to observe, inquire, question, formulate and test hypotheses, analyze data, report, and evaluate findings.

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8030- Integrated Science 8 Grade 8 (Required)

1.0 Credit

This course is designed to understand science is a way of knowing, a process for gaining knowledge, and understanding of the natural world, focusing on the constant interaction of matter and energy in nature. Students will learn that science is arranged into simple or complex substances, how these substances are stored and transfer energy, and how they interact physically and chemically to provide energy to organisms or is harnessed by humans. They will learn that matter and energy cycle through ecosystems through photosynthesis and cellular respiration providing benefits to all life on Earth. Resources on Earth are renewable and nonrenewable. Evidence shows that Earth is constantly changing affecting ecosystems and life in positive/negative ways.

This course includes engineering with the fields of science, technology, and mathematics to provide solutions to real-world problems. Students will learn to observe, inquire, question, formulate and test hypotheses, analyze data, report, and evaluate findings.

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9030-Earth Science Grade 9

1.0 Credit

The theme for Earth Science is **systems**. This course will emphasize “systems” as an organizing concept to understand life on Earth, geological change, and the interaction of atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. Earth Science provides students with an understanding of how the parts of a system through the study of the Earth’s cycles and spheres. Earth’s place in the universe as well its internal structure, tectonic plates, atmospheric processes, and hydrosphere are explored to help understand how Earth science interacts with society.

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9035-Biology
Grade 9

1.0 credit

This course is designed to put a student on a path to take an introduction to physics and chemistry at the high school. The Biology Core has three major concepts for the focus of instruction: (1) the structures in all living things occur as a result of necessary functions. (2) Interactions of organisms in an environment are determined by the biotic and abiotic components of the environment. (3) Evolution of species occurs over time and is related to the environment in which the species live. Students should enjoy science as a process of discovering and understanding the physical world. This course is a fast-paced course to help students design and perform experiments, and value inquiry as the fundamental scientific process. They will plan and conduct their own experiments, and come to their own conclusions as they read, observe, compare, describe, infer, and draw conclusions.

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Social Studies

7040-Utah Studies
Grade: 7 (Required)

.50 Credit

Utah is a state diverse in landscape and people. This course is designed to help students understand the state of Utah at a deeper level by reviewing Utah's early history and particularly emphasizing Utah from statehood to the present. Students will understand the interaction between Utah's geography and its inhabitants, as well as the formative contributions of Native Americans, explorers, and Utah pioneers. The course will also investigate relationships between government and the people of Utah, the many opportunities people have to make a living in Utah, the diverse nature of Utah's people and cultures, and the impact of contemporary events on the land and people of Utah. This course will also include solid study skill and social skills for success in junior high.

8040-United States History
Grade: 8 (Required)

1.0 Credit

United States History covers events and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction and the western movement. Emphasis is placed on the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to: exploration, colonization, the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, nation building, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Westward Expansion. This course loosely follows the timeline of events and focuses more on thematic units.

9040-Geography
Grade: 9 (Required)

.50 Credit

Geography is described as the study of the "why of the where." Geography for Life will explore how to use geography as a tool to better understand the world in which we live. Geographic themes are location, place, movement, region, and human-environmental interaction. This course will include map skills with physical and human geography essentials, beginning with North America, South America, Europe, and their connections to other world regions.

Required School Focus Courses

**7050-College and Career Awareness
Grade 7 (Required)**

1.0 Credit

College and Career Awareness (formerly known as Career and Technical Education Introduction or CTE) allows students through activity-centered lessons to utilize technology, develop beginning skills, and explore careers. The course provides information regarding additional courses and training related to each student's career field of interest. This is a year- long course taught by a Career Technical Education teacher and school counselor. This is a key class for our focus and mission of entrepreneurship at HighMark.

**8050-Digital Literacy
Grade 7 (Required)**

.50 Credit

This course is an introduction to computer literacy. Students will have opportunities to use technology and develop skills that encourage creativity, critical thinking, productivity, and collaboration in the classroom and day-to-day life. Skills will be demonstrated by creating a project for a different content area. This course is aligned with national and international standards and the Utah Core to prepare students across multiple levels of skills. Students will complete this course with a prerequisite to move into high school computer literacy courses.

**9050-Financial Literacy
Grade 9 (Required)**

.50 Credit

The half-credit General Financial Literacy Course is designed for high school students and represents those standards of living that are essential and necessary for all students: decision making and goals; income and careers (the money you earn); savings, investing, and retirement planning (the money you keep); and principles of money management (the money you spend).

Health and PE Courses

7060-Beginning Fitness and Team Sports
Grades: 7 (Required)

.50 Credit

Beginning Team Sports Activities is an entry-level course emphasizing beginner skills in a broad spectrum of activities in order to develop a foundation for future physical education classes. The course content is developmentally appropriate for seventh grade students who, in most instances, will be experiencing a formal physical education class for the first time, mastering basic manipulative skills such as throwing, catching, striking, and kicking, and are ready to engage in lead-up games and drills that provide a stepwise progression toward participation in regulation or advanced play.

8060-Intermediate Fitness and Team Sports
Grade 8 (Required)

.50 Credit

Intermediate Fitness and Team Sports offers a wide range of developmentally appropriate activities that are increasingly complex in content, concept, and skill development and execution. Students begin to participate in regulation games with more complex playing environments. Teams are kept small, allowing maximum participation and involvement by all students.

8070-Health Education I
Grade 8 (Required)

.50 Credit

Health education provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for practicing lifelong, health-enhancing behaviors. Students will learn that they are responsible for their personal well-being and that building a solid foundation of health literacy and decision-making skills can contribute to a variety of healthy choices for self and others that will be of value throughout life.

9060-Participation Skills & Techniques
Grade 9 (Required)

.50 Credit

In this course, students will demonstrate competency in motor skills and movement to perform and understand a variety of physical activities, will participate in physical activity, will achieve and maintain health-enhancing levels of physical fitness, will exhibit responsible behaviors that show respect for themselves and others in activity settings, and will value physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and social interaction.

World Language

7100-Spanish 1A
Grades 7 & 8 Only

1.0 Credit

This course will offer students an opportunity to engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings, and exchange opinions. They will understand and interpret written and spoken language, understand culture, and connect with other disciplines.

8100-Spanish 1B
Grades 8 & 9 Only

1.0 Credit

Pre-requisite: Spanish 1A

This course will offer students further opportunity to engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings, and exchange opinions. They will understand and interpret written and spoken language, understand culture, and connect with other disciplines.

9100-Spanish 2
Grade 9

1.0 Credit

Pre-requisite: Spanish 1A &1B

In this course students will become life-long learners by using the language for enjoyment and enrichment will understand the written and spoken language on a variety of topics, extend understanding of culture and further knowledge of other discipline.

Electives

****These courses will only be offered if class enrollment is sufficient****

7550-Exploring Business and Marketing **.50 Credit**
Grade 7-8

Throughout this course, students will be exposed to the fundamental concepts of business and marketing, including basic business concepts, organizational communication, human resources management, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance, and leadership. Students will develop personal characteristics that promote responsibility, dependability, productivity, high quality work and self-initiative. Students will apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills, consider multiple perspectives that lead to well thought out solutions. Students will explore courses within the Business and Marketing Career Pathways and leadership organizations such as FBLA and DECA. This course is designed to help students identify their interests, abilities, and skills. With appropriate developmental information related to careers, educational pathways, and self-knowledge, students are able to begin to make college and career goals for the future.

8600-Creative Writing **.50 Credit**
Grades 8-9

In Creative Writing, students will explore multiple genres of creative writing: poetry, short stories, personal essays, journal entries, and non-fiction writing. Students should be open to constructive feedback to help them improve aspects of their writing. In Creative Writing, students will share their work with peers on a daily basis.

9200-Speech/Debate **.50 Credit**
Grade 9

This course explores a wide variety and range of public speaking skills, including: Rate, volume, projection, word choice, enunciation, and articulation. Additionally, students are introduced to researching, argumentation, questioning, and rebuttal skills through a variety of debate disciplines. Students will learn to evaluate arguments, interpret resolutions, develop affirmative and negative case construction, and other practical debate skills.

9300- Yearbook **1.0 Credit**
Grade 9

Pre-requisite: Recommendation from English teacher and application

This course will produce the yearbook for the school. Students will learn how to put a yearbook together. They will work collaboratively with specific projects to complete the yearbook. Some requirements are writing, taking pictures, designing, graphic art and editing. There is potential of

work outside of the classroom.

8550-Introduction to Yoga
Grades 7-9

.50 Credit

This is a semester long physical education course designed to introduce students, safely and accessibly, to the basic postures, exercises, breathing techniques, and mindfulness practices of yoga. Students will begin to feel the benefits of stretching, moving, and breathing freely as they relieve stress, learn to relax, and build strength both mentally and physically.

8300-FACS Exploration A Model (Textile)
Strands 1-3 Taught
Grade: 8

.50 Credit

This course provides students the opportunity to develop essential skills in the various career pathways related to Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS). Students will explore and cultivate skills in interior design, clothing and textile construction, fashion design and merchandising, consumerism, entrepreneurship and career and job-related tasks. This course will strengthen comprehension of concepts and standards outlined in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. Student leadership (FCCLA) may be an integral part of the course.

8305-FACS Exploration B Model (Foods)
Strands 4-6 Taught
Grade 8

.50 Credit

This course provides students the opportunity to develop essential skills in the various career pathways related to Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS). Students will explore and cultivate skills in food and nutrition sciences, childcare, consumerism, entrepreneurship, family relationships, personal responsibility, and career and job-related tasks. This course will strengthen comprehension of concepts and standards outlined in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. Student leadership (FCCLA) may be an integral part of the course.

9700-Food & Nutrition
Grade 9

.50 Credit

This course is designed to focus on the science of food and nutrition. Experiences will include food safety and sanitation, culinary technology, food preparation and dietary analysis to develop a healthy life style with pathways to career readiness.

9600-Current Events
Grade 9

.50 Credit

Using current events, this elective course focuses on world and local issues that affect student's everyday lives, such as economics, government, and conflict. This course uses newspapers, online media, cartoons, and newscasts to support classroom discussion. Additionally, students participate in group projects, presentations and work with primary source materials and opinion pieces to better understand the world around them.

8700-History Through Sport
Grade 7-8**.50 Credit**

This course will help students understand the inner relationship that sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political forces that are at work on a state, national, and global level. The course will cover topics such as the Olympics, equality, individual sports history, and other topics determined by student interest. Students will use readings, primary sources, audio and visual materials, and class discussions to further their knowledge. Assessments will be done through cumulative projects throughout the semester.

8800-Science Exploration: Science of Foods
Grade 7-8**.50 Credit**

This class will take a scientific approach to all aspects of food. Students will discover how food is grown, manufactured, processed, digested, handled, and cooked. Chemistry, biology, technology, ecology, history, health, and nutrition will all be combined to help students understand what, why, and how they eat. Cooking experiences and labs will be provided to help reinforce concepts taught.

7700-Creative Coding
Grade 7-8**.50 Credit**

Creative Coding is an introductory course for students who are interested in learning what coding is all about. We use exciting programs to learn coding concepts to create mini games and fun activities.

7750-Exploring Technology
Grade 7-8**.50 Credit**

This is a class where students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned to create designs to solve multiple problems. Students will end the class by designing a project that will be 3D printed. Students will learn how to use the Inventor software.

9800-Computer Science
Grade 9**.50 Credit**

Exploring Computer Science is a very engaging class where students will be introduced into the field of computer science. Students will have the opportunity to learn how computers work and how to program them. Students will also discover how computers impact our society. Many top computer science teachers have pooled their minds together to develop an engaging curriculum that will excite students about learning more about computers and the mysteries behind them.

9850-Creative Coding II
Grade 9**.50 Credit**

This is an intermediate course for non-experienced programmers. Students learn and practice coding using python, C++, and Java programming language, the main languages used to program video games. Students will learn to apply programming and coding into real world projects and applications, and will work individually and in teams to complete assignments.

9803-Digital Media
Grade 9**.50 Credit**

This course is a foundation to computer literacy. Students will have opportunities to use technology and develop skills that encourage creativity, critical thinking, productivity, and collaboration in the classroom and day-to-day life. This course teaches the fundamentals of using electronic devices for personal and academic needs, including online learning.

This course is designed to provide students with entry-level experience with practical applications through hands-on use of word processing, presentation, database, spreadsheets, Internet, and e-mail to prepare documents and reports. The impact of computers on society and ethical issues are presented. Integration of applications and Windows will also be introduced.

This course is aligned with national and international standards and the Utah Core to prepare students across multiple levels of skills. Students will complete this course with a prerequisite to move into high school computer literacy courses.

**9750-Intro to Athletic and Individual Performance
Grade 9**

.50 Credit

This class will introduce you to principles and strategies that will help you to improve in life, athletics, and other group scenarios you are currently involved in, or will be involved with in the future. Course material includes the book "Raise Your Game" by Alan Stein (professional performance coach/key-note speaker). We will also explore material from the book "Mind Gym" which give strategies to help athletes improve their performance by raising their mental capabilities.

Fine Arts Courses

****These courses will only be offered if class enrollment is sufficient****

7000-Art Foundations I **.50 Credit**
Grades: 7-9

This course is a Visual Arts Core course. It is designed to provide an overview of Visual Arts while studying a broad variety of art tools and materials. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

8000-Art Foundations II **.50 Credit**
Grades: 7-9
Pre-requisite required- Art Foundations I

This course is an entry-level course for the High School Visual Arts Core Curriculum. It is designed to provide an overview and introduction to Visual Arts through studying a variety of art tools and materials. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

9000-Painting 1 **.50 Credit**
Grade 9
Pre-requisite: Art Foundations II

This course is for High School Visual Arts Core Curriculum. Painting includes wet media with processes such as transparent and opaque painting and focuses on operations of color. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher level thinking, art-related technology skill, art history, and aesthetics.

7200- Beginning Choir **1.0 Credit**
Grades: 7-9 *Performance is required;*

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through singing in a choral ensemble. Study includes care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, adding aesthetic awareness, ability to read music, building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will strengthen listening skills and their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music performances. Attention will also be given to relating their music experiences to personal development. Students will also learn of opportunities and careers in the music business.

8200- Coro Alato **1.0 Credit**
Grades: 7-9 *Performance is required*
No pre-requisite course required; this choir is audition only

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through singing in a choral ensemble. Study includes care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, adding aesthetic sensitivity, ability to read music with increasing fluency, building

of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to experience the spontaneity of improvisation and the creative process of composition. Students will heighten listening skills and increase their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music performances. Attention will also be given to relating their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. Students will also learn of opportunities and careers in the music business.

7500- Music Appreciation

.50 Credit

Grades: 7-9

This course is designed for students who seek the opportunity to extend their musical understanding, heighten music listening skills, and increase their ability to respond more fully to music. Experiences will include opportunities to experiment with sounds, analyze famous compositions representative of most styles, and inquire into music's connections to contemporary life, history and cultures. Students will learn about music technology and be able to make their own music. Students will also learn of opportunities and careers in the music business.

7600-Beginning Guitar

.50 Credit

Grade: 7-9 *Performance is required; guitar required*

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play guitar. Emphasis will be placed on playing position, tone production, fundamental technique, simultaneous playing, and reading music. Knowledge and skills will include experiences in creating, playing, listening, and connecting to cultures. Students will also learn of opportunities and careers in the music business.

7650-Guitar II

.50 Credit

Grade: 8-9 *Performance is required; guitar required*

Pre-requisite course is Beginning Guitar or teacher approval.

This course provides added opportunities for students to further develop their musical skills on the guitar. Emphasis will be placed on performing, composing and analyzing music. Knowledge and skills will include experiences in creating, playing, listening, and connecting to cultures. Specific guitar skills to be taught will include scales, barre chords and finger picking. Students will also learn of opportunities and careers in the music business.

7300-Beginning Band

1.0 Credit

Grades: 7-9 *Performance is required; Instrument required*

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a band instrument. Study includes the care and cultivation of beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will strengthen listening skills and their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music performances. Attention will also be given to relating their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. Students will also learn of opportunities and careers in the music business.

7350-Symphonic Band**Grades 7-9 Performance is required; instrument required****1.0 credit*****Pre-requisite course is Beginning Band or teacher approval***

This course further develops and refines core concepts and fundamentals introduced in Beginning Band. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to experience the spontaneity of improvisation and the creative process of composition. Students will heighten listening skills and increase their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music and music performances. Attention will also be given to relating their musical experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. Students will also learn of opportunities and careers in the music business.

7150-Theatre 1**.50 Credit****Grade 7-9**

This is a beginning course in which students engage in creative theatre exercises to develop imagination, observation, and concentration. Students will condition their bodies and voices to be flexible, coordinated, and expressive. Students are introduced to theatre arts through activities such as improvisation, pantomime, storytelling, characterization, stage directions and vocal projection. This course also includes the basic elements of dramatic production and the business of theatre through study of directing, producing, and performance critique.

8150-Theatre 2**1.0 Credit****Grades 8-9*****Pre-requisite: Theatre 1, Performance; Audition or teacher approval***

There are two basic goals in theatre education: finding meaning in works of theatre art through the study and appreciation of theatre as an art form, and constructing meaning in works of theatre art through the study and skill development of theatre techniques in the creation of that theatre art. This course will expand upon skills and concepts learned in Theatre I, along with performing two school plays. Students will also learn the basics of costume, makeup, and set design.