

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 sixth grade during the 2006-2007 school year. The information in this booklet will explain the overall curriculum for sixth 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

SIXTH GRADE

Our sixth grade students will be scheduled into five core academic classes, two exploratory classes, and a lunch period each day. A team of teachers will teach the core subjects of language arts, reading, social studies, math and science. Students will leave the sixth grade team of teachers to receive specialized instruction in exploratory areas. During one exploratory period students will alternate physical education and a music choice. Music offerings include band, orchestra, and choir or general music. The second exploratory is a choice of foreign language OR the exploratory wheel. The exploratory wheel, if chosen, is a nine-week rotation of art, shop, computer training and foods.

Sixth Grade Required Subjects

Language Arts
Reading
Social Studies
Math
Science
Physical Education/Music (Alternates every other day)

Sixth Grade Choices:

Music: Band, Orchestra, Mixed Choir or General Music

Exploratory Wheel: Art, Shop, Foods, and Computers

OR

World Languages: Spanish or French

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.
 - For Accelerated Math, you must complete the required application and recommendation form
 - For Advanced Language Arts, you must complete the teacher recommendation.
5. Have your parent/guardian sign your registration sheet.
6. Submit the completed original form on time.

Course Description Booklet

This booklet outlines courses available to students at Southern Hills Middle School. 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
Music/PE

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/READING - Clinic

The sixth grade language arts/reading clinic program is comprised of two academic periods. 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, vocabulary, and grammar. The reading components are literature-based including both class assignments and independent selections. Students will be exposed to different literary themes and genres. 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/or reading and are in need of further skill development.

LANGUAGE ARTS/READING

The sixth grade language arts/reading program is comprised of two academic periods. This course addresses the fundamentals of language usage, including spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. The writing process includes prewriting, drafting, editing (peer and adult), and polishing to produce the final product. The literary themes and genres in sixth grade are eight-week units of realistic fiction, mystery, science fiction/fantasy, survival, multi-cultural, and mythology. Students will read a modern classic and an independent selection from each genre. Also emphasized are expository writing, creative writing, and listening/speaking skills.

LANGUAGE ARTS/READING - Advanced

The sixth grade advanced language arts/reading program is comprised of two academic periods. This course addresses the fundamentals of language usage, including spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. The writing process includes prewriting, drafting, editing (peer and adult), and polishing to produce the final product. Advanced language arts moves at a faster pace than regular language arts and there is more emphasis on student independence. The literary themes and genres in sixth grade are six-week units of realistic fiction, mystery, science fiction/fantasy, survival, multi-cultural, and mythology. Students will read a classic, a modern classic, and an independent selection from each genre. Also emphasized are expository writing, creative writing, and listening/speaking skills. Grammar, word usage, mechanics, and spelling are studied at a grade level high.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth grade social studies provide a survey of cultures of the Western Hemisphere. Ancient American civilizations are studied in detail along with one Old World ancient civilization, e.g. Ancient Egypt, in order to compare and contrast elements of civilization. Elements of modern day Western Hemisphere cultures will be studied and placed in historical context. Geography skills practice is integrated into all units of study. Students will gain familiarity with methods of Library research and experiment with a variety of methods of presenting their research.

SCIENCE

This course is designed to give students a solid scientific foundation by focusing on the fundamentals of science. The class begins with safety, lab skills, scientific methods and measurement. The class then progresses to units on heat, pressure, energy and physics. The class emphasizes a lab based, hands on approach to learning science. The class covers the following major topics:

- Motion, Forces, Energy & Waves
- Physical/Chemical Properties of Matter
- Work, Power & Machines

MATHEMATICS

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

MATH 1

Math 1 is designated to review, strengthen, and extend skills and concepts previously learned. Topics studied include number sense (integers, fractions, decimals, and percents), probability and data analysis, geometry (coordinate graphing), and algebra (using variables to describe patterns) are some concepts covered in this course.

MATH 1, S

Math 1 moves directly into middle level math topics and will cover them in considerable depth. Topics studied include number sense (operations with integers, fractions, decimals, and percents), probability and data analysis (measures of central tendency, theoretical and experimental probability), geometry (coordinate graphing), and algebra (reflecting change through linear relationships) are some concepts covered in this course.

MATH 2, S

Math 2 S is designed as a continuation of Math 1 S. Number sense, numerical relations, probability and statistics, geometry, and measurement are studied in this course. Topics include working with exponents and non-perfect squares, solving linear two-step equations, surface area and volume formulas, reflections, translations, and rotations.

ACCELERATED MATH

The Accelerated Math Class at Southern Hills covers Math 15 (Advanced Math 2) and M25 (Advanced Math 3) in one school year. The student must have a solid understanding of all the operations on fractions and decimals and possess good problem solving skills.

Spanish 1B is a continuation of Spanish 1A.

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.

MUSIC

Your music choices will rotate every other day with Physical Education

MIDDLE LEVEL BAND 1

This is a course that emphasizes a balance between technical development and performance skills. This course provides an introduction to band literature, ensemble involvement and a broader range of instrumentation. ***Performances after school hours are an integral part of this course and are required.**

Prerequisite: 5th grade band or equivalent

ORCHESTRA

Middle Level Orchestra 1 is a course that emphasizes a balance between technical development and performance skills. This course provides an introduction to orchestral literature, ensemble involvement, and a broader range of instrumentation. An annual string camp retreat and festival will also be offered.

***Performances after school hours are an integral part of this course and are required.**

MIDDLE LEVEL 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.

***Performances after school hours are an integral part of this course and are required.**

GENERAL MUSIC

This course provides students with further development in the basic musical concepts of duration, melody, harmony, form, style, and expressive qualities. Experience will include listening, moving, singing, playing instruments, reading, and creating through large and small groups and/or individual projects. Since the students in this class are not involved in a musical performing group at school, their grades will be based on learning how to be a music consumer rather than a performer.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

(Sixth grade students alternate every other day with music choice)

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, softball, juggling, floor hockey, track, disc golf, team handball, and lacrosse. The foundation of our program is the development of personal skills such as classroom leadership, cooperation with others, respecting all classmates and teachers, and self-discipline. Students are required to participate in daily activities and skills. Each student is required to participate in an extended run at the end of each term.

EXPLORATORY WHEEL

If the exploratory wheel is chosen instead of a foreign language, the student will attend a new exploratory each quarter (nine week period) giving him/her exposure to the following 4 exploratory classes: Exploratory Art, Exploratory Shop, Exploratory Foods and Exploratory Computing

EXPLORATORY ART

This class builds upon the foundation provided in the elementary art program. Students will have opportunities to expand their understanding of the art elements and principles of design. Art will be explored as a means of personal exploration and visual communication. Art from various cultures will be introduced. Creative problem solving will be encouraged through studio experiences.

EXPLORATORY SHOP

This course combines traditional industrial arts with the modern tools of technology (computers). Key themes include design, engineering, construction, manufacturing, electronics, communication and careers.

EXPLORATORY FOODS

Students will be introduced to principals of cooking and basic kitchen procedures. Emphasis will be placed on cooperating with others and taking personal responsibility within a group. Students prepare fun, attractive and nutritious foods while demonstrating the ability to follow appropriate kitchen procedures, safety and sanitation.

EXPLORATORY COMPUTING

This class is designed to introduce students to the variety of technology tools available in their own school. Students will make test documents, create drawings, import their drawings into documents, use clip art files and Internet images, build a spreadsheet for data collection and create charts and graphs from that data, use electronic resources and the Internet, practice proper keyboarding techniques, and explore a variety of software applications. This class will cover basic hardware and software operations and help students learn to use the technology tools in their classes.