

SUN PRAIRIE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

1970 - 1971

SEVENTH GRADE

Required subjects:

English
Government
Life Science
Mathematics
Art
Music
Physical Education-Health

Elective subjects:

Band
Chorus
French 7
Discovery
Drama Workshop
World Events

EIGHTH GRADE

Required subjects:

Earth Science
English
Mathematics
Western Area Studies
Art
Music
Physical Education-Health

Elective subjects:

Band
Chorus
French 8
Discovery
Drama Workshop
World Events

ACTIVITY PROGRAM

The junior high school offers an extensive activity program. All students are expected to participate in this activity program. Throughout the school year the student will have an opportunity to select a different activity. The activity clubs will meet during the school day. The hour and day of this activity program will be determined when school starts in the fall. A list of the various activities as well as the advisor will be made available to the student once school has started. At this time the student will make his selection of his activity.

The proper selection of subjects by the student with the help of his parents and faculty members is of utmost importance and should be given serious consideration. The junior high curriculum should be utilized as an exploratory period in our complicated yet intensely interesting and challenging world. The student's aptitude and interests interwoven with parent and faculty members recommendations are all of great importance in selecting subjects.

This program of studies will give you a good idea of what is offered at Sun Prairie Junior High School.

If you take advantage of opportunities at Sun Prairie Junior High School you should be able to plan your educational program intelligently and effectively.

We welcome you to Sun Prairie Junior High School.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Ferriter

Dennis J. Ferriter, Principal

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The group will learn by doing as they prepare one-act plays for presentation. They will build the scenery, plan the costumes, and "make-up" the actors. Activities will also include writing plays, viewing plays at other schools, and studying the play as it differs from the movie and the novel.

WORLD EVENTS

World Events is a course designed to aid the student develop an in-depth understanding of the problems and problem areas confronting the world today. The problems to be studied will be human relation, hunger, student protests, and the areas will be the Middle East, India-Pakistan, South East Asia, Africa, and others as they appear. The course will be an elective, one semester class meeting three days a week.

There will be no textbooks issued, but students will make use of newspapers, news magazines, case books, film strips, movies and guest speakers who are knowledgeable with these problems.

INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

One means at the schools disposal for supplying time, equipment, and leadership for physical recreation is an intramural program of sports, games, and other activities.

Our intramural program is based on activities taught in the physical education classes and is scheduled so that every boy and girl has an opportunity to participate.

ATHLETICS

The junior high school has a wide and varied athletic program. Interscholastic sports are in basketball, wrestling, and track. Separate teams or groups are organized for the seventh and eighth grades. Athletic practice and games are held in the afternoon after school.

SPECIAL ELECTIVES

The following three electives are related to the three major academic areas of science, social studies and English.

The courses do not run continuously for the entire school year. Each semester a new group of students will be enrolled for that semester. The maximum number of students for each elective is 25 per semester. These electives are open to both seventh and eighth graders.

The overall purpose and intent of these three electives is to allow the student to study in depth a subject which has a particular interest to him or her. The guide lines and requirements for the course will be determined in the fall semester.

DISCOVERY

Discovery is for those scientifically curious students who want to study matter at a deeper level than is possible in the regular science class. And better yet, you will be able to choose what you want to study. You will learn scientific attitudes, methods and skills to help you solve your self-chosen problems. Also, you will learn to interpret your findings reliably and validly. And, of course, you will want to learn to communicate your results with other scientists as well as the general public.

DRAMA WORKSHOP

The dramatics workshop is for those students who are interested not only in acting, but who also are interested in what happens backstage, what happens at the rehearsals, and what happens in the minds of directors and playwrights before a play can be shown to an audience.

ENGLISH

In the study of English, students spend their time reading, writing, and speaking.

Our reading material includes short stories, lyric poems, some narrative poems, one or more novels, and some plays. Students work to increase their reading comprehension and speed and to develop a more mature judgment in the selection of their reading.

Speaking may involve reading or reciting poetry, planning and giving speeches on a variety of topics, or taking part in panel discussions and plays.

The eighth grade students are encouraged to raise their standards to a level nearer that of a high school freshman since they are now in the final stages of transition.

GOVERNMENT

Government in the seventh grade is a study of the structure and operations of our democratic system from the most familiar level, the school, to its largest form, the national government. The student will be guided in the development of both the concepts basic to the structure and operation of all democratic governments, and the development of learning skills which will prepare him for further education.

WESTERN CULTURE AREA STUDIES

Western cultures will consist of the study of western man from his ancient beginnings in Africa to his modern development today. Ancient and medieval history, modern Western Europe, area studies of Latin America and Canada are the major subject matter areas to be developed.

Central to this curriculum are two important objectives. First, the development of the social studies concepts necessary to understand and evaluate both their own and all other cultures. Second, the development of the learning skills necessary for the students further education on the high school level.

MATHEMATICS

Junior high math is offered with the needs of every pupil in mind. For all pupils the basic modern style is offered. Mathematics is concerned with numbers, with ways of representing them, and with ways of operating upon them. Mathematics uses different kinds of numbers. Our system for using numbers is a decimal system where each number has both digital and positional value. The ways of thinking with numbers reflect the law of the operations we perform.

The major reasons for studying mathematics include

1. To guide pupils in discovering the meaning, order, and logic of our decimal number system.
2. To build a clear understanding of the operations.
3. To develop problem solving ability.
4. To develop skills for effective mental and written computation.
5. To encourage growth of desirable attitudes and work habits in mathematics.

SCIENCE

Two years of science are required in the junior high school. This study of science will be of great value to each student in that one of the objectives of science is to help each participant understand the world in which he lives. Equally important, science teaches each student a method of solving problems.

The seventh grade chorus program develops their ability to sing voice parts independently. The eighth grade chorus program furthers this self-expression by studying varied forms and arrangements. The honors choir is primarily a performance group and must meet the requirements of music contests and concerts (exchange and at home). After two years of training these students will be at an advantage to qualify for one of the selected groups in the high school program.

FRENCH

French 7 is offered only to seventh graders. In order to enroll in French 10 in the ninth grade a student must take both French 7 and French 8 in the junior high school.

In French 7 the emphasis is on listening and speaking. There is no textbook used until second semester when reading and writing are introduced. Some of the activities done in class are working with tape recorders, playing French bingo, playing a French concentration game, and singing French songs.

In order to take French 7 students must have a "C" average in sixth grade English and be recommended by their sixth grade teacher.

French 8 is offered to eighth graders who have received at least a "C" average in French 7.

In French 8 equal emphasis is placed on listening, speaking, reading and writing. Some classroom activities include working with tape recorders, singing French songs and learning about the people and customs of different regions in France.

Art is optional for French students.

CONCERT BAND

Membership in the concert band is based on the playing ability of the student. Students who do not play well enough to become a member of the band may take lessons until they are able to join. (Those desiring to play an instrument but not playing one at the present time must make arrangements with the band director to take lessons, but should not elect to take concert band.) A student who elects to take concert band should have at least a year of experience on his instrument.

If a student wishes to become proficient on his instrument, it is imperative that he follow a regular schedule of home practice. Therefore, an absolute minimum of twenty minutes of home practice per day is required of every instrumental student.

It is recommended that all incoming seventh graders who plan to join the concert band take summer music lessons. These lessons are designed to help prepare the students for the concert band.

It should be noted the Concert Band is an elective, and as such may be dropped by the student. However, the dropping of Concert Band may be done only by obtaining permission of the teacher, guidance counselor, and parents, and must be done within the first nine-week grading period. The teacher may recommend the student drop Concert Band at any time during the school year. Band students are not required to take General Music.

CHORUS

Students who are auditioned and selected to sing in the junior high chorus tend to have a specialized interest in this choral program. Many of these chorus members desire to learn more about the specific factors involved in singing, music-reading, and ear-training.

The concepts of science are developed through the use of three important mediums: first-hand experiences such as experiments, observations, and field trips; visual aids such as pictures, diagrams, movies, graphs and charts; and text or other reading material.

The first semester of seventh grade is devoted to studying and developing science skills. The second semester is devoted to the study of life science.

Earth science is studied during the first semester of eighth grade. Matter, energy, and machines are studied during the second semester.

Science requires teamwork and cooperation, and it is the responsibility of each student to do his part.

READING IMPROVEMENT

Although all aspects of language arts are included in the classwork, emphasis is placed on improving the students ability to understand what he reads. While working with individual controlled readers, the tachistoscope, the Craig Reader and the tape recorder students find that not only do they improve their comprehension, but they also improve their reading rates.

The program features small classes allowing for more individual attention. Paperback books, magazines and other materials especially designed to interest students with reading problems are used instead of textbooks.

Class members are usually chosen by standardized test scores and teacher recommendation, but seventh or eighth grade students may request help with reading problems through the guidance office or their English teachers.

ART

Junior high school art stresses experimenting with and the exploring of many materials to prepare the students for senior high school art classes. The junior high program takes into consideration the varying levels of art ability and the different background experiences of the students.

The Art 7 program is planned to acquaint seventh graders with many types of art media. Paper, clay, wire, plaster, paper mache, ink, chalk and tempera paint are some examples.

The eighth graders will work in depth in fewer, more specialized areas of art. Painting, drawing, ceramics, graphics and crafts are some of the areas.

GENERAL MUSIC

General Music attempts to equip each junior high student with the tools to understanding and appreciating music in a changing society. Listening skills, recognition of themes, forms, moods, instrumental and vocal quality are of prime importance. Singing as well as rhythmic and melodic experimentation will help the student in becoming familiar with musical elements and dealing with them on a personal basis.

Exposure to music in historical time periods, foreign cultures, and geographical areas give students opportunity for further individual development. An effort will be made to coordinate music with current social studies units. In addition the allied arts approach, coordinating music with other arts such as literature, poetry, graphic arts, painting, architecture, etc., will give the student greater motivation for study.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - HEALTH

The primary aim of physical education is to promote growth and motor development of the student. It must be remembered that psychological and sociological development are a necessary aim of physical education.

It should also be noted that physical education is not recess, but is directed activity. It is directed toward specific goals involving social behavior, physical efficiency, useful skills, and wholesome recreation.

Some of the activities in physical education are physical fitness tests, soccer, basketball, tumbling, trampoline, volleyball, track and field, softball, discussion in health, etc.

GUIDANCE

Junior high school students may make appointments to talk with the counselor. The counselor helps students to make decisions concerning school and other areas important to the student. Some of the areas students discuss with the counselor are:

1. Selection of courses and extra-curricular activities.
2. Learning better study habits and improving grades.
3. How to make friends and better get along with others.
4. Planning for the future and gaining information about careers.
5. Learning to make the most of your talents while improving your personality.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many guidance services, so as to make their adjustment to school more worthwhile.