

Snow Canyon Middle School

8th Grade Course Catalog

2008-2009

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION

The selection of classes, which fill your graduation requirements and provide a positive and worthwhile experience, requires more than just a casual effort. As you prepare for registration you need to spend some time with your parents, perhaps your counselor, and maybe with some teachers in particular subjects about which you have questions. Once the classes are selected and the registration is completed, the entire school schedule will be built around your choices. **CHANGES IN YOUR SCHEDULE WILL BE DIFFICULT AND WILL BE DISCOURAGED. A \$10.00 fee will be charged for adding or dropping classes initiated by student or parent.**

The following are guidelines and policies, which will affect the selection of classes and the registration process:

1. You must register for a full 8-period day.
2. A unit of credit (1.0) represents a full year of study on a daily basis in any subject successfully completed. A half unit of credit (.5) represents one semester (one-half year) of study on a daily basis in any subject successfully completed.
3. Signatures for classes requiring teacher approval must be obtained **before** submitting your registration form. **YOU WILL NOT BE REGISTERED FOR A "TEACHER APPROVAL" CLASS WITHOUT A SIGNATURE.**
4. **PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR ALTERNATES!!!** It is very important that you select several alternates. When classes get too full alternate classes are used to take the place of your first choice. If you do not pick any alternates the counselors will pick a class for you.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Washington County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its educational programs or activities. Inquiries concerning Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 may be referred to: Mr. Marshall Topham, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Washington County School District, 189 West Tabernacle, St. George, Utah 84770, (435) 673-3553 ext. 210 or to the office For Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 1961 Stout Street, Denver, Colorado, 80294.

Required Courses

Integrated Science 8 (1.0)

In this class students will learn the basics. They will gain a basic understanding of chemistry, ecology, geology, and physics. Students will do hands of projects to capture some of the concepts that will be discussed.

Language Arts 8 (1.0)

8th grade Language Arts is a required course that will emphasize reading, writing, and oral presentation skills. This course will follow the Utah State Core. Language Arts power standards for 6-9 are listed on the district and SCMS web sites for more information.

U.S. History (1.0)

United States History for grade 8 covers events and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction and the western movement, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to: exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation building, Civil War, Reconstruction, and western movement.

Although the emphasis of this course is on the 18th and 19th centuries, additional content may be covered as time permits.

Pre-Algebra (1.0)

***Prerequisite:** Teacher Approval

Pre Algebra is a course that is designed for students that are not ready for the rigorous concepts of an Algebra course. In Pre Algebra there is an emphasis on improving a students basic skills of decimal, fractions, percents and integers. Students will be introduced to solving equations, order of operations, absolute value and statistics. Graphing in the coordinate plane is introduced and so are basic concepts of area and perimeter. Students will also be introduced to the basic definitions and applications of Geometry.

Elementary Algebra (1.0)

***Prerequisite:** Pre-Algebra & Teacher Approval

Elementary Algebra develops a mathematical model for the real number system involving the study of straight lines and numerical relationships. The properties of the real number system are used to solve linear equations and inequalities. Simple operations with polynomials are introduced and the laws of exponents are studied.

Geometry (1.0)

***Prerequisite:** Elementary Algebra & Teacher Approval
The major postulates and theorems of Geometry form the basis of this course, logical structures are investigated. Coordinate geometry is studied.

Intermediate Fitness (.5)

Intermediate Fitness is a required physical education class for 8th graders. Students learn individual physical skills with an emphasis in group sports. Fitness and nutrition are also taught.

Fine Arts

Art Foundations I (.5)

Students will learn the basic skills related to drawing and painting. They will also learn about famous artists and how and why they created their artworks. Drawing assignments include cartooning, portraits, caricatures, still lifes, and fantasy art. A \$10.00 fee is required for supplies.

Chorus I Mixed (Beg./Int.) (1.0)

***Prerequisite:** the desire to sing and perform concerts. Some previous choral experience is recommended.

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through singing in a choral ensemble in two-part harmonies. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, aesthetic awareness, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will strengthen listening skills and their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music performances. One concert performance per quarter will be required.

Chorus II Mixed (Adv.) (1.0)

***Prerequisite:** at least one year of intermediate/middle school choir and the desire to sing and perform concerts. Teacher signature required.

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through singing in a choral ensemble in three and four part harmonies. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, aesthetic awareness, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will heighten listening skills and increase their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music performances. Attention will also be given to relating their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. Two concert performances per quarter will be required.

Vocal Essence (Girls Choir) (1.0)

***Prerequisite:** Previous musical training recommended. Audition and teacher signature required.

This course is a specialty choir for girls. The girls will sing in 2 and 3 part harmony, build sight-reading and technical skills, create team spirit and responsible rehearsal habits. Extra commitment, costumes, choreography and performances will be required. This is an **audition-only group** and students will be expected to attend all of the scheduled performances.

Madrigals (1.0)

***Prerequisite:** Previous musical training recommended. Audition and teacher signature required. This course is a specialty choir for an equal number of boys and girls. The students will sing in four part harmony, build sight-reading and technical skills, create team spirit and responsible rehearsal habits, create skills in jazz, blues, spiritual, classical, Broadway, pop and barbershop singing. Extra commitment, costumes, choreography and performances will be required. This is an **audition-only group** and students will be expected to attend all of the schedule performances.

Music Appreciation (.5)

This course is designed for students who have no prior experience with music, do not wish to perform in an ensemble and who seek the opportunity to extend their musical understanding, heighten music listening skills, and increase their ability to respond more fully to music. Experiences will include opportunities to experiment with sounds, learn basic musical techniques, notation and skills, analyze famous compositions representative of most styles, and inquire into music's connections to contemporary life, history, and cultures.

Band II Concert (1.0)

Composed of mostly 8th graders, this course is for students with two years of playing experience on a band instrument. This group learns grade 2 – 2 ½ music, which it performs at two concerts during the school year. It also usually performs in the Dixie College Junior High Band Festival in April. This band also helps to form the SCMS Scorpion Marching Band in the Fall for a number of local parades. A uniform is required (black pants, black shorts, white shoes and band shirt). Students must provide their own instruments and method books. Larger school-owned instruments may be rented for \$65.00/year.

Band II Percussion (1.0)

***Prerequisite:** Teacher Signature
This course is designed to meet the needs of percussionists who have had at least one year of previous percussion experience. Students focus on learning rudiments on the drums, spend time working with the bells or keyboard and also receive instruction on timpani, bass drum, and other auxiliary percussion instruments. Students from this class form the percussion sections for each of the bands and orchestra and perform with them accordingly. The Drum Line is also formed from this class and performs with the SCMS Scorpion Marching Band in the Fall. Students are required to provide their own method books, bell kits with mallets and drumsticks. There is also a \$25 rental fee to help cover the costs of maintaining and replacing school owned percussion instruments. A uniform is required (black pants, shorts, white shoes and band shirt) for those students in the Drum Line.

Band III Symphonic (1.0)

Performing Grade 3 – 3 1/2 music, this band is mostly made up of 9th graders or students with three years of playing experience on their instruments. It performs in two concerts during the school year and competes in the Dixie College Junior High Band Festival in April. This band also helps to form the SCMS Scorpion Marching Band in the Fall for a number of local parades. A uniform is required (black pants, black shorts, white shoes and band shirt). Students must provide their own instruments and method books. Larger school-owned instruments may be rented for \$65.00/year.

Advanced Orchestra (1.0)

Advanced Orchestra will help students develop proficiency in playing string instruments. Emphasis will be placed on playing techniques, orchestral literature, style, performance, creativity and appreciation of music. Advanced Orchestra provides opportunities for advancement and refinement of musical potential, higher level thinking skills, aesthetic judgment, and musical appreciation. Emphasis will be placed on refining ensemble performance skills, recognition of musical styles and historical periods, the study of literature for orchestra, chamber ensemble performance, and creative development. Larger school-owned instruments may be rented for \$75.00/year.

Guitar (Beg.) (.5)

This course provides instruction for basic guitar use, reading music & tablature, chords, accompanying, and finger positioning. An evening performance may be included in the grade. Students must provide their own acoustical guitar, stand and music books by the first week of class. One half hour per day practice is required.

Theater Foundations I (.5)

This course examines dramatic theories and establishes the basics of role playing, pantomiming, oral interpretation and characterization. The course will include many performances, and the students will also develop the abilities to read plays critically and to understand dramatic techniques.

Career & Technology Education

Family and Consumer Science Exploration (Life Skills) (.5)

This course provides students the opportunity to learn essential life skills. It allows them to develop skills in food and nutrition, childcare and safety, interior design, clothing construction and style, consumerism, family relationships, personal responsibility and job related tasks.

Keyboarding Applications (.5)

In this class students will master touch operation on a computer keyboard. Correct fingering by touch and good techniques will receive primary emphasis; speed and accuracy will be given secondary emphasis. The student will use basic word processing functions on a variety of document types. Students will use word processing software to create, format, and edit personal and business documents.

Technology Education 1 (Shop) (.5)

An activity oriented course that gives students an opportunity to explore technology and related occupations. Instructional activities focus on manufacturing technology. Some activities include wood projects, plastic projects, and metal projects. Students will design several projects that they build including designing their own House plan.

Healthy Lifestyles

Dance 1 (.5)

In this beginning dance class, the emphasis will be on the fundamentals of dance. The main units of study will be jazz, modern and creative dance along with performance skills and choreography.

Weight Training (girls & boys) (.5)

This class is designed for students with little or no experience in resistance training. In this class students will learn where different muscles are in their body and what exercises/lifts they can perform to strengthen each individual muscle. The importance of proper technique will be heavily stressed in this class to ensure safety and optimal results in each workout. As in all of our PE courses at SCMS our greatest desire is that the students in this class will develop skills that will assist them in their pursuit of life-long fitness.

Electives

Creative Writing (.5)

This class will change your perspective, challenge your imagination, open up the world of fiction, and pull on your power to problem solve. You will be writing stories, poetry, and looking at the "what ifs" of life. If you like to write, with the freedom to also create, this is the class for you.

Newspaper / Journalism (1.0)

Introduction to Journalism is for students interested in exploring the exciting field of journalism including newspaper publication and photojournalism. This course emphasizes reporting, interviewing, and journalistic writing skills directly connected with producing the school newspaper. This is a writing intensive class.

Yearbook Publications / Advertising (1.0)

***Prerequisite:** Application from Mr. Hansen must be filled out and teacher signature.

Yearbook Publications is a production class with hands-on application of classroom skills. Students expand their understanding of basic journalistic skills to planning, creating, and distributing the yearbook. Students will be involved in each step of production: planning, design, layout, photography, writing, sales, advertising, and distribution. Students will also explore elements of desktop publishing, multi-media production, photojournalism, and other publishing-related fields. If selected, students will be part of production teams expected to meet regular goals and deadlines. 3.5 cumulative GPA is required.

Speech & Debate (.5)

This course is designed to help students improve listening and note-taking skills, verbal expression, teamwork, discussion and persuasion strategies that will help students succeed in school. It will include internet research and interacting with imaginative and persuasive students.

Secondary Reading Strategies (.5)

Students in this class will work on strategies designed to improve comprehension. They will learn a variety of ways to interpret and understand text.

Chinese 1 (1.0)

No previous knowledge of the Chinese language is necessary. This class will focus on teaching students the fundamentals of reading, writing, and speaking Mandarin Chinese. Specific emphasis will be placed upon Chinese both ancient and modern Chinese culture.

Spanish I (1.0)

No previous knowledge of the Spanish language is necessary. Students will be exposed to a large amount of spoken Spanish, and, through listening, responding with actions, and participating in a variety of activities, they will come to understand and later communicate with the vocabulary they've been exposed to. Listening comprehension and communication are the primary emphasis, but reading and writing skills will also be taught and utilized. Furthermore, an understanding of the culture of Spanish-speaking countries will be emphasized.

German I (1.0)

Students may begin without any previous knowledge of the German Language. The emphasis is on listening, reading, writing, and speaking of words and short phrases. This understanding is accomplished through repetition. Also an understanding of the German culture is emphasized.