

Henry Scott Middle School



Denison, Texas

Course Guide 2020-2021

SMS Class Schedules

SMS has 8 class periods per day. All students will have at least 8 classes on their schedules. Second period is called Jacket Time, and is a homeroom type of class period which allows for tutoring. Jacket Time is semi-flexible and may change throughout the year; all other class periods are established according to choice sheets or need for intervention. Intervention classes (Connections classes for Reading and Double Blocked Math classes) are added to student schedules in place of electives based on a student's demonstrated need for extra intervention in Math or Reading.

Required Course Descriptions

7th Grade Required Courses:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| - ELAR | - Science |
| - Math | - History |
| - Physical Education (PE, Athletics, Cheer, Dance, Outdoor Ed or Tennis) | |

8th Grade Required Courses:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| - ELAR | - History |
| - Math | - Investigating Careers |
| - Science | - Health |

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)

Advanced ELAR – The Advanced ELAR course uses more advanced reading materials and/or requires more in-depth study and analysis of the material.

Advanced Math - classes are taught one year above their current grade level.

- 7th grade Advanced Math students are taught pre-algebra curriculum. See eligibility guidelines.
- 8th grade Advanced Math students are taught Algebra and take the high school level End of Course (EOC) exam. This class earns High School Credit.

Advanced Science - classes are taught with a more in-depth study and analysis of the materials; these classes also incorporate a much larger emphasis on project based learning. Expect a heavier workload.

- 7th grade Advanced Science classes will incorporate STEM activities within the state curriculum.
- 8th grade Advanced Science classes will use a proven high-tech curriculum to better prepare students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Advanced Social Studies - courses use more advanced reading materials and/or require more in-depth study and analysis of the material.

Grade Specific Required Courses

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

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

*** Soccer and Cross-Country are also offered as club sports, before/after school; Soccer and Cross-country do NOT meet the PE requirement.

All 8th grade students must be enrolled in the following courses:

- **Investigating Careers** – (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 clusters. 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.
- **Health** – (1 semester course) This class is designed to teach lifelong skills in health and safety along with an understanding of the importance of continued physical activity. This course meets the curriculum requirements of the TEKS for Health at the middle school level.

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 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 in to the coaches before the student is allowed to participate. Students transferring from another Texas public school where they participated in athletics, may request to have their completed UIL physical form transferred with their records. **Any student not returning the form by the end of their first week of the school year will have their schedule changed to a Physical Education class.** This class 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, archery, 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.

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.

Technology I – (7th & 8th grade) This class provides students with valuable skills and knowledge to advance them in today's technological society. Students learn important computer skills utilizing the most current hardware and software available.

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

Principles of Applied Engineering (Robotics) – (7th & 8th grade) *Principles of Applied Engineering (Robotics) earns High School Credit, but has limited enrollment space due to competition guidelines on number of participants.* Students interested in this program must show an interest in engineering design, robotics, and team competitions. They will represent our district in several competitions and will be asked to meet individual and team goals throughout the year. Topics covered include coding, project design and implementation, research, essays, and group presentations to an audience. Problem solving skills are a must!

Touch System Data Entry – (7th & 8th grade) *Touch System Data Entry earns High School Credit and is the first step toward Microsoft Office Certification.* This class focuses on building proper keyboarding technique when using the computer, improving professional employability skills, and building the foundation for lifelong skills such as personal & business letters, communication, and leadership.

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. Any student who develops an interest in band after tryouts may contact Mr. Fisher for information. 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.

Advanced Choir – (7th & 8th grade) 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.

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. Should a student not be in this class, it is strongly recommended that Musical Theater or Theater be chosen as a second choice.

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; this may grow to more in the near future. Prospective students must sign a contract prior to being in the class that states they will be committed to musical(s) throughout the short performance seasons 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.

2-Year Electives

Spanish 1 – *Spanish 1 is a foreign language course which meets the criteria for one credit of foreign language at the high school level.* This course must be taken concurrently for 2 years at SMS in order to receive high school credit. Spanish A is for 7th graders; Spanish B is for 8th graders who have completed Spanish A. Those students who choose to enroll in Spanish A will be expected to complete the 2nd year during their 8th grade year. This will teach students the fundamentals of the Spanish language. *Enrollment in this course will be based on demand; consideration will be given to student's performance in Reading/English before being placed in Spanish.*

AVID – (7th & 8th grade – AVID is designed for students to remain in the program once they have begun.) 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 informational 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 one of our AVID elective teachers:

Joel Maresh jrmaresh@denisonisd.net
Chris McClenny cmccclenny@denisonisd.net

Recommendations for Success in Advanced Courses

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

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

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

Advanced ELAR

- Students will be required to complete a summer project for both 7th and 8th grades. If students are unwilling to complete the summer project, they should not select Advanced ELAR.

Advanced Math

- 8th grade students may select Advanced Math (Algebra I) only if they were in Advanced Math the prior year with a final grade average of 80 or higher.
- To earn high school credit for Algebra 1, a student must meet the following:
 - pass the class (both semesters)
 - meet district and state requirements
 - meet minimum standard on the STAAR Algebra End of Course exam

Advanced Science

- Students will be required to complete a summer project for 7th grade. If students are unwilling to complete the summer project, they should not select Advanced Science.
- Students in 8th grade Advanced Science are recommended to also be enrolled in Algebra I, in order to be prepared for the Algebra level math included in the Science Curriculum.

Maintaining Eligibility

All Advanced students must maintain a grade of 70 at the end of each grading period in order to remain in the class. Any Advanced student who scores a grade below 75 on the three-week interim grade report will be considered on probation. A student whose grade average drops below 70 will receive a parent/student/teacher conference in preparation for a schedule change to a regular class for that subject.