



8th Grade Required Courses:

All students in eighth grade are required to take one course in the following areas:

- English Language Arts 8
- Math 8
- Science 8
- Social Studies 8 (American History)

8th Grade Electives:

- Acting All-Stars
- Art Exploration
- Art Creation
- Astronomy I
- Astronomy II*
- Career Explorations
- From Story to Screen
- Global Traditions
- Health
- Intro to Spanish
- Music Exploration
- Physical Education (PE)
- Robotics
- Theatrics
- World Cultures
- Zoology
- Band**
- Choir**
- Strings**
- ELA Extension 8****
- Math Lab 8****
- Typing***
- Videography***

* See pages 2-6 for classes with prerequisites.

** Students may take Band, Choir, Strings, or any combination of these courses.
Each of these is a yearly course.

*** Students may be placed in these classes based on teacher recommendations.

Schedule Changes

Courses chosen during the scheduling process and turned in on the student's signed schedule card are considered final. We cannot permit schedule changes on the basis that a course turns out to be too difficult, too easy, or not what the student expected. Teachers, guidance counselors, students, parents, or administrators may initiate schedule changes; however, all schedule changes must be approved by the principal. Since any schedule change is liable to disrupt a number of classes or have other hidden implications, requests for changes are considered very carefully and are not guaranteed.

Reasons for which schedule changes might be approved include:

- To improve class load balance.
- To make a change deemed necessary by a principal and/or teacher.

Schedule changes will not be approved for these reasons:

- The student does not like the teacher.
- The student wants to be with certain friends.

Dear students and parents,

This course of study is designed to help guide you through your time at Shawnee Middle School. It includes descriptions of both classes that are required and those that are elective. We are proud to offer a wide range of elective courses beyond what most schools can provide. Our mission is to prepare you for high school and the requirements that come at the secondary level. Our guidance department, teachers, and administrators are ready to assist you as you transition from elementary to middle school and then middle to high school.

Sincerely,

Devin Spitzer
Shawnee Middle School Principal

Course Fees

In addition to general school fees, some middle school courses have fees associated with them to cover the expense of consumable materials used by students. These fees are applied to student accounts in October. Student fees are due by the end of the current school year.

Shawnee Middle School Athletic Eligibility

The Bylaws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) require that for a student to be eligible to participate in interscholastic competitions, he or she must be passing five or more courses and have a minimum grade point average of 1.50.

Shawnee Middle School

Course Descriptions

ART

Art Exploration .25 Elective Unit (*Lab Fee \$5.00*) **9 WEEK COURSE**

Level One course is designed for students at any level of interest or experience. Students will also be exposed to the fundamental elements and principles of art through various 2-D and 3-D methods of product making, while finding ways to explore and connect various forms of learning. Individual ideas and channels of creativity will be encouraged and further explored.

Art Creation .25 Elective Unit (*Lab Fee \$5.00*) **9 WEEK COURSE**

In this course students will build on the sequential learning from the Art Exploration Level One. Opportunities for personal expression, product making, art history, critique, design, and aesthetics through a variety of materials and subject matter will be expanded. Students will build on ideas and skills in preparation for high school art courses, as well as the lifelong application and appreciation of the arts. This class also fosters creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration, which are noted as the important skills in college level courses, as well as for new employees in the 21st century work force.

BRAVETIME

Brave Time (BT)

Students will have “Brave Time” each day. Brave Time is a structured, active community learning time. Students will be assigned to a classroom and teacher. Students may request help from other teachers during this time. Activities may include but are not limited to the following: peer tutoring, receiving teacher support, silent reading, small group counseling, study groups, re-teaching sessions, make-up assignments, and challenge opportunities. Brave Time will also be used for school-wide assemblies, college and career activities, student surveys, PBIS Rewards, or any other activity deemed important.

CAREER EXPLORATIONS

Career Exploration .25 Elective Unit **9 WEEK COURSE**

This course will explore careers based on student interests. Learn about the education and skills necessary for various careers, as well as the pay, job outlook, work environment, and more.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

English Language Arts (ELA) 8

1 Required Unit

FULL YEAR COURSE

8th Grade English Language Arts involves both reading and language components as outlined in the Ohio State Standards. Students will develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills with a variety of projects and writings involving both literary and informational texts. An emphasis is placed on reading challenging texts, applying critical thinking skills, building vocabulary, understanding grammatical concepts, developing ideas through writing, and citing textual evidence.

ELA Extension

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

Prerequisite: Students may be placed in this class based on teacher recommendations. ELA Extension is designed to support students so they can meet the challenging literacy requirements of the 21st Century. This will be a reading class taken by students needing supplementary assistance with reading and will help students strengthen basic skills, as well as review content of the ELA course objectives. Students may be enrolled in the class for more than one quarter of the school year.

From Story to Screen

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

Explores the dynamic relationship between short literary narratives and their cinematic interpretations. This course delves into the art of adaptation, examining how filmmakers translate the essence of short stories onto the screen. Students will analyze a diverse range of film adaptations, including select episodes of *The Twilight Zone*, developing critical thinking skills and learning to decipher the visual language of cinema. Through comparative analysis and exploration of cinematic techniques, students will discover how film expands upon, reinterprets, and transforms the power of the written word.

ENGINEERING

Robotics

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

This student driven course engages young teens in science, technology, engineering, and art/design topics. The core activities of Robotics are a set of challenges. Each challenge uses a leveling up model and is carefully designed to engage teens in different STEAM topics and skills sets. Challenges are construction based and student driven.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Intro to Spanish

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

This course is designed for middle school students to explore the language and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Students are provided opportunities to communicate in Spanish with their peers and teacher. Students will be introduced to basic concepts of the Spanish language with a focus on commonly used vocabulary.

HEALTH

Health

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

To meet the aims of Health Education classes, we plan: To teach personal health attitudes and habits; To teach correct mental outlook toward everyday problems; To teach units on drugs, nutrition, first aid and reproduction.

MATH

Math 8

1 Required Unit

FULL YEAR COURSE

In Grade 8 Mathematics instructional time will focus on the number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics/probability, as stated in the 8th grade math standards by the Ohio Department of Education. In the number system students will identify rational versus irrational and be able to approximate values. With equations and expressions students will be able to solve linear equations and understand their connections with graphs/tables, be able to work with radicals and integer exponents, and be able to analyze and solve simultaneous linear equations. For functions students will be able to define, evaluate, and compare functions (including linear and exponential). In geometry students will be able to understand/apply congruence and similarity, and apply pythagorean theorem, and calculate volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres. In the study of statistics and probability students will investigate/calculate patterns of association in bivariate data using scatterplots and 2-way tables. This course will use Connected Mathematics Project 4 (CMP4).

Math Lab**.25 Elective Unit****9 WEEK COURSE**

Prerequisite: Students may be placed in this class based on teacher recommendations. Math Lab has been designed to support students who have shown the need for more help to succeed with math. Students will receive support with current content being taught in math class, and there will be an emphasis placed on developing and improving math skills. This class may be required for some students based on past or current math class performance. Students may be enrolled in the class for more than one quarter of the school year.

MUSIC

Students can participate in band, choir, and orchestra. Students enrolled in both band and choir will alternate days between the two courses.

Band**1 Elective Unit (Band Fee \$10.00)****FULL YEAR COURSE**

As a member of the SMS Band program, students are given the unique opportunity to improve basic musicianship through participation in full band rehearsals, small ensembles, as well as concerts in and out of school. The students will continue growth on their instrument through technical studies, scales, sight-reading, rehearsing and performing standard/contemporary band and chamber ensemble literature. The band performs three major concerts during the year, as well as several smaller concerts in various venues and circumstances. **Students are expected to honor their commitment to the band program for the entire school year.**

Choir**1 Elective Unit (Choir Fee \$10.00)****FULL YEAR COURSE**

As a member of the SMS Choral program, the student is given the unique opportunity to improve basic musicianship through participation in full mixed rehearsals and small voice appropriate ensembles, as well as concerts in and out of school. Standard choral ensemble voicing will be utilized: soprano, alto, tenor and/or baritone/bass. Through the rehearsal process students will be instructed in sight-singing, tone production, intonation, rhythm, blending, musicality, and music theory. We will explore various levels of difficulty, languages, genres, and styles including pop, folk, secular concert, sacred concert, and musical theater. The choir will perform in three concerts, as well as several smaller concerts in various venues and circumstances. Membership is open to all students. **Students are expected to honor their commitment to the choral program for the entire school year.**

Strings**1 Elective Unit (Orchestra Fee \$10.00)****FULL YEAR COURSE**

All students of the orchestra program must provide their own instrument. This will be a combined 7th & 8th grade ensemble. As a member of the SMS Orchestra program, the student is given the unique opportunity to improve basic musicianship through working and playing together as an ensemble. The orchestra will perform 2-3 major concerts during the year, as well as several smaller concerts in various venues and circumstances. The students will play challenging orchestral literature in a variety of musical settings including classical, contemporary, and international. Membership is open to all students previously in the orchestra or with the permission of the director. **Students are expected to honor their commitment to the orchestra program for the entire school year.**

Music Exploration**.25 Elective Unit****9 WEEK COURSE**

This course explores the origins of music and musical instruments through science, geography and history. Students will learn about the major music periods and discuss the architecture, literature, food, and culture of those times. Several hands-on projects and exploration of actual instruments round out the class.

Theatrics**.25 Elective Unit****9 WEEK COURSE**

This course introduces students to the theatrical arts and emphasizes creativity, collaboration, and perseverance. Areas covered include theatre vocabulary, roles in the theatre, movement, acting, the reading of plays, theatre design and tech, and viewing theatre performances. Students will be creating projects throughout the course in groups just as they would encounter in the professional theatre world. All activities and performances will be done during school.

Acting All-Stars**.25 Elective Unit****9 WEEK COURSE**

Through simple scripted scenes and/or performance projects, students will learn to identify what makes performance believable and explore the tools used to create, articulate, and execute them. The areas covered include speech, movement, character development, improvisation, stage directions, and viewing theatre performances. Students will perform a play for an audience at the end of the quarter, outside of the school day.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Middle School PE

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

This class provides daily activities that allow improvement in the areas of muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, agility, and balance. Students will actively participate in the expectations of middle school Physical Education.

RTI

This 15-minute daily intervention period provides targeted support for students in reading and math. Students will receive focused instruction, addressing specific skill gaps and building foundational knowledge. Tasks are designed to provide students with extra practice and personalized support to accelerate their learning.

SCIENCE

Science 8

1 Required Unit

FULL YEAR COURSE

Ohio 8th grade science courses cover topics in Earth, life, and physical science. The courses also teach students how to use scientific inquiry to identify patterns and relationships.

Astronomy I

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

Follow your enthusiasm for space by introducing yourself to the study of astronomy. This course will include topics such as astronomy's history and development, with a focus on the interactions between the Earth, Moon and the Sun. Along with these studies, current events in space exploration and basic star gazing are also covered.

Astronomy 2

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

Prerequisite: 7th or 8th graders who have completed Astronomy 1

Astronomy is the study of planets, stars, galaxies, and the universe. Astronomy is an observational science where with few exceptions, we cannot touch our objects of study directly, and so we must rely on measurements of light collected by earth-based and space-based observatories and robotic space probes. Astronomy 2 goes beyond what was studied in Astronomy 1 and spans the whole of the universe, from our home on Earth to the distant reaches of the Universe. Naked eye star gazing is also studied at more depth than in Astronomy 1. Along with these topics, current events in space exploration are also covered.

Zoology

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

During this course, students will learn the five kingdoms and seven taxonomic classifications of all living things. We will zero in on the animal kingdom and learn the differences between animal classes such as: mammals, amphibians, insects, reptiles and many more.

SOCIAL STUDIES

American History

1 Required Unit

FULL YEAR COURSE

In this class students will learn about the early settlements in North America that eventually led to the formation of the United States. The timeline runs from the thirteen English colonies through the birth of the U.S. Constitution, the push westward and finally the war that almost tore our young country apart...The Civil War.

World Cultures

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

This class introduces students to what culture is. It helps them recognize the uniqueness of culture, including their own, and allows them to learn about people from different parts of the world. Students will get the opportunity to choose a country they are interested in learning about more specifically and share their knowledge with the class. Students will also get the opportunity to learn a language of their choice using Duolingo.

Global Traditions

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

This class introduces students to traditions that are popular in other parts of the world. Students will focus on many different traditions and customs that are celebrated both here in the United States and abroad. They will get the opportunity to try foods which are popular for different celebrations, create decorations that help celebrate different festivities, and share their knowledge with the school community. Students will also get the opportunity to learn a language of their choice using Duolingo.

TECHNOLOGY

Typing

.25 Elective Unit

9 WEEK COURSE

In this class students will learn and improve their typing skills through a self-paced program. Typing.com aligns with state standards to help students better prepare for standardized tests and future classroom assignments. Students work on progressively hard assignments throughout the 9-week class in order to fine tune their typing speed and accuracy. This is a pass/fail class.

Videography

.5 Elective Unit

HALF YEAR COURSE

This course focuses on the WSMS Studios video announcements production and broadcast. Skills learned and applied throughout the semester include: digital filming and editing on Apple products, individual and group collaboration, time management, public speaking/presentation skills, production deadlines, Internet posting protocols, and broadcasting journalism ethics. Videography students are responsible for producing the MS "Brave Time" YouTube Announcements while creating small movie productions, in-house television commercials, school documentaries, and so much more! Students will be expected to work individually, and as a team, while filming (or attaining footage & images), editing, and promoting, a variety of day and nighttime school events, sports, and activities. The skills learned in the course apply to current and future personal, academic, and career pursuits.

PLEASE NOTE: Changes to this document may be necessary without advance notice. Elective courses may not be offered every quarter. Please see the Principal or Guidance Office to determine alterations to this document.

8th Grade Information

Shawnee Middle School

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Phone 937-717-2402 Fax 937-717-2412

School Hours: 7:25am to 2:30pm

Teacher Contacts

Art

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Music

Band – Sarah Smith: sarah.smith@cslocal.org

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Notes/Questions

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