



**HighMark Charter School**  
**Course Descriptions**  
**2026-2027**

# Language Arts

## **7010-English Language Arts 7**

**1.0 Credit**

### **Grade 7 (Required)**

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

\*Honors credit will be associated with the general curriculum for any core class. A separate “honors” class does not need to be registered for. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

## **8010-English Language Arts 8**

**1.0 Credit**

### **Grade 8 (Required)**

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 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

\*Honors credit will be associated with the general curriculum for any core class. A separate “honors” class does not need to be registered for. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

## **9010-English Language Arts 9**

**1.0 Credit**

### **Grade 9 (Required)**

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 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

\*Honors credit will be associated with the general curriculum for any core class. A separate “honors” class does not need to be registered for. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

# Mathematics

## **7020-Mathematics Grade 7**

**1.0 Credit**

### **Grade 7 (Required)**

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.

\*Honors credit will be associated with the general curriculum for any core class. A separate “honors” class does not need to be registered for. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

## **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.

\*Honors credit will be associated with the general curriculum for any core class. A separate “honors” class does not need to be registered for. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

## **9020-Secondary Math I**

**1.0 Credit**

### **Grade 9 (Required)**

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.

\*Honors credit will be associated with the general curriculum for any core class. A separate “honors” class does not need to be registered for. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

# Science

## **7030-Integrated Science 7 Grade 7 (Required)**

**1.0 Credit**

This course is designed to introduce science literacy to 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

\*Honors credit will be associated with the general curriculum for any core class. A separate "honors" class does not need to be registered for. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

## **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.

\*Honors credit will be associated with the general curriculum for any core class. A separate "honors" class does not need to be registered for. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

## **9030-Earth and Space 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.

The theme for Space Science is the origination of the universe. Students explore formation of planets and stars and how the earth fits into the universe.

Honors credit will be associated with the general curriculum for any core class. A separate “honors” class does not need to be registered for. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

### **9035-Biology**

**1.0 credit**

#### **Grade 9**

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.

\*Honors credit will be associated with the general curriculum for any core class. A separate “honors” class does not need to be registered for. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

## Social Studies

### **7040-Utah Studies**

**.50 Credit**

#### **Grade: 7 (Required)**

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 focusing on Utah's early history and reviewing Utah's history 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, Utah pioneers, and others. This course will investigate Utah's past through primary and secondary source analysis, class discussion, and the encouragement of creative learning opportunities.

### **8040-United States History**

**1.0 Credit**

#### **Grade: 8 (Required)**

United States History covers events and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction and the Western Expansion. 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. Students will use primary and secondary sources and will be able to think critically about past events and how they have shaped our world today.

### **9040-Geography**

**.50 Credit**

#### **Grade: 9 (Required)**

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. Students will learn basic mapping skills, the U.S. states and their capitals. They will also explore various locations throughout the world by learning about them through the geographic themes of location, place, movement, region, and human-environment interaction. Students will be given opportunities to critically think about the world around them through research, discussion, and writing.

## 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.

### **9070-Digital Business Applications Grade 9 (Required)**

**.50 Credit**

The business world is progressively more reliant on digital technologies. The Digital Business Applications course is designed to prepare students with the knowledge and skills to be an asset to the collaborative, global, and innovative business world of today and tomorrow. Concepts include the overall digital experience, digital communications, digital media, and the exploration of career choices. This course also provides practical experience in professionalism using various forms of presentation skills, including speaking, podcasting, and digital portfolio relating to the globalization of business.

## Health and PE Courses

**7060-Beginning Fitness and Team Sports (7<sup>th</sup> Grade PE) .50  
Credit**

**Grades: 7 (Required)**

*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 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade PE) .50 Credit**

**Grade 8 (Required)**

*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 .50 Credit**

**Grade 8 (Required)**

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 (9<sup>th</sup> Grade PE) .50 Credit**

**Grade 9 (Required)**

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.

**8550-Introduction to Yoga****.50 Credit****Grades 7-9**

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.

**9065-Strength and Conditioning****.50 Credit****Grade 9**

The Strength and Conditioning course will give students the tools and resources needed to be physically fit and healthy for a lifetime. The variety of exercises, techniques, and equipment will allow students to experience many different ways to exercise and work out, which will likely lead to them finding activities they enjoy and want to continue performing after completing the course. Students will also learn how to create health and fitness plans that work towards specific health, fitness, and career goals. This course will provide high school PE elective credit but does not replace Participation Skills and Techniques (code 9060).

# World Language

**7100-Spanish 1A****1.0 Credit****Grades 7 & 8 Only**

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****1.0 Credit****Grades 8 & 9 Only*****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****1.0 Credit****Grade 9*****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 various speaking skills, including: rate, volume, projection, word choice, enunciation, and articulation. Additionally, students are introduced to researching, argumentation, questioning, and rebuttal skills through various debate disciplines. Students will learn to evaluate arguments, interpret resolutions, develop affirmative and negative case construction, and other practical debate skills. Students will be required to present speeches and participate in debates in front of the class. This course relies on each student's ability to be prepared for presentations and use their time wisely to prepare presentations and debates.

### **9300- Yearbook**

**1.0 Credit**

#### **Grade 9**

***Pre-requisite: By application only, including a recommendation from Language Arts teacher***

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.

**8300-FACS Exploration A Model (Textile)****.50 Credit****Strands 1-3 Taught****Grade: 8**

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)****.50 Credit****Strands 4-6 Taught****Grade 8**

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****.50 Credit****Grade 9**

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****.50 Credit****Grade 9**

Using current events, this elective course focuses on world and local issues that affect students' everyday lives. Students will learn about current political, economic, geographic, and social issues taking place both locally and globally. Student interest drives some of the topics discussed each semester. This course incorporates newspaper articles, online media, and newscasts to support classroom discussion of current issues. This course is heavily based on discussion and requires students to develop discussion norms that will help to lead to productive, respectful, and insightful conversations.

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

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. We cover topics such as the Olympics, equality, sports during conflict, sports and their impact on our state, 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-Foundations of Forensics****.50 Credit****Grade 7-8**

Foundations of Forensics introduces middle schoolers to crime scene investigation through engaging, hands-on learning experiences. Students step into the role of an investigator as they explore the fundamentals of forensic science, building skills in observation, evidence analysis, and critical thinking.

This course is designed to build a strong foundation in forensic science while maintaining an engaging and supportive learning environment. Students will leave prepared for more advanced coursework, with confidence in both their skills and their ability to think like investigators.

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

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.

**9850-Creative Coding II****.50 Credit****Grade 7-8**

This is an intermediate course for non-experienced programmers. Students learn and practice coding using python 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.

**7750-Exploring Technology 1: Engineering and Technology****.50 Credit****Grade 7-8**

Exploring Technology is an action-based course that introduces students to technology and its impact on society. It is for students that enjoy problem solving and designing. We will study problem solving, electronics, flight, manufacturing, construction, physics and engineering. Each unit will include a hands-on project and collaboration with a group.

**7775-Exploring Technology 2: Design and Modeling****.50 Credit****Grade 7-8**

Design and Modeling 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 have 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.

### **9803-Digital Media**

**.50 Credit**

#### **Grade 9**

This course introduces students to computer concepts and industry standard software (Adobe) which are used for digital media creation and design. Students create and manipulate different types of digital images, explore fundamental design concepts, and complete several projects throughout the course. We will use Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, Premier), to access and create files to explore creativity. We will explore different forms of digital media, such as imaging, illustration, and movie editing. Each section of the digital media course ends with a culminating task, and students will be able to develop their projects as they build their skills over each lesson.

### **9750-Mental Performance Strategies**

**.50 Credit**

#### **Grade 9**

This class will introduce you to the 10 pillars of mental performance and give you specific strategies you can implement to improve in each of those areas. We will discuss applications of those strategies in many areas of life with additional focus on academics, athletics, and other performance-based activities. Course materials include the book "Raise Your Game" by Alan Stein (professional performance coach and keynote speaker) and "10 Pillars of Mental Performance Mastery" by Brian Cain.

### **9850-Photography**

**.50 Credit**

#### **Grade 9**

This course will help students become well rounded in the fundamentals of digital photography. Four areas of instruction will be emphasized: how cameras work, how composition works, how lighting works, and how to use photo-editing software. Students will receive basic instruction, demonstration, and see samples of the desired outcomes at the beginning of each period. They will be allowed to go around the school as well as outside to take pictures for assignments based on what they are learning. Students will keep a blog of their work and provide feedback on their classmates' work. Students will learn what makes a successful photo and what does not.

## 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.

### **7150- Theatre 1**

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

**.5 Credit**

Theatre 1 introduces 7th–9th grade students to the fundamentals of acting, storytelling, and stage production in a fun and supportive environment. Students will use their imagination to create original scenes and explore how plays are written, structured, and brought to life. They will learn how to develop characters using voice, movement, and emotion, while working collaboratively with classmates in roles such as actors, directors, and designers. The course also introduces basic technical theatre elements like stage space, props, and visual design. Through rehearsal and performance, students will build confidence, communication skills, and creativity. They will watch and reflect on performances, learning how to give and receive constructive feedback. By the end of the course, students will better understand how theatre connects to real-world ideas, cultures, and personal experiences.

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

This course introduces students to vocal performance and ensemble singing. No prior singing experience is required as this class begins with the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary to start a journey through vocal music. Students will learn to read and write music, develop their singing voice and ensemble skills, understand the structure and language of music, and perform with their peers. Performance at concerts is required.

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

In this class, a select, auditioned ensemble of singers will further their proficiency and understanding in vocal music. Prior experience is required as this class builds on fundamental performance and literacy skills to prepare students for vocal music in high school and beyond. Students will learn basic music theory concepts, intermediate vocal techniques, and both solo and large ensemble singing. Performance in concerts is required.

**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.

**7860-Beginning Percussion****1.0 Credit****Grades: 7-9 Performance is required; Instrument rental required**

Interested in learning the drums? This course will teach you the fundamentals of drumming, reading music and rhythm and performing with other musicians. We will cover concert band and solo percussion, keyboard percussion (xylophone and marimba), electronic percussion, African hand drumming, and drum set.

**7300-Beginning Band****1.0 Credit****Grades: 7-9 *Performance is required; Instrument required***

This course introduces students to instrumental performance and ensemble playing on a woodwind or brass instrument. No prior experience is required as this class begins with the fundamental knowledge and skills needed to start a journey through instrumental music. Students will learn to read and write music, develop their playing ability and ensemble skills, understand the structure and language of music, and perform with their peers. Performance at concerts is required.

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

In this class, a select, auditioned ensemble of instrumentalists will further their proficiency and understanding in instrumental music. Prior experience is required as this class builds on fundamental performance and literacy skills to prepare students for instrumental music in high school and beyond. Students will learn basic music theory concepts, intermediate performance techniques, and both solo and large ensemble playing. Performance at concerts and the spring competition is required.