

Early Light Academy

7th Grade Course Catalog 2026-2027

0.5 = one semester or half a year course

1.0 = a full-year course

Language Arts Requirement

Language Arts 7 (1.0) 7th

This class is based on the 7th grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards and is focused on building concrete writing and reading skills with a focus on sentence fluency and type, reading comprehension, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills, and strategies of effective communication. Using our school assigned reading program, we spend every class period working on tailored reading needs. We will be reading a variety of literature from historical fiction to nonfiction. We will be tying this class closely to Utah History and Science so that we are reading and building upon those skills.

Language Arts 7 Honors (1.0) 7th

Prerequisite: Application required

This class is based on the 7th grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards and is focused on building concrete writing and reading skills with a focus on sentence fluency and type, reading comprehension, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills, and strategies of effective communication. Using our school assigned reading program, we spend every class period working on tailored reading needs. We will be reading a variety of literature from historical fiction to nonfiction. We will be tying this class closely to Utah History and Science so that we are reading and building upon those skills. Though very similar to the mainstream Language Arts 7 class, there will be more rigorous assignments and grading policies.

Language Arts 7 Basics (1.0) 7th (Placement Determined by Counselor)

Language Arts 7 Basics provides specialized instruction aligned to the Utah 7th Grade English Language Arts Core Standards. This course focuses on strengthening foundational reading and writing skills, including sentence structure and fluency, reading comprehension, written expression, inquiry skills, and effective communication strategies.

Students read a variety of texts, including historical fiction, informational texts, and nonfiction. Using the school-assigned reading program, instruction is tailored to support individual reading needs and promote academic growth.

Reading Interventions 7 (1.0) 7th (Placement Determined by Counselor)

This class provides specialized instruction focusing on 9th grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) core standards and emphasizes comprehension, phonics, inferences, sequencing, vocabulary and editing written work. The text can include historical fiction, informational, nonfiction, or fiction.

ELL Language Arts (1.0) 7th, 8th, 9th (Placement Determined by Counselor)

This class supports multilingual learners in grades 7–9 as they build reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills aligned with the Utah English Language Arts Core Standards. Instruction is designed to support growth in academic language and prepare students for success on the WIDA assessment through scaffolded reading, writing, and vocabulary development. Students engage with a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts while strengthening comprehension, sentence fluency, and effective communication skills across content areas.

Social Sciences Requirement

Utah Studies (0.5) 7th

This course is designed to help students understand Utah's history. Students will review the interaction between Utah's different inhabitants, the formative contributions of Native Americans and Utah's pioneers and inventions, the diverse nature of Utah's people and cultures, and the impact of contemporary events on the land and people of Utah. Students will also create a history fair project (their choice between an essay, documentary video, slide presentation, artwork (including sculpture, paintings, and drawings) or poster board) which will then be displayed during ELA's National History Day celebration usually held during May of each year.

Mathematics Requirements (1 Math and 1 Lab)

ELA's Math Philosophy

The Junior High Math department has transitioned to a personalized competency based learning model of instruction. What this means is that all students are placed into their grade level math class and a baseline pace is set for students to show competency on their grade level math standards during the school year. While whole class instruction is still a part of the math class, the majority of student / teacher interaction happens in small groups and in individual conferences with the teacher

based upon their personal math progress. Students who want to exceed the established pace are allowed to progress faster as long as they are showing competency in the grade level standards. This allows students to not just complete their grade level content in their math class but to also progress into higher grade levels. Thus, a student would potentially be able to leave ELA having completed math levels beyond the traditional 9th grade level of Secondary Math 1.

7th Grade Mathematics (1.0) 7th

In 7th Grade Mathematics, students will focus on developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 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 drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

7th Grade Honors (1.0) 7th

Prerequisite: 6th grade math or placement test. Application required and available online.

The Math 7 Honors Distinction is an optional pathway designed for motivated students ready to stretch their mathematical thinking beyond the standard curriculum. Through this self-paced track, you will move past formulas and put your education into practice by applying theoretical math concepts to solve complex, real-world problems. Because this curriculum is entirely self-paced, every student in Math 7 has the opportunity to earn this honor designation. You control your timeline and depth of learning. To achieve the distinction, you simply need to manage your schedule to complete the required advanced honors assignments alongside your core coursework.

8th Grade Mathematics (1.0) 8th

In 8th Grade Mathematics, students will cover these topics:

- Real number operations (exponents, roots and scientific notation)
- Manipulating and solving multi-step one variable equations
- Formulating bivariate data (meaning an equation with 2 variables) into a linear equation and solving linear equations/systems of linear equations.
- Using functions to describe quantitative relationships.
- Analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angles, similarity, and congruence.
- Understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

- Finding the volume and surface area of cylinders and cones, and the volume of spheres.
- Analyzing scatter plots and determining data distributions.

8th Grade Mathematics Honors (1.0) 7th and 8th

Prerequisite: 7th grade math or placement test.

ELA's honors courses are accelerated courses and are geared for students who want to progress through grade level mathematics courses quicker than one school year. Students who participate in Accelerated classes all three years while at ELA have the potential of leaving ELA having completed Secondary Math 2.

Math Lab (1.0) 7th, 8th and 9th

This is the companion class to all math classes at ELA. This class will run similarly to the math classes and students will both reinforce standards taught in their math classes.

7th Grade Mathematics Basics & Lab (1.0) (Placement Determined by Counselor)

This class provides specialized instruction. In 7th Grade Mathematics, students will focus on developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 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 drawing inferences about populations based on samples. This class will also focus on basic number operations.

Science Requirements (1 Science and 1 Lab)

Integrated Science 7 (1.0) 7th

7th grade integrated science is an introduction to Life, Physical and Earth Science. Students will first explore gravitational and electromagnetic forces as well as Newton's Laws of Motion. An exploration of the geology of the Earth including plate tectonics, the fossil record and the rock cycle will follow. The last part of the year will be spent delving into the life sciences including, but not limited to, the study of cells, body systems, adaptations, evolution and a frog dissection. Come explore the wonderful world around us in 7th grade Integrated Science!

Science 7 Lab (1.0) 7th

This class is embedded within Integrated Science 7. This portion of the class integrates the experiments and hands-on activities that occur as a part of the science class. This is a required part of Integrated Science 7.

Physical Education Requirement

PE 7 (0.5) 7th Co-ed

Students in grade seven develop a solid foundation in skills and competencies. They are still mastering basic manipulative skills, and are ready to engage in lead-up games and drills that provide a progression toward participation in regulation or advanced play. Students will apply skills in modified games, and may be introduced to regulation rules and game play. Instruction includes an introduction to training principles and activities that can enhance health-related fitness as students pursue personal fitness goals.

CTE College & Career Awareness Requirement

College and Career Awareness (1.0) 7th - Required

College and Career Awareness is Utah's exploratory Career and Technical Education Core Curriculum requirement for middle/junior high school. The purpose of this program is to allow students to be involved in activity-centered lessons, which utilize technology, develop beginning skills, and explore careers.

PHOENIX Advisory – Leadership/Homeroom Requirement

Phoenix Advisory (0.25) - Required

\$ Fee required

Students will earn elective credit for this course. Students attend this class Monday thru Thursday. It covers character education and leadership. Some of the curriculum that may be used: Leader in Me, Love and Logic, Suite 360 and resiliency curriculum. This is a required course at ELA. Students will have the same teacher from 7th through 9th grade.

Physical Education Electives

Group Sports (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

This course is designed to practice skills needed for a variety of sports which require group participation and cooperation. Some sports might include basketball, soccer, volleyball, hockey and many more. **No Repeats in the same year.**

Kickboxing (0.5) 7th, 8th & 9th

\$ Fee required

Kickboxing is a group fitness class that combines martial arts techniques with fast-paced cardio. A basic boxing workout that involves a combination of punches and kicks performed at a quick pace to boxing bags and pads. You will learn proper form for the famous jab, hooks, crosses, uppercuts, back kicks, front kicks and more. **No repeats in the same year.**

Total Body Fitness (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

This class is designed to give students a total body workout. This HIIT (high intensity-interval training) class combines full-body strength training with high-intensity cardio bursts designed to tone your body, improve your endurance, and clear your mind before you start your busy day! This class includes stretching for a complete workout. All levels are welcome! **No Repeats in the same year.**

Yoga (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee Required

This class introduces foundational yoga postures, teaches you how to breathe, and helps you feel more comfortable in the yoga practice. Students will be introduced to yoga postures through step-by-step verbal description and demonstration. Emphasis is placed on student understanding, safety, and stability within each pose. This class will help you relax the physical body while helping to quiet the mind and calm the nervous system. Leave relaxed, content, and ready to take on the day! Open to students of all levels. **No Repeats in the same year.**

Beginning Tumbling (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

This course offers instruction in basic tumbling skills including: handstands, cartwheels and round-offs. Strength and flexibility will be emphasized. This is designed for a beginning level for students who haven't mastered these skills yet. **No Repeats in the same year.**

CTE or Digital Electives

Creative Coding (0.5) 7th & 8th

\$ Fee required

Creative coding is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. We will start by exploring computer science as a way humans try to solve problems. We will then learn to create using the programming languages that power the internet as well as those that power games and animations. **No repeats**

Media Arts/Phoenix Feed (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

In this course students will learn basic video production skills including storyboarding, video recording, studio lighting, and basic video editing, etc. They will use these skills to create the school news video, The Phoenix Feed as well as to create personal video projects. **This class is repeatable.**

Fine Arts Electives

Fine Arts Electives - at least 0.5 is Required for All 7th Graders

Soprano/Alto Choir I (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

Girls just wanna have fun? YES! We do! ELA's all-girls choir is an amazing opportunity for ELA girls to kick it up a notch! We will work to create amazing, strong, healthy voices and great musicianship! You are not going to want to miss signing up for this class!

Tenor/Bass Choir I (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

Don't miss out on BOYS CHOIR! This class will be packed with energy and FUN! Yes, choir is FUN! We will sing songs from all over the world, from Bach to Rock! We will build powerful, amazing, healthy voices that can't be stopped! You will not have another class like it!

Intro to Stage Crew (0.5) 7th

Prerequisite: Attend Tech Olympics the January of the school year prior.

\$ Fee required

This class introduces students to Stage Crew; the art of technical theatre (lights, sounds, costumes, stage management, etc.). No after school hours are required

for this course.

Drawing I (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

This class will provide students with basic art skills and techniques across a variety of drawing media. It will also provide art experiences that will develop visual competence, expertise of skills in two-dimensional art in value and in color, and awareness of historical art movements.

Painting I (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

This class is a basic studio course in the media and techniques of painting. Activity will emphasize the study of color, structure, creativity and aesthetic values in general. A command of techniques and materials, both traditional and experimental, will be taught.

Orchestra I- Beginning (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

Are you ready to make some great music with your peers? This course is for students who are interested in playing the violin, viola, cello, or upright bass. You will learn to read music and play your instrument of choice with great technique. If you only take this class for half a year and are a beginner, sign up for Semester 1. We present one evening performance at the end of each term as part of this course. We will have one field trip as part of this class. Practice time outside of school is required. An instrument for use at home and school is required. A few school instruments are available for rent (email the instructor for details).

Orchestra II- Intermediate (1.0) 7th, 8th, & 9th

Prerequisite: Orchestra I, Elementary Orchestra, or Private Lessons

\$ Fee required

This ensemble is for students who have played the violin, viola, cello, or upright bass in Elementary Orchestra, Orchestra I or have studied privately for at least a year. **Entrance is determined by audition.** There are at least four evening performances outside of class that are part of this course. We will go on at least one field trip as part of the class. Practice time outside of school is required. An instrument for use at home and school is required.

Photography I (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

This course covers basic concepts and practice in digital photography. Access to a camera is required to complete work outside of class. Point and Shoot cameras are available for in class use, but there are no cameras available for check out. The course covers Composition Rules

such as Leading Lines, Rule of Thirds, Contrast, and more. Students will also learn and experiment with several of the major photographic styles including: Portraiture, Still Life, Landscape, Abstract, and Photojournalism. The last unit of the course is a brief introduction to the use of DSLR cameras and the use of manual camera controls. **No repeats.**

Theatre I (0.5) 7th

\$ Fee required

This class is designed as an introductory course for theatre. Students will learn the awesome skills of acting by studying Improvisation, Stage Combat, Musical Theatre, and a Play Production.

Ukulele (0.5) Semester 1 Only 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

Want to learn an instrument that you can take almost anywhere? This course is for students who are interested in playing the ukulele. We will learn to play chords, various strumming patterns, fingerstyle, ensemble playing, and how to accompany ourselves while we or others sing. Help is also given for those who want to write their own songs. Practice time outside of school is highly encouraged. We will have one in-class performance at the end of the semester. An instrument and tuner for use at home and school is required. This class can only be taken one time.

Other Electives

Creative Writing I (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

This course is designed as an introduction into the world of creative writing. We will discuss the different types of creative writing as well as what it takes to get published. Students will write multiple short stories and do other activities that promote creativity and fluency in writing. This class is for those who are interested in developing their writing skills as a creative outlet.

Creative Writing II (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

Prerequisite: Creative Writing I

This course is designed to build upon the foundational writing skills acquired in earlier years and deepen students' understanding of various forms of creative expression.

Through a combination of writing exercises, workshops, and literary analysis, students will explore different genres, styles, and techniques in creative writing. The course will emphasize both the development of individual voice and the importance of revising and editing for clarity and impact.

Fashion Design Studio (0.5) 7th, 8th, & 9th

\$ Fee required

This course explores how fashion influences everyday life and introduces students to the fashion industry. Topics covered include fashion fundamentals, elements and principles of design, textiles, consumerism and fashion related careers, with an emphasis on personal fashion application.

Study Skills (0.5 or 1.0) 7th, 8th, & 9th

This course supports core academic study. It provides the opportunity for students to look at their grades, make short-term goals, and work on assignments with a teacher's help as needed. This course is designed to provide academic support to students in their core content coursework.

Directed Studies (1.0) 7th, 8th, and 9th (Placement Determined by Counselor)

This class provides specialized instruction. It spends part of each class period learning social and life skills. The rest of the period, the students work independently on classwork from other classes with the support of the teacher and aides. It helps students to learn study skills and implement them into their daily coursework.