

SIMLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTION – 7th-GRADE 2025-2026

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH 7.....Full Year - Block

Students will study various forms of literature, develop writing skills, and continue to improve upon language conventions. This year-long course, which includes grammar, composition, literature, and language, will challenge them to work independently and collaboratively. Skills will include grade-level reading, writing, communicating, and researching.

GLOBAL STUDIES 7.....Full Year - Block

7th Grade Global Studies is a course that examines the physical and human geography of the 7 continents through the 5 Themes of Geography. Emphasis is placed on understanding other cultures and the relationships between people and places.

LIFE SCIENCE 7.....Full Year - Block

This course covers the scientific method, some tools used in studying science, and laboratory methods. Subjects studied vary from sub-microscopic particles to the biosphere. All four kingdoms (Monera, Protist, Plant, and Animal) are examined. Emphasis is placed on learning the most complex animal - the human.

MATH 7.....Full Year - Block

The choice for most 7th-grade students, Math 7, is aligned to the State Standards for Mathematics. Students extend their understanding of fractions and decimals to solve problems involving all rational numbers, including those with negative signs. Proportions, percent, multi-step equations, surface area, and volume are also studied.

MATH 7 ACCELERATED.....Full Year – Block

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

In this course, students learn at an accelerated pace to study a combination of 7th-grade and 8th-grade standards in preparation for Algebra I as 8th-grade students. In addition to the 7th-grade topics, students study linear functions, exponent rules, similarity, radicals, and the Pythagorean Theorem.

TRANSITIONAL MATHFull Year

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 7.....- Semester (Extended over the school year)

This course introduces lifetime sports and activities. It promotes and encourages a healthy lifestyle by participating in soccer, flag football, jogging, physical fitness, frisbee golf, recreation sports, badminton, circuit training, basketball, volleyball, softball, aerobics, team handball, and floor hockey. Physical fitness testing occurs each year.

HEALTH 7.....Semester (Extended over the school year)

This course is designed to influence individuals' behavior and develop the health skills needed to maintain or enhance personal health and the health of others. Topics covered include mental/emotional and physical health, stress, nutrition, human sexuality, and substance use/abuse.

ART 7.....Semester - Lab Fee \$14.00

This course exposes students to the visual arts through various art mediums and techniques. The coursework is derived from the North Dakota Visual Arts Standards, the Elements of Art, and the Principles of Design. This course is still greatly focused on beginning skills across different mediums while giving students the chance to make choices and explore their own interests within their artwork.

COMMUNICATIONS 7.....Semester

Speaking and listening while integrating media to emphasize key points are the focal points of this course. The first quarter students will be immersed in skills that prepare them to compose a formal speech using facts, details, and descriptions. Students will continuously work on logical sequencing of information using appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciations. The second quarter students will use group communication skills to market a product using creative ad writing in magazines and billboards and writing and recording commercials. These second-quarter projects will culminate in a group presentation to a panel of judges. Throughout the semester, students will use communication skills to clarify claims and identify reasons for speaking.

ELECTIVE COURSES

BAND 7.....Full Year

7th grade band allows students to explore the fundamentals of playing their instrument further. 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 yearly. 7th-grade band students 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 7.....Full Year

This course teaches the basic concepts of proper vocal techniques. They are also introduced to many styles of music history and music theory. Music reading, vocalizing, and harmonizing are stressed.

ORCHESTRA 7.....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 prior string instruction in previous schools or privately

21st CENTURY LEARNING 7.....Semester

This course's activities are designed to improve students' communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and foundational study skills. It is a semester-long course offered as an elective to 6th and 7th graders.

CULTURAL ART 7.....Semester – Lab Fee: \$10.00

This course is project-based learning of the arts and crafts of various cultures. Students will dive into culture by exploring various groups' ways of life, symbols, language, norms, values, and artifacts. Student work focuses on exploring each culture and learning how the arts are uniquely stylized. Throughout the semester, students will create Japanese relief prints, Polynesian clay tiki sculptures, Aboriginal boomerangs, Native American ledger art, and more.

FACS 7..... Semester -Lab Fee: \$15.00 plus student purchases 1 yard of fabric

This elective course exposes students to a broad base of daily living skills. Students will explore child development, babysitting skills, community service, and cooking skills with an emphasis on safety. They will learn basic hand and machine sewing skills and construct simple sewing projects.

EXPLORING WORLD CULTURES 7.....Semester

This is a semester course for 6th and 7th graders that explores cultures around the world through project-based learning and authentic learning experiences.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY 7.....Semester - Lab Fee: \$20.00

This course will expand on the 6th Grade Intro to Technology Course, introducing the students to Structural Engineering, Rocketry and Space, Woodworking, Problem Solving, 3D Design, Paper Roller Coasters, and various other hands-on activities.

LIFETIME FITNESS AND RECREATION.....Semester

This class offers exposure to choices for recreational and leisure life activities. The course will identify how to maintain life-long fitness through physical activity. Students will participate in various indoor and outdoor recreational activities, team sports, and lifetime sports.

STEM 7.....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.

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 7.....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.