

**SIMLE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
COURSE DESCRIPTION - EIGHTH GRADE COURSES**

**REQUIRED COURSES**

**ENGLISH 8.....Full Year - Block**

This course covers grammar, the eight parts of speech and their usage and composition including sentence and paragraph writing. Students will also study drama, the short story, the novel and poetry. Composition activities will also be included with these units. Vocabulary and spelling are an important part of this course.

**UNITED STATES HISTORY..... Full Year - Block**

This course focuses on the growth and development of the United States from the Revolutionary War through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. A special emphasis is placed on the development and details of the US Constitution.

**EARTH SCIENCE 8..... Full Year - Block**

This course covers geology, astronomy and weather. It also explores the many forms of Earth's processes.

**MATH 8.....Full year - Block**

Math 8 is aligned to the State Standards for Mathematics. Students write, solve and graph equations and inequalities. Exponent rules, similarity, radicals, data displays, and the Pythagorean Theorem are also studied. This course is the option for most 8th graders.

**ALGEBRA I..... Full year - Block.**

Algebra I is a branch of mathematics that includes the use of variables to express general rules about numbers, number relationships, and operations. This is the first course in the traditional college preparatory sequence. *Students in this course earn high school credit* and must have successfully completed Math 7 Accelerated.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8.....Semester (Extended over the school year)**

Most units are co-educational. Physical fitness testing occurs each year. The following units are co-educational: soccer, flag football, jogging, physical fitness, frisbee golf, global ball, badminton, bowling, volleyball, archery, and square dancing. Girls and boys may be separated for basketball and wrestling.

**CAREER EDUCATION.....Semester (Extended over the school year)**

Students will explore various career options and learn how to prepare for the job hunt. They will understand more about themselves and their skills through various interest and aptitude inventories, the use of the Career Outlook newspaper, and the Choice Explorer software. Students will be introduced to the high school educational planning process with information about graduation requirements, core credits, elective credits, scholarship opportunities, and the dual credit program. Students will be expected to complete a four-year high school plan. They will explore college admission requirements and what sources of financial aid are available. An introduction to financial planning and budgeting will be included. Students will research potential jobs/careers, complete a job application, write a cover letter, a personal resumé, and be introduced to the interview process. Several guest speakers from the community will be included to provide their expertise.

**NORTH DAKOTA STUDIES.....Semester (Extended over the school year)**

N.D. Studies reviews various aspects of the state of North Dakota beginning with the early history and includes government, economics, people, and special topics.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND COLLABORATION.....Semester (Extended over the school year)**

Students will create unique products by determining the appropriate digital resources, tools, and formats for a specific task. They will use technology tools to communicate and collaborate, to access and evaluate information, and to create and present relevant products. Students will apply ethical behaviors and demonstrate responsible use of technology.

**ELECTIVE COURSES**

**BAND 8.....Full year – 1 Period per Day**

This course offers students the opportunity to further explore the fundamentals of playing their instrument. Emphasis is placed on the full band rehearsal, but there are also sectionals, small ensembles, and individual lessons scheduled regularly within the class period. Students will perform in several concerts, parades, and festivals throughout the year. They may also choose to audition for the Simle Jazz Band, the ND Jr. High All-State Band, and participate in a solo/ensemble festival.

**CHOIR 8.....Full year - 1 Period per Day**

Students learn more advanced concepts of proper singing techniques. They learn basic music theory, singing and music styles, music history and composers from various eras. They are given the opportunity to participate in optional events such as: all city Middle School Music Festival and others. Students will perform in required concerts (two per semester.)

**ORCHESTRA 8.....Full year – 1 Period per Day**

Students will continue discovering more advanced fundamentals of their stringed instrument. Our emphasis is full orchestra rehearsal, but there will also be time for like-instrument sectionals and coaching. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the year and may choose to audition for a state-wide Middle Level Honors Orchestra, and/or participate in the BPS Elementary and Middle School Solo/Ensemble Festival.

*\*The prerequisite to this class is previous string instruction in the previous schools or privately\**

**APPLYING TECHNOLOGY 8.....Semester – 1 Period per Day Lab Fee \$20.00**

This course expands on the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploring Technology course introducing students to Digital Manufacturing, Research and Design, Bridge Engineering, CO2 Dragsters, Pneumatics, 3D-Design, Drone Technology and Coding, and various other hands-on activities.

**ART 8.....Semester – 1 Period per Day Lab Fee for Materials \$18.00**

This course expands from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade standards-based art curriculum with additional opportunities in art theory and creative problem solving. The students will broaden their art experiences and fundamental knowledge through a variety of methods and materials. Throughout the semester students will explore techniques in graphite and charcoal drawing, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture while given artistic expression and choice.

**EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 8.....Semester – 1 Period per Day**

This project-based course is an expansion of Exploring Ag 7. Didn't take that one? No big deal. We will review the foundational material and expand upon our activities in animal production, agricultural mechanics, and natural resources. We will introduce the concepts of business management and finance through a semester-long class project. Our goal is to provide learning experiences involving agricultural activities such as experimenting, identifying, and constructing different labs. FFA and Leadership is an integral component of this class.

**EXPLORING WEIGHT TRAINING 8.....Semester – 1 Period per Day**

Students will begin to learn proper weight training techniques and safety rules. Programs will be provided to teach students how proper weight training can be a beneficial lifetime activity. Some aerobic activities will be included with the lifting programs. This class will also begin to explore basic human anatomy and muscle functions.

**FACES OF AMERICA..... Semester – 1 Period per Day**

Students will become "cultural explorers" by uncovering information about the different cultures and ethnic groups that make up the diverse population of the United States. Focus will be placed on making connections between themselves and people in the community. Students will use historical information and current events to build a sense of unity through the appreciation of the individuals across North Dakota and the United States.

**FACS 8 .....Semester – 1 Period per Day**

**\$15.00 Food Lab Fee plus student purchases 1 ½ yards of fabric**

This course is designed to teach hands-on skills with an emphasis on independent living. Students will learn about measurement and following directions in the sewing and cooking units. Opportunities for collaboration will be provided when students learn about food preparation, nutrition, design, citizenship and financial management. Real life experiences will be provided for the students that can be used from the present to the future.

**SERVANT LEADERSHIP: Making a Difference in our Community .....Semester - 1 Period per Day**

This is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade course that uses Lead 2 Feed Curriculum/Leadership lessons on the website [Lead2feed.org](http://Lead2feed.org). The lessons are connected to the 21 Century Skills, 4 Cs, and support sustained inquiry/PBL projects. Students will impact the community while gaining leadership skills.

**STEM 8 (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH) .....Semester – 1 Period per Day**

This course will empower students to become innovators in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Student will follow the Engineering Design Process to create projects related to energy, robotics, computer science and more. Sample projects will use Lego Robotics, digital science sensors, and online coding platforms. Students will also explore STEM careers.