

# *SISD Middle School*

**6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**



**#Building Bearcats**

It's In Everything We Say, It's In Everything We Do

**Course Selection Guide**

**2021-2022**

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SHERMAN ISD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE COURSES AND/OR PROGRAMS DUE TO LACK OF ENROLLMENT, CHANGES IN DISTRICT FACILITIES, OR FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION DUE TO BOARD OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION OR UNFORESEEN CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR OR OPERATIONS.

SHERMAN ISD DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RACE, COLOR, SEX, RELIGION, DISABILITY, OR AGAINST ANY OTHER LEGALLY PROTECTED GROUP.

# SEVEN YEAR PLANNING STARTS AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

While high school graduation might not be the first thing an incoming middle school student thinks about, it is important to consider when choosing classes. Middle school is the start of a child's secondary education, and all SISD middle schools offer a variety of choices in academics, fine arts, and athletics that can build the foundation for success at the high school. When making class selections, it is recommended that you consider how those classes will lead to success at the high school. Think of it as a seven-year plan for graduation that starts in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Suggestions for Students**

When selecting classes, keep in mind your interests and think about your areas of academic strength. Do you like to read and write? Maybe math is your thing? How about science, do you love to learn about things like animals, cells, energy, and so on? Those questions can help you determine the level of academic courses to pick (Advanced Academic (6-8) or Regular(6-8)). Knowing what electives to take may be a little confusing. That is okay. For ALL OF THE COURSES you are thinking about, read the course descriptions; talk to your current academic teacher(s); and talk to the elective or specials teacher(s) in your current grade level. Most importantly, feel free to contact the middle school campus counselors. We want you to feel informed and positive about the courses you have selected.

## **Suggestions for Parents**

When selecting classes, keep in mind your child's abilities and interests. Your child may not know what classes to pick for electives or what levels to pick for core academics. That is okay. Read the course descriptions, talk to your child's current teacher(s), and feel free to contact the middle school campus counselors. We want you to feel informed and positive about the courses your child has selected

## **DISTANCE LEARNING (VIRTUAL LEARNING)**

Sherman ISD, along with every school district across the country, faced a pandemic (COVID-19) during the Spring of 2020. As a result, SISD implemented a Distance Learning Plan that offered virtual learning for students across the district. The *SISD Asynchronous Learning Plan* was sent to the state and approved for use during the 2020-2021 school year. This was a temporary solution to address the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2013, the state of Texas approved only 7 school districts to operate a stand alone virtual learning program. This is scheduled to go back into effect for the 2021-2022 school year. This could change, but until it does, there will be limited options for distance learning for public school students in Texas.

**Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, Distance Learning will be a limited option for SISD students.** This means students are expected to return to school for face to face instruction beginning in August 2021. SISD realizes that some students however, may choose due to personal or medical reasons, or be required due to illness or exposure to the coronavirus, to stay home and receive instruction through distance learning. Based on the state's decision, SISD students may receive

distance learning instruction through a district approved learning platform or management system such as *Canvas* for a distance learning option in order to maintain their progress in school.

In the fall of 2020, SISD determined that some courses are not able to be taught successfully using a virtual model of instruction. As a result, those courses required students to attend face to face. That will continue for the 2021-2022 school year. Should a student be quarantined (due to illness or exposure) for a short period and be scheduled in one of those required face to face courses, accommodations would be made for the short term. Should the home stay be planned for longer or forced to go longer, the student may be required to have a schedule change.

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE INFORMATION

**Sixth Grade:** Students will enroll in **five** required courses and have one elective choice for a total of **six** classes.

ELAR English/Reading (combined course) doubled blocked - 2 class periods	
Social Studies	Mathematics
Science	Physical Education or Pre-Athletics
<b>Elective-</b> Fine Arts Selection	

**Seventh Grade:** Students will enroll in **five** required courses and have one elective choice for a total of **six** classes.

ELAR English/Reading (combined course)	Mathematics (double blocked - 2 class periods)
Texas History	Physical Education or Athletics
Science	<b>Elective</b>

**Eighth Grade:** Students will enroll in **four** required courses and have three elective choices for a total of **seven** classes.

ELAR English/Reading (combined course)	<b>Elective One</b>
Mathematics	<b>Elective Two</b>
US History	<b>Elective Three</b>
Science	

If a student wishes to participate in athletics in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, then athletics is one of the elective choices.

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*NOTE: If a student does not pass the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade STAAR math and reading assessments, they could be placed in an academic skills class in lieu of elective classes. This will result in a student receiving two math classes and/or two reading classes.*

## OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

### HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES AT MS

#### 8th Grade Options

SISD Middle Schools offers six courses in the eighth grade for high school credit. Students must be able to perform at the academic level required of high school students. Since these are high school credit courses, the following are required:

1. A semester final examination is required which counts one-seventh of the final semester grade.
2. The semester grades are recorded on the student's high school transcript.
3. The final semester grades are used in computing the student's high school GPA and determining class rank at graduation.
4. Counselor approval is required for high school credit courses taken at the middle school.

Advanced Academics ALGEBRA I	PRINCIPLES OF HOSPITALITY & TOURISM
Advanced Academics SPANISH I	PRINCIPLES OF ARTS, AUDIO/VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, and COMMUNICATIONS
Advanced Academics SPANISH I AND II FOR NATIVE SPANISH SPEAKERS	Advanced Academics GEOMETRY (By Administrative placement only)

#### ADVANCED ACADEMICS PROGRAM - AA (6th, 7th, & 8th Grades)

SISD middle school students have the opportunity to participate in Advanced Academics classes in English, Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies. These courses use an advanced academic curriculum, with a higher rigor level, fastpacing, and more challenging assignments. The purpose is to prepare students for the *College Board* Advanced Placement (AP) programs at Sherman High School in which students are expected to do college level academic work. Although it is helpful to begin the Advanced Academics Program in middle school, these courses are not required for a student to enroll in College Board Advanced Placement courses in high school.

#### ACADEMIC SKILLS PROGRAM

##### (MATH AND READING SKILLS CLASSES)

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness is an important part of a student's educational experience. Therefore, students who do not meet the APPROACHES level of the STAAR Reading and/or STAAR Math may be enrolled in an academic skills class in lieu of elective choices. Classes are offered for mathematics and reading in the 6th, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

## **SEXUAL EDUCATION**

The State of Texas does not require instruction in sexual education, however the Sherman ISD Board of Trustees have agreed that it is a vital part of a complete education for the students in this district. They also strongly support the parents right to choose when it comes to certain educational programs in our schools. That is why there is an opt out option for parents when it comes to their child being taught sexual education in an SISD school.

In order to meet the state requirements for a sexual education curriculum; Sherman ISD, with recommendation from the SISD Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC), uses the program by Scott & White : *Worth the Wait*. This program is considered an abstinence based program which does the following:

- Presents abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age; and
- Directs adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
- Emphasizes that abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity; and
- Devotes more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior

Although this program covers developmentally appropriate social and emotional aspects of human sexuality, it also has lessons about human anatomy and reproduction from a scientific perspective. As a result, it is taught as a unit within the science lessons in the seventh and eighth grades.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ATHLETICS/PRE-ATHLETICS**

The state of Texas requires two years of Physical Education during a three year period in middle school. In SISD, Physical Education is an elective for sixth, seventh, or eighth grade students. Students in grade 6 may select Pre-Athletics, and in grades 7 and 8 may select Athletics as a Physical Education substitute. In order to enroll in Athletics, students must meet the following criteria:

### **Sixth Grade Pre-Athletics: (no prerequisite)**

The Pre-Athletics PE course is designed to prepare 6th grade students for our Athletics program. This class is the first step for a student who plans on joining Athletics in 7th and/or 8th grade. Students will learn the skills, fundamentals, rules, offensive and defensive strategies, proper use of equipment, as well as the expectations of our Athletics program and UIL Sports. This course focuses on the skill requirements for the following sports: **football (boys), volleyball (girls), basketball, soccer, track and tennis**. This course is gender separated for boys and girls sports.

### **Seventh Grade:**

1. Must have met SISD 6<sup>th</sup> grade promotion standards and have been promoted to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. Have a physical examination conducted by a medical doctor **after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**.
3. Submit the physical examination form to the campus office **by August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.
4. Complete the required UIL forms.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade athletes practice in the morning before school & parents must provide transportation.**

### **Eighth Grade:**

1. Must have met SISD 7<sup>th</sup> grade promotion standards and have been promoted to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. Have a physical examination conducted by a medical doctor **after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**.
3. Submit the physical examination form to the campus office **by August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.
4. Complete the required UIL forms.
5. Approval by the campus coaching staff.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade athletes practice in the afternoon after school and parents must provide transportation.**

*Students who do not meet any of the above criteria are subject to not being enrolled in athletics.*

# ENGLISH COURSES

## 6<sup>th</sup> English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)

ELAR06

The sixth grade ELAR program incorporates a variety of fiction and non-fiction reading materials including novels, short stories, poetry, and research strategies. Areas of focus include basic literary elements, vocabulary development and reading strategies to help students become competent and confident readers in a variety of genres. In addition, students will respond to literature thoroughly, thoughtfully, and extensively throughout the year. Process oriented writing is modeled, along with editing and grammar instruction to provide a well-rounded curriculum.

## 6<sup>th</sup> AA English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)

ELAR06AA

Students will learn advanced academic strategies that include reading with a more critical eye, annotating, note taking, and responding to and analyzing literature while citing textual evidence. Students will increase the level of complexity in their reading as well as broaden their knowledge of literary texts and quality authors. In addition, there is also a focus on grammar and composition skills with an emphasis on supporting a thesis, interpretation, evaluation, and reflection. Students enrolled in AA should expect to have homework on a daily basis.

***Students are expected to have scored at least a MEETS standard on the 6th grade Reading STAAR or receive a teacher recommendation, and have a commitment to maintain an 80 average in the class***

## 6<sup>th</sup> GT AA English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)

ELAR06GTAA

GT AA ELAR covers the same required content as the 6th grade AA ELAR course, but often uses choice assignments and various other methods to meet the needs of the GT population. Students identified as GT should expect a fast paced course with project based learning opportunities throughout the year.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an AA course

## 7<sup>th</sup> English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)

ELAR07

Seventh grade ELAR is a course designed to focus on reading, grammar, and writing. The reading part of this course uses various types of text, both fiction and non-fiction, to expose students to a variety of structures and formats for reading. Students are asked to make inferences in both fiction and non-fiction texts, draw conclusions from expository texts, and analyze poetry and drama. The writing in this course focuses on writing styles such as poetry, personal narrative, and expository with the heaviest emphasis on expository writing. It also focuses on adding new elements of grammar into writing. This course is designed to meet the needs of all seventh grade students who will be required to take the reading and writing STAAR tests at the end of the school year.

## 7<sup>th</sup> AA English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)

ELAR07AA

Seventh grade AA ELAR teaches the same content as the regular course, but moves at a faster pace and uses more challenging texts. This course puts an emphasis on developing strong writing skills including revising and editing. This course is designed to prepare students for the thinking, reading, analyzing, and writing required in 8th grade AA ELAR. This course will include additional work in areas such as independent reading, vocabulary practice, and writing.

***Students are expected to have scored at least a MEETS standard on the 6th grade Reading STAAR or receive a teacher recommendation, and have a commitment to maintain an 80 average in the class***

## 7<sup>th</sup> GT AA English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)

ELAR07GTAA

GT AA ELAR covers the same required content as 7th Grade AA ELAR course, but often uses choice assignments and various other methods to meet the needs of the GT population. Students identified as GT should expect a fast paced course with project based learning opportunities throughout the year.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an Honors course

## **8<sup>th</sup> English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)**

ELAR08

8th grade ELAR is a combined English and reading class open to all 8th grade students. The course will follow the current ELAR standards and will concurrently teach both English and reading skills and standards. The course will primarily be taught using teacher selected novels with a goal of a minimum of 2 novels per semester

## **8<sup>th</sup> AA English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)**

ELAR08AA

AA ELAR will use a curriculum similar to the College Board Pre-AP program. This includes a framework for learning where students are required to read, analyze, and write at a higher level than 8th grade. Students are expected to be able to read and annotate text independently, respond in assessments using critical thinking skills, and fully develop and support a thesis in their writing. This course is designed to prepare students for the rigors of high school level AA and Advanced Placement courses.

**Students are expected to have scored at least a MEETS standard on the 7th grade Reading STAAR or receive a teacher recommendation, and have a commitment to maintain an 80 average in the class**

## **8<sup>th</sup> GT AA English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)**

ELAR08GTAA

8th grade GT AA ELAR will cover all the same content as the 8th grade AA ELAR course but it will also include choice assignments and multiple project based learning opportunities. This is a fast paced course that often switches between English and reading content fluidly. As with the regular ELAR course the GT students will be taught using teacher selected novels with a minimum number of novels per semester.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an Honors course

# MATHEMATICS COURSES

## 6<sup>th</sup> Math

MTH06

The sixth grade math program will expand the student's knowledge of numbers, operations, spatial reasoning, quantitative reasoning, patterns, relationships, algebraic thinking, geometry, measurement, statistics, algorithms, properties of rational numbers, proportionality, expressions, equations, and personal financial literacy. Instructional strategies including integrated technology and the use of manipulatives are a part of this course.

## 6<sup>th</sup> AA Math

MTH06AA

Students will learn advanced academic strategies in this rigorous, fast-paced course designed to introduce skills, concepts and assessment methods to prepare students as they move into Advanced Academic math classes and toward AP level coursework in high school. Students will learn the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum and the majority of 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum using advanced academic strategies. Connections to other disciplines, writing (communicating mathematics) and utilization of real world problem solving will be included in this course, as well as critical thinking skills. Students taking this course should have strong independent study and work habits.

***Students are expected to have scored at least a MEETS standard on the 6th grade Math STAAR or receive a teacher recommendation, and have a commitment to maintain an 80 average in the class***

## 6<sup>th</sup> GT AA Math

MTH06GTAA

6th grade GT AA math covers the same required content as the 6th grade AA math course, but often uses choice assignments and various other methods to meet the needs of the GT population. Students identified as GT should expect a fast paced course with challenging assignments, project based learning opportunities, and exposure to complex ideas throughout the year.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an Advanced Academics course

## 7<sup>th</sup> Math

MTH07

The purpose of this class is to develop the knowledge and concepts required by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The primary focal areas of seventh grade mathematics are numbers and operations, proportionality, expressions, equations, relationships, measurement and data. Students will apply operations with rational numbers to problem situations and continue to develop their understanding of proportionality. Upon successful completion, students will be prepared for 8<sup>th</sup> grade math.

## 7<sup>th</sup> AA Math

MTH07AA

This course is for students who are highly motivated and interested in a rigorous math program. Students will learn the 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum and the majority of 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum using advanced academic strategies. The pacing and organization of this course allows students to use investigations to develop their mathematical thinking skills. Class assignments and activities build on and expand the higher-level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation; students will also integrate units that promote mathematical connections. Students are provided opportunities for extension and application of content and processes. This course will help prepare students to take Algebra I in 8th grade.

***Students are expected to have scored at least a MEETS standard on the 6th grade Math STAAR or receive a teacher recommendation, and have a commitment to maintain an 80 average in the class.***

## 7<sup>th</sup> GT AA Math

MTH07GTAA

7th grade GT AA math covers the same required content as the 7th grade AA math course. Students will learn the 7th grade curriculum and the majority of 8th grade curriculum. Students will be expected to engage in complex and abstract ideas, problems and themes. This class will meet the unique needs of the gifted and talented student by emphasizing open-ended problem solving and creating new perspectives. This course may require more reading, writing, and projects in class and at home. This course will help prepare students to take Algebra I in 8th grade.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an Advanced Academics course

## 8<sup>th</sup> Math

MTH08

The focus of this class is to develop the knowledge and concepts required by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will build an understanding and use of mathematical relationships to solve a variety of problems related to real-life situations. Upon successful completion, students will be prepared for Algebra I at the high school.

## 8<sup>th</sup> AA Math

MTH08AA

The focus of this class is to develop the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) through the use of advanced academic techniques to develop advanced skills and content background to prepare students for Advanced Academic and Advanced Placement courses. Upon successful completion, students will be prepared for AA Algebra I at the high school.

***Students are expected to have scored at least a MEETS standard on the 7th grade Math STAAR or receive a teacher recommendation, and have a commitment to maintain an 80 average in the class.***

## 8<sup>th</sup> AA Algebra I

ALGMTH08AA

**Credits: 1 High School credit**

**Qualified GT students will be cluster grouped into this course**

Algebra I is considered the basic language of mathematics that provides the foundation for continued study of mathematics. This course is designed for the student who intends to take calculus in high school. The content of this class is rigorous and aligns with the College Board Pre-AP curriculum in addition to covering the Algebra I Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Because students earn high school credit for this class, there will be a minimal review of 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. 7<sup>th</sup> grade students qualifying for math acceleration may take this course.

**\*THIS COURSE IS WEIGHTED AND OFFERS ADDED GRADE POINTS CALCULATED INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

## 8<sup>th</sup> AA Geometry

GEOMTH08AA

**Credits: 1 High School credit**

This course is not open for student enrollment. Students will be placed into this course based on test performance and completion of accelerated 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> math as well as Algebra I.

**\*THIS COURSE IS WEIGHTED AND OFFERS ADDED GRADE POINTS CALCULATED INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

# SCIENCE COURSES

## 6<sup>th</sup> Science

SCI06

This introductory course emphasizes scientific investigations, problem solving and inquiry. Instruction will be an integrated approach based on physics, chemistry, geology, biology and the nature of science. This includes a study of measurement systems, scientific equipment and methods and the process of research. Other content covered in this course includes the solar system and space travel; properties and changes of matter; rocks, minerals and forces that change the earth; the structure and function of plant and animal cells; and the interactions of matter, energy, forces and motion.

## 6<sup>th</sup> AA Science

SCI06AA

This course also emphasizes scientific investigations, problem solving and inquiry. Instruction will be at a faster pace with more rigorous expectations of analysis and scientific thinking. The content is an integrated approach based on physics, chemistry, geology, biology and the nature of science like the regular 6<sup>th</sup> grade science course. Expectations will include independent reading assignments, individual and group research.

## 6<sup>th</sup> GT AA Science

SCI06GTAA

This course is aligned to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade AA Science course but includes differentiation strategies targeted to students identified as gifted and talented. The content is an integrated approach based on physics, chemistry, geology, biology and the nature of science but will include more challenging assignments and more collaboration activities. Expectations will include independent reading assignments, individual and group research.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an Advanced Academics course

## 7<sup>th</sup> Science

SCI07

7<sup>th</sup> grade Science provides students with high level instruction and hands-on real world connections that are focused on meeting the needs of each individual learner. The instruction and occasional labs are designed to expect and facilitate higher level thinking and application. The course is designed to create an environment that is conducive to individual and group discovery with individual and cooperative learning, integrated technology use, laboratory investigation and projects.

The students explore levels of organization from cells to ecosystems. Seventh grade Science focuses upon connecting 6<sup>th</sup> grade content to 8<sup>th</sup> grade content that will be covered in STAAR.

## 7<sup>th</sup> AA Science

SCI07AA

7<sup>th</sup> grade AA Science builds upon the standard curriculum. The rigor and pace is increased, and there is an expectation of more critical thinking and problem solving. There are more in-depth projects that include student choice and variety. There is more access to labs during the AA classes in order to prepare for more challenging courses through middle school and into high school.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GT AA Science

SCI07GTAA

7<sup>th</sup> grade GT AA Science provides students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigor and depth of instruction for the high school Advanced Placement program. GT courses are differentiated through a combination of hands on learning, greater complexity and higher level cognitive thinking on assignments, open class discussions, and various independent projects that are chosen by the individual student. Students have more control and responsibility for their own learning in the course. Students will explore their learning from the scope and sequence as outlined by the district. 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science is designed to connect their learning from 6<sup>th</sup> grade concepts and build upon that foundation to better prepare them for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade STAAR test.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an Advanced Academics course

## **8<sup>th</sup> Science**

SCI08

8th grade Science provides students with high level instruction and hands-on real world connections that are focused on meeting the needs of each individual learner. The instruction and labs are designed to facilitate higher level thinking and application. The course is designed to create an environment that is conducive to individual and group discovery with individual and cooperative learning, technology, laboratory investigation and projects.

The students explore experimental design, interdependence of living systems, climate interactions, physics, plate tectonics, Earth cycles, light years, Characteristics of the Universe, atoms, the Periodic Table and chemistry. Each lesson is designed to address the TEKS and prepare each student to be successful on the STAAR.

## **8<sup>th</sup> AA Science**

SCI08AA

8<sup>th</sup> grade AA Science builds upon the standard curriculum. The rigor and pace of this course is higher. Students should have a strong work ethic and enjoy science related content and problem solving. There are more in-depth projects that include student choice and variety. There is more access to labs during the AA classes in order to prepare students for AP courses in high school.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GT AA Science**

SCI08GTAA

8th grade GT AA Science provides capable students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigor and depth of the advanced placement program in high school. In addition to the scope and sequence outlined by the district, Gifted and Talented courses are differentiated through a combination of the following: the depth of content presentation, greater student responsibility for his/her learning, slightly faster pacing, and greater complexity of thought development of higher-level cognitive understanding, as demonstrated through discussions and various projects.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an Advanced Academics course

# SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

## 6<sup>th</sup> World Cultures

SS06

Sixth Grade World Cultures is the study of people, places and societies of the contemporary world from each continent. This course enables students to explore how geography, culture, economics, and political structures have developed and influenced history in various countries around the world. Students will study the world's cultures through a combination of projects, activities, and discussions. The course will include the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies TEKS, with an emphasis on reading and analyzing primary and secondary sources, including historical documents, first-hand accounts, academic texts, maps, graphs, and charts.

## 6<sup>th</sup> AA World Cultures

SS06AA

This advanced level course includes a more in-depth study of the on-level World Cultures course. Students will be expected to read, think, and write more critically. The advanced curriculum is based on a set of content-specific strategies designed to introduce skills, concepts, and assessment methods that will begin to prepare students for the rigor of high school AP History classes.

## 6<sup>th</sup> GT AA World Cultures

SS06GTAA

This advanced level course follows the pacing and the curriculum of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Honors World Cultures course. It includes the use of differentiation strategies and activities designed to meet the needs of students identified as gifted and talented. Students in this course will be expected to read independently and have strong skills in literary analysis.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an Advanced Academics course

## 7<sup>TH</sup> Texas History

SST07

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students study the history of Texas from ancient times to the present. Students examine Texas history including the cultures of Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration and the eras of mission-building, colonization, revolution, republic and statehood. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students identify regions of Texas and their population distribution and explain the factors that caused Texas to change from an agrarian to an urban society. The students describe the structure and functions of municipal, county, and state governments, explain the influence of the U.S. Constitution on the Texas Constitution, and examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens.

## 7<sup>th</sup> AA Texas History

SST07AA

7<sup>th</sup> grade AA Texas History builds upon the standard curriculum. The rigor and speed is increased. There are more in-depth projects that include student choice and variety.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GT AA Texas History

SST07GTAA

This advanced academics course follows the curriculum used in the 7<sup>th</sup> AA Texas history course. In addition, GT students will be required to participate in at least 2 project-based learning activities that extend the Texas history TEKS.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an Advanced Academics course

## **8<sup>th</sup> US History**

SS08

Students in 8th grade will study the history of the United States from exploration through Reconstruction. Students will examine the political, economic, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early Republic, Jacksonian era, westward expansion, sectionalism, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the geography of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students will analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of the U.S. and will examine American beliefs and principles.

## **8<sup>th</sup> AA US History**

SS08AA

8<sup>th</sup> grade AA US History builds upon the standard curriculum using more advanced curriculum supplemental materials. This course will require good reading skills and academic motivation. The rigor and pace of this course is higher and designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement courses in high school. There are more projects that require collaboration with others. These projects will include student choice and variety.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GT AA US History**

SS08GTAA

Students in 8th grade will study the history of the United States from exploration through Reconstruction. Students will examine the political, economic, and social events and issues related to the colonial era through Reconstruction. Working independently and cooperatively, students learn to “think and act like historians” by comparing, contrasting, and evaluating historical interpretations using primary and secondary sources. They consider the roles played by geography, culture, economics, and technology on the development of the United States. GT students will be required to participate in at least 2 project-based learning activities that extend the Texas history TEKS.

GT students will be provided differentiated instruction in this course to meet their unique learning needs and the required Texas state learning standards.

\*This may be a stand alone course of only GT students or may be a combined course where GT students are clustered with non GT students in an Honors course

# ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ART

### **ART 6**

GRADE: 6<sup>th</sup>

#### ART06

This class is designed to provide the 6<sup>th</sup> grade student with studio experiences that include drawing, painting, creating original artwork, and experimenting with the elements of design. Studies include portraits, contour drawings, abstract design, sketches, collage, etching, clay sculpture, printmaking, watercolor and tempera painting techniques. Art history and appreciation are included in the technical studies of making artwork. Students will have the opportunity to use technology to generate digital prints, photos, and animated films.

### **Art 7**

GRADE: 7<sup>th</sup>

#### ART07

Students will create artwork in a studio setting, working with the elements and principles of design. Enriched studies in op art, pop art, abstract compositions, still life, portrait, and landscape drawing and painting are offered, including technical-skill lessons connected with art history and appreciation. Pen and ink, printmaking, pottery, papier-mache carving, and studies in oil pastels, watercolor, tempera, and acrylic will be included in the performance studies of the artist. Students will have the opportunity to use technology to generate original digital prints, photos, and animated films.

### **Art 8**

GRADE: 8<sup>TH</sup>

#### ART08

This course meets the fine arts requirement for 8th grade students who did not take a fine arts in 6th or 7th grade. Students will create artwork in a studio setting, working with the elements and principles of design. Enriched studies in op art, pop art, abstract compositions, still life, portrait, and landscape drawing and painting are offered, including technical-skill lessons connected with art history and appreciation. Pen and ink, printmaking, pottery, papier-mache carving, and studies in oil pastels, watercolor, tempera, and acrylic will be included in the performance studies of the artist. Students will have the opportunity to use technology to generate original digital prints, photos, and animated films.

## BAND

*Students wishing to participate in band will be placed in one of the following classes based on competitive auditions or interviews with the band directors.*

### **Beginner Band**

GRADE: 6<sup>th</sup>

#### BAND06

This course is designed for any middle school student who has limited to no prior experience with a band instrument. Each student is interviewed by a band director to determine the most suitable instrument for them. Emphasis is placed on developing the proper habits necessary for instrument assembly, tone production, reading music, practice techniques, and successful instrumental performance. Concerts and performance opportunities are emphasized throughout the year. Students are expected to provide their own instrument and supplies. This is a full-year course. Instruments include: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion instruments.

\*This course has equipment and some fee requirements.

### **Mixed Beginner Band**

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>

#### BND920

This course is designed for any middle school student who has limited prior experience with a band instrument, but wants to participate in a UIL performing group. Emphasis is placed on improving skills with the instrument and collaborating with others to create performance level sound. Students are expected to provide their own instrument and supplies. This is a full-year course.

\*This course has equipment and some fee requirements.

Band Courses continued...

## **Symphonic Band**

GRADES: 7TH and 8TH

BND923

This course is for 7th and 8th grade band students who are continuing to develop their performance abilities. This is the second level UIL performing group. The focus of this class is to improve instrumentation up to the competitive level. Emphasis is placed on extending skills developed in the first one to two years of playing, with special attention given to tone production, rhythm and note reading, and technical facility. Students will participate in individual and group performances throughout the year. This is a full-year course. As a competition group, each student must meet and maintain strict grade standards (70% or higher) in every class in order to participate. Students will also participate in individual and group performances throughout the year.

\*This course has equipment and some fee requirements.

## **Honors Band**

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>

BND924

This performance-based group is composed of the most advanced 7th and 8th graders. Emphasis is placed on music performance throughout the year. Fundamental and ensemble skills will be enhanced through the performance of advanced music literature. Students will learn to think critically and make real time decisions while using the knowledge and skills they have already developed in previous years' learning. Individual students will have many opportunities for competition with other area schools. As a competition group, each student must meet and maintain strict grade standards (70% or higher) in every class in order to participate. Honors Band performs at two football games and Piner pep rallies. All students will participate in individual and group performances throughout the year. This is a full-year course.

\*This course has equipment and some fee requirements.

# ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ORCHESTRA

*Students wishing to participate in orchestra will be placed in one of the following classes based on competitive auditions or interviews with the orchestra director.*

### **Beginner Orchestra**

GRADE: 6<sup>TH</sup>  
ORCH06

This is the entry level course for middle school orchestra. It is a performance-based class that focuses on the fundamentals of string playing and music. Students will develop technique, tone, left-hand and right-hand skills and entry level music theory including: note reading, rhythm reading, key signatures, and musical terms. This course is taught using a heterogeneous setting (including all instruments). Each student must meet and maintain strict grade standards (70% or higher) in every class in order to participate in certain events/performances.

\*This course has equipment and some fee requirements.

### **Sinfonia Orchestra**

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>  
ORC950

This is a performance based course for 7th and 8th grade students that are beginners or have a basic understanding of how their instrument works. This course will focus on refining and building skills such as tone production, note reading, recognition of key signatures, rhythms, left hand and right hand techniques, and performing as an ensemble. A small number of performances are required each year, with an opportunity for voluntary performances in the community. Each student must meet and maintain strict grade standards (70% or higher) in every class in order to participate in certain events/performances. All rehearsals and performances are MANDATORY. Students who advance in this course may have the opportunity to audition into the higher level orchestras at semester, at the director's discretion.

\*This course has equipment and some fee requirements.

### **String Orchestra**

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>  
ORC951

This is a performance based course for 7th and 8th graders who have an intermediate level of skills on the string instrument. This course focuses on building and refining skills with more advanced study in note reading, shifting to different positions, and recognizing key signatures. Students will learn and perform more advanced rhythms, tone production, intonation, balance, blending, and improve listening throughout the ensemble. This group will compete as a Non-Varsity UIL group. Each student must meet and maintain strict grade standards (70% or higher) in every class in order to participate in certain events/performances. All rehearsals and performances are MANDATORY. Students who advance in this course may have the opportunity to audition into Chamber Orchestra at semester, at the director's discretion.

\*This course has equipment and some fee requirements.

### **Chamber Orchestra**

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>  
ORC952

This is a performance based course for the most advanced and motivated 7th and 8th graders. This course focuses on refining skills and includes a RIGOROUS study of note reading, shifting to different positions, playing in and recognizing major/minor key signatures, learning and performing more advanced rhythms, tone production, intonation, bow distribution, vibrato, balance, and listening throughout the ensemble. This group will perform as a Varsity UIL Group. This group will have several performances that are focused on the course content. Additionally there will be community entertainment performances throughout the year. Each student must meet and maintain strict grade standards (70% or higher) in every class in order to participate in certain events/performances. All rehearsals and performances are MANDATORY.

\*This course has equipment and some fee requirements.

# ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## CHOIR

*Students wishing to participate in 7th or 8th grade choir will be placed in one of the following classes based on competitive auditions or interviews with the choir director.*

### **6th Beginner Choir**

GRADE: 6<sup>TH</sup>  
CHOIR06

This is an introductory course for students who are interested in singing and have not had any prior formal instruction in music. Students will learn the fundamentals of healthy singing and be introduced to sight-singing on solfege. Students will learn proper breath support and control. Students will have opportunities to sing together as well as explore solo singing. Students will participate in performance concerts.

### **7th & 8th Grade Non-Varsity Mixed Choir**

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>  
CHO933

7th and 8th grade boys and girls who have had 6th grade choir would be in this choir. Students will learn to sight read music and perform music literature representative of diverse cultures and historical periods. They will learn the basics of music theory and proper tone production. Students will focus on rhythm, pitch, musical dynamics, tempo, and articulation. Students will relate music to history, society, and cultures. Students will participate in performance concerts and have opportunities to compete in musical contests.

### **7th & 8th Grade Varsity Mixed Choir**

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>  
CHO934

7th and 8th grade boys and girls who have had more choir singing experience, and experience with sight-singing on solfege would be in this choir. Students will continue to sight read music and perform various pieces to develop depth in their vocal skills in addition to provide entertainment. Students will focus on the continuous improvement of rhythm, pitch, musical dynamics, tempo, and articulation. Students will participate in performance concerts and have opportunities to compete in All-Region, UIL, and other choir contests.

### **7th & 8th Grade Varsity Treble Concert Choir**

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>  
CHO935

This course is designed for the serious student of choral music. Students in this course are advanced students who can sing using vocal fundamentals and produce a musical tone, matching pitch, and singing on part. Students will progress in the development of personal vocal abilities and continue sight reading and rehearsing music literature in unison, two parts and three-part harmony. Students will perform in both concerts and musical contests including All-Region, UIL, and others. .

### **Musical Theater Class**

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>  
MUSTH935

Musical Theater will give students the opportunity to learn about music theory, projecting the voice, healthy vocal techniques, improvisation, dance, performance techniques, and movement. Students will read through and work on a variety of musical skits, including singing solos. Students will participate in musical performances throughout the year, including blocking and technical backstage work.

# ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## THEATRE ARTS

### Theatre Arts

GRADES: 6<sup>TH</sup> AND 7<sup>TH</sup>  
THEATER06 - 6th Grade  
THE960 - 7th Grade

This class will include exploratory dramatics, character development, stage movement, play selection and analysis, play production, and how to make auditions easy and less stressful. By the time the students complete this class, they will be comfortable in the play process from audition through curtain call.

### Theatre Arts

GRADE: 8<sup>TH</sup>  
THE961

This class will concentrate on stage make-up, characterization, play production, pantomime, TV/motion picture production, and acting for the stage and movie camera. By the time the students complete this class, they will have a good working knowledge of many aspects of movie and stage production.

## YEARBOOK

### Yearbook

GRADE: 8<sup>TH</sup>  
YRB981

**PREREQUISITE: Application & Teacher Approval**

This class involves an application, essay, and photo to be submitted for consideration into the class. Those who have met the application process are then interviewed for final consideration onto the Yearbook staff. Students experience an introductory journalism class while producing the Piner Yearbook. Students use advanced technology skills in digital photography, graphic design and desktop publishing. This class requires after school events, exemplary behavior, and a personal camera is helpful but not required. These students are prepared to join the SHS Yearbook staff upon completion.

# ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### **Current Events & Leadership**

GRADE: 8<sup>TH</sup>  
LEA501

The first semester of this class will be current events where students will analyze political, social and economic events which affect us today. The goal is to relate these events back to information which the students will be learning throughout this year. Second semester will be the Leadership portion of the class which will include showing the students effective types of leadership in the classroom, the school campus, the school district, and community levels. Students will analyze the different levels of leadership, while understanding the importance of being leaders within their school and community.

### **Family & Consumer Science**

GRADE: 7<sup>TH</sup>  
CAR945

Family and Consumer Science prepares students to begin their journey toward becoming independent, productive citizens. This course is designed to be comprehensive, holistic, and multidisciplinary across FCS areas of study, and to be compatible with local school-wide approaches. This course provides learning experiences in career planning and investigation, financial literacy, nutrition and wellness, human development and relationships as well as life skills and resource management. The FCS co-curricular organization is Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. Students will have the opportunity to be involved in this organization inside and outside of class.

# ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

### Technology Applications

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>

TEC984

This is a comprehensive course that offers a range of activities designed for the beginner student through the more advanced. Students learn to use Microsoft and Google tools such as OneDrive, GDrive, documents, slides, spreadsheets; as well as focusing on keyboarding for use in cross-curricular projects. More advanced students will be introduced to desktop publishing, digital photography, video technology, graphic design, animation, coding and web mastering skills. All students are also introduced to digital citizenship and etiquette, and proper Internet researching skills.

### Introduction to Media

GRADE: 8<sup>TH</sup>

ITM980

**CREDIT: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE: Application & Teacher Approval**

**This course serves as a beginning level high school credit course (Principles of Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications)**

In addition to developing technical knowledge and skills needed for success, students will be expected to develop an understanding of the industry with a focus on pre-production, production, and post-production audio and video products. In this course, students will broadcast the morning announcements, produce videos, and create the school newsletter and other print and digital media for the campus. Students learn basic journalism skills as well as intermediate technology skills.

# ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY (CTE)

### COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> OR 8<sup>TH</sup>

CTE230

The career development process is unique to every person and evolves throughout one's life. Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths.

### PRINCIPLES OF HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

GRADE: 8<sup>TH</sup>

CTE120

**CREDIT: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

Principles of Hospitality and Tourism introduces students to an industry that encompasses lodging, travel and tourism, recreation, amusements, attractions, and food/beverage operations. Students learn knowledge and skills focusing on communication, time management, and customer service that meet industry standards. Students will explore the history of the hospitality and tourism industry and examine characteristics needed for success in that industry.

### ROBOTICS & STEM

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> OR 8<sup>TH</sup>

CTE300 - 7th

CTE320 - 8th

The STEM program includes three core subjects (science, reading/language arts, history), technology education, and computer science with a high level of emphasis on science throughout the program's curriculum. This program also consists of competitions in a variety of fields of coding and robotics. These students will be prepared to begin a technology foundation at the high school level.

### PRINCIPLES OF ARTS, AUDIO/VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, & COMMUNICATIONS

GRADE 8<sup>TH</sup>

CTE100

**CREDIT: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

This is an advanced, fast paced course designed for the middle school student who is academically prepared for high school level course work in digital photography, graphic design, video technology, and animation with an emphasis on skills needed for college and/or career opportunities. This course is a prerequisite for many classes in the Business & Industry Endorsement at Sherman High.

# ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES (LOTE)

(Languages Other Than English)

### AA SPANISH I

GRADE: 8<sup>TH</sup>

SPA970AA

**CREDIT: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

Students in Spanish 1 will be able to express meaning in simple contexts and understand sentence-length information. Students may be generally understood by people accustomed to dealing with language learners. Students will acquire and discover the Spanish language through speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities. This course will lay the framework for continuing in the Spanish language and will introduce students to the Spanish language cultures. The majority of this course is conducted in the target language.

\*THIS COURSE IS WEIGHTED AND OFFERS ADDED GRADE POINTS CALCULATED INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE

### AA SPANISH 1 AND 2 FOR NATIVE SPANISH SPEAKERS

GRADE: 8<sup>TH</sup>

SPA971AA & SPA972AA

**CREDIT: 2 HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS**

**PREREQUISITE: Native Speaker recommended**

This course is designed to help Hispanic students capitalize on the verbal skills they already possess. The student objectives will be to improve their reading and writing skills in Spanish, while refining existing listening and speaking skills. This course incorporates the study of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture to assist students in the understanding and appreciation of Hispanic culture. The main objective is to enrich the student's total language experience by building on the language proficiency they already possess. Their skills are enhanced in accordance with the level of language proficiency of the student. The focus is on increasing students' ability to use Spanish flexibly for both formal and informal situations and on developing their literacy skills. Students should possess Intermediate low proficiency at the beginning of the course and progress through Intermediate mid by the end of the course

\*THIS COURSE IS WEIGHTED AND OFFERS ADDED GRADE POINTS CALCULATED INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## PE - 6

GRADE: 6<sup>TH</sup>

### PE06

This is the middle school introductory course for secondary physical education. Students will have units in team sports, individual skill development, aerobic activities, personal wellness, and nutrition. Each student identified by the Texas Education Agency will participate in an annual physical fitness assessment. The Fitnessgram assessment instrument will contain criterion-referenced standards specific to a student's age and gender based on the physical fitness level required for good health. Good health components will include an aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility assessment.

## PE - 6 PRE-ATHLETICS

GRADE: 6<sup>TH</sup>

### PE06PA

This course is designed for students who want to improve their sport specific skills and plan on trying out for a competition sport in grades 7. This includes football, volleyball, basketball, and track. Students learn the fundamentals of a wide range of sports as well as strength and conditioning. Students will be required to dress out daily and participate in all activities. Each student identified by the Texas Education Agency will participate in an annual physical fitness assessment. The Fitnessgram assessment instrument will contain criterion-referenced standards specific to a student's age and gender based on the physical fitness level required for good health. Good health components will include an aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility assessment.

## PE - 7

GRADE: 7<sup>TH</sup>

### PE07

Students will learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Students will continue to develop physical movement through activities including lessons from team sports, individual sports, aerobic sports and adventure outdoor sports. Each student identified by the Texas Education Agency will participate in an annual physical fitness assessment (Fitnessgram) which contains criterion-referenced standards specific to a student's age and gender based on the physical fitness level required for good health. Good health components will include an aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility assessment.

## PE - 8

GRADE: 8<sup>TH</sup>

### PE08

Students enrolled in this course will understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Students will continue to acquire the knowledge and skills for movement and the lifelong importance of remaining active. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports, aerobic sports and adventure outdoor sports. Each student identified by the Texas Education Agency will participate in an annual physical fitness assessment (Fitnessgram) which contains components including aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility assessment.

## PE - ATHLETICS

GRADES: 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>

ATH771 - 7th Boys    ATH772 - 7th Girls

ATH871 - 8th Boys    ATH872 - 8th Girls

This course is the UIL competitive sports Physical Education course. Sports include football, volleyball, basketball, and track. Students are placed on teams based on skill, and will practice daily before or after school. **Students are required to have a clear physical exam on file with the campus prior to the first day of practice in order to participate.** To remain eligible for competition, students must meet the UIL requirements for eligibility based on academic performance and attendance.

