

Sugar-Salem Junior High School  
Elective Course Descriptions

**Sixth grade Electives**

Bacteria and Viruses (one trimester)

In this class we will look at the differences between living and non-living things. We will take a look at some common viruses and how they replicate. Then, we will learn about the basic types of bacteria and how they reproduce. This class will also involve using microscopes and growing bacteria samples on petri dishes.

Crafts- (one trimester)

In this course we will travel the world by learning about different cultures and what unique crafts they have created for centuries. From Native American moccasins to African basket weaving, students will create beautiful items that are functional and unique.

**Combined Sixth and Seventh grade Electives**

Beginning Art-(one trimester)

In this course, students will learn and apply the elements and principles of art into their own artwork. Learning these basics will grant the students the opportunity to expand their artistic abilities.

Band (three trimesters) **Highly recommended that seventh graders take all three trimesters** This course is an introduction to instrumental (wind and percussion) music. Students will be taught musical terms and symbols as well as care for and tone production on wind and percussion instruments.

Beginning Choir (three trimester) **Highly recommended that seventh graders take all three trimesters:**

Open Enrollment. No Audition Required.

This class focuses on the basics of singing and music theory. Students will explore different genres of music including classical, gospel, jazz, folk music, acapella, and others.

Beginning Orchestra (three trimesters) **Highly recommended that seventh graders take all three trimesters**

6-7 The Beginning Orchestra is for students without prior orchestra experience or students who play a string instrument but want a more solid foundation. Students will learn music fundamentals, the basics of playing a string instrument and instrument care. Performances will be held throughout the year and the orchestra will perform quality music in classical, folk, jazz, and popular styles. Participation in concerts and festival is required. Students will have the opportunity to travel to Utah to perform and compete in an annual music festival; 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will need their parent to go with them and 7 grade students will be in small groups with a parent chaperone.

Ceramics-(one trimester) **Prerequisite: Beginning art**

In this course, students will work with clay to create 3D works of art. While creating both functional and non-functional pieces, students will also learn different glazing techniques and the processes of drying and firing clay.

## **Seventh Grade Electives**

Dinosaurs and Mega Mammals (one trimester)

This course will study geologic time and mass extinction events, with a focus on their causes and consequences. Then, we will shift our focus to dinosaurs and how fossils form. Finally, we will look at the mega mammals that went extinct during the current ice age.

**Seventh and Eighth Grade Electives** - These courses are offered to both seventh and eighth grade students and the classes will contain a mixture of both grades.

Beginning Art-(one trimester)

In this course, students will learn and apply the elements and principles of art into their own artwork. Learning these basics will grant the students the opportunity to expand their artistic abilities.

Drawing (one trimester) **Prerequisite Beginning Art:**

In this course, students will work on their drawing skills by using reference photos or still-life objects provided in the classroom. Students will be using the following materials to draw with: graphite, ink, color pencil and charcoal.

3-D Art (one trimester) **Prerequisite Beginning Art:**

Students will explore and create three-dimensional art forms including the following: paper mache, clay tiles, recycled assemblages, and soap sculptures. A strong work ethic will be essential for this class. Students may need to work on their projects a lot at home and they can be very messy.

Studio Art (one trimester) **Prerequisite - 2D Art and Instructor Approval:**

In this course, students who love art will be able to try art mediums that are not used in any other art class. We will focus primarily on painting while using mediums watercolor, acrylic and oil paints. **This is a TWO HOUR class and uses TWO electives.**

Digital Photography (one trimester) **Prerequisite - 88% or higher in Beginning Art and teacher recommendation: Students need to supply their own digital camera.** In this dual-credit course, students will learn the basics of digital photography. This includes how to work a camera and its settings, how to create interesting compositions, and how to edit the photos they took themselves.

Counterfactual History (one trimester). This course will evaluate accurate historical events. Once the students have understood the event, they will evaluate in essay form what-if scenarios and support their opinions..

Creative Writing through Game Design (one trimester)

This class is designed to develop writing and creative thinking skills. Students will have the opportunity to learn about and practice a variety of writing styles. This class is for everyone, whether you are a strong or weak writer. The “Game Design” portion of the class will focus on technical writing and its use in board games. Students will learn and study several games in class such as Heroscape, Carcassonne, Zombie Dice, Pictureka, etc. with the intent to create their own board games or expansions to already existing games.

Environmental Science (one trimester) **Students may only take this course once at the junior high.**

This class is the study of how living and nonliving things interact with each other. Topics include ecosystems, energy, air, the atmosphere, land use, food impact and consumption, and government policy.

Military History (one trimester)

Students examine the role of the military and conflict on both the ancient world and in modern times. Students will analyze the strategic, technical, and socioeconomic influence of warfare on human history and the development of civilizations.

Sports history (one trimester) This class will examine sports in America. This class will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the origins of different sports in America. The course will also evaluate the relationships between sports with culture, social classes, race, gender, scandals, and political influences in history.

**For Discovery/GT classes, class size is limited and applicants will be reviewed by a panel of teachers and administrators for final approval.**

GT Drama: (one trimester)

Students will gain strength with their on stage presence through different monologues, small group plays, and improve activities.

GT 3D Printing and Design (one trimester) **Students may only take this course once at the junior high.**

Students will learn how to use an online program where they will design objects that they will then 3D print. The objects will be geared toward solving a problem that can help someone in need.

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GT American Sign Language (one trimester) **Students may only take this course once at the junior high.**

An introduction to ASL with basic grammar, vocabulary, fingerspelling, numbers, and cultural information related to the deaf community.

GT Lego Robotics. (one trimester). **Students may only take this course once at the junior high.**

Students will be placed in teams of no more than 3 students. As a team, they will build the VEX Clawbot in order to become familiar with the VEX system. Teams will then be given a challenge to complete (e.g. stacking boxes). Using the engineering design process teams will design and build a robot that can perform that function.

Beginning Spanish (one trimester)

This introductory level course will acquaint students with the vocabulary, grammar, and syntax in Spanish with the goal to be conversationally fluent. (Prerequisite: B average or higher letter grade in each trimester of language the previous school year)

U.S. History—Reconstruction through 21<sup>st</sup> Century (one trimester)

This class provides an overview of the history of the United States from Civil War Reconstruction through the present. Political and military developments are examined in depth

World History/Geography (one trimester)

This class prepares students to compete in the Geography Bowl by broadening the knowledge base about geography and history.

Cheerleading (trimesters 1 and 2)

This is a class where participants must try-out for selection. Emphasis is on tumbling and gymnastic skills as well as positive presentation. Participants who are selected will demonstrate cheer and dance skills at athletic events as well as three competitions held on weekends. **(This does not supplant Junior High P.E. requirement)**

## **Eighth Grade Electives**

Band (three trimesters) **Highly recommended that students take three trimesters their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year**

Concepts of instrumental music are developed, including ensemble playing, intonation, and proper tone production. Advanced key signatures and scales emphasized. This is not an introductory course. Students should have completed at least 2 trimesters of Beginning Band before enrolling in this course.

Intermediate Choir (three trimesters) **Highly recommended that students take three trimesters their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year**

No audition but 2 trimesters of beginning choir required. Students must also submit a statement of purpose explaining why the student wants to be in choir.

This class focuses on furthering singing and music experience. The music explored in this class will be more challenging. Students should be prepared by understanding the basics

of sight reading, solfege, and singing. This course emphasizes singing on pitch with good vocal quality. The choir performs five concerts per year.

Orchestra - Intermediate (three trimesters) **Highly recommended that students take three trimesters**

7-8 The Intermediate Orchestra is for students who have completed a one-year course in Orchestra or are competent on the D, G and C Major scales. Students will continue to develop their individual and ensemble playing skills and perform a wide variety of music in classical, folk, jazz, and popular styles. Participation in concerts and festival is required. Students will have the opportunity to travel to Utah to perform and compete in an annual music festival.

Botany/Horticulture (one trimester)

The study of plants, their structure, identification, genetics and their relation to the environment.

Introduction to Wildlife Management This course introduces students to best practices of wildlife and habitat management in Idaho.

Fitness Training

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime. **(This does not supplant Junior High P.E. requirement)**

Personal Finance (one trimester)

This course teaches students the fundamentals of money management and what happens to earned money as a paycheck is received, spent, or invested.

Reading (one trimester) **Prerequisite: 85% in all three seventh grade language arts, eighth grade language arts, and placement test score.**

Reading is a dual credit course designed to help all readers become more proficient readers. The main objectives of this course are to, give students the reading skills essential to completing their academic courses, and guide students toward becoming lifelong readers. A wide variety of reading strategies will be taught and put into practice. In addition, students will learn Greek/Latin prefixes, roots, and suffixes. Students will be required to read **five** books from a variety of authors and genres during the trimester. Students will read one hour per day from Monday-Friday at home and fill out a reading log in addition to daily homework. They will also complete AR tests with a score of 80 percent or higher, and they will prepare and present three book talks to the class. **To earn dual credit students must earn at least an 85% in class. (Dual Credit)**

Spanish I (one trimester) **Prerequisite - 77% or higher in Beginning Spanish:**

Students learn pronunciation, comprehension, speaking vocabulary, and some writing and fundamental structure of the language. **(Dual Credit)**

Zoology (one trimester)

The study of animals and animal life, including study of structure, development, classification, and physiology. Dissection will be included in lab and coursework.