

Sisters Middle School Elective Forecasting Guide

2026-2027

Forecasting Process

Forecasting is choosing electives for the next school year. Electives are graded, academic choice classes that help enrich students' learning and explore their interests and strengths. The grading scale is letter grade (A, B, C, D, F), as with other core academic classes. The electives that are offered in the schedule are based on the forecasting requests from the spring of the previous school year. To maximize the chances of all students getting into their primary forecast selections, we rotate electives every trimester. Therefore, your student will choose 6 different primary electives they wish to take and 6 different alternate elective options. Alternative elective options are alternate classes students would be willing to take if their primary elective is not available due to a scheduling conflict or not being offered.

Please review the elective course descriptions on the following pages with your student. *You will choose 6 different primary elective classes and 6 different alternate elective classes.* You will submit your forecasting selections through StudentVue on forecasting night.

Courses that require application

At SMS, we have four courses that require an application: AVID, Leadership, ECoS, and Project Unify. Please see the course description for the application process and due date. The applications for these four classes are due after the forecasting process. Students do not need to forecast for these classes. If they are accepted, they will be automatically enrolled. However, please go through the entire forecasting process in the event that the student does not get accepted.

Schedule Change Policy and Procedure

The SMS schedule is built based on student forecasting/requests in the spring. These requests dictate which classes we offer and when. It is a priority for us that all students have their primary choice classes during one of the three trimesters during the school year. However, it is possible your students' primary choice was not forecasted for enough by students and therefore may not be offered. Thus, if a student's primary choice request cannot be made due to scheduling conflicts, then students will be placed in the alternative classes they selected during forecasting. Only changes based on academic placement or a mistake will be made.

Other Course Considerations:

Some courses have a class size capacity due to classroom capacity and/or supply/material limitations. Some courses are yearlong (ECoS, Band, AVID, and Choir). Students who forecast for a yearlong course are expected to stay in that course for the year.

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SMS /2026-2027

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

AVID Elective

The AVID Elective will build upon students' desire and determination for academic success. AVID students will learn skills and strategies to enhance learning and performance in core classes. Such skills include note-taking, time management, organization strategies, and self-advocacy. Additionally, students will participate in activities centered around exploring college and career opportunities. These include college visits and field trips focused on building relational capacity (e.g. working together to solve an escape room and more). Application process and teacher approval are required. Contact Mrs. Surgeon for more information: emily.surgeon@ssd6.org

Application due: March 11, 2026. This is a yearlong course.

Math Enrichment

In math enrichment, students work on math individually, in small groups, and as a whole class. This can include working on assignments for a current math class, reviewing or reteaching what's currently happening in math class, or working on more fundamental skills from earlier grade levels to help support math class. **Students do not forecast for Math Enrichment, but can request it.** Instead, data from the iReady Diagnostic, classroom progress, student learning profiles, and ongoing curriculum-based measurements are used to determine who attends these classes. Students are monitored closely to track growth and progress. Students are evaluated each trimester to determine if they stay in the intervention class or are exited.

Reading Enrichment

In reading enrichment, the curriculum is designed to meet the students at their ability level. Teachers reteach concepts that are presented in the grade-level courses. These strategies are key in developing confidence, independence and ultimately gaining academic success. **Students do not forecast for Reading Enrichment, but can request it.** Instead, data from the iReady Diagnostic, classroom progress, student learning profiles, and ongoing curriculum-based measurements are used to determine who attends these classes. Students are monitored closely to track growth and progress. Students are evaluated each trimester to determine if they stay in the intervention class or are exited.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Band 7/8

The Performance Standards of the band are set to develop the skills introduced in Band during 6th grade. Musicians will learn and perform a variety of music. Music theory and group performance concepts are addressed as part of the band curriculum. The band performs in various concerts, parades, community performances, and several festivals throughout the year. **This is a yearlong course.**

Choir 7/8

This class is dedicated to learning a variety of music. Students broaden their vocal ability by singing music of many languages, cultures, and time eras. Students will also expand their understanding of music and the language of music through musical symbols. The choir performs in a few outside-of-school concerts and community events throughout the year.

This is a yearlong course.

Art - Sculpture

Do you love working with your hands to create unique and functional works of art? In sculpting, we will learn about how to work with clay to make bowls or vases and sculptural pieces. Students will grow their understanding of the history of clay and its uses while exploring personal ideas. We will experiment using glaze transfers and glazing applications for the glaze firing of our work.

Art - Drawing and Printmaking Video

Using a variety of media, we will explore drawing with expressive qualities - value, space, line, form, color, and texture. Students will grow their artistic skills while developing personal style. Through printmaking, we will explore the possibilities involved in creating multiple originals. Students will gain experiences in various printmaking techniques, which may include screen printing, gelli plate printing, block printing, or collagraphy.

Art - Kaleidoscope Video

In this class, we will experiment with a variety of different mediums and play with mixing and layering those mediums together! Learn color theory and painting techniques with watercolor and acrylic paints! We will learn about other artists as we develop skills and explore personal styles. We will work in 2-D but will also create works in 3-D using sculptural methods.

Movie Making

Movie Making will give kids a chance to explore various forms and facets of filmmaking, including script writing, sound design (including music), camera work, and editing. They will participate in multiple projects, such as movie previews, stop-motion, and feature films, with a specific thematic direction. Students must expect to work productively and respectfully with other members of a group (or production team). They will learn the equipment and, after a little hard work, come away with a finished project to keep and show off, and inspire more creativity. And of course, kids will have a whole lot of fun.

Advanced Movie Making

Are you ready for the next level? Advanced Movie Making is a class for students who have taken Movie Making and are looking for an opportunity to develop their filmmaking skills further and create projects that effectively showcase their hard work. This class will challenge students to push past what they thought was impossible, as students constantly ask the question: *How will we make this work?* Students will learn the next steps in scriptwriting, editing (hopefully using more advanced software), sound design, lighting, green screen and other special effects, and blocking. Students will review all work produced in class critically, with an eye for improvement with each step. This is a class for students with an interest in taking filmmaking skills beyond the classroom, utilizing this fun and powerful art form for many projects to come.

Photography

This class focuses on the art and craft of making high-quality photographs, not just "taking pictures". Students will learn composition, exposure, and a variety of settings and controls on a camera in order to make better photographs in a variety of settings. You'll get to check out a Nikon DSLR camera to bring between home and school for the whole trimester. We'll also learn the basics of post-processing using software to improve upon the photos we take.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE

Programming

Students will learn programming/coding involving many fun applications. These applications will involve the use of robotics and animation. Animation will be done primarily with Scratch, a block-based coding website. Tasks will involve the creation of video games along with other animations. Robotics applications will vary and involve fun missions and challenges. No previous programming experience is required, and projects will allow for a range of skill levels.

Woods

Students will learn the basics of woodworking and building. Students will learn how to use tools such as handsaws, drills, clamps, and more. Students will learn various woodworking concepts and apply them to a lot of fun projects. Projects will involve the building of useful items like desk organizers, but will also involve challenges such as bridge building.

Foods

This course introduces students to basic cooking skills using common household ingredients and equipment. Students learn how to prepare simple, nutritious meals and desserts while exploring a variety of foods beyond basic convenience items. Instruction emphasizes practical kitchen skills, meal preparation, and fundamental kitchen safety and sanitation practices. Through hands-on cooking experiences, students develop confidence, independence, and an appreciation for diverse foods and healthy eating habits.

Leadership

In leadership, students go above and beyond to lead the culture and activities of the school. Students work collaboratively to plan events such as assemblies, spirit activities, socials, and more. They also work diligently on regular school systems such as the production of Outlaw News, the running of the student store, and the creation of the yearbook. This class does require an application. Please contact Mr. Schiedler about the application process.

Application due: March 11, 2026. This course is 1 trimester for most students.

EmpowerEd

In this hands-on service elective, students become changemakers. Over 12 weeks, 7th and 8th graders will explore issues they care about and design service projects that positively impact their school, community, or the world. Students will collaborate with peers and organizations, budgeting time and money to turn ideas into action.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Chinese Language and Culture

This middle school elective lets students explore Chinese language and culture through hands-on activities, especially cooking. Students will learn the A-B-C's and 1-2-3's of Mandarin while learning about Chinese traditions, foods, and festivals—all while having fun in the kitchen!

This course is 1 trimester.

Spanish

This fun, interactive introductory Spanish course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students will focus on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts.

This course is 1 trimester.

FITNESS AND EXERCISE SCIENCE

Project Unify

Project UNIFY creates programs and teams that include regular education and special education students together on a team to prepare, practice, and compete with other schools in our area. Project Unify has two primary goals. First, we aim to advance the social, emotional, and academic outcomes of students with and without disabilities. Second, we hope to promote tolerance, understanding, compassion, physical health, and outreach among all our students. Application required. Application process and teacher approval are required. You do not need to forecast for this class. This class replaces your PE portion of the Health and Wellness class for one trimester. Contact Mr Dart for more information:

berit.dart@ssd6.org

Application due: March 11, 2026

Ultimate Frisbee

Do you ever find yourself chillin' out with a bunch of friends, wondering what to do? Do you like to get outside, be active, and play games? Can you run? Well, Ultimate might be for you! Jump into the action as you learn how to throw, catch, and move with the disc while exploring exciting offensive and defensive strategies. Discover the basics of the game—including *Spirit of the Game*, a core part of Ultimate Frisbee that promotes fairness, respect, and self-officiating. Classes include drills, small-group games, and lively scrimmages that focus on teamwork, effort, and improvement, all while having a great time out on the field. Requirements: water bottle, sneakers/tennis or sports shoes, a positive attitude, and a willingness to run and play each session.

Team Sports

Team Sports is a fun and active middle school elective where students get to try out a variety of team sports. The class focuses on learning the basics of gameplay, practicing skills, and understanding how to move, create space, and work as a team. Students will explore simple strategies, practice evasion and movement, and build confidence while staying active and having fun in a positive, team-oriented environment.

Peak Performance

This elective helps students learn how the body and mind work together in sports and physical activity. Students will practice skills like goal setting, teamwork, focus, confidence, and motivation, while learning how healthy habits such as training, nutrition, hydration, and rest improve performance. Through activities and discussions, students will build mental skills that help them handle stress, stay positive, and succeed in sports, school, and everyday life.

INNOVATIVE AND APPLIED STUDIES

Travel Agent

What type of adventure is on your bucket list? Where do you hope to travel to one day? Let's check it out and create extensive brochures and a travel plan for your top destinations. What will you do there? Where can you stay? How much will it all cost? You will create 5-6 travel plans with different budgets, present them to the class, and learn how to travel in various environments around the state, country, and world!

Creative Writing

In creative writing, students will write creatively! Students will read and write creative non-fiction, fiction, short stories, poetry, lyrics, screenplays, comics/graphic novels, or really anything else that involves creative writing and reading. Students will have time to write, get feedback on, and revise their writing in class, and won't have any work outside of class.

ECoS (8th grade only)

Experiential adventure-learning class that is your 8th-grade Science credit and also counts as an elective. ECoS is a yearlong, two-hour block class during the last two periods of the day, and includes several weekend/evening trips to locations all around Oregon: camping, hiking, backpacking, caving, x-country skiing, snowshoeing, surfing, rock climbing, and more! This class is for motivated students who enjoy learning science and new skills in diverse environments and stepping out of their comfort zones with a community of learners. Application process and teacher approval are required. Contact Mr. Geisen or Mr. Jensen for more information: michael.geisen@ssd6.org or rob.jensen@ssd6.org

Application Due: March 11, 2026. This is a yearlong course.

***You do not need to forecast for AVID, Leadership, Project Unify, or ECOS. These are application-based classes, and if you are accepted, you are in, and your other electives will be built around them. If you are interested in being in these classes, you need to apply to get in. Information on how to apply will be provided to all students. If you have any questions, please contact the corresponding teacher or Mr. Jackson, your amazing School Counselor.**