

SMS Registration Planning Worksheet 2025-2026 School Year

Please use the following guide as you plan for your course registration for the 2025-2026 school year.

STEP ONE

8th Grade Elective Courses

Elective Choices (students must choose four semesters):

- Treble Choir (alto, soprano ranges-primarily girls) (2 semesters)
- Cambiata Choir (tenor, bass ranges-primarily boys) (2 semesters)
- Orchestra, Instrument: _____ (2 semesters)
- Band, Instrument: _____ (2 semesters)
- French 1 (2 semesters, high school level course)
- Spanish 1 (2 semesters, high school level course)
- Art Studio (1 semester)
- Art Studio I and Art Studio II (2 semesters)
- Design and Make (1 semester)
- Design and Make I & Design and Make II (2 semesters)
- Intro to Unified PE (1 semester)
- Lifetime Rec (1 semester)
- AVID (2 semesters, must have completed the AVID application and interview process to register for this course)

Do your elective courses total 4 semesters? Y or N

STEP TWO

Alternate Elective Choices

Alternate Elective Choices (students must choose three alternate courses):

Please write in your first, second, and third choice alternate courses that you would like to take if you are not able to take one of the courses you registered for above. Your alternate course must be different from the courses you selected above.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

I understand that my elective choice is a one year commitment. Elective courses cannot be changed after May 15th, 2025. Please contact your student's school counselor with any questions or concerns.

STEP THREE

Review Your Choices

Please have a meaningful conversation with your family about your elective choices and alternate elective choices. Share with your family why you want to take those electives. Next, please sign below.

Students will be entering their selections into Powerschool during science class on the following dates. Please bring this sheet with you to science class on:

***12/17/24 for Ms. Chaplinski's students**

***12/17/24 for Mr. Traynor's students**

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Student Signature _____

8th Grade Elective Course Descriptions

Courses: Electives 8 - Choose a total of four semesters of electives.

Art Studio - 1 Semester

Eighth Grade Art is a semester-long class for students who wish to explore Visual Arts. The course will focus on Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, Weaving, Cardboard Construction, Clay, Mixed Media, and Graphic Design/Computer Design. Students will demonstrate understanding in each area and then move on to develop independent portfolio work. The focus of the course is to demonstrate the Studio Habits of Mind: Develop Craft, Engage and Persist, Envision, Observe, Reflect, Stretch/ Explore and Understand the Art World. *This course may be taken twice. The second semester will focus on more independent work.* [Art Slide Show](#)

Lifetime Fitness - 1 Semester (Daily)

This course offers a variety of options and fun activities including: lifetime, recreational, team and individual sports. The focus will be on daily active participation. Emphasis will be placed on advanced skills, strategies and team play. Enhanced activities, tournaments and competitions will be included. Potential units are: speedball, team handball, softball, track/field, lacrosse, basketball, touch football and a mixture of other team and individual sports and activities.

Unified PE - 1 Semester (Daily)

This course brings together students with and without disabilities for physical activities and sports, with the goal of enhancing the physical, intellectual, leadership and social growth of all. Unified Physical Education is a fully inclusive program where students are often paired together for the activities of the course.

Design and Make - 1 Semester

Design and make is a project based course that allows students to apply the skills they acquire in design and modeling and automation and robotics to a topic of interest or passion using varied technologies and mediums. Students will learn about 3D modeling/printing, laser printing, vinyl printing, computer science, architecture, and other STEM related topics through the engineering design process. *This class may be taken twice.*

Band - Full year (2 Semesters)

The Stillwater Band Department is an award winning and highly respected program of ensembles ranging from the beginners in our elementary schools through collegiate-level experiences at our senior high school. Students in the 8th Grade Band will **meet daily** and continue to develop the fundamentals of large group band rehearsal and performance, including performance of authentic and challenging literature in a variety of styles and from different cultures. Students will continue to develop instrumental and expressive technique using a variety of approaches including individualized instruction designed to target student strengths and challenges, performance assessment, technology, self and peer analysis, etc. Opportunities for performances outside of school, touring, and the exploration of color instruments and their important roles in the advancing instrumental ensemble are an integral part of the students' experience. Consistent practice is needed to be able to progress at the level of the group. Students will be expected to participate in daytime and evening performances. Students will have the opportunity to travel to the **Heritage Music Festival in Chicago** in the month of April. For more information please visit www.stillwaterbands.com

Choir - Full year (2 Semesters)

Become a member of an award winning choral program when you sing in Stillwater Choirs. Choir students are taught age-appropriate vocal performance and music reading skills while studying music from around the world. 8th grade ensembles are rigorous and demand high effort. Our fundamental goal is to help singers become committed, independent, & confident musicians. 8th grade singers **meet daily** and are given advanced performance opportunities and repertoire. Practice outside of the school day is not required, but highly focused in-class rehearsal is necessary. Attendance at all performances is expected as we offer evening winter and spring concerts, a district-wide fall concert, and in-school festivals. The highlight of the year is an **overnight tour** to rehearse at multiple college campuses and strengthen our understanding of the role of choir in the greater community. For more info, please visit: <https://stillwatersings.wixsite.com/smssings> or bit.ly/smschoirs

Orchestra - Full year (2 Semesters)

Students will continue to expand their abilities within vibrato, shifting, note reading in position, theory (written work) and rhythmic independence. Students will work towards mastery in the development of tone quality, bowing techniques and flexibility, and intonation (pitch awareness and accuracy). Students will be introduced and/or continue to develop skills of musical expression (style and phrasing) through the development of advancing articulations, control of bow speed and bow placement. Students will participate in the MNSOTA middle level orchestra festival. 8th grade orchestral musicians **meet daily** and are given advanced performance opportunities and repertoire. Attendance at all performances is expected as we offer evening winter and spring concerts, a district-wide fall concert, and in-school festivals. The highlight of the year is an **overnight tour** to rehearse at multiple college campuses and strengthen our understanding of music in the greater orchestral community. For more information, reach out directly to Lisa St. Ores, storesl@stillwaterschools.org.

Spanish Level I – Full year (2 Semesters)

¡Bienvenidos! The focus of Spanish Level I is to build the basic foundation for success in subsequent levels. We take a natural approach to language learning. This means that students are asked to listen to and read a lot of Spanish. As students begin to naturally acquire the language they're then invited and encouraged to begin using it in class. By the end of Spanish Level I students will be able to ask and answer simple questions on familiar/personal topics, understand carefully constructed speech that is sympathetic to the needs of non-native speakers, read passages about familiar topics, give personal information, write using learned phrases and memorized expressions, and have a basic understanding of cultures in Spanish-speaking countries.

French I – Full year (2 Semesters)

Bonjour! Students will learn about the French-speaking world and build a strong foundation in the language, focusing on introductory concepts for level 1. Students will learn to introduce themselves, talk about sports, hobbies and activities they like to do, school classes and materials, ordering food in cafes and purchasing items at markets, as well as discussing and describing family and friends and more. Students who start French in 8th grade can have the opportunity to take all 5 levels, earning 10 University of Minnesota credits their senior year through College in the Schools, as well as participate in our French trip that takes place every-other-year for juniors/seniors.

Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) – Full year (2 Semesters)

Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) is a college preparatory program designed to increase the number of students who are eligible for admission to universities and four-year private colleges. Students receive two hours of instruction per week in college entry skills, two hours per week in study groups, and one hour per week in motivational activities and academic survival skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their growth academically.

AVID is for students with academic potential who have average to high test scores, 2.0 - 3.5 GPA, and the desire and determination to be successful. Students must go through an application process and be approved by the AVID site team in order to take the class.