

**SIMLE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
COURSE DESCRIPTION – 8<sup>th</sup> -GRADE 2025-2026**

**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, short stories, novels, and poetry. Composition activities will also be included with these units. Vocabulary and spelling are important parts 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 WWI. 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 meteorology and 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. They also study exponent rules, similarity, radicals, data displays, and the Pythagorean Theorem. This course is an option for most 8th graders.

**ALGEBRA I.....Full-Year - Block**

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

**TRANSITIONAL MATH .....Full-Year - Block**

*Students may be placed in this course after assessment scores are analyzed.*

This class is an alternative to the core math curriculum for students two or more years below grade level. It is designed to meet individual needs and help students become proficient in mathematical concepts, computation, and problem-solving to return to the algebra-level core curriculum.

**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 and 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 review various aspects of the state of North Dakota, beginning with the early history and including government, economics, people, and special topics.

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

Students will improve their communication and social skills by engaging in collaborative discussions and debates. This class also teaches students how to give high-quality presentations. Students will also learn to identify the positives and negatives behind a technology-based society and identify bias and unreliable information. Finally, students will use technological tools to create unique products after determining the appropriate digital resources, tools, and formats for a specific task.

## ELECTIVE COURSES

### **BAND 8.....Full-Year**

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

### **CHOIR 8.....Full-Year**

Students learn more advanced concepts of proper singing techniques. They also learn basic music theory, singing and music styles, music history, and composers from various eras. They can participate in optional events like the All-City Middle School Music Festival. Students will perform in required concerts (two per semester).

### **ORCHESTRA 8.....Full-Year**

Students will continue discovering more advanced fundamentals of their stringed instrument. We emphasize full orchestra rehearsal, but there will also be time for like-instrument sectionals and coaching. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the year. They 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 - 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 other hands-on activities.

### **ART 8.....Semester - Lab Fee: \$18.00**

This course expands on 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 various methods and materials. Throughout the semester, they will explore graphite pencils, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, and photography techniques while being given artistic expression and choice.

### **EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 8.....Semester**

This course is an introductory exploration of the agricultural industry. Learning experiences involving agricultural activities include experimenting, designing, constructing, evaluating, and using creativity, problem-solving, discussion, and teamwork to apply topics to the world around you. Our primary focus will be agricultural literacy, but we will cover topics such as the History of ND Agriculture, Top ND Agricultural Commodities, Natural Resources in ND, Wildlife (habitats, diets, tracks, etc.), and Agriculture in the Media. FFA and Leadership development are integral parts of this course.

### **EXPLORING WEIGHT TRAINING 8.....Semester**

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**

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. They will focus on making connections between themselves and people in the community. Students will use historical information and current events to build a sense of unity by appreciating the individuals across North Dakota and the United States.

### **FACS 8.....Semester – Lab fee: \$15.00 plus student purchases 1 ½ yards of fabric**

This course is designed to teach hands-on skills emphasizing independent living. In the sewing and cooking units, students will learn about measurement and following directions. 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 in the present and future.

### **SERVANT LEADERSHIP: Making a Difference in our Community.....Semester**

This is an 8<sup>th</sup>-grade course that uses "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens" book to enable the student to develop the habits needed in a leader. Then, the student will follow the Lead 4 Change Curriculum/Leadership lessons on the website Lead4Change.org. The lessons are connected to the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Skills, 4 Cs, and support sustained inquiry/PBL projects. Students will impact the community while gaining leadership skills.

### **STEM 8 .....Semester**

This course will empower students to become Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math innovators. Students 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.