

Simpson Middle School Curriculum Guide

This document contains information on all courses offered at Thomas Simpson Middle School. The document is divided into two sections. The first section gives descriptions of the required classes for each grade. The second section describes the elective courses including 8th hour options.

Section I: Grade-level requirements pp. 2 - 24

Unless otherwise determined by an individualized educational plan, the following courses are required:

6th: Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA, STEAM, and PE/Health

7th: Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA, Art, and STEAM

8th: Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA, PE and Art

Use this section of the curriculum guide to learn about what will be covered in each course. Some content is subject to change.

Section II: Electives pp. 25 – 33

In addition to the required classes listed above, each student will take two electives (1 per semester) and four 8th hour electives (1 per quarter). **Use this section to help pick the remaining parts of the schedule.** In general, students need to pick two general electives and four 8th hour electives for the school year plus alternates.

6th Grade

Course Curriculum

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GRADE 6 CORE COURSES REQUIRED FOR ALL 6 TH GRADE STUDENTS
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6th Grade Math

Full Year

The sixth grade math program is designed to help students apply the many math concepts covered to real life situations. Students will be involved in many partner, individual and group discussions to help with problem solving skills.

Topics covered: Basic Algebra, Probability, Basic Geometry, Integers, Fractions, Decimals and Percent operations

Materials Required: Binder, 5 tabs, pencil, correcting pen

Extended Core 6th grade Math

Full Year

Pre Requisite: Local assessment scores and teacher recommendation

This course follows the same curriculum as above, at a much quicker pace. This class concentrates on building on the topics of the regular curriculum at a higher level. Also includes additional topics.

Materials Required: Binder, 5 tabs, pencil, correcting pen

6th Grade English/Language Arts

Full Year

Sixth Grade Language Arts is structured to help students understand the importance and relevance of language and literature in their own lives through reading and writing. Students are exposed to a variety of writing experiences, including: personal narrative, argument paragraph, and literary essay. Writing will be done in a Writing Workshop format with a mini-lesson, writing time (which includes teacher conferencing with groups or individual students), and share time each writing day. Students are taught to view writing as a practical tool and as a process with specific steps to follow to ensure successful, creative outcomes. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are taught directly and on a needs basis. These skills are then applied as a tool in the writing process. Students will learn key comprehension strategies and vocabulary through fiction and nonfiction reading selections. In addition to in-class reading, Accelerated Reader (AR) books are required to be read. Students must read books in their reading range and then successfully pass the corresponding AR test with 70% or higher.

Materials Required: Composition notebook, pens, and a binder or folder

6th Grade Social Studies- Geography

Full Year

6th Grade geography will take students on a global studies journey. Students will explore topics ranging from physical geography, population, and government to economics, culture, and environment.

Material Required: binder, pencil, pen

Optional: highlighters, colored pencils, scissors, glue

6th Grade Science

Full Year

This class will teach students the Next Generation Science Standards. Students will experience physics, chemistry, and earth science in this course. The coursework will focus on real-life unit challenges and applications in an inquiry-based format.

Materials Required: Three-ringed binder, divider tabs, lined paper, pencils, correcting pen

PE/Health

One Semester

The Life Skills education course is based on the Michigan Model Health Program and a community survey. The topics may include the following but not limited to: Personnel Hygiene, Nutrition, Drugs Tobacco/Alcohol, Refusal Skills (bullying and relationships) Dating Violence, ORV (off road vehicle), Boating Safety, Cardio Care, HIV/AIDS and other STD'S, Diabetes, Personnel Safety, Mental and Emotional Health, Physical Health, Puberty and Sexual Reproduction, First Aid and Character Education

Required Material: Pencils, pen and Simpson Agenda book.

The sixth grade STEAM program is designed to build on the foundation of the elementary STEAM programs and equip students with 21st Century Skills. Students will use the Engineering Design Process to solve problems, they will use block coding to solve puzzles, make games, and program robots. Students will continue to develop their proficiency using the Google Suite and increase their keyboarding speed. In addition, students will learn about Digital Citizenship, the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, and a Growth Mindset to encourage responsibility and decision making skills during this transition period to middle school.

Materials Required: Headphones, pencil, access to a computer outside of school

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI) COURSES
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RtI Reading

One – Six Semesters

RtI Reading is a class set up for students who need extra help in reading. The focus of the class is to improve reading and writing skills through a variety of lessons that support and enforce objectives learned in their core subject areas. Students are selected for this class due to low scores on the M-STEP and/or NWEA MAP assessment. This course uses the MobyMax program to find and fix learning gaps for each individual student. Students are able to master their individualized learning objectives at a pace they are comfortable with. RtI does not directly help struggling students with their grade-level ELA class. Instead, it focuses on skills from the past that the student is not proficient in. It also allows them the extra help during the school day they need to be a successful student. This course is a tier two intervention.

Required Material: None

RTI Math

One – Six Semesters

RtI Math is a class set up for students who need extra help in reading. The focus of the class is to improve reading and writing skills through a variety of lessons that support and enforce objectives learned in their core subject areas. Students are selected for this class due to low scores on the M-STEP and/or NWEA MAP assessment. This course uses the MobyMax program to find and fix learning gaps for each individual student. Students are able to master their individualized learning objectives at a pace they are comfortable with. RtI does not directly help struggling students with their grade-level math class. Instead, it focuses on skills from the past that the student is not proficient in. It also allows them the extra help during the school day they need to be a successful student. This course is a tier two intervention.

Required Materials: None

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES

Resource Room

Determined by IEP

This class is designed to assist the special education student manage, comprehend, and achieve success in all content area classes, placing emphasis on completing classroom assignments. It is designed to develop, reinforce study and organizational abilities that will impact each student's responsibility and personal life skills. Any accommodation listed in the IEP will be addressed during this class period.

Required Material: Assignment Notebook, pencil, paper, classroom texts

ASD Center Based Program

Determined by IEP

This program is designed to provide individualized special education with a high staff to student ratio for children who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. This program combines enrichment activities and academics that are designed for students with a limited skill base who can still benefit from taking part in a general education environment. Adjusted curriculum and supports for successful general education inclusion are set up in this program as required by the individual student.

Required Material: 3 ring binder, pencils, erasers, specialized paper as needed.

CLUBS

Interact CLUB

Interact Club is a middle school community service club that is sponsored by Rotary International. It provides students in grades 6th, 7th and 8th with opportunities to help and serve various needs of others by working on projects selected by the students throughout the year. Some of the projects have been within the school like running a recycling program and raising money by shirt and bake sales, within the community by working at a wildlife preserve, a local nursing home, or international by —adopting a boy from Honduras to pay for his education or —adopting various animals through Heifer International for people in third world countries. It also provides students with opportunities to develop leadership skills among their peers enhance their friendship and social skills and develop team work skills. Meetings are held every other week after school for 45 minutes. Some projects are weekly within the school but field trips are usually a few times per year. We depend on volunteer parents to help with the driving. Students may join anytime throughout the year and often may need to take a break from active service while being involved in a sport, drama etc. Students are expected to occasionally provide something for the weekly bake sales.

Cheer Club

The cheer season coincides with the football season which runs from the first day of school until the end of October. Even though cheerleading is considered a club at Simpson, it is run like a team. Depending on the number of interested girls, a tryout may be necessary to make the team. Practices and/or games are four times a week and attendance is mandatory. The girls may have to participate in some fundraising for help in paying for uniforms and equipment. We work hard but have a lot of fun!

Student Council

The Simpson Student Council is a school organization dedicated to providing our students with extra-curricular activities. Student council members are either elected by the student body or appointed by the student council advisor. Student Council activities include: planning school dances, organizing staff versus student volleyball and basketball games, planning school reward activities, and raising money for local charitable causes.

Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad teams consist of 15 students that research and practice events from September to March. They compete in various STEM events at a regional meet in the spring. Top three teams move on to compete at the National Science Olympiad meet.

****Students earn medals for the top 15 places in each event, at the regional level. Events are changed yearly but can include: Amphibians & Reptiles, Anatomy, Ecology, Environmental Chemistry, Experimental Design, Fossils, Meteorology, Rocks/Minerals.**

Team members will:

- follow a strict code of honesty, safety, fairness and sportsmanship
- maintain no less than a B average in all academic classes
- be free of any discipline issues at school/ buses
- attend all practices, and come prepared with research, materials, etc
- follow all Science Olympiad rules
- be available to attend the Olympiad Tournament

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The following sports are offered as competitive sports for 6th grade students and follow the MHSAA rules. All sports require a physical to be on file prior to first day of practice. There is a one-time participation fee that allows the student athlete to participate in the following sports:

FALL	Cross Country
WINTER ONE	Swimming
WINTER TWO	Wrestling
SPRING	Boys and Girls Track

7th Grade

Course Curriculum

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GRADE 7 CORE COURSES REQUIRED FOR ALL 7 TH GRADE STUDENTS
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7th Grade Mathematics

Full Year

The seventh grade math is guided by the 8 Mathematical Practice Standards. These standards are the underlying foundation for all students to be successful in mathematics. Some of the standards focus on students being able to persevere through difficult problems, students using precision both in mathematical language and in their work, students using multiple strategies to problem solve, and students' ability to justify and defend their mathematical thinking to name a few.

In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

The instruction uses a constructivist approach where students are asked to construct or make meaning of the material in a personal way. Instead of being provided with a rule, we ask students to discover the rule for themselves with guidance from the teacher in order to better understand the underlying concepts being introduced. This process leads to the higher order thinking skills that will be required of them in the future.

Required Material: Spiral Notebook, lined paper, pencils

Extended Core 6th grade Math

Full Year

Pre Requisite: Local assessment scores and teacher recommendation

This course follows the same curriculum as above, at a much quicker pace. This class concentrates on building on the topics of the regular curriculum at a higher level. Also includes additional topics.

Materials Required: Binder, 5 tabs, pencil, correcting pen

Seventh Grade English Language Arts uses an integrated approach of multiple language arts skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course is designed to engage students in complex and rigorous types of reading and writing. Daily routines follow a workshop model, enabling the teacher and students to focus on individual needs. The Writing Workshop exposes students to a variety of writing experiences, including memoir, argument paragraph, and a year-ending project of multi-genre pieces. Writing is taught with a process approach, including skills in pre-writing, drafting, revision, editing, and publishing, as well as self-reflection and evaluating of students' own writing and learning. Within the Reading Workshop, instruction focuses on increasing comprehension and developing lifelong literacy strategies and habits. Independent reading and writing are encouraged and required.

Required Materials: Composition notebook, pencil, independent reading material.

Seventh grade social studies curriculum introduces students to cultures of the East, with emphasis on the contemporary geography of Africa, Europe and Asia. Through the study of geography, students learn the locations of significant places in each of these world regions; explore cultural and natural features that characterize each region; trace movement of people, ideas, and products within the regions; and discover ways that regions can be divided into sub-regions. Historical background is provided to enable students to understand how a region developed from the past to the present. Differences in governments and economies are examined. The economy of each region and its role in the global economy is explored. Using a variety of media, students compile, analyze, and present geographic and economic data pertaining to the regions. Throughout the course, students study public issues of global significance in the East. Through analysis, discussion, and writing, students consider what actions, if any, their country should pursue with respect to these regions. The second half of the course is devoted to the study of the first three eras in World History. These units lay a foundation for the future study of World History in high school. Calling on the geography, economics, and civics that they have previously studied, students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. Students learn how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of skills and ideas. The course concludes with an in-depth investigation of different world religions. Students examine why these religions became world religions. After exploring how these spread, students consider some of their influences in early world history.

Required Material: Binder, pencil, pen, spiral or composition notebook

Optional: highlighters, colored pencils, scissors, glue

7th Grade Science

Full Year

This class will teach students the Next Generation Science Standards. Students will experience physics, chemistry, life and earth science in this course. The coursework will focus on real-life unit challenges and applications in an inquiry-based format.

Materials Required: Three-ringed binder, divider tabs, lined paper, pencils, correcting pen

7th Grade STEAM

One Semester

The seventh grade STEAM program is designed to build on the sixth grade STEAM program and equip students with 21st Century Skills. Students will use the Engineering Design Process to solve problems, they will use block, python, and java coding to solve puzzles, make games, and program robots. Students will continue to develop their proficiency using the Google Suite and increase their keyboarding speed. In addition, students will learn about Digital Citizenship, the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, and a Growth Mindset to encourage responsibility and decision making skills during this transition period of middle school.

Materials Required: Headphones, pencil, access to a computer outside of school

This class will refresh your memory on the basic elements of design meanwhile introducing you to the principles of design as well. You will gain familiarity with historical and modern day artists that have helped shaped media. You will create work based on the education of Pop culture, portrait drawing, world culture, impressionism, realism and even through the application of personal experiences. You will have the opportunity to expand your art skills in mediums such as drawing with graphite, charcoal and colored pencil, painting with tempera and water color paints, sculpting with clay, and design using marker. You will also become more familiar with the many career opportunities in the art field and how these careers affect the world in which we live in today. Each individual will keep a daily sketchbook/journal for drawings and personal writings as well as first drafts of final art pieces. Always follow the motto "if you can write your name, you can draw". This class allows for freedom of expression and creativity. Relax, be creative and original and enjoy the class.

Required Material:

- Pencils
- Erasers
- Sketchbook/lined notebook
- One fine Permanent marker (example: fine point sharpie)
- Folder

Optional Supplies/Materials:

- Specific Drawing pencils 2B, 4B, 6B (these pencils have a softer lead and enhance drawing techniques)
- White erasers or kneaded erasers (they allow for a clean erase)
- A fine and an extra fine permanent marker
- Colored pencils (we have community colored pencils, however, colors are limited)
- Markers (we have community markers, however, colors are limited)

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI) COURSES
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RtI Reading is a class set up for students who need extra help in reading. The focus of the class is to improve reading and writing skills through a variety of lessons that support and enforce objectives learned in their core subject areas. Students are selected for this class due to low scores on the M-STEP and/or NWEA MAP assessment. This course uses the MobyMax program to find and fix learning gaps for each individual student. Students are able to master their individualized learning objectives at a pace they are comfortable with. RtI does not directly help struggling students with their grade-level ELA class. Instead, it focuses on skills from the past that the student is not proficient in. It also allows them the extra help during the school day they need to be a successful student. This course is a tier two intervention.

Required Material: None

RtI Math is a class set up for students who need extra help in reading. The focus of the class is to improve reading and writing skills through a variety of lessons that support and enforce objectives learned in their core subject areas. Students are selected for this class due to low scores on the M-STEP and/or NWEA MAP assessment. This course uses the MobyMax program to find and fix learning gaps for each individual student. Students are able to master their individualized learning objectives at a pace they are comfortable with. RtI does not directly help struggling students with their grade-level math class. Instead, it focuses on skills from the past that the student is not proficient in. It also allows them the extra help during the school day they need to be a successful student. This course is a tier two intervention.

Required Materials: None

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES

Resource Room

Determined by IEP

This class is designed to assist the special education student manage, comprehend, and achieve success in all content area classes, placing emphasis on completing classroom assignments. It is designed to develop, reinforce study and organizational abilities that will impact each student's responsibility and personal life skills. Any accommodation listed in the IEP will be addressed during this class period.

Required material: Assignment Notebook
Pencil
Paper
Classroom Texts

ASD Center Based Program

Determined by IEP

This program is designed to provide individualized special education with a high staff to student ratio for children who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. This program combines enrichment activities and academics that are designed for students with a limited skill base who can still benefit from taking part in a general education environment. Adjusted curriculum and supports for successful general education inclusion are set up in this program as required by the individual student.

Required Material: 3 ring binder, pencils, erasers, specialized paper as needed.

CLUBS

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Interact Club is a middle school community service club that is sponsored by Rotary International. It provides students in grades 6th, 7th and 8th with opportunities to help and serve various needs of others by working on projects selected by the students throughout the year. Some of the projects have been within the school like running a recycling program and raising money by shirt and bake sales, within the community by working at a wildlife preserve, a local nursing home, or international by —adopting a boy from Honduras to pay for his education or —adopting various animals through Heifer International for people in third world countries. It also provides students with opportunities to develop leadership skills among their peers enhance their friendship and social skills and develop team work skills. Meetings are held every other week after school for 45 minutes. Some projects are weekly within the school but field trips are usually a few times per year. We depend on volunteer parents to help with the driving. Students may join anytime throughout the year and often may need to take a break from active service while being involved in a sport, drama etc. Students are expected to occasionally provide something for the weekly bake sales.

Cheer Club

The cheer season coincides with the football season which runs from the first day of school until the end of October. Even though cheerleading is considered a club at Simpson, it is run like a team. Depending on the number of interested girls, a tryout may be necessary to make the team. Practices and/or games are four times a week and attendance is mandatory. The girls may have to participate in some fundraising for help in paying for uniforms and equipment. We work hard but have a lot of fun!

National Junior Honor Society

National Junior Honor Society is a service organization which serves our school and community. At the end of seventh grade students who meet the following criteria will be invited to join. Student must have a 3.4 cumulative GPA, exhibit traits in Service, Leadership, Character, and Citizenship.

Student Council

The Simpson Student Council is a school organization dedicated to providing our students with extra-curricular activities. Student council members are either elected by the student body or appointed by the student council advisor. Student Council activities include: planning school dances, organizing staff versus student volleyball and basketball games, planning school reward activities, and raising money for local charitable causes.

Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad teams consist of 15 students that research and practice events from September to March. They compete in various events at a regional meet in the spring. Top three teams move on to compete at the National Science Olympiad meet.

**Students earn medals for the top 15 places in each event, at the regional level. Events are changed yearly but can include: Amphibians & Reptiles, Anatomy, Ecology, Environmental Chemistry, Experimental Design, Fossils, Meteorology, Rocks/Minerals.

Team members will:

- follow a strict code of honesty, safety, fairness and sportsmanship
- maintain no less than a B average in all academic classes
- be free of any discipline issues at school/ buses
- attend all practices, and come prepared with research, materials, etc
- follow all Science Olympiad rules
- be available to attend the Olympiad Tournament

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The following sports are offered as competitive sports for 7th grade students and follow the MHSAA rules. All sports require a physical to be on file prior to first day of practice. There is a one-time participation fee that allows the student athlete to participate in the following sports:

FALL	Cross Country, Football, Volleyball
WINTER ONE	Boys Basketball, Competitive Cheer, Swimming
WINTER TWO	Girls Basketball, Wrestling
SPRING	Boys and Girls Track, Softball, Baseball

8th Grade

Course Curriculum

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GRADE 8 CORE COURSES REQUIRED FOR ALL 8 TH GRADE STUDENTS
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8th Grade Math

Full Year

The 8th grade math program is structured to understand the importance and relevance of mathematics in our student's lives. Students' are required to make sense of numbers, algebraic expression, patterns, functions, solution procedures and answers. They also concentrate on Geometric concepts such as angle measurement, sequencing and spatial relations. They are exposed to multiple representations – numerical, graphical, symbolic and verbal.

In our course we cover Algebra concepts including data exploration, through a wide variety of graphing, proportional reasoning and variation, linear equations, fitting a line to data, systems of equations and inequalities and exponent functions and exponential models. Students learn to be resourceful, flexible problem solvers, working with a variety of data. We emphasize techniques for data analysis and use technology tools such as graphing calculators to help visualize and explore important concepts.

Required Material: lined paper, pencil, red pen, scientific calculator

Extended Core 8th grade Math: Algebra 8th Grade

Full Year

Prerequisite: Local assessment scores and teacher recommendation

The 8th grade Extended Core math program is structured to understand the importance and relevance of mathematics in our student's lives. Students' are required to make sense of numbers, algebraic expression, patterns, functions, solution procedures and answers. They are exposed to multiple representations – numerical, graphical, symbolic and verbal.

In our course we cover Algebra concepts including data exploration, through a wide variety of graphing, proportional reasoning and variation, linear equations, fitting a line to data, systems of equations and inequalities and exponent functions and exponential models. Students learn to be resourceful, flexible problem solvers, working with a variety of data. We emphasize techniques for data analysis and use technology tools such as graphing calculators to help visualize and explore important concepts.

Required Material: lined paper, pencil, red pen, scientific calculator

8th Grade ELA

Full Year

The 8th grade Language Arts program incorporates grammar, writing and reading for comprehension skills needed to succeed. The 8th grade curriculum is aligned with the high school, using the same textbook company. These books are custom bound and include the Michigan Standards and Benchmarks for each lesson taught. This will ensure that the students will be covering the information that will be tested on the M-Step and SAT tests. The students are exposed to a variety of writing experiences including argumentative essays, memoir essays, research based papers and creative writing assignments.

The text centers on Historical Fiction and Nonfiction including narrative, expository and persuasive text. Eighth grade students will read two novels along with learning the basic literary terms standard for middle school students. Six Accelerated Reader books are required for each semester. The students are responsible for selecting Accelerated Reader books and taking tests independently in the library which is scheduled on a weekly basis.

Required Material: Lined paper, red pen, pencil, composition book, highlighter

8th Grade U.S. History

Full Year

The study of American History in 8th grade encompasses approximately 100 years. The lessons begin with the rumblings of the American Revolution and continue until the Reconstruction of America after the Civil War.

Materials Required: 3-ring binder, divider tabs, lined paper, pencils, correcting pen

Optional: highlighters, colored pencils, dictionary

8th Grade Science

Full Year

This class will teach students the Next Generation Science Standards. Students will experience physics, chemistry, life and earth science in this course. The coursework will focus on real-life unit challenges and applications in an inquiry-based format.

Materials Required: 3-ring binder, divider tabs, lined paper, pencils, correcting pen

This class will enhance your understanding of the elements and principle of design. It will allow you to expand your knowledge of historical, modern day, and underground artists that have helped change and fashion media providing strong opinions on the world as we know it. You, in turn will gain a strong understanding of cultural art. You will have the opportunity to strengthen your performance with mediums such as graphite, colored pencil, charcoal and pastel, painting with tempera, watercolor, and acrylic paints (on canvas boards), sculpting using clay and found objects, printmaking and design. By the application of your talents, knowledge of space and shape as well as the inclusion of personal opinions you will have the freedom to choose your own subject matter while relating it to curriculum assignments. You will be expected to demonstrate originality, creative expression and proper technique of mediums. Also, you will become familiar with the many career opportunities in the art field relating these careers to your personal surroundings. Each individual will keep a daily sketchbook/journal in which preliminary drawings, daily sketches and personal writings will be kept. Continue to follow the motto "if you can write your name, you can draw". Relax, be spontaneous and enjoy the class.

Required Supplies/Materials:

- Pencils
- Erasers
- Sketchbook/lined notebook
- One fine Permanent marker (example: fine point sharpie)
- Folder

Optional Supplies/Materials:

- Specific Drawing pencils 2B, 4B, 6B (these pencils have a softer lead and enhance drawing techniques)
- White erasers or kneaded erasers (they allow for a clean erase)
- A fine and an extra fine permanent marker
- Colored pencils (we have community colored pencils, however, colors are limited)
- Markers (we have community markers, however, colors are limited)

The Simpson Middle School physical education program is structured to help students understand the importance and relevance of physical activity, teamwork, and cooperation in their own lives.

Class time will begin daily with cardiovascular work as well as stretching. Team lifetime games will follow and include activities that develop hand eye and foot eye coordination; as well as balance, kinesthetic (knowledge of your body position relevant to others or objects), catching, throwing, striking, body flexibility, and game strategies. Once a week, a fitness day will be incorporated to allow extended cardio respiratory fitness and individual activity choices (fitness and/or ball skills).

Regardless of the activity, self-reliance, socialization skills, cooperative skills, work ethic, respect for others, and integrity for each student will be taught, modeled, and observed.

Required Material: Shorts, sleeved shirts, gym shoes, socks, deodorant; for colder temperatures outdoors hooded sweatshirts, sweatpants, hats, gloves may be needed

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI) COURSES
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RTI Reading

One – Six Semesters

RtI Reading is a class set up for students who need extra help in reading. The focus of the class is to improve reading and writing skills through a variety of lessons that support and enforce objectives learned in their core subject areas. Students are selected for this class due to low scores on the M-STEP and/or NWEA MAP assessment. This course uses the MobyMax program to find and fix learning gaps for each individual student. Students are able to master their individualized learning objectives at a pace they are comfortable with. RtI does not directly help struggling students with their grade-level ELA class. Instead, it focuses on skills from the past that the student is not proficient in. It also allows them the extra help during the school day they need to be a successful student. This course is a tier two intervention.

Required Material: None

RTI Math

One – Six Quarters

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Required Materials: None

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES

Resource Room

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Required material: Assignment Notebook

Pencil

Paper

Classroom Texts

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****Students earn medals for the top 15 places in each event, at the regional level. Events are changed yearly but can include: Amphibians & Reptiles, Anatomy, Ecology, Environmental Chemistry, Experimental Design, Fossils, Meteorology, Rocks/Minerals.**

Team members will:

- follow a strict code of honesty, safety, fairness and sportsmanship
- maintain no less than a B average in all academic classes
- be free of any discipline issues at school/ buses
- attend all practices, and come prepared with research, materials, etc
- follow all Science Olympiad rules
- be available to attend the Olympiad Tournament

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The following sports are offered as competitive sports for 8th grade students and follow the MHSAA rules. All sports require a physical to be on file prior to first day of practice. There is a one-time participation fee that allows the student athlete to participate in the following sports:

FALL	Cross Country, Football, Volleyball
WINTER ONE	Boys Basketball, Competitive Cheer, Swimming
WINTER TWO	Girls Basketball, Wrestling
SPRING	Boys and Girls Track, Softball, Baseball

Elective Curriculum Guide



2019 – 2020

Thomas Simpson Middle School

Leaders in Learning!

General Electives

Students will have one general elective each semester. Use the following descriptions to help determine which two courses your child would like to take. Some classes are restricted to 7th and 8th grade students.

Art

One Semester

This class will refresh your memory on the basic elements of design meanwhile introducing you to the principles of design as well. You will gain familiarity with historical and modern day artists that have helped shaped media. You will create work based on the education of Pop culture, portrait drawing, world culture, impressionism, realism and even through the application of personal experiences. You will have the opportunity to expand your art skills in mediums such as drawing with graphite, charcoal and colored pencil, painting with tempera and water color paints, sculpting with clay, and design using marker. You will also become more familiar with the many career opportunities in the art field and how these careers affect the world in which we live in today. Each individual will keep a daily sketchbook/journal for drawings and personal writings as well as first drafts of final art pieces. Always follow the motto “if you can write your name, you can draw”. This class allows for freedom of expression and creativity. Relax, be creative and original and enjoy the class.

6th Grade Band

(1st Year)

Full Year

Students will continue to work on their music reading skills and their instrumental playing skills. Students will learn, play and perform a wide variety of music. Students will not only play but also listen and learn about various eras and styles of music. Band is a performance class.

Students will be required to practice regularly and to participate in evening concerts. If students have had no prior experience with the instrument they wish to play, they will need to participate in the weekly after school class lesson or take private lessons to bring them up to the intermediate level. Student grades will be based on class participation, practice records, written and playing quizzes, and performances. Music is a wonderful form of expression, music feeds the inner person – music can lead us to a profession or to a life long hobby. Don't miss out on music!

7th and 8th Grade Band

Full Year

Students will continue to polish their music reading skills and their instrumental performance skills. Students will learn, play and perform a wide variety of music. Students will not only play but also listen and learn about various eras and styles of music. Band is a performance class. **Students will be required to practice regularly and to participate in evening concerts, festival contests, and other performance opportunities.** Students will also have the opportunity to go to Solo and Ensemble, where they will play a prepared selection for judging. Student grades will be based on class participation, practice records, written and playing quizzes, and performances. Students will be expected to have 2 years of experience with their instrument and be able to play at an appropriate level for this group. If students are new to their instrument or do not have the playing ability for this group, they will be placed in Intermediate band, where they can improve on their skills. Music is a wonderful form of expression, music feeds the inner person – music can lead us to a profession or to a life-long hobby. Don't miss out on music!

Choir

One or Two Semesters

The Choir at Simpson Middle School is a performance based course designed to give the student a well-rounded choral music experience where helping each student build skills and the knowledge needed for a foundation towards success is the primary focus.

Students participating in middle school choir will experience music from various genres, styles and time periods from the Renaissance to present. Skills such as note reading, rhythmic patterns, and solfege are taught utilizing the selected music as the curricular guide. **At least one concert (either daytime or evening) is presented during each academic semester and attendance is absolutely mandatory.**

A major, non-musical part of the ensemble environment focuses on reinforcing the values of commitment and teamwork and how each person's contribution to the ensemble is important to create a successful educational and musical experience. Student assessment will be based on class participation, written and singing quizzes, and performances.

Drama

One or Two Semesters

Drama (previously "gLee") blends popular music with drama and dance. Enjoy learning to read music while singing today's popular hits. Learn basic dance steps and exercise your inner character through acting and improvisation. Finally, perform the finished product for your friends, family, and fellow students.

Physical Education

One or Two Semesters

The Simpson Middle School physical education program is structured to help students understand the importance and relevance of physical activity, teamwork, and cooperation in their own lives.

Class time will begin daily with cardiovascular work as well as stretching. Team lifetime games will follow and include activities that develop hand eye and foot eye coordination; as well as balance, kinesthetic (knowledge of your body position relevant to others or objects), catching, throwing, striking, body flexibility, and game strategies. Once a week, a fitness day will be incorporated to allow extended cardio respiratory fitness and individual activity choices (fitness and/or ball skills).

Regardless of the activity, self-reliance, socialization skills, cooperative skills, work ethic, respect for others, and integrity for each student will be taught, modeled, and observed.

Required Material: Shorts, sleeved shirts, gym shoes, socks, deodorant; for colder temperatures outdoors hooded sweatshirts, sweatpants, hats, gloves may be needed

Needlework

One Semester

Needlework is an art that has always had something to say. Like early American settlers, students learn to stitch, embroider, weave, crochet, or knit depending on the session.

Nutrition (7th & 8th Grade only)

One Semester

During the course of the semester students in the nutrition class will be able to review relationships of nutrients and exercise to health and wellness, be able to identify the best sources of each nutrient, recognize effects of using too little or too much of a nutrient, recognize how lifestyles affect their well-being, apply nutrition information to their food choices, identify reasons people have weight problems, identify careful shipping practices, use safety practices to prevent accidents in the kitchen, know how to serve food properly, and know correct food storage techniques.

Students will also learn the skills and be able to: identify kitchen equipment and its proper use, understand food preparation terms, read and follow recipe directs, use computational skills to increase and decrease a recipe, identify correct measuring techniques, use basic cooking tools and techniques correctly.

Students will actively participate in cooking labs in small team settings.

Nutrition 2

One Semester

Students will build upon the skills gained in Nutrition 1. The recipes and projects for this course will be more complex than those studied in Nutrition 1.

Virtual Learning

One or Two Semesters

If you and your child choose to participate they will have an online class in place of one of their other electives for the semester. This option gives Simpson students a chance to take courses that are otherwise not available to them at no cost to the parent. These courses will not have any impact on students' GPA's as they are taken for a "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory" grade. Only responsible, self-motivated students should consider taking an online course. Requirements: Will depend on the class that they are enrolled in

8th Hour Electives

All students will take four 8th hour electives each year. In an attempt to rotate in different options for our students, some classes may not run each year.

Advanced Physical Education (7th & 8th grade only)

This class is an opportunity for 7th and 8th grade students to participate in competitive sports and activities.

Book Club

Do you enjoy reading? Do you enjoy having conversations about good books? Then this is the class for you!

Cartoon Creations

Comic Creations will teach students how to use certain images, such as people, animals, landscapes, cars, buildings or schools to create a specific story within a comic. By studying comic books and comic strips, students will learn techniques for referencing simple pictures accompanied by well-chosen words to create meaning for the reader. This drawing class focuses on developing believable characters that can carry a story. Students will develop unique characters by determining what they look like, their personalities and their purpose in the story.

Students examine how elements of character presentation, including color palettes and clothing, affect the way people perceive a cartoon. Techniques for illustrating the passing of time and ways to express feelings, often with the use of shadows, are identified. Students will also become exposed to the possible careers in cartoon drawing, such as; Comic Books (paper and online), Greeting Cards, Advertising, Animated Cartoon storyboarding, Children's Book illustration and Magazines, Newspapers, Editorial Cartoons/Illustrations.

Coding/Programming

Are you interested in learning how to program? This option is great for beginners and also experienced programmer. Students can learn block coding, Java, or Python with this self-paced course as they design games, characters, build programs, and solve challenges.

Creative Writing

This course focuses on different types of poetry. Students will study, mimic, create, and deliver poems in class. Creative writing is a great way to learn and grow as a writer and speaker.

CSI 1 (8th grade only)

The CSI course is designed to introduce the student to applications of earth, life, and physical science while studying forensics. It will provide students with an introduction into theoretical understanding and practical application of forensic science techniques as well as connect the concepts between forensic science to legal studies and career opportunities.

This course is designed to engage students in experimentation, personal observation, and hands on learning. Students will be required to take notes, read informational texts, engage in discussions on class concepts and also use the writing process in analyzing crime scenes. The students will research a career in the field of forensics. The course is designed to help students to use facts, logic and objective thinking to solve problems in the real world.

CSI 2 (8th grade only)

This course is an extension of CSI 1 which is described above. This course will cover blood typing, forensic entomology, forensic anthropology, arson investigation, crash investigation, and DNA evidence. Students must pass CSI 1 before taking this course.

Drone Programming 101

A combination of interactive lessons, concept explanations, videos, puzzles, and DIY projects will be used to teach students to write programs and control drones. The coding activities build and reinforce STEM skills in geometry, art, math, and science. Students will program drones to fly instead of flying them with a remote.

Fitness Dance

Fitness Dance is a fun and unique way to exercise. Students will learn simple routines based on different styles of dance and music from around the world. The final project will have students creating their own routines set to music of their choosing. Fitness Dance is fun for all middle school students.

Food for Thought

This class is an activity-centered class in which students learn to do basic cooking, baking, and food sanitation. They will be taught to read, understand and follow recipes. They will work with cake preparation, cookie decorating, soups and bread making. At the end of the course, students will explore a career in the food industry.

Game On

This course will provide hands-on Math projects/games with Real-Life Applications. Instead of learning skills in isolation, students learn math in context where they can see how it is applied in real life situations. In this way they come to recognize the importance of math in their own lives. This is especially true of math classes in which projects are a significant part of the course.

Genius Hour

Genius Hour is a movement that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom. It provides students with a choice in what they learn during 8th hour.

Get Outta Class

You look outside the classroom window and see another gloomy day. You start daydreaming about a vacation. No need to count down the days anymore.

You can go anywhere you want, anytime you want... virtually! This class will let you decide where you want to take a virtual field trip. Do you want to visit the Space Museum? Fly over the Grand Canyon? Spend a day on a farm? All are possible on a virtual field trip. Choose your destination and then share the highlights with the rest of the class. The world and all of its wonders is just a click away!

MakerSpace

What do you do in a makerspace? The simple answer is you make things! A makerspace is a place where students collaborate to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover using a variety of tools and materials. For example, students may be challenged to design and build a house that the Big, Bad Wolf (aka a hair dryer) cannot blow over, or a wall from which Humpty Dumpty (a real egg) can fall and not break. Students will use problem solving skills to create, test and improve their inventions.

Movie Maker

This class is designed to give students the opportunity to apply their computer skills while designing and creating a video using movie maker. Students will be responsible to create three videos. One will focus on creating a Simpson video pertaining to the building, student activities, and their friends. The class will focus on downloading photographs, taking photographs, scanning pictures, editing, and cropping.

Photo Frenzy

Photo Frenzy and Digital Scrapbooking: Learn how to frame the perfect shot or just take a fun selfie. We will have professional photographer guest speakers to help you even more. After you've got your pictures you'll turn them into a photobook, calendar, or other keepsakes on Shutterfly. View your creations digitally or have them made at an additional cost. Great to give as gifts or just keep and enjoy yourself.

Reader's Theatre

Reader's Theater is a dramatic presentation of a written work in a script form. Readers read from a script and reading parts are divided amongst the students. No memorization or costumes are needed. Scripts are held by the readers as the play is being performed. Lines are not memorized. The focus is on reading the text with expressive voices and gestures. To help students feel more comfortable performing with a group, students will play a variety of theater games. The final project for the course will consist of students working cooperatively to create and perform a script based on a children's picture book.

Road Trip

Road Trip allows students to plan their own journey through the United States. They will choose places to visit, where to eat, where to stay, and what kind of car to drive! Students can go where they choose as long as they can drive there! Plan your summer vacation!

Robotics

Students will explore the basic foundations of robotics and mechanical control by completing an exciting array of hands-on activities using Blockly Coding to code Lego EV#3 MindStorms Education kits. Students will participate in creating physical and tangible projects. These projects and the setting of the robotics lab are relevant to real world experiences. This class will compel students to persevere and problem solve while they build models, design experiments, and solve problems in a challenging, fun atmosphere!

Shark Tank

This class is designed to introduce basic business skills. Students will come up with a product or service and present their idea to a review committee. The ideas that are approved will turn into companies where students will develop, cost, and market their plan. The class will culminate in a competition for the most profitable product based on individualized criteria.

Strength and Conditioning

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques along with cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, overall fitness training and conditioning. Students will complete a Strength and conditioning packet before they are able to use the equipment.

Technology/Engineering

This course is designed to help students apply physics & technology concepts to various situations. Some prior knowledge of physical science is required. Students will research and use the various scientific concepts throughout the construction phase of each unit. Students will be required to keep a journal and submit written evaluations about their progress using the Scientific Method. The majority of this class is project based; participation during class is a must.

TED Talk Club

Do you ever feel like you have a lot to say but never given the chance? Is there something you're passionate about and want others to know and care about it, too? Have you ever watched a TED Talk online? Ever wonder what it's like to speak for yourself?

TED Talk class supports students as they discover and present their own, personal big ideas in the form of short, TED-style talks.

Wired for Success

Interested in coding? Have you ever wanted to try to make something for a 3D printer? Ever wonder how VR really works? Then this is the class for you! In teams, you will use robots and other digital technology to learn the basics of coding, CAD, green screening, AR, and VR. Students need to be motivated and interested in technology but do not need to have background knowledge in these topics. Students need to be able to problem-solve and work together to complete tasks with the technology in class. It is recommended that students have a device that they can bring to class.

Wild About Weather

Calling all future meteorologists! Weather and climate affect the way people dress and their activities on a daily, weekly, and even monthly basis. Some people even choose where they live based on weather and climate! Come explore rain, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning, wind, thunderstorms and more.