This guide is designed to give you information about course offerings for your 8th 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
### PLAN FOR SUCCESS

**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

---

### Eighth Grade Course Description Guide

Eighth 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.

#### 8th Grade Required Subjects:
- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science
- Math
- Physical Education/Health

#### 8th Grade Electives:
Students may choose from these options:
(a) 2, year-long electives  
(b) 1, year-long, and 2 semester electives  
(c) 4, semester electives

#### 8th Grade Year-long Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish 1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French 1 (Compacted A, B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchestra 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Tutoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 8th Grade Semester Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Art (All Media)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawing and Painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Art and Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-D Art and Sculpture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre Arts (Drama)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multimedia / Digital Film Productions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodworking / Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Fun (Cooking)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eighth 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

LANGUAGE ARTS/READING

8TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
Eighth 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: Reading comprehension and interpretation of literary texts and of informational and persuasive texts using self-monitoring and self-assessment; understanding stylistic devices and descriptive details; organizing ideas and supporting details within informational and persuasive texts written for a variety of audiences and purposes; grammar, usage, and mechanics in writing; and the research process.

8TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ACCELERATED
Accelerated eighth 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: Reading comprehension and interpretation of literary texts and of informational and persuasive texts using self-monitoring and self-assessment; understanding stylistic devices and descriptive details; organizing ideas and supporting details within informational and persuasive texts written for a variety of audiences and purposes; grammar, usage, and mechanics in writing; and the research process. The course is designed for the student who enjoys reading, 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.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The course presents the social impacts and multiple perspectives of people associated with significant events in pre-1890 American history. Students will learn about contributions made by many groups who shaped and continue to influence the American experience. Students will engage in historical inquiry as they analyze multiple sources, perspectives and geographical tools. Students will consider how resources impact human settlement and interaction. Students will learn about personal credit and debt. Students also will examine the role of the Constitution in our government and our societal values.
SCIENCE

In middle level Earth and Space 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 earth and space science such as the rock cycle, processes that shape Earth’s surface, fossils, natural resources, atmospheric circulation, weather and climate, the water cycle, oceans and other water bodies, and the Earth in space. Students will also learn about the nature of science as a human endeavor.

INTEGRATED HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education at the eighth grade level emphasizes refinement of skills learned in the seventh grade, developing a greater understanding of game strategies. Continued emphasis is placed on personal responsibility, good sportsmanship, and attaining a higher level of personal fitness.

Health education in eighth 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.

MATHEMATICS

Flow Chart of Math Courses at Southern Hills Middle School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6th Grade</th>
<th>7th Grade</th>
<th>8th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math Standards 1 (M05) (Team Taught)</td>
<td>Math Standards 2 (M15) (Team Taught)</td>
<td>Math Standards 3 (M25) (Team Taught)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Standards 1 (M05)</td>
<td>Math Standards 2 (M15)</td>
<td>Math Standards 3 (M25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th/7th Compacted Math (M30)</td>
<td>7th/8th Compacted Math (M24)</td>
<td>Algebra, Advanced (M19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Standards 2 (M15)</td>
<td>Math Standards 3 (M25)</td>
<td>Geometry (M100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th/8th Compacted Math (M24)</td>
<td>Algebra, Advanced (M19)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Traditional pathway
Non-traditional pathway
**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 OR M30**

**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: M25**

**GEOMETRY, ADVANCED (M100)**
Advanced Geometry presents a thorough study of the structure of the postulational system and development of formal two-column proof. It considers the topics of congruence, parallelism, perpendicularity, properties of polygons, similarity, and the relationships of circles, spheres, lines, and planes with respect to space as well as the plane. Basic principles of probability will be introduced. Use of algebraic skills is expected.  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: M19**

**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) is used as additional support for students in special education courses.

**FULL YEAR ELECTIVES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**
Eighth 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 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.

SPANISH 2
World Language courses are based on the four standards: Communication, Culture, Connections and Comparisons. For the Novice-Mid Range Level, students learn to communicate, comprehend and present, in oral and written form, on a variety of very familiar and predictable topics, using isolated words, learned phrases, and learned grammatical structures in the context of Culture, Connections, and Comparisons.

* French (Compacted (1A, 1B)
Students may have the opportunity to take compacted French 1 in 8th grade based on interest.

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.
Eighth 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 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.