Welcome to Southern Hills
Seventh Grade

This guide is designed to give you information about course offerings for your 7th grade year. The information in this guide will explain the overall curriculum and will help you decide which elective offerings will best meet your needs and interests.

**Fundamental goals which drive our curriculum**

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
YOU ARE IN CHARGE
You must enroll now in the courses 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 courses, future graduation requirements, college, and career preparation

CHOOSE CAREFULLY
The master schedule is built from your course selection requests. If you do not select a course now, it may not be available as a choice later. If enough students do not sign up for a specific course, 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. Have your parent/guardian sign your registration sheet
5. Submit the completed original form on time
6. For help or questions, contact the counseling office at 720-561-3409

Seventh Grade Course Description Guide
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, social studies, science and math. Students may choose their remaining two courses from the electives described in this guide.

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Seventh Grade Course Description Guide

This guide outlines courses available to students at Southern Hills Middle School with descriptions of required courses as well as electives. Please read all elective descriptions carefully before making your final selection(s). Elective courses are offered based on enrollment, facilities, scheduling and budget constraints. Please feel free to call our counseling office with any questions, (720) 561-3409.

Required Course Descriptions

INTEGRATED HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Physical Education at the 7th grade emphasizes physical fitness and development of basic movement skills through team, individual, and dual sports and rhythmic activities. Emphasis is placed on the introduction of basic fundamentals of sports; developing the knowledge of rules, building personal responsibility, good sportsmanship, and leadership. This course is also available to be taken in an online format. Health Education in 7th grade is based on developing skills in relation to age appropriate health topics. By developing skills related to effectively accessing health resources, communicating, analyzing peer and media influences, goal setting, decision making, and health advocacy, students in BVSD will be able to achieve and maintain optimal wellness.

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SCIENCE
In middle level Life Science, students will be designing and conducting scientific investigations and constructing scientific explanations based on evidence. Students will make measurements using metric units and will organize their data using bar and line graphs. Students will learn about fundamental concepts in life science such as cells, ecology, genetics, evolution, and human anatomy.

SOCIAL STUDIES
Seventh graders will study the Eastern Hemisphere and focus on developing the skills necessary to analyze and interpret this area of the world from a geographic, historical and cultural perspective. Students will develop an understanding of the physical and cultural processes that shape regions and people and an appreciation for our roles and responsibilities as world citizens. Students will also study the emergence of major religions. In addition, principles of financial literacy will be addressed.
7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
Seventh Grade English Language Arts focuses on the four academic standards: oral expression and listening, reading for all purposes, writing and composition, and research and reasoning. Topics of study include: comprehension of literary and fictional texts, summarizing and evaluating informational and persuasive texts, word choice influence on literary, persuasive, and informational writing, obtaining and analyzing information from a variety of sources, grammar, usage, and mechanics skill development.

7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, Accelerated
Accelerated 7th Grade English Language Arts focuses on the four academic standards: oral expression and listening, reading for all purposes, writing and composition, and research and reasoning. Topics of study include: comprehension of literary and fictional texts, summarizing and evaluating informational and persuasive texts, word choice influence on literary, persuasive, and informational writing, obtaining and analyzing information from a variety of sources, grammar, usage, and mechanics skill development. This course is designed for the student who enjoys the love of reading, enjoys discussion and analysis, thinks critically, has strong writing and grammar skills and is self-motivated. As an accelerated course, this course goes beyond the curriculum expectations of a standard course offering by increasing the depth and complexity. Students are engaged in dynamic, high-level learning.

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

Flow Chart of Math Classes at Southern Hills Middle School

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<td>7th/8th Compacted Math (M24)</td>
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Traditional pathway
Non-traditional pathway
MATH Standards 2 (M15)
In Math Standards 2, instructional time should 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. **Pre-requisite: M05**

Compacted 7th/8th MATH (M24)
M24 covers number operations, introductory probability and statistics coordinate geometry and rate of change through linear algebra. Due to the compact nature of the course, students are asked to learn at a more rapid pace. Students will need to have a good understanding of fractions, decimals, special geometry, awareness and aptitude with common formulas, the coordinate plane, and algebra as a means for seeking unknown quantities. This course is for advanced students who love math and are excited by math and who can understand concepts very quickly. This course is designed for true abstract thinkers that get the concepts the first time and can do further extensions with math. This course will cover 2 years of math in 1 year. They are typically the highest scoring students. **Prerequisite: Completion of M05 at an ADVANCED level AND students must take a placement test to be considered for this class.**

MATH Standards 3 (M25)
In Math Standards 3, instructional time should 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. **Pre-requisite: M15**

ALGEBRA, Advanced (M19)
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: linear, exponential, and quadratic equations, inequalities, complex numbers, and rational algebraic expressions. This course is designed for highly motivated students. As an advanced course, this course goes beyond the curriculum expectations of a standard course offering by increasing the depth and complexity. Students are engaged in dynamic, high-level learning. The pace of an advanced course may be faster than that of a “standard” course. **Pre-requisite: M15 OR M24**

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES

Special Education is a vital part of our program. Placement in any special education course requires a specific legal process and an identified need. Academic Support Center (ASC) class is used as additional support for students in special education.
7th grade students have the opportunity to take two periods of electives. These periods can be structured as either two, full-year electives / a combination of full-year and semester electives / or all semester electives.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Level 1A + 1B of a world language at the middle school level is 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.

SPANISH / FRENCH 1A
World Language courses are based on the four standards: Communication, Culture, Connections and Comparisons. For the Novice-Low Range Level, students learn to communicate, comprehend and present, in oral and written form, on very familiar topics, using isolated words and high frequency phrases in the context of Culture, Connections and Comparisons.

SPANISH 1B
This is a continuation of the 1A Course. For the Novice-Low Range Level, students learn to communicate, comprehend and present, in oral and written form, on very familiar topics, using isolated words and high frequency phrases in the context of Culture, Connections and Comparisons. Successful completion of 1A & 1B is equivalent to the Level 1 World Language course.

PEER TUTORING

This elective course would afford seventh and eighth grade students the opportunity to mentor students with disabilities during the school day for one course period daily. It would also provide course content through weekly meetings before or after school in the following areas: diversity awareness relevant to disabilities, knowledge of disability categories, information regarding modifications and accommodations, typical learning styles and skills development, universal design, inclusive practices, accessibility issues, and special education policies and procedures. Grading: The course will be offered with a pass/fail grade.

MUSIC

BAND 3
Middle level Band 3 is a course that emphasizes continued development of individual playing and ensemble skills along with advancing skill in performing band repertoire. Public performances after school hours are an integral part of the course and are required.

SELECT CHOIR
Middle Level Select Choir is designed for the more mature middle school singer. Emphasis will be placed on more advanced choral techniques and multi-part singing. Culminating performances are a meaningful and mandatory component of this course.

ORCHESTRA 2
Middle Level Orchestra 2 is a course including progressively more demanding literature for orchestra that encourages continued technical development, performance skills, and a broader range of instrumentation. Musicianship and performance skills are stressed within a stringed orchestra. Public performances after school hours are an integral part of this course and are required.
7th grade students have the opportunity to take two periods of electives. These periods can be structured as either two, full-year electives / a combination of full-year and semester electives / or all semester electives.

**Comprehensive Art (All Media)**
Building on Exploratory Art learning experiences, students study and apply the elements of art and principles of design in compositions. Inspired by artists and art history, students learn about various materials, tools, techniques, processes and technology in both two and three-dimensional art. Students build and refine motor skills throughout this course. Personal expression is nurtured through an exploration of the creative process. Students understand the role of visual art in shaping historical and cultural traditions. Art history and cultural studies focus on regions within the seventh and eighth grade social studies curriculum. Additional artists and cultures that are not addressed in other middle level art courses may also be included.

**Drawing and Painting**
Students can expect to gain a strong foundation in drawing and painting. Composition, the visual element, the principles of design, and the basic techniques and concepts of both drawing and painting will be covered. The end goals are to increase artistic self-confidence, increase one’s understanding of the basics of drawing /painting and to produce successful works.

**3-D Art and Sculpture**
During this one term course, students learn about various materials, tools, techniques, processes and technology of three-dimensional design. Construction methods include casting, assemblage, carving and modeling. The students study a form from different points of view along with how it occupies the space. This interaction is the essence of three-dimensional design that makes it a unique art form. Emphasis is on building and refining motor skills throughout this course. Students understand the role of three-dimensional design in shaping historical and cultural traditions. Art history and cultural studies focus on regions within the eighth grade social studies curriculum. Additional artists and cultures that are not addressed in other middle level art courses may also be included.

**Digital Art and Photo**
Create original art by controlling technology. Emphasis will be on building the skill of using technology as a tool to produce and refine original art. Students will learn various techniques such as how to import and manipulate original art and computer-based images, digital camera use, computer illustration and animation. Apply the principles and elements of art in composition and explore how this art form has shaped historical and cultural traditions.

**Theatre Arts / Drama**
Theatre Arts provides opportunities for students to learn about drama. Stage directions and theatrical vocabulary are introduced. This course provides situations for developing poise and confidence, interacting with others and appreciating the contribution of others. Reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are applied as students demonstrate and perform what they are learning.
Woodworking / Shop
Woodworking and Crafts is a hands-on course focused mainly on advanced woodworking projects. Students will learn about the process that goes into the design and creation of a project. They will make detailed scale drawings before beginning the project. They will also learn to calculate the cost of materials and hardware. Students will experience some of the various woodcarving techniques such as relief, heraldic, lettering, and carving in the round. They will also be able to do some craft-related projects, such as, cane-rush seat weaving, marquetry, and model building.

Design Tech
This course is a hands-on learning environment in which students use tools and technology to solve problems. Students take ideas from concept to completion, learning the design-build-communicate process. Students will explore careers and design authentic projects in areas such as architecture, inventions, alternative energy, graphic arts/design, robotics, engineering, CAD, micro-electronics, woodshop or any of a dozen other fields of interest. Students will demonstrate safe and proper use of technology, equipment, and tools.

Robotics
Students will develop skills in mechanical design (CAD), and construction as they work in teams to build simple and complex robotic devices. We will explore usage of robotics in modern business and industry and examine how robotic devices are affecting our lives and shaping our culture.

Multimedia / Digital Film Productions
Students will design and produce multimedia presentations that incorporate text, graphics, sound, and animation. Software tools may include PowerPoint, Web Page tools, or Timeliner. 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.

Food Fun (Cooking)
This Consumer and Family Studies course provides students with the opportunity to research and prepare foods from the Food Guide Pyramid. 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.