

# Instructions for Completing 9th Grade Course Request Card

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**Use the SME 9th Grade Course List for course titles and codes:**

**FULL YEAR COURSES** are listed in **bold** and **must be taken in both semesters**.

For **full-year elective courses** (for ex., world language, orchestra, choir, Wood Design, Intro to Engineering Design etc.), enter the course title and number in **BOTH COLUMNS** (sem. 1 and sem. 2). **All seven lines must be completed, in both semesters.**

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**Course descriptions and prerequisites:**

**Carefully review course specifics in the SMSD Program Planning Guide, which can be found [online](#), as well as the [Curriculum Material](#) prepared by SME staff.**

Some courses listed in the Program Planning Guide are not available at SME, **so choose only courses listed on the [SME Freshman 2022-23 course list](#).**

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**Lines 1-3: ELA 1 (English)  
Biology, and  
World Regional Studies**

**Indicate either honors or regular for each course.** Consult your [Enrollment materials](#) for additional information that will help you decide whether to take honors or regular in each of these courses. You should also visit with your current teachers in each of these subjects, for advice. Students are expected to remain in all honors courses until the end of the first semester.

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**Line 4: Math**

**Enter the freshman math course recommended by your current math teacher** in line 4, including the course code number. Let your counselor know if you want to take a different course than the recommended course. Students are expected to remain in all honors courses until the end of the first semester. Consult the [SME Math Sequence Chart](#) on the Enrollment Resources website for additional information.

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**Line 5: Health and PE,  
or other electives**

**Health & PE are usually taken during freshman year, but are not required in 9th grade and may be taken in summer or a later year.** Students may take **any two PE** classes, and may repeat any PE course, except that the online eSchool Fitness for Life 1 & 2 courses may only be taken one time each. **If you are not going to take PE and/or Health during the day in 9th grade, choose a different elective(s) and write them in line 5.**

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**Lines 6 & 7: Electives**

**Write the full names and course numbers of the elective courses** you are requesting, in order of priority. If you are taking a yearlong class, enter it in both columns (semesters).

**Please note that some classes have prerequisites and fees.** Consult the [SMSD Program Planning Guide](#) for details.

- **Newspaper:** If you are interested in taking it during spring semester, **write it next to a one-semester elective in semester 2 only.** We will change schedules of students who are selected for Newspaper next fall.
- **Band:** Enter **Marching Band (sem 1) & Concert Band (sem 2).** If you are interested in Jazz Band, contact Mr. Toepfer to let him know you're interested in trying out. **Enter Jazz Band in line 7 for FULL YEAR and ALSO write the name of alternate course(s) in same line,** in case you are not selected for Jazz Band.

- **Cheer or Drill Team:** if you are **trying out** for Cheer (1 semester) or Drill Team (yearlong), in the box indicated write your preference of which elective course should be removed from your schedule if you are selected for the team.
- **Online courses may NOT be taken during the school day** If you are interested in Art History, online Health, or online PE (Fitness for Life 1), you must take them during summer or outside the school day

**Alternates** Choose alternates carefully! We schedule core classes first (English, math, science, and social studies), and then make every attempt to schedule students' first choice of electives. However, **if we are unable to schedule one of your electives, we will substitute one of your alternates.**

**Teacher and course sequence requests:** Each class will be assigned randomly by our automated scheduling system. **(We are not able to honor requests to place classes in specific periods or with specific teachers.)**

**Schedule changes:** No changes are permitted after course requests have been submitted. Students will be able to view their courses in Skyward in late July and will have a one-week window to request changes. Changes are not guaranteed and will be made only if space is available in all classes affected by the change within the two weeks prior to the start of school, except for errors or missing courses, so contact

**Summer School:** Please do **NOT** list summer courses on this form. **Enrollment is done separately.** Information will be available **after spring break** on the [SMSD eSchool website](#) (for online courses) and the SMSD [Summer School website](#) (for in-person classes).

### SMSD Graduation Requirements

**English Language Arts** - 4 units

**Math** - 3 units

**Science** - 3 units: Biology, plus a unit of physical science and a science elective

**Social Studies** - 3 units: World Regional Studies, US History, American Government, and ½ unit of Social Studies elective

**Physical Education** - 1 unit (any two PE courses)

**Health & Wellness** (½ unit)

**Fine Arts** - 1 unit

**Financial Literacy** - ½ unit

**World Language** is *not* required for graduation, or for admission to a Kansas Board of Regents university; however, many colleges and universities require or recommend it for admission.

### College Qualified Admissions in Kansas

In order to be directly admitted to these Board of Regents schools, students must meet all graduation requirements plus have these minimum GPA and/or ACT scores:

University	Minimum ACT and/or GPA
Emporia State, Fort Hays State, Pittsburg St., and Wichita State	21+ ACT <b>OR</b> 2.25 GPA
Kansas State University	21+ ACT <b>OR</b> 3.25 GPA
University of Kansas	21+ ACT <b>AND</b> 3.25 GPA <b>-OR-</b> 24+ ACT <b>AND</b> 3.00 GPA

These universities still **recommend** that students complete the Qualified Admissions curricula to be prepared for success in college.