

# Southmoreland Middle School



**Program of Studies  
2026-2027**

## **District and School Information**

### **Southmoreland Middle School**

200 Scottie Way  
Scottdale, PA 15683  
Phone # (724) 887-2030  
Fax # (724) 887-2032

### **Southmoreland School District Administration**

|                                                               |                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Superintendent of Schools                                     | Dr. Jason Boone      |
| Assistant to the Superintendent<br>Director of Pupil Services | Dr. Daniel Clara     |
| Business Manager<br>Director of Transportation                | Mrs. Pam Mondock     |
| Technology Director                                           | Mr. Steve Smithula   |
| Director of Buildings and Grounds                             | Mr. Calvin Trader    |
| Director of Food Services                                     | Mr. Zachary Malavite |

### **Southmoreland Middle School Administration and Staff**

|                                           |                          |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Principal                                 | Mr. James Klugh          |
| Dean of Students                          | Mrs. Sara Yantko-Allison |
| School Counselor                          | Mrs. Brianna Ruhl        |
| School Nurse                              | Mrs. Stephanie Muir      |
| Administrative Assistant to the Principal | Mrs. Kris Leonard        |

## A Message from the Principal

Middle school is a pivotal time in a student's educational journey. It is a period of rapid growth, discovery, and transition where learners begin to better understand who they are, how they learn, and where their interests and strengths may lead them. The coursework and experiences students encounter during these years play a critical role in shaping confidence, curiosity, and readiness for future opportunities.

At Southmoreland Middle School, we believe that a strong middle school program must do more than meet academic requirements. It must inspire students to explore new ideas, challenge themselves in meaningful ways, and discover passions that extend beyond the classroom. Our Program of Studies is intentionally designed to balance rigorous core instruction with a wide range of engaging elective offerings that allow students to learn by doing, creating, collaborating, and problem solving.

Through courses that emphasize literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies, students build a solid academic foundation. Through electives such as coding, fine and performing arts, wellness, career exploration, and innovative hands on learning experiences, students are encouraged to explore interests, develop practical skills, and connect learning to the real world. Together, these experiences help students build the knowledge, habits, and confidence needed for success in high school and beyond.

We are proud of the recent accomplishments of Southmoreland Middle School. Our continued academic growth, recognition for excellence, and positive school culture are a reflection of a dedicated staff committed to engaging every learner. These successes are not accidental. They are the result of purposeful instructional design, a robust and relevant course offering, and educators who believe deeply in the potential of every student. Whether a course is required or elected, our teachers strive to make learning meaningful, challenging, and engaging.

This Program of Studies represents more than a list of courses. It reflects our commitment to preparing students not only for the next grade level, but for future academic pathways, careers, and life beyond school. We look forward to partnering with families as students explore new opportunities, set goals, and take important steps toward becoming confident, capable, and curious learners.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Southmoreland Middle School community.

Sincerely,

*James Klugh*

Principal

Southmoreland Middle School

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## Grade Level Course Requirements

### 6th Grade Required Courses

All sixth grade students at Southmoreland Middle School follow a common academic program designed to build a strong foundation across core subjects while providing exposure to a broad range of exploratory electives.

#### Required Core Classes

All sixth grade students are enrolled in the following core academic courses:

- 6th Grade Mathematics
- 6th Grade English Language Arts
- 6th Grade Science
- 6th Grade Social Studies

#### Required Elective and Exploratory Courses

All sixth grade students also participate in a rotating elective program that includes the following courses:

- General Wellness Health
- General Wellness Physical Education
- General Music
- Coding 6
- Library Explorations
- In Real Life
- Art

### **Optional Music Courses**

In addition to the courses listed above, sixth grade students may choose to participate in one or both of the following performance based music courses:

- General Band
  - General Chorus
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### **7th Grade Required Courses**

All seventh grade students continue a strong core academic program while expanding elective choice and exploration.

#### **Required Core Classes**

All seventh grade students are enrolled in the following core academic courses:

- 7th Grade English Language Arts
- 7th Grade Mathematics
- 7th Grade Science
- 7th Grade Social Studies

#### **Required Elective Courses**

All seventh grade students are enrolled in the following required electives:

- In Real Life
- Coding 7
- General Wellness Physical Education
- Library Explorations

### **Elective Course Selection for Grades 7 and 8**

In addition to the required courses listed above, seventh and eighth grade students will select additional elective courses to complete their schedules. Based on student requests, scheduling availability, and staffing considerations, every effort is made to place students in their courses of choice whenever possible.

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### **8th Grade Required Courses**

Eighth grade students participate in a rigorous academic program designed to prepare them for high school coursework and future pathways.

#### **Required Core Classes**

All eighth grade students are enrolled in the following core academic courses:

- 8th Grade English Language Arts
- 8th Grade Science
- 8th Grade Social Studies
- 8th Grade Mathematics or Algebra 1

*Please note: Math placement is based on multiple factors, including but not limited to projected achievement on the Algebra 1 Keystone assessment, previous course grades, and teacher recommendation.*

## **Required Elective Courses**

All eighth grade students are enrolled in the following required electives:

- In Real Life
- Coding 8
- General Wellness Physical Education
- Library Explorations

## **Elective Course Selection for Grades 7 and 8**

In addition to the required courses listed above, seventh and eighth grade students will select additional elective courses to complete their schedules. Based on student requests, scheduling availability, and staffing considerations, every effort is made to place students in their courses of choice whenever possible.

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# **Core Academic Courses**

## **English Language Arts**

### **6th Grade English Language Arts**

Sixth grade English Language Arts focuses on continued growth as readers, writers, and critical thinkers. Students read a wide range of fiction and nonfiction texts to strengthen comprehension, vocabulary, and analytical skills. Instruction emphasizes discussion, collaboration, and projects that connect reading to student interests and readiness. Writing instruction supports organization, clarity, and effective communication across multiple genres.

### **7th Grade English Language Arts**

Seventh grade English Language Arts strengthens reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students analyze literature through elements such as plot, theme, characterization, figurative language, and symbolism. Writing instruction emphasizes the writing process and reflective practice through portfolios. Students also develop public speaking and discussion skills through presentations and academic conversations.

### **8th Grade English Language Arts**

Eighth grade English Language Arts builds on prior learning to prepare students for high school expectations. Students read diverse genres of fiction and nonfiction to deepen comprehension and analytical thinking. Instruction emphasizes higher level thinking, collaborative discussion, and extended projects aligned to student readiness and interest. Writing focuses on clarity, evidence, and purposeful communication.

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## **Mathematics**

### **6th Grade Mathematics**

Sixth grade mathematics focuses on developing strong numerical and problem solving skills. Students explore ratios and rates, division of fractions, rational numbers including negative values, expressions

and equations, statistical thinking, and geometry. Instruction emphasizes conceptual understanding and real world application of mathematical reasoning.

### **7th Grade Mathematics**

Seventh grade mathematics continues the development of algebraic thinking in preparation for Algebra 1. Students study proportional relationships, percentages, integer operations, expressions, equations, inequalities, geometry, probability, and statistics. Emphasis is placed on problem solving, modeling real world situations, and using multiple representations to analyze mathematical relationships.

### **8th Grade Mathematics**

Eighth grade mathematics emphasizes both procedural fluency and conceptual understanding. Students study the number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics and probability. The course prepares students for success in Algebra 1 through application, modeling, and analysis.

### **Algebra 1**

Algebra 1 expands on concepts introduced in earlier mathematics courses. Students explore linear, nonlinear, exponential, and quadratic relationships through multiple representations. Instruction focuses on analyzing data, modeling relationships, and using functions to solve real world problems. This course prepares students for advanced mathematics and future coursework.

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## **Science**

### **6th Grade Science**

Sixth grade science introduces fundamental scientific principles aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Students investigate Earth processes including minerals, rocks, weather systems, seasons, and lunar phases. Learning is supported through laboratory experiments, data analysis, models, and inquiry based activities that build on prior scientific understanding.

### **7th Grade Science**

Seventh grade science emphasizes scientific process skills such as observing, questioning, hypothesizing, experimenting, and analyzing data. Students apply these skills to the study of life science, including the diversity of life and how organisms change over time. Instruction promotes independent thinking and real world problem solving.

### **8th Grade Science**

Eighth grade science integrates inquiry based learning with real world applications. Students explore science concepts through investigations framed around personal and societal questions. Through experimentation, reading, data analysis, and culminating projects, students build scientific understanding and learn how science informs everyday decisions.

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## **Social Studies**

### **6th Grade Social Studies**

Sixth grade social studies introduces students to historical thinking and global civilizations. Students study early human societies through the Enlightenment, including ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Medieval Europe. Emphasis is placed on understanding how past events shape the present and influence the future.

### **7th Grade Social Studies**

Seventh grade social studies focuses on geography and global studies. Students analyze maps, human settlement patterns, cultural development, and interactions between people and their environments. Instruction emphasizes globalization, cultural understanding, and the relationship between humans and Earth systems.

### **8th Grade Social Studies**

Eighth grade American Cultures examines United States history from early settlement through the Civil War. Students study colonization, the American Revolution, the formation of government, industrialization, westward expansion, and the causes of the Civil War. The course emphasizes citizenship, historical analysis, and civic responsibility.

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## **Elective Courses**

### **Advanced Physical Education**

Advanced Physical Education provides students with opportunities to improve fitness and athletic skills through individual and team activities. Students participate in sports, fitness assessments, and goal setting while developing strength, endurance, and flexibility. Instruction emphasizes healthy lifestyle habits, teamwork, leadership, and personal responsibility.

### **Art**

Art provides students with hands-on experiences using two dimensional and three dimensional media. Students explore drawing, painting, sculpture, design, printmaking, and digital graphics while learning the elements of art and principles of design. Art history and critique are integrated to promote creativity, critical thinking, and artistic appreciation.

### **Coding 6**

Coding 6 introduces students to app development using block based programming. Students design mobile applications to solve real world problems while learning computational thinking, user interface design, and programming logic.

### **Coding 7**

Coding 7 blends hardware and software development using microcontrollers. Students create interactive projects involving sensors and wearable technology while exploring circuitry, logic, and problem solving.

## **Coding 8**

Coding 8 focuses on robotics and automation using the VEX platform. Students design, build, and program robots while applying engineering concepts such as torque, gear ratios, and energy transfer.

## **Confident Voices**

Confident Voices focuses on public speaking and digital communication skills. Students participate in presentations, debates, storytelling, and multimedia projects while learning effective vocal delivery, body language, and message development. The course builds confidence and concludes with a polished presentation or speech.

## **Current Events**

Current Events encourages students to explore local, national, and global issues. Students analyze news sources, identify bias, and examine multiple perspectives through discussion and research. The course emphasizes media literacy, critical thinking, and informed civic engagement.

## **Exercise Science**

Exercise Science introduces students to the science behind physical activity and wellness. Topics include anatomy, muscle function, cardiovascular health, nutrition, injury prevention, and recovery. Students participate in fitness assessments and goal setting to better understand how exercise supports lifelong health.

## **Exploring the World of Drama**

Exploring the World of Drama introduces students to acting, performance, and theater arts. Students engage in improvisation, scene work, and monologues while learning voice control, physical expression, and collaboration. The course concludes with a performance showcasing student learning.

## **Focus and Flourish Skills for Well Being**

This course supports student well being through strategies for managing stress, improving focus, and building a positive mindset. Students practice reflection, organization, goal setting, and emotional awareness. Instruction emphasizes self care, balance, and positive social interactions.

## **From Page to Screen**

From Page to Screen explores how books are adapted into films. Students compare texts and movies to analyze changes in plot, characters, and themes. The course encourages creative thinking as students design their own adaptation concepts and storytelling ideas.

## **General Band**

General Band continues the development of instrumental skills introduced in elementary band. Students focus on technique, ensemble performance, and musicianship through group and small ensemble experiences.

## **General Chorus**

General Chorus builds vocal technique, blending, and ensemble performance skills. Students develop confidence, musical interpretation, and pride as members of a vocal ensemble.

**General Music**

General Music explores music styles, history, technology, and composition. Students engage in performance and creation using instruments and digital tools while expanding musical awareness.

**General Wellness Health**

General Wellness Health focuses on lifelong decision making related to physical, mental, and social health. Students study nutrition, substance awareness, personal wellness, violence prevention, and healthy relationships.

**General Wellness Physical Education**

General Wellness Physical Education emphasizes skill development, teamwork, and understanding of sport experiences. Students participate in team activities while learning communication, responsibility, and game strategies.

**Human Anatomy**

Human Anatomy provides an overview of the structure and function of major body systems. Students study skeletal, muscular, circulatory, and respiratory systems while exploring nutrition, exercise, and healthy habits. Hands-on activities support understanding of how body systems work together.

**In Real Life (Grades 6-8)**

In Real Life is a comprehensive elective designed to prepare students for real world success beyond middle school. Students develop financial literacy skills including budgeting, saving, and responsible decision making. The course supports career exploration through interest inventories, research, and reflection on strengths and goals. Students also build essential life skills such as communication, time management, and healthy living habits. Instruction introduces entrepreneurship by encouraging creativity, problem solving, and innovative thinking related to real world needs.

**Innovators Lab Exploring Science Through Hands On Projects**

Innovators Lab engages students in hands on scientific exploration across environmental science, physics, chemistry, and engineering. Students design experiments, test materials, analyze data, and solve real world problems. The course culminates in a student led science showcase.

**Introductory Physical Education**

Introductory Physical Education supports students in developing fitness skills in a noncompetitive environment. Students participate in inclusive activities that build coordination, strength, and endurance while promoting confidence and positive attitudes toward physical activity.

**Introduction to 3D Printing**

Introduction to 3D Printing introduces students to digital design and manufacturing. Students learn basic modeling, computer aided design, and printing techniques while creating custom objects. The course builds spatial reasoning, creativity, and problem solving skills.

**Jazz Band**

Jazz Band provides advanced instrumental students with opportunities to study and perform jazz music. Students learn improvisation, rhythm, and various jazz styles while developing listening, collaboration, and performance skills. The course includes performance opportunities.

### **Library Explorations (Grades 6-8)**

Library Explorations focuses on information literacy skills including research strategies, evaluating sources, and ethical use of information. Instruction supports academic coursework and lifelong learning habits.

### **Literary Lens**

Literary Lens explores fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama through close reading and discussion. Students analyze literary elements and participate in creative writing activities. The course builds comprehension, critical thinking, and appreciation for literature.

### **Music Technology**

Music Technology introduces students to digital music creation using web based tools. Students learn music fundamentals while composing and producing original music. The course also explores emerging technologies and the future of music production.

### **Music Theory**

Music Theory focuses on understanding how music works. Students study notation, rhythm, melody, harmony, and form while analyzing compositions from various genres and time periods. The course strengthens musical literacy and performance skills.

### **On Broadway**

On Broadway explores musical theater through analysis of famous productions. Students study performance elements including acting, choreography, music, and stage design. The course concludes with student driven performance projects.

### **Percussion Ensemble**

Percussion Ensemble allows advanced students to perform music written for percussion instruments. Students develop rhythm, technique, and ensemble skills while exploring a variety of musical styles and performance opportunities.

### **Personal Fitness**

Personal Fitness focuses on developing individualized fitness plans that promote strength, endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular health. Students learn goal setting, nutrition concepts, and healthy lifestyle habits to support lifelong wellness.

### **Poetry Unplugged**

Poetry Unplugged invites students to explore poetry through reading, analysis, and creative writing. Students experiment with poetic forms and techniques and publish original work, fostering expression and confidence with language.

### **Scottie News Network**

Scottie News Network engages students in journalism and media production. Students serve as reporters, writers, anchors, and editors while producing announcements and publications. Instruction emphasizes writing, collaboration, and digital media skills.

**Scottie Town Piano Studio**

Scottie Town Piano Studio offers a self paced introduction to piano performance. Students learn basic techniques, rhythm, and musical expression using individual headsets. The course supports beginners and students with prior experience.

**Singing Sensations**

Singing Sensations is an advanced choral course focused on vocal technique, sight singing, and performance. Students refine harmonization and prepare for public performances. Participation requires prior audition and choral experience.