

SOUTHERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

“Providing Opportunities and Challenges for Success”

Welcome to Southern Hills

This booklet is designed to give you information about course offerings for the seventh grade during the 2005-2006 school year. The information in this booklet will explain the overall curriculum for seventh grade and will help you decide which elective offerings will best meet your needs and interests. We recognize that early adolescents require an environment that differs from both elementary and high school. As you progress through each grade you will be given more choices and responsibilities to better prepare you for high school.

Fundamental goals, which drive our curriculum, are:

- Mastery of the basic skills reading, writing and mathematics
- Command of problem-solving skills that underlie success in the academic and real world
- Development of good work habits, planning and study skills
- Exploration of different courses and activities
- Understanding of oneself and one’s relationship to others

SEVENTH GRADE

Seventh grade students will be scheduled into a core academic block, two elective periods, a year of physical education and health and lunch. The academic block will include language arts, world geography, life science and math. Students may choose their remaining two classes from the electives described in this booklet.

Seventh Grade Required Subjects:

Language Arts
World Geography
Science
Math
Physical Education/Health

Seventh Grade Electives

Students may choose:
(1) 2 yearlong electives
(2) 1 yearlong, 2 semester electives
(3) 4 semester electives

Seventh Grade Yearlong Electives:

Spanish 1A, 1B, 2 Orchestra
French 1A, 1B, 2 Band 2
Mixed Choir

Seventh Grade Semester Electives:

Art 1 Woodworking Multimedia Production
Art 2 Applied Tech Desktop Publishing
Crafts (Jewelry) Home Alone (Food Fun) Music in the Media

3D Design

Crafts

Food Facts and Fun (Advanced Food Fun) Must have teacher initial for class approval

Southern Hills Middle School

Cougar Community Values:

Respect

Responsibility

Safety

Kindness

PLAN FOR SUCCESS

YOU ARE IN CHARGE

You must enroll now in the classes that you want to take next year. Keep the following in mind as you make your selections and plan your future:

- Long-range goals
- Sequencing of elective classes
- Graduation requirements
- College and career preparation

GET INFORMATION

Read the Course Description Booklet carefully and ask any questions you have that might help you in your decision/selection process. People who might have the answers to your questions are:

- your counselor
- your parents/guardians
- your teachers
- your administrators
- other students

CHOOSE CAREFULLY

The master schedule is built from your requests. If you do not select a class now, it may not be available as a choice later. If not enough students sign up for a specific class, it may not be offered. This is especially true of elective courses.

IMPORTANT STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Look over the course offerings.

2. Read the course descriptions.
3. Select the courses you will want and alternates for your electives.
4. Make sure your present teacher initials your requests for Language Arts and Math.
5. Have your parent/guardian sign your registration sheet.
6. Submit the completed original form on time.

This booklet outlines courses available to students at Southern Hills Middle School. In it you will find descriptions of classes you might be taking during the year along with descriptions of the following required classes:

Language Arts/Reading
Social Studies
Science
Math
PE/Health

In addition to these required classes, you will have the opportunity to take electives. Please read all of the elective descriptions before making your final selection(s).

If you have any questions please feel free to call our counseling office (303) 494-7116.

CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS - Basic

This individualized program specifically addresses each student's learning needs in order to continue his/her advancement and skill development. The course addresses the fundamentals of language use, including spelling, writing and grammar. This class offers a lower student to teacher ratio, which allows each student the opportunity to do individual conferencing with a staff member and address specific areas of need. Students who would be appropriate for this course would be below grade level in written language and are in need of further skill development.

LANGUAGE ARTS

This course addresses the fundamentals of language including spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. The writing process includes pre-writing, rough draft, editing (student and teacher), and final product. The reading program is literature based, including both class assignments and independent selections. The goal of this class is to further students' composition, reading, and word analysis skills. Units of study include the following: expository writing, narrative writing, fictional writing, poetry, speaking/listening skills, grammar/word usage, language mechanics (including spelling), readers' workshop, and vocabulary development.

LANGUAGE ARTS - Advanced

This course addresses the fundamentals of language described in the above regular Language Arts program. The advanced program moves at a faster pace and there is more emphasis on student independence. Units of study include the following: expository writing, narrative writing, creative writing, research/technical writing, and speaking/listening skills.

Prerequisite: Students must have earned a grade of B or better in the previous year's language arts class and have that teacher's recommendation.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Students study the physical and cultural features of various eastern hemisphere regions. Emphasis will be given to the interactions between people and their environment and to the historical roots of the current political and social issues particular to specific regions. In this course students will practice geographic skills including research, writing, and map reading skills. We will explore world religions, economic and political systems, the roots of war and conflict, environmental issues, the five themes of geography, and a wide variety of cultures in different times and places.

SCIENCE

This class is a six-unit course that is an investigative study of living things and their relationships to each other and the environment. The class format addresses many different learning styles by using individual and group projects, library research, lecture, movies and other media, guest speakers, demonstrations, and exposure to many types of living organisms. Students will have hands-on, interactive experiences whenever possible. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method at the time of the Science Fair. Major Topics Covered in 7th Grade Science:

- Classification
- Diversity of Life
- Cell Theory
- Ecology

INTEGRATED HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

HEALTH - 1 Quarter

This course includes the topics of personality and mental health, fitness and nutrition, substance abuse, human sexuality, sexually transmitted infections, and personal and sexual safety. The students will gain an understanding of their personal communications and working styles, become aware of the problems inside the alcoholic family, recognize and understand the effects of street drugs, discuss different methods of birth control, realize the implications of unplanned pregnancy, and understand male/female relationships. Supplementary magazines, pamphlets, articles, brochures, media and guest speakers are used.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) - 3 Quarters

Physical Education emphasizes developing a greater understanding of game strategies, personal responsibility, good sportsmanship, and attaining a high level of personal fitness. Students will be taught a variety of fitness activities and sports which may include flexibility exercises, cardiovascular fitness, strength activities, weight training, soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, juggling, floor hockey, track, softball, disc golf, team handball, and lacrosse.

MATHEMATICS

(Your present math teacher will recommend the appropriate level of math for you.)

MATH 1

This is a basic mathematics class that focuses on teaching the foundations of mathematics through the use of manipulatives and real world applications of math. The purpose of this course is to prepare students for advancement to the next level of math, as well as to foster enthusiasm for math.

MATH 2

Math 2 is designed to review and strengthen skills previously covered, while moving ahead into standard topics. Number sense, numerical relations, probability, statistics, and geometry are concepts covered in this course. Additional topics include whole numbers and integers, rational numbers, fractions and decimals, units, coordinate systems, and data interpretation.

MATH 2 S

This course moves directly into advanced middle level math topics and will cover them in considerable depth. Number sense, numerical relations, probability and statistics, and geometry are covered in this course. Other topics include whole numbers and integers, rational numbers, fractions and decimals, units, coordinate systems, data and statistics, and qualitative and quantitative properties of objects.

MATH 3 S

This course is designed as a continuation of Math 2, Advanced. Number sense, algebraic reasoning, relations, probability and statistics, geometry, and measurement are covered in this course. Additional topics include work with numbers, area and volume formulas, angles, symmetry and transformations, conversion units, use of variables, and expressions.

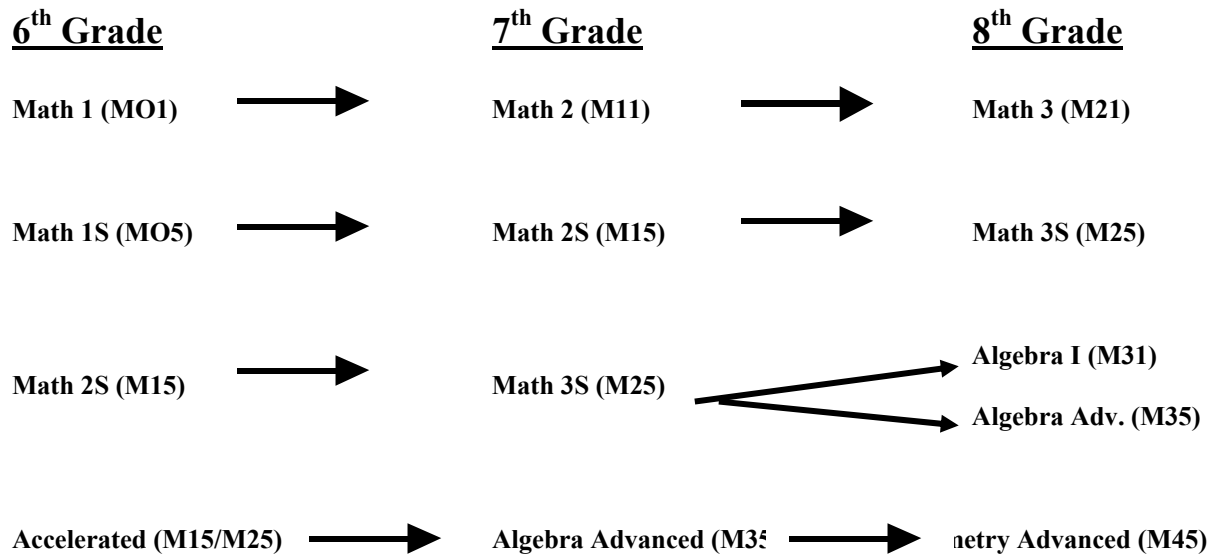
ALGEBRA 1

This course includes the study of algebraic symbolism, first-degree equations and inequalities, polynomials, rational algebraic expressions, exponential and radical expressions, quadratic equations, systems of equations, graphing, and problem solving. This course emphasizes the structure of the system while developing proficiency in manipulative skills and is designed for highly motivated and mathematically talented students.

ALGEBRA 1 ADVANCED

Algebra 1 Advanced is an in-depth study of algebraic symbolism, systems of equations, graphing, problem solving, and probability and statistics. The students will build upon their previous knowledge to further understand the characteristics and representations of various functions and relations, including first-degree equations and inequalities, polynomials, exponential and radical expressions, quadratic equations complex numbers, and rational algebraic expressions. This course is designed for highly motivated and mathematically talented students.

SAMPLE MATH SEQUENCE



SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSES

Special Education is a vital part of our program. Placement in any special education class requires a specific legal process and an identified need. Team-taught classes are offered in math, reading, language arts, social studies and science. In addition, a learning lab class is used as academic support for students in special education classes. Inquiries regarding the appropriate inclusion in this program should be directed to the grade level counselor or principal.

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Seventh grade students have the opportunity to take two periods of electives. These periods can be structured as either two full-year electives or four semester electives at each grade level. You are encouraged to sample from several areas of study.

FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

WORLD LANGUAGES

Level 1A and Level 1B of a world language at the middle school level are equivalent to Level 1 at the senior high. Level 2 at both middle and senior high level are equivalent. Completion of Level 2 enables a

student to enroll in Level 3 courses at the high school level. We offer Spanish 1A, Spanish 1B and Spanish 2. We also offer French 1A, French 1B and French 2.

SPANISH 1A AND SPANISH 1B

Students receive an introduction to the basic structures, speech patterns, sound system and the cultural background of the language. Oral work is emphasized in class activities and focuses on the most common and useful expressions students may need to travel and make friends in foreign speaking countries. Students can expect to be involved in several different activities: dialogues, oral drills, question-answer sequences, short personalized conversations, written grammar exercises reading, games, and songs. Movies, filmstrips and magazines are also used to reinforce learning.

Spanish 1B is a continuation of Spanish 1A.

SPANISH 2

These classes help students to develop competency through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The primary objective of the course is to help students move naturally along a competency continuum from understanding to producing Spanish. They are introduced to vocabulary and structures in lively, meaningful contexts. Through the use of videos, visuals and overhead transparencies, students begin to understand the new language. They practice speaking Spanish in realistic situations. Teacher-directed and student-centered pair and group activities keep students focused on meaning and content as they develop control of the language. A variety of communicative activities encourage open-ended-responses and personalized use of the language. Students learn to read and write in Spanish as well. Another important objective of Spanish 1 is for students to understand the multi-cultural nature of the Hispanic/Latino world, the combination of cultures that has developed and created the cultures of Spain and the Americas.

FRENCH 1A AND FRENCH 1B

Students receive an introduction to the basic structures, speech patterns, sound system and the cultural background of the language. Oral work is emphasized in class activities and focuses on the most common and useful expressions students may need to travel and make friends in foreign speaking countries. Students can expect to be involved in several different activities: dialogues, oral drills, question-answer sequences, short personalized conversations, written grammar exercises reading, games, and songs. Movies, filmstrips and magazines are also used to reinforce learning.

French 1B is a continuation of French 1A.

FRENCH 2

This course continues the goals of learning to communicate in French. Native speakers in video modules present authentic language. Students build proficiency through guided activities in meaningful contexts. Grammar is taught to support self-expression in both written and oral work.

Prerequisite: French 1B and/or teacher approval.

MUSIC

MIDDLE LEVEL BAND 2

Middle Level Band 2 is a course including progressively more demanding literature for band that encourages continued technical development and performance skills. Musicianship and performance skills are stressed within a fully instrumented band. ***Public performance after school hours is an integral part of the course and is required.**

MIDDLE LEVEL MIXED CHORUS

This course is designed for students who exhibit an interest in singing in a choral setting. Careful attention is given to the development of good tone quality, phrasing, diction, pitch, and rhythmic accuracy. Literature from different periods and styles of music will be covered. Students will have the opportunity to improve music reading skills and vocal technique while performing in a choral ensemble. Music textbooks, guest speakers, and field trips will all be part of this course. ***Public performance after school hours is an integral part of the course and is required.**

ORCHESTRA

Students will receive training in group performance. Instruction will be geared to the following general areas: building ensemble skills, increasing proficiency on selected instrument, refining tone and intonation, and understanding stylistic tendencies. An annual string camp retreat and festival will also be offered. ***Public performance after school hours is an integral part of the course and is required.**

SEMESTER ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Seventh grade students have the opportunity to take two periods of electives. These periods can be structured as either two full-year electives or four semester electives at each grade level. You are encouraged to sample from several areas of study.

ART 1

This class builds upon previous exploratory art experiences. Students will expand their knowledge and skills in the areas of drawing, painting, printing, and mixed media. Three-dimensional experiences in clay, paper mache, and sculpture may be explored. Students will be encouraged to develop personal solutions to visual problems. Art from various cultures will be introduced. Students will express ideas using the principles of design such as balance, unity, proportion, repetition, movement, and emphasis. Students will explore two-dimensional experiences with an emphasis on mixed media and will expand their knowledge of three-dimensional experiences.

ART 2

This class builds upon two and three-dimensional experiences on a more advanced level. Drawing, painting, printmaking, basic design, and color theory will all be employed in creating art. Three-dimensional experiences will involve more complex techniques.

CRAFTS (JEWELRY) (J06)

In this course students will explore a variety of techniques used in the construction of jewelry. Students will use both traditional and nontraditional materials in the construction of their jewelry projects. Design, craftsmanship, and technique will be stressed on all projects. Students will create both functional and sculptural forms. A variety of non-traditional materials such as paper, plastic, and clay will be used.

CRAFTS (A15)

In this Crafts class, students will be introduced to a variety of craft and folk art materials and methods. Students will create well-crafted, functional and decorative pieces based on art from different cultures. The crafts course is designed for students who enjoy hands-on projects.

3-D DESIGN

This course sequentially builds upon 3-D experiences in previous classes in the areas of ceramics and sculpture. Students will be encouraged to think about and develop personal solutions to visual problems, do self-directed work, and learn about artists, past and present, by observing their studio work and viewing their art: Students will critique their own work as well as that of famous artists.

WOODWORKING

This is a semester course designed to introduce the students to the basics of woodworking. Students are provided the opportunity to learn to use general shop tools and equipment safely and correctly. They learn to design and layout a wood project with the correct measuring tools. The course also provides

opportunity for students to explore working and incorporating other mediums such as plastics, fabrics, leather and metals. **No prior experience is required.** Students may take their class a second time with teacher permission or a contract/independent study basis.

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

This course combines the best of traditional industrial arts with the modern tools of technology. Key themes include design, engineering, construction, manufacturing, electronics, communication, and careers. Students may complete traditional woodshop projects or select hands-on projects in the exciting areas of architecture, robotics, graphic arts and design, laser technology, satellite communications, engineering, CAD, microelectronics, or any of a dozen other fields of interest. A portion of this course incorporates building modules which include: CO2 Cars, model rockets, model boats, hot air balloons, magnetic cars and other hand building activities.

MUSIC IN THE MEDIA

Music in the Media is a semester-long class that examines the influence of media music in the students' environment. This course includes a study of music in the media, such as television background music, commercial music, and/or movie soundtrack music, and a study of the music industry as well as music careers.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Have the coolest-looking reports in school! Students use computer technology to publish these kinds of exciting projects: brochures, timelines, flyers, newsletters, posters, and newspapers. Computer graphics, word processing, scanning, photograph editing, and page layout programs will be used to generate professional-looking documents. Students will learn the elements of design, create and use advanced drawing projects, and also use publishing templates in their publications. Students will have an opportunity to create projects for other classes and may be able to publish an on-line project.

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Students will design and produce multimedia presentations that incorporate text, graphics, sound, and animation. Software tools may include PowerPoint, Web Page tools, or Time liner. Students will also learn to modify digital images and Internet images for use in presentations. Presentations may also include Internet links, re-sized images, and imported documents such as charts or graphs.

HOME ALONE (FOOD FUN) H14

This Consumer and Family Studies course offers the students an opportunity to use critical thinking skills through practical life experiences. It introduces students to several areas of study including social skills, decision-making, nutrition, food preparation, and creative sewing. Students will plan, prepare, serve, and evaluate breakfast, snack and lunch items. They will construct at least one sewing project. Students will also examine how their interests and skills will affect their future choices. Activities are designed so that the students can use the information and skills in real life situations.

FOOD FACTS AND FUN (ADVANCED FOOD FUN) H15

This Consumer and Family Studies course provides students with the opportunity to research and prepare nutritious foods from the Food Guide Pyramid for healthy lifestyle choices. Students will use recipes to plan, prepare, serve and evaluate foods through the use of a variety of cooking techniques. Students will be required to demonstrate the use of appropriate safety, sanitation, and kitchen procedures. Food and nutrition topics may include herbs, spices, fast foods, convenience foods, snacks, baking, multicultural foods and eating disorders.

Prerequisite: 6th Exploratory Foods **or** 7th grade Food Fun **AND** an initial on the registration from the teacher are necessary.