

SURPRISE LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

2010-2011 Seventh Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses

Reading & Language Arts

Seventh Grade Core is a two period course which combines Reading/Literature and Language/Writing/Speaking. Students will experience a curriculum that integrates these subjects in various projects and assignments.

Washington State History/Character Education

The first semester of this course will cover **Character Education** based on our Saber Creed and the Teen Leadership and Organizational Skills for School Success curriculum. By creating positive thinkers and doers, exploring problem solving techniques, and by the actualization of “doing the right thing” this course will assist students in becoming better decision makers and good citizens. The second semester course is **Washington State History**. Students will explore the history and geography of Washington State through an innovative CD ROM program and the accompanying text book. This WSH course fulfills a state high school graduation requirement.

Math II

This course will focus on math skills, communication of ideas, and problem solving. These **math skills** include data interpretation, operations with decimals and fractions, introduction to equations and algebra, geometric knowledge, probability, and graphing in the coordinate plane. **Communication skills** include the ability to clearly explain and show understanding of math concepts. **Problem solving** covers the ability to gather information and formulate strategies to solve and verify answers.

Math III

Math III is an eighth grade level Pre-Algebra course for students who have successfully completed Math II. The class will prepare the students for Algebra by exploring the use of multiple concepts to solve problems.

Life Science

In this course students are exposed to the basic fundamentals of Cellular Biology, Human Anatomy and Physiology. This course will revisit the scientific method and will include continual hands-on experiences through scientific investigators.

Physical Education (PE)

PE provides students an opportunity to engage in various individual, dual, and team activities. These activities help students develop skills, knowledge, and sportsmanship necessary to enjoy a wide variety of individual and group activities throughout life. Reading Tools and Math Tools may be substituted for some student due to academic need.

Additional Academic Support Courses

Reading Tools & Math Tools (semester long each)

SLMS offers additional courses in reading and math for students that are identified as needing support. **Tools courses are scheduled in lieu of electives for PE.** **Reading Tools** is a specialized reading program designed to teach flexible strategies for decoding long words and to increase oral and silent reading fluency. It is taught in a direct instruction mode. An additional read-for-fun segment of the class will include the oral reading of novels. **Math Tools** is a class designed to reinforce the concepts covered in Math II. Seventh grade students who failed Math I in sixth grade will be placed in Math II along with a Math Tools class in the first semester.

Seventh Grade Electives

FINE ARTS: Art & Technology Electives

Art I (one semester)

This class is an introduction and exploration of art. Students will understand and apply knowledge and skills by understanding art concepts and vocabulary, developing art skills and techniques, understanding and applying art styles from various artists, and applying audience skills. Art skills in drawing, painting, and clay in two and three dimensional works will be explored.

Art II (one semester)

This class reviews and extends instruction from Art I. Students will understand and apply knowledge and skills by understanding art concepts and vocabulary, developing skills and techniques, understanding and applying art styles from various artists, and applying audience skills. Art skills in drawing, painting, and clay in two and three dimensional works will be explored. Assignments are more intricate and in depth in Art II.

Art III (one semester)

This class allows students to develop and refine what they have learned in Art I and Art II.

Technology I (one semester)

Students in this course will work on developing typing skills while working on being introduced to the Microsoft Office suite of programs.

Technology II (one semester)

Students in this course will work on learning basic photo editing and animation skills and apply them to a real world project.

Technology III (one semester)

Students will be introduced to basic video editing and story boarding skills and applying them to a real world project.

MUSIC: Chorus and Band Electives

Please note the following before you sign-up for any of the following music programs.

- All students enrolled in the music program must buy an ASB card (\$20.00 or \$15.00 for free or reduced lunch). PIE provides ASB card scholarships for students in need.
- All band students are required to own or rent their musical instrument. Rentals can be done through local music stores or through the school (school instruments are limited). **Rental payments through the school must be paid in advance.** Limited funds are available to help students on free/reduced lunch.
- Students in band classes must purchase their own methods books through a local music store.
- There are at home practice requirements for band students.
- Three concert performances are required as part of the coursework per year, in addition to contests and parades for some of the advanced groups.
- Concert uniforms are required
- Student may opt to take two music courses in lieu of PE if they provide documentation of out of school athletic participation.

Beginning Band (Yearlong) Students will choose to begin learning one of the following band instruments: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto or tenor sax, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, or bells/percussion.

Cadet Band (Yearlong) This course is for students who have successfully completed one year of beginning band and wish to continue improving instrument-specific skills and musicianship at a more advanced level. In most cases, students will continue instruments begun in beginning band. Marching band is required for Cadet Band members.

Concert Band (Yearlong) This course is for students who have demonstrated exceptional talent, accomplishment, citizenship, and practice habits in beginning or cadet bands. Most students will continue instruments from earlier bands. Concert band becomes the core of marching band for the Jr. Daffodil Parade in the spring. Concert Band will also represent SLMS at our Regional Band Contest.

Cadet Chorus (Yearlong) Students do not need to have prior singing experience. We will be learning literature from varied styles of music, music note reading, and singing in multiple parts.

Concert Chorus (Yearlong) This course is for selected students who have demonstrated exceptional talent, accomplishment, citizenship, and practice habits. Students will learn more challenging literature from varied styles of music, music note reading, and singing in multiple parts.