

# SILVER TRAIL MIDDLE SCHOOL

*"Home of the Mustangs"*



## 2022-2023 School Year EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **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.** Symphonic Band is a **full year** course.

### **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.** Wind Ensemble is a **full year** course.

### **Computer Science Discoveries (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. CS Discoveries is a **full year** course.

### **Chorus**

Students with little or no choral experience are introduced to the fundamentals of singing. They will develop beginning vocal technique and skills, learn how to read music, and understand the study and appreciation of music. Students will be introduced to a variety of music literature and basic music theory. This is a performance-based class. Public performances will be done individually and/or in group. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day. Chorus is a **full year** course.

### **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.** Debate I Honors is a **full year** course.

### **Drama | Theatre**

This course is to enable students to develop fundamental knowledge and skills in the elements of theatre arts. This course should give students the opportunity to participate in acting, characterization, movement, vocal production, pantomime, improvisation, theatre terminology, dramatic literature, historical, cultural, and societal perspectives, technical theatre, playwriting, artistic discipline, audience etiquette, roles, and careers in the theatre arts. Drama | Theatre is a **full year** course.

### **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. Global Scholars is a **full year** course.

### **IC3**

Silver Trail Middle School's MULTIMEDIA DIGITAL COMPUTING course will introduce students to everything they need to know to create masterful online digital presentations. Students will use online digital software to design and create presentations including animation and integrating audio, video and original graphic elements. IC3 is a **full year** course.

### **Latinos in Action (LIA)**

This course offers an asset-based approach to bridging the opportunity gap for Latino students. The goal is to empower Latino youth to lead and strengthen their communities through college and career readiness. The course accomplishes this by focusing on four pillars: leveraging personal and cultural assets, excelling in education, serving the community, and developing leadership skills. The robust LIA curriculum is also a fun and interactive class that empowers students to not only become great leaders, but also act as role models. LIA is a **full year** course.

### **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. Peer Counseling I and Peer Counseling II is a **full year** 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. Physical Education is a **full year** course.

### **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. **Language Arts teacher recommendation is required.** Spanish I is a **full year** course.

### **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.** Spanish II is a **full year** course.

### **STMS Mindfulness**

STMS Mindfulness integrates wellness practices such as mindfulness, meditation, communication techniques, social-emotional learning strategies, and community-building exercises into a progression of themes designed specifically for middle school children. The curriculum focuses on students learning how to manage their anxiety, improve their emotional state, overall mood and energy level, increase self-esteem, cope effectively and ethically, body awareness and mindfulness. STMS Mindfulness is a **semester** course.

### **TV Production**

This is an elective course offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.** TV Production is a **full year** course.

## **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 apply, students must submit an application, with a writing sample and picture design.** Yearbook is a **full year** course