

**Park Ridge Jr./Sr. High School**  
**Course Descriptions (grade 7)**

**MS Band: (full year)**

This course focuses on the study and performance of selected musical pieces which represent a wide range of periods, styles, nationalities, forms, composers and media. Students improve their ability to play their instruments beyond middle school, in high school concert and marching bands. The goal also is to increase students' understanding and appreciation of music as an art and life.

**Problem Solving 7: (half-year)**

How do game creation skills relate to everyday life? In this course, students are introduced to the principles of problem-solving, logic, the basics of computer programming, Scratch, and Excel.

**Speech & Drama 7: (half-year)**

This course introduces students to acting—vocal expression, body language and performance. Through various exercises and assignments students will become more comfortable acting, speaking and working together in small groups.

**Children in Film 7: (half-year)**

How do we read a movie? This course is designed to broaden students' experience with media literacy and film study. Through viewing, discussion and writing, students will learn how to think critically about movies and the experiences of children/teens.

**Exploring History & Society 7: (half-year)**

Through projects and collaboration, students will explore a variety of topics in media, history and society. Students will use their reading, writing and critical thinking skills to evaluate billboards, research local history, analyze political cartoons and speeches, develop stories about family history and current events.

**Musical Theater/Vocal Music 7: (full year)**

Students in these courses develop the skills and knowledge to perform in a musical—singing, acting, dancing, staging etc. Students are expected to submit an audition (more details will be provided).