

SILVER TRAIL MIDDLE SCHOOL

“Home of the Mustangs”



2020-2021 School Year EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



Concert Band

The Concert Band is for students in the 7th or 8th grade wishing to learn to play an instrument. This class will develop the basic fundamentals of tone production and musicality. The Concert Band also serves as the tool for students who would like to learn to play a secondary instrument. **Teacher recommendation is required.**

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band provides instruction in musical style and basic music fundamentals. This ensemble continues to develop the techniques learned in the beginning band. As a member of the Symphonic Band, students will begin to focus on the fundamentals of playing as an ensemble. Students in this group perform an average of three times per year outside the regular school day. **Teacher recommendation is required.**

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble provides instruction in musical style, tone production and ensemble playing. This ensemble is the top-performing ensemble and is available to seventh and eighth graders. Members of this ensemble frequently attend rehearsals and performances outside of the regular classroom and school day. **Teacher recommendation is required.**

Jazz Band

This class is for advanced students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, drums, bass and/or guitar. The class focuses on learning to play music in the jazz and modern American music genre. Students in this class must also be enrolled in either Beginning Band, Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble. **Teacher recommendation is required.**

TV Production

This is an elective course offered to 7th and 8th grade students. Students learn the basic elements of television production, including news reporting, the research process, video equipment operation, and digital video editing. The course also explores various aspects of television production as a career. In addition, students will have the opportunity to produce the Silver Trail Middle School Morning News Show on a daily basis. **A TV production application is required.**

Spanish I

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the target language and its culture, and to develop communicative skills and cross-cultural understanding with an emphasis on both oral communication and writing skills. The content includes, but is not limited to work in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as vocabulary and grammatical concepts. **Students enrolled in this full year course will have the opportunity to earn high school credit.** To enroll in this course, a student must have a 2019 FSA English Language Arts (ELA) score of Level 3 or higher and a 2019 FSA math comprehension score of Level 2 or higher. **Language Arts teacher recommendation is required.**

Spanish II

This course will reinforce and enhance the basic skills previously acquired in the target language. The content will include further development of listening, speaking, reading, writing and grammatical concepts, as well as a broader understanding of the target culture. **Students enrolled in this full year course will have the opportunity to earn high school credit.** Students enrolled in this course must have successfully completed Spanish I. **Spanish I teacher approval is required.**

Peer Counseling - I and II

Peer Counseling involves students interacting with peers in a structured setting. Peer Counselors receive training to develop and enhance leadership skills as well as effective listening and communication skills. These skills enable the trained counselors in assisting and providing a support role to their peers with minor problems. They will also implement school-wide projects related to current social issues affecting today's youth. **A Peer Counseling application/teacher approval is required.**

Yearbook

This is an elective course offered to 8th grade students. Students will gain skills in the following areas: page design, advanced publishing techniques, copy writing, editing, and photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records STMS memories and events. There is an emphasis on journalism skills in this class. Students will gain useful, real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles. *To enroll in this course, a student must have a 2019 FSA English Language Arts (ELA) score of a level 3 or higher.* **To apply, students must submit an application, with a writing sample and picture design, and have the Journalism teacher's approval prior to being placed in this course.**

Physical Education

The physical education program consists of a variety of instructions in physical fitness, lifetime and leisure activities, individual, and dual and team sports.

Debate I Honors

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the competitive debate events, as sanctioned by the National Speech and Debate Association. Students will continue to develop their awareness, understanding, and application of competitive debate skills such as research, writing, and speaking. To receive the high school Honors credit, out of school participation is **MANDATORY**. **The prerequisite for this course is Speech 1. Students must complete Debate 1 Honors application/teacher approval required.**

Global Scholars

Would you like to have an opportunity to connect with your peers around the world? Global Scholars allows students to do just that! Global Scholars is an international digital exchange program for middle school students in cities around the world. Each year, the curriculum focuses on a topic of current interest. Each unit explores an aspect of the main theme where students will participate in various activities and global discussions culminating in a project-based outcome. Students will engage in building critical thinking, writing and speaking skills, using technology skills, while collaborating and creating innovative projects. **(This course is recommended for levels 3, 4 and 5 in ELA).**

Pre AP Research (BCPS Innovative Program)

Are you a student who thinks creatively and logically? Are you a student who will be taking Advanced Placement classes in high school? Will you be a leader of Student Government and National Honor Society in high school? The Pre-AP Research program provides STMS students with content that is complex, rigorous and encourages real-world connections with an emphasis on community engagement and civic responsibility. This unique curriculum involves interdisciplinary higher level research topics that will prepare you for the following year. **(This course is recommended for levels 3, 4 and 5 in ELA).**

Lit Whiz

This is an elective course offered to students in all grade levels. Students are engaged in project-based learning and activities that target literacy through film and literature. The course explores what happens when a variety of short stories, novels, or plays are made into a film. We analyze literary text, view the film, and form ideas based on the author's and production perspective. Students will participate in collaborative discussions and projects, which will lead to a comparative analysis of literature and film. **(This course is recommended for levels 2 and 3 in ELA).**

CS Discoveries

The CS Discoveries computer course is designed as an introduction to computer science appropriate for grades 6 – 8. In this hands-on coding class students will be introduced to HTML coding and web design through lessons on problem-solving, creation and collaboration. Students will learn the basics needed to incorporate web page elements, color, and integration of multimedia into their coding. Topics such as Digital Citizenship, Career Exploration, Plagiarism and Fair Use will also be introduced.

IC3 – Key Applications – Year 1

Technology is fast becoming an important part of school, career and everyday life. Every aspect of our day involves some use of technology. The IC³ Curriculum provides students with exposure to the most relevant knowledge needed to interact with the digital tools they face each day. This course will focus on the Key Applications used globally in school and work settings: Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access. Students will learn how to use word processing, presentation, and spreadsheet software to edit documents, organize data, create simple charts, and design a basic presentation. At the completion of this course students will be prepared to take the IC³ Key Applications exam.

Living Online – Year 2

In a world where every aspect of the day involves interaction with technology, the Living Online course provides students with exposure to both online and networked working environments. Through a hands-on lab style course, students will learn about communicating and working in a collaborative digital world. Topics such as networks, Internet, electronic communication will be covered within this course. Additionally, students will be exposed to information related to Digital Citizenship, Career Exploration, Plagiarism and Fair Use. Students will also learn to use HTML coding as they explore the Internet from both the user and creator perspectives. At the completion of this course students will be prepared to take the IC³ GS5: Living Online exam.

Computer Fundamentals – Year 3

Learning the ins and outs of computers is the focus of the Computing Fundamentals course. Students will learn about and use computer operating systems to perform everyday tasks like managing files, downloading and installing software, and changing system settings. Students will also learn about peripheral devices and the newest components of modern technology from printers to scanners and game controllers, including how to troubleshoot problems, maintain equipment and protect devices from theft and damage.