

# **SMS Curriculum Handbook**

## **2024-2025**

### **Forecasting Process**

Forecasting is choosing electives for next school year. Electives are graded, academic choice classes that help enrich student's 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 4 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 offered.

Please review the elective course descriptions on the following pages with your student. You will choose 6 different primary elective classes and 4 different alternate elective classes. You will submit your forecasting selections using a Google Form, of which you will automatically receive a copy. Please keep that copy for your records.

### **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 application for these three classes are due after the forecasting process, so your student might forecast for one or both of these courses and not be enrolled. In this case, your student will be enrolled in their alternate course selections.

### **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 primary choice requests 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 (Leadership, ECoS, Band, Chinese, AVID, Spanish, and Choir). Students who forecast for a yearlong course are expected to stay in that course for the year.

# ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SMS /2024-2025

## **ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT**

### **AVID Elective 7**

AVID elective will build upon students desire and determination for academic success. AVID students will learn skills, strategies, and attitudes that enhance learning and support college readiness. 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. Application process and teacher approval is required.

Contact Ms. Cobian or Mr. Jensen for more information: [raquel.cobian@ssd6.org](mailto:raquel.cobian@ssd6.org) or [rob.jensen@ssd6.org](mailto:rob.jensen@ssd6.org) Application due: April 5th, 2024. This is a yearlong course.

### **AVID Elective 8**

AVID elective will build upon students desire and determination for academic success. AVID students will learn skills, strategies, and attitudes that enhance learning and support college readiness. 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. Application process and teacher approval is required.

Contact Ms. Cobian or Mr. Jensen for more information: [raquel.cobian@ssd6.org](mailto:raquel.cobian@ssd6.org) or [rob.jensen@ssd6.org](mailto:rob.jensen@ssd6.org) Application due: April 5th, 2024. This is a yearlong course.

### **Math Enrichment**

In math enrichment, students work on math individually, in small groups, and as a whole-group 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.** 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.** 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.

*More course descriptions continued onto the next page...*

## **VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS**

### **Band**

The Performance Standards of the band are set to develop the skills introduced in band during 5th/6th grades. 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. Class size capacity: 35. **This is a yearlong course.**

### **Choir**

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 language of music through musical symbols. The choir performs in a few outside of school concerts and community events throughout the year.

Class size capacity: 35 **This is a yearlong course.**

### **Art - Sources of Strength**

We will make art using a variety of mediums creating positive inspo for ourselves and others. We will look at marketing and branding and lead school-wide campaigns, creating art, videos, and activities to positively grow our school culture! We will play games, and collaborate with our peers and the greater community to grow our understanding of the power that our diverse strengths have to help us battle stress and achieve goals.

### **Art - Ceramics**

Do you love working with your hands to create unique and functional works of art? In ceramics 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**

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 the multiple original. Students will gain experiences in various printmaking which may include screen printing, gelli plate printing, block printing, or collagraphy.

### **Art - Kaleidoscope**

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 style. We will work 2-d but will also create works in 3-d using sculptural methods.

*More course descriptions continued onto the next page...*

## **VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS continued:**

### **Drama**

In an Introduction to Theatre Arts or Drama through choral performance, students will explore themselves and the world around them, through performance and acting skills, and musical selection! Student's will be encouraged to perform in various groups sizes from solo repertoire to ensemble work. Depending on the output of the class we may even start to develop scenes and explore the world of stagecraft!

### **Movie Making & Videography**

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 various projects, such as movie previews, stop-motion, and feature films, with 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. Class size cap: 25

### **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.

Class size capacity: 16

### **Textile Arts - Embroidery & Knitting**

This is not your Grandma's embroidery class! Using a printable, dissolvable sticker, you can embellish things you already own like shoes, jeans, sweaters, jackets or even bags! First we will tackle a starter project to learn 7 easy basic stitches so that you will be able to tackle any design and after that you will get to design and work on your own projects!

Class size capacity 20.

### **Textile Arts -Quilting**

Learn about how to use a sewing machine, basic sewing skills and create a small blanket or wall hanging. We will learn basic piecing patterns like Log Cabin and 9-Patch and pinwheel triangles. We will practice basic quilting designs like stitch in the ditch and some small waves. Your ideas and inspiration are the only prerequisites. Class size capacity: 12

*More course descriptions continued onto the next page...*

## **APPLIED SCIENCE**

### **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 is required. Contact Mr. Geisen or Mr. Jensen for more information: [michael.geisen@ssd6.org](mailto:michael.geisen@ssd6.org) or [rob.jensen@ssd6.org](mailto:rob.jensen@ssd6.org)

**Application due: April 5th, 2024. This is a yearlong course.**

## **CAREER-TECHNOLOGY**

### **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 creation of video games, and also 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.

### **Circuits**

Students will learn the basics of circuits and build a variety of fun projects. These will involve the use of components such as LEDs, DC motors, switches, solar panels and more. Students will learn how to use tools such as wire strippers, soldering irons, and other various tools. Projects will include fan making, light stands, art spinner boxes, fountain making, and more.

### **Woodworking**

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**

Students will learn the basics of cooking and food preparation. Students will have a chance to learn about safe ways to prepare foods and add some recipes to their own cookbooks. Class size capacity: 20

*More course descriptions continued onto the next page...*

## **SECOND LANGUAGE**

### **Chinese**

This course will develop a working knowledge of the Mandarin sound system, basic sentence structure, and fundamental grammatical concepts with related terminology. The basic language skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing will be targeted. Students will also be introduced to the cultural and geographic environment of China. **This is a year-long course.** Class size capacity: 28

### **Spanish**

This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study and 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 is a year-long course.** Class size capacity: 28

## **FITNESS**

### **Strength and Conditioning**

This class will focus on speed, agility, core power and strength, cardiovascular endurance, coordination, muscular balance and injury prevention strategies while working in the weight room, with functional and plyometric and movements in the gym and wrestling room. This is a fast pace and high intensity course and you will be pushed physically and mentally to improve! **Students participating in extracurricular athletics are not excused from the course workouts due to their sport practice.** Class size capacity: 25

### **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 between all our students. Application required. Application process and teacher approval is required. Contact Mr Dart for more information: [berit.dart@ssd6.org](mailto:berit.dart@ssd6.org)

**Application due: April 5th, 2024**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **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.

*More course descriptions continued onto the next page...*

## **MISCELLANEOUS continued:**

### **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, dances, 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. Class size capacity: 20 **Application due: April 5th, 2024. This is a yearlong course.**

### **Personal Finance & Planning Via Travel Agent**

What is on your bucket list? Where do you hope to go 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 do you know how much it costs? What are excursions anyway? You will create 5-6 travel plans with different budgets and learn how to travel in different environments around the state, country and world!

### **History - World War II**

Learn about planes, weaponry, battle strategy and world politics as we study WWII. How did it start? Who was involved? What was the chronological sequence of events and flight technology? Who were the famous pilots and how did they make history? Who were the leaders and how did they make decisions? What is it like to have your town bombed and live through it? Let's

### **History - Through Musicals**

In this Elective we will watch and analyze a few really amazing musicals that tell the story of a time in history at a different time in history. We'll look at how this unique artform uses music and musical themes to engage us, get us emotionally invested, and tell a story. Class size capacity 30.

### **6-Year Planning**

*(6-year planning document and example scenarios continued onto the next page)*

The purpose of the 6-year plan is that it is a tool to guide and prepare students in meeting the class requirements to graduate high school and that meet any post-secondary education requirements. The classes chosen and put onto the plan across 6 years are likely to change year to year just as the student's interests and needs continue to grow, develop, and change. For this reason, students should come back to their 6-year plan each year during forecasting to make adjustments as needed that keep or put them on the path toward meeting requirements for their individual goals. Students in middle school primarily use their 6-year plan to map out elective classes, as electives are opportunities to explore possible career paths and passions.

# 6-Year Planning Document

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

## Six Year Planning Handout

Subject	7th Grade	8th Grade	Freshmen (9th)	Sophomore (10th)	Junior (11th)	Senior (12th)	Credit Total
<b>Electives</b> Up to 6 classes							<b>7.5</b>
<b>Applied Arts/ Second Language***</b>							<b>3</b>
<b>Health</b>			Health 1		Health 2		<b>1</b>
<b>PE</b>					IEE PE (1.0)		<b>1.5</b>
<b>English</b>			English 9 English 9 Honors	English 10 English 10 Honors	IEE English <i>or Choice</i>	AP Literature <i>or Choice</i>	<b>4</b>
<b>Math</b>	Math 7	Math 8	Algebraic Arithmetic Algebra Geometry	Algebra Geometry Algebra 2 or Statistics	Geometry Algebra 2 or Statistics Math 111/112	Algebra 2 or Statistics Math 111/112 AP Calculus	<b>3</b>
<b>Science</b>		Science 8 ECoS	Biology	Physical World Chemistry	IEE Science		<b>3</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>			Global Studies	US History	Government/AP Gov (.5)	Economics (.5)	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 Classes</b>	<b>8 Classes</b>	<b>7.5 credits/ 15 classes</b>	<b>7.5 credits/ 15 classes</b>	<b>7.5 credits/ 15 classes</b>	<b>7.5 credits/ 15 classes</b>	<b>26</b>

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SISTERS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION - TOTAL of 26 CREDITS\*, 28 CREDITS HONORS DIPLOMA\*\***

English	4 credits	Applied/Fine Arts	3 credits
Social Science	3 credits	Physical Education	1.5 credits
Science	3 credits	Health	1 credits
Mathematics	3 credits	Electives	7.5 credits

\*Once you have met requirements for a subject, the extra classes in that subject will count as elective credit on your transcript.

\*\*Talk to your school counselor about Honors Diploma requirements.

\*\*\*Second language is required for admission to a 4-year college or university

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian signature & date**  
**Parent phone and parent email:**

### Example scenarios of how to use a 6-year plan:

- Student wants to be in an apprenticeship program that uses a math placement test for the order of assigning apprenticeships. Student plans to take the highest level of math earning a C or higher their senior year to prepare for the test.
- Student wants to attend a four-year university that requires two credits of a second language. The student plans to take Chinese their 10th and 11th grade years.
- Student is an athlete and wants to compete at the collegiate level. They will plan to take in person classes (instead of online) to be NCAA eligible.
- Student wants to earn an Honors Diploma. They use the 6-year plan to map out advanced courses required for this type of diploma.