

# Sibley East Middle School

## Registration Handbook for 2025-2026

(courses offered may be subject to change)

This handbook has been developed to help students and parents understand the requirements for courses of study here at the junior high school. Each student is asked to spend time with his or her parents or guardians in discussing the requirements and options available.

We hope this information will assist you in planning a course of study which best suits the needs, interests and talents of your child. Students or parents desiring further assistance in planning courses of study are encouraged to contact the school counselor or the school principal.

Also listed in this handbook are co-curricular activities students can participate in during the course of the school year. We encourage all students to participate in at least one co-curricular activity during each year of junior high school to determine interests and develop skills, both from the activity itself and from the social interaction required of the activity.

### Courses required/offered for students at Sibley East Middle School

<u>Areas of Learning</u>	<u>6th Grade</u>	<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
English	Full year	Full year	Full year
Math	Full year	Full year	Full year
Social Studies	Full year	Full year	Full year
Science	Full year	Full year	Full year
Physical Education/Health	Full year	Full year	Full year
Band/Choir	Full year	Full year	Full year
AVID	Trimester	Full year (elective)	Full year (elective)
Spanish	Trimester	Trimester	Trimester
Agriculture	--	Semester	Semester
Art	--	Trimester	Semester
Computer Applications	--	Semester	Trimester
Business Exploration	--	--	Trimester
Keyboarding	Semester	--	--
Google Drive	Trimester	--	--
Coding	--	Trimester	--
Academic Reading and Writing	Semester	--	--

### GRADE 7 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

#### ENGLISH 7 - Full Year

**Course focus:** Reading Non-fiction. The student will demonstrate the ability to comprehend, interpret, and evaluate information from a variety of non-fiction formats in reading, listening, and viewing and comprehend information from selections that address abstract or complex ideas. Specific preparation for the Minnesota Basic Standards Reading Test will be provided. Fiction. The student shall demonstrate the ability to comprehend, interpret and evaluate information in fictional reading, viewing and listening selections. Independent Reading. The student will do independent reading as evidenced by successful completion of a number of tests Reading Counts program.

Listening. The student will seek information in conversations and in group discussions.

Writing. A student shall demonstrate for a variety of technical and academic purposes, situations, and audiences the ability to write:

- \* A technical procedure or set of directions
- \* A first person narrative
- \* A persuasive idea or opinion, which is preparation for the Minnesota Basic Standards Writing Test.
- \* When writing the student shall demonstrate knowledge of the writing process.
- \* Spelling: 100% accuracy of words on the Sitton spelling lists 1-934 by the end of Grade 7

Speaking. A student shall demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in a small group

Artistic creativity and performance in poetry and drama. A student shall demonstrate knowledge of these art forms through artistic process and presentation

Accessing information. A student shall access information and use a variety of sources to answer a question or

support a position

### **HONORS ENGLISH 7 - Full Year**

(Prerequisite - Sixth Grade Teacher Recommendation - Limited to no more than 28)

**Course focus:** Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening: utilization of various methods, materials, and class activities to add sophistication to students' ability to communicate in the English language. Based upon students' strengths and needs, course content may be similar to that of English 7, but the content will be accelerated and studied in greater depth. Challenged by a variety of reading materials and writing and speaking activities, students will experiment with assorted communication activities to increase skills.

### **LIFE SCIENCE 7 - Full Year**

**Course Focus:** This course will focus on major life processes using a variety of organisms as examples. Opportunities will be given to compare and contrast the parts and functions of various plants, animals, and microorganisms. The class will also cover examples of the effects of humans interacting with the environment, the structure and functioning of the major human organ systems, basic biochemistry, and genetics. Scientific principles will be reinforced by lectures, labs, dissections, dry-lab activities, readings, and homework. Students will be notified before participating in outdoor activities and will be asked to prepare for various weather conditions. There will be plants brought into the classroom and students will be told in advance so those with health related issues can be prepared.

### **HONORS LIFE SCIENCE 7 - Full Year**

Prerequisite: sixth grade teacher recommendation

**Course Focus:** The honors class is designed to steer students toward higher level questions, more in-depth laboratory work, outside-the-classroom research, and more thorough data collecting and analysis. The course's focus is otherwise similar to Science 7. Class size is limited to 24 students.

### **MATH 7 - Full Year**

**Course Description:** This class is for students who do ok/well in math overall. This class meets every other day for 84 minutes, and because of this, two lessons will be gone through in one class period. The topics we discuss in 7th grade include:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| * Principles of Algebra                 | * Rational Numbers            |
| * Graphs, Functions, and Sequences      | * Exponents and Roots         |
| * Ratios, Proportions, and Similarity   | * Percents                    |
| * Foundations of Geometry               | * Perimeter, Area, and Volume |
| * Data and Statistics                   | * Probability                 |
| * Multi-Step Equations and Inequalities | * Graphing Lines              |
| * Sequences and Functions               | * Polynomials                 |

Going through the topics listed above will prepare students for their 8th grade math class. Students who take this class will take Algebra 1A in their 8th grade year, which goes through the first 6 Chapters of our algebra book.

### **HONORS MATH 7 - Full Year**

**Course Description:** This class is for students who excel in math. This class meets every other day for 84 minutes, and because of this, two lessons will be gone through in one class period. This class challenges students and prepares them for algebra. The topics we discuss in 7th grade include:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| * Principles of Algebra                 | * Rational Numbers            |
| * Graphs, Functions, and Sequences      | * Exponents and Roots         |
| * Ratios, Proportions, and Similarity   | * Percents                    |
| * Foundations of Geometry               | * Perimeter, Area, and Volume |
| * Data and Statistics                   | * Probability                 |
| * Multi-Step Equations and Inequalities | * Graphing Lines              |
| * Sequences and Functions               | * Polynomials                 |

Students who take this class will take Algebra 1 in their 8th grade year, which goes through the entire algebra book.

### **AMERICAN HISTORY 7 - Full year**

**Course focus:** Students will focus their study on the chronological events from early peoples of America through the Civil War Era (1865). Concepts include examining origins of government, trends of immigration, expansion and invention, cultural exchanges between different groups, and how war has shaped historical and current events. Also discussion of current events as it applies.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7**

**Course focus:** Students will be introduced to a wide variety of team and individual activities. These activities include but are not exclusive to: flag football, soccer, Ultimate Football, bowling, floor hockey, team handball, softball, tennis, basketball, etc. Students will participate in the Presidential Challenge Fitness test two times during the school year (once each quarter). Students will learn how to log their physical activity. Students will take turns officiating activities to demonstrate their knowledge of these activities.

## **HEALTH 7**

**Course focus:** Students will learn to determine health or injury problems and be familiar with basic first aid procedures and the importance of having a knowledgeable background in first aid. The objectives in this class are for students to recognize or identify specific health problems through the use of various signs and symptoms and to be able to describe or demonstrate the proper first aid procedures to deal with the health problem. The goal is to encourage students to want to take action in an emergency situation.

## **ESL/RTY -Reading, Thinking, You - Full Year**

**Course Focus:** This course focuses on additional reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, comprehension skills as it pertains to the student that uses more than one language in his/her life. It is a supplement to the regular English course.

## **BAND 7 - Full year – shares period with Choir or study hall.**

**Course focus:** Performing on an instrument in a large group. Students will be introduced to a variety of band literature including classical, popular, marches and traditional band music. Classes meet every other day, and private or small group lessons are scheduled on a regular basis. Three concerts are performed during the year, with solo and ensemble performances being arranged.

## **CHOIR 7 - Full year – shares period with Band or study hall.**

7<sup>th</sup> grade choir will meet every other day in order to prepare a variety of vocal literature for 3 concerts per year. All choir members are required to attend each concert, as it is an extension of the classroom and part of the quarterly grade. Appropriate clothing is also required for each performance.

**Course focus:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade choir will learn good vocal technique, sight reading skills, melodic intervals using solfege, tempo markings, dynamics, expressive and technical markings, and appropriate performance etiquette. Students will be exposed to a wide range of literature including classical, folk, multicultural, spirituals, and pop songs. Solo or small group singing is encouraged.

## **COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 1 - Semester**

**Course focus:** Computer Applications is a semester-long course covering digital citizenship, netiquette, creating word processing documents, exploring with web 2.0 tools, and refining our keyboarding skills. The objective of this class is to have a solid understanding of these concepts as well as to be able to type at least 30 words per minute.

## **EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 7- Semester**

**Course focus:** In this class, students will learn about agricultural topics through inquiry based activities. Students will get an exploratory look at concepts such as: plant growth, animal production, natural resources management, and agricultural careers.

## **ART 7- Trimester**

**Course focus:** Students will concentrate on an understanding of the elements and principles of design, create artwork with meaning, and explore the world of historical and contemporary artists. In this class, we will create both 2D and 3D works of art using a variety of different materials: drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and more!

**Method of Instruction:** Art lab activities where students do hands-on projects take most of the class time, following teacher demonstration. Students are expected to stay on task and work independently with teacher guidance.

### **Coding 7 - Trimester**

The course teaches the foundational concepts of programming using drag and drop blocks rather than a programming language such as JavaScript or Python. Blocks are an easier way to get started and many top Universities today begin their classes with block based programming.

### **EXPLORATORY SPANISH 7 - Trimester**

Spanish 7 will be a continuation of Spanish 6; however, students will not be required to complete Spanish 6 before being enrolled in Spanish 7.

Course focus: Students will practice the concepts of pronunciation, basic conversations and phrasings. Vocabulary and grammar lessons will focus on basic greetings and personal information, the alphabet and letter sounds, numbers, time, dates and people in our lives. We will be introducing basic sentence structures and simple verb conjugations. The cultural focus will be a basic overview of cultural concepts of the Spanish speaking countries and holidays as they occur in the calendar.

### **AVID 7 - Full year (elective)**

AVID, Advancement via Individual Determination, accelerates student learning through the use of research based methods of effective instruction. In AVID, you will learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. Students are admitted to AVID after completing an application and written interview.

**LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER** Our Library Media Center is an open airy room on the second floor, handicapped accessible and shared by all students and staff. The library is automated with an electronic catalog and the catalog can be accessed 24/7 on any computer with access to the World Wide Web. Our collection of resources includes print and non-print material that supports our curriculum, as well as appeals to student interests. The Media Center Staff provide services to all students and their instructors, from sixth grade through grade twelve.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT COMMITTEES**

#### **Girls Sports**

Tennis  
Volleyball  
Cross-country  
Basketball  
Bowling  
Dance team  
Track  
Softball  
Golf  
Soccer

#### **Activities**

Speech  
Drama  
Show Choir  
Knowledge Bowl  
Future Farmers of America (FFA)  
Yearbook  
Trap Shooting Team

#### **Student Committees**

Student Council  
Youth Development

#### **Boys Sports**

Football  
Cross Country  
Basketball  
Bowling  
Wrestling  
Track  
Baseball  
Golf  
Soccer

