

Sherrard Junior High School

2025-2026

Catalog of Course Offerings
Grades 7 & 8



Sherrard CUSD 200
507 3rd Street
PO Box 369
Sherrard, IL 61281

PREFACE

The outline in the guide will provide students and parents with a basic description of each course offered at Sherrard Junior High School.

This guide should be read carefully with attention given to the required, elective, and prerequisite courses.

Through the use of this registration guide, all students will receive the necessary guidance to develop a plan of studies to prepare for high school.

PHYSICAL EXAMS

If you are currently enrolled in the Sherrard School District, you will need a physical exam ONLY if you plan to participate in athletics. This exam must be completed prior to the first practice of the activity in which you plan to participate. Forms for the athletic physical may be picked up in the junior high office.

If you are new to the district from out of state, a physical is required regardless of grade level.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The school day will consist of eight class periods. Six class periods and a study hall are required and one class period will be an elective. Most electives are quarter classes, meaning students will have four choices.

Below is a sample schedule. Actual course placement will be determined at a later date.

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
1st period	7,8 English	7,8 English	7,8 English	7,8 English
2nd period	7,8 Math	7,8 Math	7,8 Math	7,8 Math
3rd period	7,8 Science	7,8 Science	7,8 Science	7,8 Science
4th period	7,8 Physical Education	7,8 Physical Education	7,8 Physical Education	7,8 Physical Education
5th period	7 Computers 8 Health	7 Computers 8 Health	7 Civics 8 Careers	7 Civics 8 Careers
6th period	7 Geography 8 History	7 Geography 8 History	7 Geography 8 History	7 Geography 8 History
7th period	7,8 Study Hall	7,8 Study Hall	7,8 Study Hall	7,8 Study Hall
8th period	Quarter Electives or Year Long Electives.. See next page.	Quarter Electives or Year Long Electives.. See next page.	Quarter Electives or Year Long Electives.. See next page.	Quarter Electives or Year Long Electives.. See next page.

Elective choices are on the next page.

<u>REQUIRED CLASS PERIODS</u>	<u>ELECTIVE ~ YEAR LONG</u>	<u>ELECTIVE ~ QUARTER LONG</u>
English (7,8)	7,8 Band	7 Desktop Publishing
Math (7,8)	7,8 Chorus	7 Exploring Food & Agriculture
Science (7,8)	8 Spanish	7,8 Art
Physical Education (7,8)		7,8 Book Club
Study Hall (7,8)		7,8 Current Events
Geography (7)		7,8 STEM
Computers/Civics (7)		8 Principles of AFNR
Health/Careers (8)		8 Computer Programming
History (8)		

Junior High students must earn at least 5 credits each year in order to be promoted to the next grade level. In addition, a student **MUST** pass MATH, ENGLISH, GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, AND SCIENCE each year in the Jr. High School. The failure to do so would require the student to repeat the course they failed or complete credit recovery regardless of whether they achieved promotion from one grade to another.

Students at Sherrard Junior High School may be recommended for placement in an accelerated or regular program in Math and/or English. Scores on achievement tests, past grades, and teacher recommendations determine placement for these classes. Parents will be notified of the placement in advanced Math and/or English.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Your students' required classes will already be entered into the system. To register for elective courses, your counselor will send your student a google doc to be filled out. Once this is completed, the registrar will run the schedule. Schedules for the next school year will be mailed to you a week before school starts if you have a completed online registration. Schedules will not be sent until you complete the online registration. You are able to change elective classes up to 5 days after each quarter. Schedule changes will not be allowed after the 5 days.

7th Grade Required Courses Descriptions

7 ENGLISH (State Course Code 51035A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of English. This is the first course in the English program, which consists of instruction in reading, writing, and grammar. The reading component includes vocabulary development, and the study of short stories, poetry, and novels to develop comprehension and analytical skills, and an introduction to literary terminology. The writing aspect of the program requires students to write in narrative, informative, and persuasive formats. Grammar instruction covers parts of speech, mechanics, usage, and sentence structure.

7 ADVANCED ENGLISH (State Course Code 51035A000) ***(Students must qualify for this course)***

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Advanced English. This is the first course of two in the Advanced English program. The course focuses not only on language arts skills (reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary) but also the integration of language arts into other curricular areas and the development of critical and creative thinking skills. Students are recommended for this course through a variety of criteria. Besides demonstrating a high level of potential in language arts, students should be committed to working at a more challenging level through inquiry and panoramic concept development.

7 MATH (State Course Code 52037A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Math. This course extends the skills learned in 6th grade to solve problems that involve integers, complex fractions, ratios and proportions, and geometry. Students will also begin to explore algebraic concepts including variables, expressions, and equations.

7 ADVANCED MATH (State Course Code 52051A000) ***(Students must qualify for this course)***

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Advanced Math. Enrollment in this course is based on test scores, past grades, and teacher recommendations. This course focuses a greater emphasis on problem-solving skills. Geometry is studied to a greater depth. Special emphasis is placed on pre-algebra concepts. Both seventh and eighth-grade materials, as well as enrichment activities, are incorporated into this course. This course allows a student to take Algebra I in eighth grade.

7 WORLD GEOGRAPHY (State Course Code 54001A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of World Geography. This course will focus on the development of map skills and the study of the physical, cultural, and economic geography of world regions. Regions to be studied include Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, North America, and Latin America.

7 LIFE SCIENCE (State Course Code 53158A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Life Science. This course will study the basic concepts and principles of life science. It is designed to develop an awareness of all living organisms. Some of the topics and activities covered are developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations and research, interpreting data, obtaining, and evaluating, and communicating information as well as real-life applications of cause and effect, cycles, and human impact. Specific topics may include scientific measurement, bacteria, and drug resistance, ecology, cell processes and genetics, and a study in invertebrates.

7 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (State Course Code 58001A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Physical Education. The class will consist of team and individual recreational activities including softball, soccer, weight training/conditioning, and dance or aerobics. A written or skills test is given after each unit. Students are required to dress daily in the required Physical Education uniform. A state-mandated fitnessgram will be administered.

7 PERSONAL FITNESS (State Course Code 58005A000)

(Students must qualify for this course)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Personal Fitness. Enrollment is based on teacher recommendations and fitness testing results from 6th grade. This course is designed for students to learn proper movement progressions, lifting techniques, and weight room safety. The focus will be on the following fundamentals: Body Awareness, Mobility/Flexibility, Mechanics, Relative Strength, and Stability. Activities will include but are not limited to, a multitude of lifts utilizing free weights, as well as an emphasis on linear and lateral speed/change of direction for athletic development. A state-mandated fitnessgram will be administered.

7 COMPUTERS (State Course Code 62006A000)

Students will be enrolled in 2 quarters (1 semester) of Computers. This course will introduce students to Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft PowerPoint. Students will also be introduced to technology they will be expected to use throughout JH/HS such as, email, Infinite Campus, and Google Drive.

7 CIVICS (State Course Code 54161A000)

Students will be enrolled in 2 quarters (1 Semester) of Civics. The Civics course will examine the general structure and functions of American systems of Government, the roles and responsibilities of citizens to participate in the political process, and the relationship of the individual to the law and legal system.

7th Grade Electives Course Descriptions

7 BAND (State Course Code 55101A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Band. Junior High Band is a fun way for students to express themselves musically while learning their instrument, leadership, teamwork, passion, responsibility, pride, and good work ethics in a safe band community. Students learn about their instruments in a performance-based class focused on music education and playing their instruments every day. Participation in out-of-school performances, concerts, competitions, and festivals is required and reflected in the student's band grade. Dates of these events will be given with plenty of notice. Some of these events can consist of but are not limited to 3-4 Band Concerts throughout the year, IGSMA Solo & Ensemble Contest, IGSMA Organizational Contest, and other fun performances, festivals, and competitions. The Junior High Band often has the opportunity to travel. **The prerequisite to be in Junior High Band is participation in 6th Grade Beginning Band or a specific recommendation from the Band Director.**

7 CHORUS (State Course Code 55110A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Chorus. Students enrolled in chorus will learn basic music fundamentals, performance skills, music appreciation, part-singing, and individual vocal improvement. Participation is required at all performances, which usually include Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Spring "Pops", IGSMA or IESA contest, and the Conference Chorus Festival.

7 ART (State Course Code 55187A000)

Students will be enrolled in Art for 1 quarter (9 weeks). The art class is a beginning visual arts course; two- and three-dimensional art production is included in this course. Through creative projects using graphite, paint, color pencil, pastel, and clay students will learn the fundamentals of the elements and principles of design and how to incorporate them into expressing their visual voice.

7 EXPLORING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (State Course Code 18001A002)

Students will be enrolled in Exploring Food and Agriculture for 1 quarter (9 weeks). This course provides the opportunity to learn fundamental concepts in agriculture to serve as a foundation for future courses and to inform students about the industry that is so vital to society and to their future. Major units of instruction include an introduction to the agriculture industry, animal science, plant science, horticulture science, agribusiness, environmental science, agriculture mechanics, food science, and leadership and personal development. Participation in FFA student organization activities is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts.

7 CURRENT EVENTS (State Course Code 54999A000)

Students will be enrolled in Current Events for 1 quarter (9 weeks). 7 Current Events will include the discussion and evaluation of major events transpiring on the local, state, national, and international levels. The purpose is to understand the ever-changing world around us on a daily basis.

7 DESKTOP PUBLISHING (State Course Code 60201A000)

Students will be enrolled in Desktop Publishing for 1 quarter (9 weeks). During this course, students will learn how to create attractive print and online documents using desktop publishing applications including Adobe Photoshop.

7 Book Club (State Course Code 51097A000)

Students will be enrolled in Book Club for 1 quarter (9 weeks). Students will read, discuss, and dissect great literature. Explore new genres, examine great authors, and enjoy the excitement of reading!

7 STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (State Course Code 71001A000)

Students will be enrolled in STEM for 1 quarter. (9 weeks). 7 STEM will use a combination of design, engineering, technology and math applications to create a variety of functional structures such as bridges, rockets, jet cars, etc.

8th Grade Required Courses Descriptions

8 ENGLISH (State Course Code 51036A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of English. The 8th grade English course will build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Typically, these courses use various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections.

8 ADVANCED ENGLISH (State Course Code 51036A000)

(Students must qualify for this course)

Prerequisite: 7th grade Advanced English/Language Arts

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Advanced English. This is the second course of two in the Advanced English program, which provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to state standards. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. Opportunities are provided for students to develop questioning and research strategies that assist them in organizing and presenting information in oral, visual, and written formats. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of content, and build the skills necessary for transitioning to high school.

8 MATH (State Course Code 52038A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Math. The content will extend on the learning from 7th grade mathematics. Content that will be studied will be, but not limited to, rigid transformations and congruence, dilations, similarity, and introducing slope, linear relationships, linear equations and linear systems, functions and volume, associations in data, exponents and scientific notation, and pythagorean theorem and irrational numbers.

8 ADVANCED MATH/ALGEBRA (State Course Code 52052A000)

(Students must qualify for this course)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Algebra. Placement in this course is based on test scores, past grades, completion of 7th advanced, and teacher recommendations. This course is designed to extend the knowledge of 7th grade advanced mathematics and move students towards the high school equivalent of Algebra. Content studied in this course will be, but not limited to, one variable statistics, linear equations, inequalities, and systems, two variable statistics, functions, exponential functions, quadratic functions, and quadratic equations.

8 US HISTORY (State Course Code 54101A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of US History. This course will focus on the time period between Pocahontas and Manifest Destiny. Students will engage in formulating opinions using text evidence as well as learning how to reference information. Students will also be required to pass the Constitution Test in order to pass this class.

8 SCIENCE (State Course Code 53238A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Science. In this course, students will explore the world we live in and develop an understanding of the mechanisms behind its innerworkings. Students will use and develop models; plan and carry out investigations; research information; interpret data; obtain, evaluate and communicate information; use mathematics and computational thinking; and construct explanations. They will also investigate our planet's real-life cause and effect scenarios, cycles, patterns, energy and matter flows, structure and function, and stability and change. Topics may include: Laboratory Safety, Scientific Measurement, The Metric System, The Scientific Method, Earth's Systems, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, The Rock Cycle, Geologic Time, Weather, and Human Impacts.

8 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (State Course Code 58001A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Physical Education. The class will consist of team and individual recreational activities including softball, soccer, weight training/conditioning, and dance or aerobics. A written or skills test is given after each unit. Students are required to dress daily in the required Physical Education uniform. A state-mandated fitnessgram will be administered.

8 PERSONAL FITNESS (State Course Code 58005A000)

(Students must qualify for this course)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Personal Fitness. Enrollment is based on teacher recommendations and fitness testing results from 7th grade. This course is designed for students to learn proper movement progressions, lifting techniques, and weight room safety. The focus will be on the following fundamentals: Body Awareness, Mobility/Flexibility, Mechanics, Relative Strength, and Stability. Activities will include but are not limited to, a multitude of lifts utilizing free weights, as well as an emphasis on linear and lateral speed/change of direction for athletic development. A state-mandated fitnessgram will be administered.

8 HEALTH (State Course Code 58057A000)

Students will be enrolled in 2 quarters (1 Semester) of Health. The course will cover topics such as drugs, medicines, tobacco, alcohol, the body systems, relationships, and parenting. When appropriate guest speakers will be invited to explain these different health topics in order for our students to make informed lifelong decisions regarding their personal health and individual growth.

8 CAREERS (State Course Code 72151A000)

Students will be enrolled in 2 quarters (1 Semester) of Careers. This course will help students identify and evaluate personal goals, priorities, aptitudes, and interests, with the goal of helping them make informed decisions about their careers. These courses expose students to various sources of information on career and training options and may also assist them in developing job search and employability skills.

8th Grade Electives Course Descriptions

8 BAND (State Course Code 55101A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Band. Junior High Band is a fun way for students to express themselves musically while learning their instrument, leadership, teamwork, passion, responsibility, pride, and good work ethics in a safe band community. Students learn about their instruments in a performance-based class focused on music education and playing their instruments every day. Participation in out-of-school performances, concerts, competitions, and festivals is required and reflected in the student's band grade. Dates of these events will be given with plenty of notice. Some of these events can consist of but are not limited to 3-4 Band Concerts throughout the year, IGSM Solo & Ensemble Contest, IGSM Organizational Contest, and other fun performances, festivals, and competitions. The Junior High Band often has the opportunity to travel. **The prerequisite to be in Junior High Band is participation in 7th Grade Band or a specific recommendation from the Band Director.**

8 CHORUS (State Course Code 55110A000)

Students will be enrolled in 4 quarters of Chorus. Students enrolled in chorus will learn basic music fundamentals, performance skills, music appreciation, part singing, and individual vocal improvement. Participation is required at all performances, which usually include Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Spring "Pops", IGSM or IESA contest, and the Conference Chorus Festival.

8 SPANISH (State Course Code 56100A000)

Students will be enrolled in Spanish for 4 quarters (Full Year Course). Students must have a B in 7th grade Advanced or Regular English for placement in 8 Spanish. This class is designed to introduce students to Spanish language and culture, the 8 Spanish course emphasizes basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent so that students can read, write, speak, and understand the language at a basic level within predictable areas of need using customary courtesies and conventions. Culture is introduced through the art, literature, customs, and history of Spanish speaking people.

Prerequisite is a B or higher in 7 Advanced English or 7 Regular English. Class will be limited to 20 students.

8 ART (State Course Code 55188A000)

Students will be enrolled in Art for 1 quarter (9 weeks). The art class is a beginning visual arts course; two- and three-dimensional art production is included in this course. Through creative projects using graphite, paint, color pencil, pastel, and clay students will learn the fundamentals of the elements and principles of design and how to incorporate them into expressing their visual voice.

8 Book Club (State Course Code 51097A000)

Students will be enrolled in Book Club for 1 quarter (9 weeks). Students will read, discuss, and dissect great literature. Explore new genres, examine great authors, and enjoy the excitement of reading!

8 PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURE FOOD NATURAL RESOURCES (State Course Code 18001A003)

Students will be enrolled in Principles of AFNR for 1 quarter (9 weeks). This course will provide instruction in the foundations of various segments of the agricultural industry. Agricultural career opportunities shall be emphasized. Animal agriculture, plant and land management, and agricultural mechanics skills will be the focus. Participation in local FFA student organization activities is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts.

8 CURRENT EVENTS (State Course Code 54999A000)

Students will be enrolled in Current Events for 1 quarter (9 weeks). 8 Current Events will include the discussion and evaluation of major events transpiring on the local, state, national, and international levels. The purpose is to understand the ever-changing world around us on a daily basis.

8 COMPUTER PROGRAMMING (State Course Code 60997A000)

Students will be enrolled in Computer Programming for 1 quarter (9 weeks). During this course, students will learn some of the basic concepts of computer programming. Students will be introduced to basic commands, if statements, loops, functions, and more. All concepts will be presented and practiced using the Python Language.

8 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) (State Course Code 71001A000)

Students will be enrolled in STEM for 1 quarter (9 weeks). 8 STEM will use a combination of design, engineering, technology and math applications to create a variety of functional structures such as bridges, rockets, jet cars, etc.