Henry Scott
Middle School



Denison, Texas

Course Guide

2026-2027

SMS Class Schedules

For the 2026-2027 school year, SMS will have an 8-class day. All students will have 8 periods on their schedules, one being a 35-minute Jacket Time class. Classes are scheduled according to choice sheets and need for intervention. Intervention classes (Reading Connections) are added to student schedules in place of electives based on a student's demonstrated need for extra intervention in Reading.

Required Courses

7th Grade Required Courses:

- **ELAR**
- **Math**
- **Science**
- **History**
- **College & Career Exploration (CCE) / Professional Communications**
- **Physical Education Elective (PE, Athletics, Cheer, Dance, Outdoor Ed or Tennis)**
- **1 Elective**

8th Grade Required Courses:

- **ELAR**
- **Math**
- **Science**
- **History**
- **3 Electives**

Standard Classes: Each grade level teaches skills according to the Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) and prepares students for the applicable STAAR and for success at the next grade level.

- ELAR (English Language Arts & Reading)
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies (7th – Texas History, 8th – U.S. History)

Honors Courses

Honors Science and Social Studies – These honors courses use higher level reading materials and/or require more in-depth study and analysis of the grade level material. The classes may incorporate more project-based and independent study. *Expect a heavier workload*.

Honors English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) – Honors ELAR is a rigorous course designed to challenge students through advanced analysis of complex texts and deeper engagement with literary themes. As part of this coursework, students may be asked to read texts that address mature themes or situations in an age-appropriate, instructional context. These selections are chosen to promote critical thinking, analytical discussion, and academic growth, and align with district curriculum standards and instructional goals.

Honors Math

- 7th Grade Honors Mathematics is an accelerated course designed for students who demonstrate strong mathematical reasoning and readiness for advanced study. This course integrates and extends both 7th and 8th grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), allowing students to progress through content at an increased pace and depth. Emphasis is placed on conceptual understanding, problem solving, mathematical modeling, and the application of algebraic thinking. Students will engage in rigorous coursework that prepares them for high school–level mathematics and future advanced math pathways.
- 8th grade Honors Math students are taught Algebra I and take the high school level End of Course (EOC) exam. This class earns High School Credit.

Grade Specific Required Courses

All 7th grade students must be enrolled in one (or more) of the following courses, in order to meet the PE requirement for middle school:

- **PE**
- **Athletics**
- **Cheer**
- **Dance**
- **Adventure/Outdoor Education**
- **Tennis**

**** Soccer and Cross-Country are also offered as club sports (before/after school); Soccer and Cross-country do NOT meet the PE requirement and those students do NOT need to be enrolled in Athletics.*

All 7th Grade students will be enrolled in the following course:

- **College & Career Exploration (CCE)–** (1 semester course) The goal of this course is to create a culture of high expectation and continuous improvement that provides middle school students with a foundation for success in high school, future studies, and careers. Students explore college and career planning within specific career pathways. The students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment. Students use self-knowledge to explore and set realistic goals. Students also set a plan for their high school course of study.
- **Professional Communications –** (1 semester course) This course blends written, oral, and graphic communication in a career-based environment. Careers in the global economy require individuals to be creative and have a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong and solid academic foundation, and a proficiency in professional oral and written communication. Within this context, students will be expected to develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, apply software applications, manipulate computer graphics, and conduct Internet research.

Elective Course Descriptions

1-Year Electives

Physical Education (Health/PE) - Physical Education classes focus on developing physical skill, cooperative/team skills, participation, and life-long activity. PE includes a combination of activities designed for improving physical fitness and body strength.

Athletics – Athletics at the middle school level is NOT the same as Pre-Athletics at the intermediate level. 7th and 8th grade students who enroll in Athletics will be expected to try out for / participate in a UIL competition sports team and to work out as athletes. There will be an athlete's contract to sign in order to participate in the Athletics program. This is NOT a PE class. *All 7th grade students and all students new to the district must have a medical physical using the required UIL form provided by the school. The UIL form must be completed and turned into the coaches before the student is allowed to participate.* **Any student not returning the form by the end of their second week of the school year will have their schedule changed to a PE class.** Athletics meets the physical education requirement for 7th grade students.

BOYS: Athletics at the middle school level DOES NOT have an off-season option. Students who choose not to participate in Football will not be enrolled in Athletics until after successfully trying out for a basketball or track team.

Athletics Sports: football, basketball, volleyball, and track

Cheer – (7th & 8th grade – ***Tryout Required***) Cheer is a tryout based team and has a class period for practice time. This class meets the physical education requirement for 7th grade students.

Tennis – (7th & 8th grade – ***Tryout Required***) Tennis is a tryout based team and has a class period for practice time. This class meets the physical education requirement for 7th grade students.

Adventure/Outdoor Education – (7th & 8th grade) Adventure/Outdoor education is a class where students will develop competency in outdoor education activities that provide opportunities for enjoyment and challenge, such as fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, etc. Emphasis is placed upon activities that also promote a respect for the environment and that can be enjoyed for a lifetime. This class meets the physical education requirement for 7th grade students. This class also earns high school credit and can only be taken one time during Middle School.

Dance – (7th & 8th grade) Dance will cover fundamentals of dance, including basic movements and different genres of dance. Students will be expected to participate in a variety of dance types and the class may also include a performance at the end of the course. This class meets the physical education requirement for 7th grade students.

Art I – (7th & 8th grade) Students enrolled in Art I will be introduced to the foundations of art – identifying and illustrating concepts, understanding and applying the elements of art and principles of design, and discussing the expressive properties of artworks. Students will learn the basics of creative expression, historical and cultural relevance, and critical evaluation and response in relation to works of art.

Art II – (8th grade) Art I is a prerequisite for Art II, and must be taken prior to taking Art II. Students in this class will develop and expand skills introduced in Art I. This will include introduction to more advanced techniques and materials.

Band – (7th & 8th grade) Students who are interested in band may sign up at any time prior to the beginning of the school year. Tryouts are held in the Spring of each year to determine placement for the following year. In band, students will develop their musical talents through instrumental performance. While band is an elective, there are many requirements and high expectations for all those involved, in order to maintain the excellent level of performance that's become standard for the Touch of Gold SMS Band.

Choir – (7th & 8th grade) This class is an elective that explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods throughout history. In choir you will learn the basics of proper vocal techniques, sight-reading, music theory, and music history. Students in choir will be expected to participate in performances throughout the school year as a part of their grade.

Honors Choir – (7th & 8th grade – ***Audition Required***) This elective is for advanced singers. Members of this choir are selected through auditions. In this choir students will further develop vocal techniques and have a deeper understanding of music. Students in this class will participate in a variety of contests, performances, and festivals throughout the year. Advanced choir member's participation in all events is required as a part of their grade.

Show Choir - (7th & 8th grade – ***Audition Required***) Show Choir is a performance-based music course that combines singing, choreography, and stage presence into one high-energy ensemble experience. Students will develop vocal technique, learn group choreography, and build confidence through collaborative rehearsals and performances. The course focuses on teamwork, musical expression, and performance skills while exploring a variety of musical styles.

Theatre – (7th & 8th grade) This is an introduction to dramatic performance and theater technology. Students will explore all areas of theater arts including basic acting techniques for performance, voice, movement, theater history, as well as a concentration on several technical aspects of theater.

Production Theatre – (7th & 8th grade – ***Audition Required***) This class is for the student interested in diving deeper into theater who is up for more of a time commitment and challenge. This class focuses heavily on team/ensemble building as well as individual actor growth. Prospective students must sign a contract prior to being in this class that states they will be committed to all shows throughout the performance season or they will forfeit their prominent position in this production class.

Musical Theatre – (7th & 8th grade – ***Audition Required***) Students involved in this class are expected to perform in the musical that is currently produced once a year. Prospective students must sign a contract prior to being in the class that states they will be committed to the musical throughout the short performance season or they will forfeit their prominent position in this musical theater class. Throughout the year, students will work on singing, dancing, and acting techniques which will aid them in a spectacular performance. Rehearsals will take place during the school day. Additionally, two mandatory weeks of afterschool rehearsals will take place prior to performance weekend.

Principles of Applied Engineering (Robotics) – (7th & 8thgrade ***Application Required***)
Principles of Applied Engineering (Robotics) earns High School Credit but has limited enrollment

space. Principles of Applied Engineering provides an overview of the various fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and their interrelationships. Students will develop engineering communication skills, which include computer graphics, modeling, and presentations, by using a variety of computer hardware and software applications to complete assignments and projects. Upon completing this course, students will have an understanding of the various fields of engineering and will be able to make informed career decisions. Further, students will have worked on a design team to develop a product or system. Students will use multiple software applications to prepare and present course assignments.

Manufacturing Engineering Technology (Robotics) – (8th grade) *Students interested in MET Robotics must have previously taken Robotics in the 7th grade*. Looking to continue your robotics knowledge? Compete in robotics competitions? Enjoyed robotics in 7th grade and want more? This is the class for you!

Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance - In this course, students gain knowledge and skills in economies and private enterprise systems, the impact of global business, marketing of goods and services, advertising, and product pricing. Students analyze the sales process and financial management principles. This course allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems, and settings in business, marketing, and finance.

Principles of Construction - Principles of Construction is intended to provide an introduction and lay a solid foundation for those students entering the construction or craft skilled areas. The course provides a strong knowledge of construction safety, construction mathematics, and common hand and power tools.

Introduction to Culinary Arts – Introduction to Culinary Arts will emphasize the principles of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, and controlling the management of a variety of food service operations. The course will provide insight into the operation of a well-run restaurant. Introduction to Culinary Arts will provide insight into food production skills, various levels of industry management, and hospitality skills. This is an entry level course for students interested in pursuing a career in the food service industry. This course is offered as a classroom and laboratory-based course.

Principles of Health Science - This course provides an overview of the therapeutic, diagnostic, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development systems of the health care industry.

Principles of Education and Training - Principles of Education and Training is designed to introduce learners to the various careers available within the education and training career cluster. Students use self-knowledge and educational and career information to analyze various careers within the education and training career cluster. Students will also gain an understanding of the basic knowledge and skills essential to careers within the education and training career cluster.

Jacket Update (Principles of A/V)– (7th & 8th grade – ***Application Required***) *In 8th grade, this class earns a high school credit.* This class serves as an introduction to pre-production, production, and post-production audio and video products to assist in the creation of the SMS Jacket Update. Careers in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications Career Cluster require a creative aptitude, a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong academic foundation, and a proficiency in oral and written communication. Students will gain an understanding of the history of journalism, the ethics of a journalist and the requirements of staff positions within the

program. Students will be expected to develop an understanding of the various and multifaceted career opportunities in this cluster and the knowledge, skills, and educational requirements for those opportunities.

Yearbook – (7th & 8th grade – ***Application Required***) *In 8th grade, this class earns a high school credit.* This class serves as an introduction to graphic design, photography, and all aspects of yearbook editing to assist in the creation of the *Stinger* yearbook. Students will focus on mastery of content knowledge, while developing communication skills, interview and photography skills, and time-management. Students will be asked to sign a contract outlining the acceptable use of district equipment, students are subject to removal from staff should they not abide by the contract

AVID – (8th grade – AVID is designed for students to remain in the program once they have begun. ***Application Required***) AVID is an amazing program in which students receive the additional academic, social, and emotional support that will help them succeed in SMS's (and DHS's) most rigorous courses. Please see the AVID information handout for more specific information on the AVID program. There is an application process in order to join the AVID program. If you need more information regarding AVID, please contact our AVID elective supervisor:
Chris McClenny cmcclenny@denisonisd.net

Recommendations for Success in Honors Courses

In order to be academically prepared for the high level and amount of work in any Honors course at SMS, students should have passed their previous class in that subject area with a final grade average of:

- *80 or higher for Honors/Advanced classes*
- *90 or higher in a non-Honors/Advanced class*

In addition, students should be aware of the following course-specific information:

Honors Math

- Rising 8th grade students may only select Honors Math (Algebra I) only if they were in Honors Math the prior year with a final grade average of 70 or higher, or with teacher approval.
  - To earn high school credit for Algebra 1, a student must meet the following:
    - pass the class (both semesters)
    - meet district and state requirements (attendance, grades, etc.)
    - meet minimum standard on the STAAR Algebra End of Course exam
- Rising 7th grade students must have successfully completed Honors Math or Advanced Math in intermediate school in order to select Honors Math for 8th grade. Some students who did not enroll in Honors Math may be encouraged to participate based on previous grades and STAAR performance.

Honors Science

- Students in 8th grade Honors Science are strongly recommended to also be enrolled in Algebra I, in order to be prepared for the Algebra level math included in the Science Curriculum.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What if I get my classes and end up not liking them? Can I change them?**
  - Schedule change requests are allowed for the first 2 weeks of school ONLY. After 2 weeks, schedule changes are no longer made unless approved by administration, counselor, AND parent.
  - Not all schedule change requests are fulfilled. Decisions are made based on class sizes, class prerequisites and requirements, behavior, etc.
  - Schedule change requests made because "I don't like my teacher" will not be considered. Schedule change requests made because "I want to be in class with my friends" will not be considered.
- **Do I have to take all honors classes or can I mix and match?**
  - No, you do not have to take all honors. You can pick and choose what fits your needs best.
- **What is Jacket Time?**
  - Jacket time is an advisory and intervention period. This is a time where students will be pulled for tutoring, given time to make up or redo assignments, pulled for counseling small groups, attend club meetings, meet with teachers for help, etc.
- **If I'm a boy and I don't want to play Football, but I do want to play Basketball, do I choose Athletics?**
  - No. You will have a schedule change and be moved to athletics AFTER you try out and make the basketball team.
- **What if I want to play Soccer or run Cross Country? Do I need to be in Athletics? Do these activities meet the PE requirement?**
  - No, you do not have to be. You can be in both, but cross country and soccer are before and after school activities only.
  - No, they do not meet the PE requirement, because they are not considered a "class", only a "club".
- **Can I take Cheer AND be in Athletics? Or can I take Tennis AND be in Athletics?**
  - Yes. Even if they are offered at the same time, our coaches are able to share athletes. Only one course will show up on the schedule if they are offered in the same period, but you MAY participate in both.