

**SIMLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTION – 8th -GRADE 2026-2027**

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 8.....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 8Full 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 aligns with 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

Students in this course earn high school credit and must have completed Math 7 Accelerated. 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.

TRANSITIONAL MATHFull 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 8.....Semester (Extended over the school year)

Students will explore various career options and learn how to prepare for the job hunt. They will better understand themselves and their skills through various interest and aptitude inventories, the Career Outlook newspaper, and the Choice Explorer software. Students will be introduced to the high school educational planning process, including graduation requirements, core and 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 the available sources of financial aid. 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 8.....Semester (Extended over the school year)

Students will explore various aspects of North Dakota, beginning with its early history and including government, economics, people, and special topics.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COLLABORATION 8.....Semester (Extended over the school year)

Students will improve their communication and social skills through 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 of a technology-based society and to recognize 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 further the fundamentals of playing their instrument. 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, such as 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 rehearsals, 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

TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS 8.....Semester

This course expands on the 7th Grade Exploring Technology course, introducing students to Digital Manufacturing, Research and Design, Engineering, CO₂ Dragsters, Pneumatics, 3D Design, Drone Technology and Coding, and other hands-on real-world activities. **Lab fee: \$20.00**

ART 8.....Semester

This course builds on the 7th-grade standards-based art curriculum, offering 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. **Lab Fee: \$18.00**

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 8.....Semester

This course is an introductory exploration of the agricultural industry. Learning experiences involving agricultural activities such as 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: Animal Science (large and small animals - species, breeds, digestion/diets, etc.), Plant Science (basic anatomy and physiology, pollination, types of plants/crops, etc.), Honey Production, and Food Science (products, processing, labeling, marketing, etc.). FFA and Leadership development are integral parts of this course.

EXPLORING WEIGHT TRAINING 8.....Semester

Students will begin learning proper weight-training techniques and safety rules. Programs will be provided to teach students how adequate weight training can be a beneficial lifetime activity. Some aerobic activities will be included with the lifting programs. This class will also begin exploring basic human anatomy and muscle function.

FACES OF AMERICA 8.....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

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. **Lab fee: \$15.00 plus student purchases 1 ½ yards of fabric**

SERVANT LEADERSHIP 8.....Semester

This course uses the "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens" book to help students develop the habits of a leader. Then, the student will follow the Lead 4 Change Curriculum/Leadership lessons on the website Lead4Change.org. The lessons are aligned with the 21st-Century Skills and the 4 Cs and support sustained inquiry/PBL projects. Students will impact the community while gaining leadership skills.

STEM 8Semester

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.