

Sibley East Junior High School
Registration Handbook for 2025-2026
(courses 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
Health	--	--	Semester
Physical Education	Full year	Full year	Semester
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
Family Consumer Science	--	--	--
Keyboarding	Semester	--	--
Google Drive	Trimester	--	--
Coding	--	Trimester	--
Academic Reading and Writing	Semester	--	--

GRADE 8 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8 - Full year

Course focus: Students will demonstrate their understanding of Newtonian physics including laws of motion, mechanical, electrical, and magnetic energy and forces associated with them. Students will demonstrate understanding of energy transfer via mechanical and electromagnetic waves, especially sound and light. In the second half of the year students will demonstrate knowledge of chemistry concepts including the interaction of pressure, temperature, volume, particle attraction and kinetic and potential energy of particles as well as molecular structure and chemical reactions and chemical properties.. Laboratory skills and safety will be taught and required. Laboratory investigations will give the students the background to understand how scientific inquiry is used by scientists to investigate the natural world. These skills will be developed and used throughout the year. In addition to conducting laboratory investigations, students will be required to use textbooks and handouts, electronic books, apps, electronic manipulatives, video, and e-worksheets to further their understanding of scientific information. Quizzes, tests, and laboratory practicums will be used to help assess the depth of students' knowledge and understanding of the required material.

HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8- Full year

Course focus: Students will study physics and chemistry topics same as the normal paced Physical Science. The course will move quickly and cover many topics in more detail than the regular 8th grade course by completing STEM lab projects. There will be laboratory work so students become familiar with the use of laboratory equipment and techniques. Students from Honors Life Science are eligible to take this course if their grades for 7th grade are acceptable; other students who desire to take this course need to have acceptable science grades.

ALGEBRA- Full Year

Course Description: This class will be taken by those students who took Basic Math 7 or Regular Math 7 classes in 7th grade. Instead of doing the entire algebra book in one year, the book gets split into two years. So this course goes through the first 6 chapters of the book, and because of this, we are able to move at a slower pace to ensure understanding of the material. This class meets every other day for 84 minutes, and will go over one lesson every class period. The topics we discuss in Algebra 1A include:

- * Foundations of Algebra
- * Equations
- * Inequalities
- * Functions
- * Linear Functions
- * Systems of Equations and Inequalities

Students who take this class will continue learning about algebra and finish the last 6 chapters of the algebra book in their 9th grade year.

HONORS ALGEBRA- Full Year

Course focus: The foundation for the study of advanced mathematics is laid with this class. Units studied include solving linear equations, quadratic equations, inequalities, real number operations, polynomials, problem-solving, factoring, systems of equations, functions, rational and irrational numbers. Students that complete this course will take Honors Geometry in ninth grade.

ENGLISH 8 - 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. Intensive preparation for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Reading Test will be provided. Classical works studied are *The Hobbit*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Flowers for Algernon*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Run, Boy, Run* and *Fever 1793*.

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 from the 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:

- Critically responsive essays analyzing reading passages
- A first person narrative
- A persuasive idea or opinion, which is preparation for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Writing Test.
- When writing the student shall demonstrate knowledge of the writing process.
- Spelling: 100% accuracy of words on the words in context as tested on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment - by end of Grade 8

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 8 - Full year

Prerequisite -- Seventh Grade Language Arts Teacher Recommendation

Course focus: Course content will be similar to that of English 8, but the speed at which the class works will be accelerated. The class will, likewise, explore the content in greater depth developing from a level built upon by the experiences of the Honors English 7 program. The course content will differ from English 8 in that there may be many enrichment activities such as The Language of Literature, SQ3R study methods, novels, writing for publications of various kinds, field trips to writing conferences and/or plays, speakers in the area of

communications, grammatical studies. Classical works studied are *The Hobbit*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Flowers for Algernon* and *The Last of the Mohicans*. All activities will be designed to keep the honors student challenged.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY - Full year

Course focus: Students will explore the physical and cultural characteristics of the different regions of the world with emphasis on North America, Europe and the Middle and Far East. There will be a focus on map skills and there will also be discussion of current events as it pertains to each region.

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

Course Focus: This course focuses on reading, language, and comprehension as it pertains to the English Language Learner (ELL) student. It is a supplement to the regular English classroom.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 – Semester alternates with Health.

Course focus: Students will participate in a wide variety of team and individual activities. These activities include but are not exclusive to: ultimate football, pickleball, speedball, bowling, circuit training, softball, tennis, volleyball, 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 also learn to calculate and monitor their target heart rate.

HEALTH 8 - Semester alternates with Physical Education

Course focus: Students will discuss specific health topics that are in the forefront today. They will receive current information on the topics to enable them to make educated decisions and to live a long and healthy life. Topics such as; stress, depression, eating disorders, bullying, sexual bullying, addictions, and choices. The students will use critical thinking to really think about how the above topics affect themselves, their classmates, and people in general.

BAND 8 - Full year: shares period with Choir or study hall.

Course focus: Performing on an instrument in a large group. A variety of band literature is introduced including classical, popular, march, and traditional band music. Students are given lessons, privately or in small groups, on a regular basis. Three concerts are scheduled per year, with solo and ensemble performances being arranged.

CHOIR 8 - Full year: shares period with Band or study hall.

8th 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: : 8th 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.

ART 8 - Semester

Course focus: Students will concentrate on an understanding of the elements of art (line, shape, color, value, texture, space, and form). 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.

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 8 – Semester

Course focus: In this class, students will learn about the opportunities they have through Career Development Events, and what career paths they can take within agriculture.. Students will gain real life experiences through working to develop a Supervised Agricultural Experience.

BUSINESS EXPLORATION 8 - Trimester

Course focus: This course will introduce students to the exciting and challenging world of business. Students will learn personal finance needed for their future, explore marketing and dive into entrepreneurship.. We will also dig into career exploration and skills such as career research, job advertisements, applications, and interviews.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 8 - Trimester

Course focus: This course will guide you to demonstrate an understanding of computer basics and desktop publishing documents including brochures, business cards, and flyers for educational and personal use. You will also understand and demonstrate computer literacy using both a PC and Chromebook. An understanding of netiquette and internet searching will be discussed and practiced. Through activities and projects, you will understand digital citizenship.

EXPLORATORY SPANISH 8 – Trimester

Spanish 8 will be a continuation of Spanish 7; however, students will not be required to complete Spanish 7 before being enrolled in Spanish 8.

Course focus: Students will review and expand on the concepts of the units covered in Exploratory Spanish 7 including greetings, basic introductions, identifying themselves and similar topics. Vocabulary and grammar lessons will focus on basic sentence structures, parts of speech, and simple verb conjugations. The cultural focus will be on Spanish speaking countries through maps and basic overviews of each country, as well as regional and seasonal celebrations.

AVID 8 Elective - Full year

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
Cheerleading
Cross-country
Basketball
Bowling
Dance team
Track
Softball
Golf
Soccer

Boys Sports

Football
Cross-country
Soccer
Golf
Bowling
Baseball
Track
Basketball
Wrestling

Activities

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

Students Committees

Student Council
Youth Development



