

Sierra Vista Junior High School

Registration Guide

2007-2008



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WELCOME TO SIERRA VISTA JUNIOR HIGH!

This guide has been developed to acquaint parents and students with the instructional program of Sierra Vista Junior High School. By reading this information, you will have a better understanding of our curriculum and specifically what is being taught by our instructional staff. **Please complete and return the attached "Activity Class Selection" Form**, after you have reviewed and discussed this information. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this booklet, please do not hesitate to call on any Sierra Vista staff member to clarify your concern. Our phone number is 252-3113. My best wishes for a successful year.

Randy Parker,
Principal

SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS

Congratulations! Your upcoming promotion from the sixth grade represents a milestone in your growth and development.

Seventh grade is the start of a very new and exciting part of your education. You are going to be scheduled into a "team" of teachers. They will be working together to teach English, math, science and social studies. There are many benefits to being a member of a team. You and the other students assigned to the same team will feel that you belong to a special group. Your team teachers will have the same homework policies and the same discipline plan. They will design flexible schedules that will enable you to participate in special activities related to the subjects being taught. You will be enrolled in classes with the same 120-160 seventh graders, and you will get to know them well by the end of the year. There are many skills to master and much learning ahead of you. We look forward to including you in this exciting process! We are delighted that you are coming to what we consider one of the finest junior high schools in Southern California. Listed below are the subjects that all seventh graders must take.

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science (Life)
4. World History
5. Physical Education
6. Exploratory Wheel or Production Class (Year long- Chorus or Band)

The scheduling of seventh graders into mathematics classes is done on the basis of sixth grade teacher recommendations. The exploratory wheel is made up of four quarter-long classes. The exploratory wheel classes are described later in this booklet. Students selecting a yearlong performance class will not select the exploratory wheel. All students must ultimately pass the California High School Exit Exam in order to receive a High School diploma. Students may be placed into a Study Skills class based on a need for remediation in reading and/or math.

EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

Congratulations! You are about to enter your final year of junior high school. Being in the eighth grade means many things. It means that you are the campus student leaders. It means that this is your final year of preparation before going to high school. It also means that you are rapidly becoming a young adult. As you anticipate the eighth grade, it is our hope that you will endeavor to make this the best year of your life. Listed below are the subjects that all eighth grade students must take:

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. U.S. History
4. Science (Physical)
5. Physical Education
6. Activity Class

Placement of eighth graders into appropriate mathematics and English classes is determined by the seventh grade teacher's recommendation. The computer scheduler determines placement into physical education and other required academic classes. Most activity classes are a semester in length and will be changed at the semester break. Students who do not choose a yearlong activity

class (Band, Chorus, Yearbook, Journalism) will be placed in a semester long activity class. All students must ultimately pass the California High School Exit Exam in order to receive a High School diploma.

Students may be placed into a Study Skills class based on the need for remediation in reading and/or math. District policy encourages full access to the total curriculum for all students. Where appropriate, staff members will recommend placements based on their professional judgment, student performance, and prerequisites. Parents, however, may appeal these placements by contacting the principal.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

There are several special programs at Sierra Vista Junior High School for pupils who have specific learning needs. These needs include specific behavior disorders and emotional, physical, and learning handicaps. Placement into one of these programs is determined on an individual need basis via an educational team action. Listed on the next page are the course descriptions. For further information, please contact a school counselor.

RESOURCE SPECIALIST PROGRAM - This program provides special education that, in conjunction with the student's regular program of instruction, enables the pupil to effectively participate in the total school program. A student may be pulled out of his regular classes to receive individual or small group instruction from a special education teacher. An instructional assistant or teacher may also provide services by helping the student in the regular class environment. Students have the opportunity to take independent study as a special education elective.

SPECIAL DAY CLASS PROGRAM - Students identified as having exceptional needs are enrolled in this program for three or more periods per day. Students receive instruction in English, mathematics, science, and social studies in a classroom that has a smaller teacher/pupil ratio than in the regular educational program. Students are mainstreamed or moved to the resource specialist program as soon as it is appropriate.

ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION - This program is designed for the students with physical difficulties, which impair their participation in a regular physical education class. Students are placed on individual programs designed to meet their physical needs. Students admitted to this program must have had an evaluation by an Adapted Physical Education teacher and be identified on an IEP that the student requires these services. A doctor's note does not automatically place a student in APE. Most of the doctor's notes will list activities that their client cannot participate in for a set period of time. Once a student has been identified as needing adapted physical education, the adapted PE teacher, any Special Education staff involved with the student, and the counselor will hold a meeting with the student and his/her parents. There are some students who qualify only for adapted PE. The teacher, counselor, and administrator/designee should write the Individual Education plan with the student and his/her parents.

MODIFIED PHYSICAL EDUCATION - This class is designed for students with physical difficulties, which impair their participation in a regular physical education class. The limitations are not serious enough for the student to be classified for adapted physical education

COMPENSATORY EDUCATION – Compensatory Education is handled as both a mandatory elective for students who score in the lowest quartile on the SAT 9 test and an after school program. The Study Skills elective gives students an opportunity to increase their skill levels in reading, writing and math. The teachers of this elective also work closely with the students and their parents to foster a supportive learning environment both at school and at home. Organization, test taking strategies and time management are also addressed.

The After School Academy classes focus on one area of academic concern. Sierra Vista offers sessions in math, reading and study skills. Students are tested before entering the program and are grouped according to ability and need. The math classes utilize the Accelerated Math program. Reading is taught using the SRA Corrective Reading program and the Anita Archer Study Skills series is used in our study skills classes. Students are assigned to a group as a 7th period and attendance is mandatory. Students can earn 2.5 credits for successfully attending ASA and completing all the required assignments for that session.

ALTERNATIVE DAY PROGRAM (A.D.P.) – This class is designed for students who have difficulty within the regular program (behavior, grades, attendance). Students are placed in a self-contained classroom with additional adult assistance. Students in this program are on a different time schedule than the rest of the student body.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)- We address the needs of our English Language Learners through targeted instruction within our English Language Development classes for those students in the formative stages of language acquisition. Students beyond the entry level are placed within our Sheltered classes offered in English, Math, Science and Social Studies until their language development allows for mainstreaming into regular classes.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

The traditional program is provided to meet the needs of the student who has demonstrated the ability to function on an independent level. The students should be able to adapt to the personal qualities and standards of six different teachers, exhibit punctual habits, and be capable of making class-to-class transitions on a daily basis.

LANGUAGE ARTS

With the combined efforts of students and their English teachers, the language arts program at Sierra Vista is both challenging and rewarding. Our English students are taught reading, literature appreciation, composition, spelling and vocabulary, grammar and usage, punctuation, and public speaking. Our goal at Sierra Vista is to create a language arts program that integrates skills from all of these areas.

Following the recommendations of the California Model Curriculum Standards, we have developed a “standards-based” English program at Sierra Vista. During yearlong English classes, students are exposed to many great works of literature selected from our district’s “Core” reading list. These novels, short stories, poems, and essays are studied in depth and serve as springboards to student writing, speaking, and acquisition of the conventional and mechanical skills of English. Students are also expected to read outside of class and are required to report regularly on their reading selections.

Developing writing fluency is another priority of our English department. At Sierra Vista, we teach composition as a process. This process includes the stages of pre-writing, drafting, editing, revising, and publishing. Student interaction with peers is an important component of the writing process.

MATHEMATICS

Students entering Sierra Vista Junior High have a wide range of mathematical abilities. The Sierra Vista mathematics program places students according to the recommendation of the previous year’s teacher and helps the student to advance from that point. Sierra Vista is using the state-approved mathematics textbooks that are aligned with the California Standards. Our math program strives to provide a balance between written practice and interactive math activities or projects.

Math 7

Math 7 is an introductory Pre-Algebra curriculum that builds and strengthens the basic skills and operations with fractions and decimals while covering the 7th grade standards. It is designed to bring students who may have struggled previously up to the current grade level based on the California State Standards. Most students will continue on to Pre-Algebra in 8th grade with an option of testing for Algebra 8 placement open to high achievers.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is the study of operations and properties of arithmetic, topics in number theory, geometric concepts, percentages and statistics, the set of integers, the set of rational numbers, exponents and scientific notation, the set of real numbers, open number sentences, functions, probability and graphing. This course is designed to prepare students for Algebra. Students maintaining a grade of a C or better will go on to begin Algebra in 8th grade.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra (Enriched)

A challenging, fast paced honor's level class for students functioning above grade level that is designed to prepare students for the rigor of the honor's paced Algebra 1AB course in 8th grade. Students that maintain an A or B average will test at the end of the year for placement into honor's level Algebra 1AB.

7th Algebra 1AB– 2 Semester

Algebra includes the study of equations and inequalities, operations with polynomials, special products and factoring, graphs, linear equations and functions, systems of linear equations, rational equations, radical expressions, quadratic equations, and problem solving. The pacing of this course is such that new concepts are introduced on a daily basis. Students who successfully complete this course with a grade of B or better will take Geometry in their freshman year (or 8th grade if appropriate).

8th Grade Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is the study of operations and properties of arithmetic, topics in number theory, geometric concepts, percentages and statistics, the set of integers, the set of rational numbers, exponents and scientific notation, the set of real numbers, open number sentences, functions, probability and graphing. This course is designed to prepare students for Algebra. Students maintaining a grade of a C or better will go on to begin Algebra in 9th grade.

8th Grade Algebra 8 – 4 Semester

Algebra includes the study of equations and inequalities, operations with polynomials, special products and factoring, graphs, linear equations and functions, systems of linear equations, rational equations, radical expressions, quadratic equations, and problem solving. This course is to be completed in 2 years, covering Chapters 1 - 7 in this course. This class is for students who are functioning at grade level. The second half of this curriculum will be completed in the 9th grade year.

8th Algebra 1AB – 2 Semester

Algebra includes the study of equations and inequalities, operations with polynomials, special products and factoring, graphs, linear equations and functions, systems of linear equations, rational equations, radical expressions, quadratic equations, and problem solving. The pacing of this course is such that new concepts are introduced on a daily basis. Students who successfully complete this course with a grade of B or better will take Geometry in 9th grade.

8th Geometry AB

Geometry is a high school level course offered to eighth graders who have successfully completed Algebra with an A or B. The course provides students with fundamental vocabulary, properties and techniques of Geometry including proofs, geometric figures, constructions, and coordinate geometry. It maintains and strengthens students' algebraic skills and applies geometric skills in lab activities. Students successfully completing this course with a grade of B or better will continue on to Honor's Algebra II/Trig. in 9th grade.

SCIENCE

In alignment with the Science Content Standards for Public Schools, two years of science are divided thematically between seventh and eighth grade. Students focus on life science in seventh grade and on physical science in the eighth grade. Science is considered to be the process of learning based on asking meaningful questions followed by conducting careful investigations. Communication is stressed as a major component of science with technology incorporated into presentation of ideas. Vocabulary building is stressed as a key part of unlocking understanding of science concepts. Laboratory work is used throughout a school year to develop and enhance student learning.

Life science topic include:

- All living things are made of cells, which have definite structure and function.
- Organisms' traits are based in genetics with modification by the environment.
- A tremendous variety exists among species and this variety can be shaped by environmental factors.
- The study of earth processes allows the understanding that patterns of change occur in cycles over long periods of time.
- There is a complimentary relationship between structure and function in the anatomy an physiology of plants and animals
- Physical processes form the structure and function of biological systems (e.g. characteristics of light contribute to the way we see).

Physical science topics include:

- Velocity is the rate of change in position.
- Unbalanced forces cause a change in velocity.
- All matter is composed of the various elements each having its own properties and structure.
- Chemical reactions reorganize matter into new combinations of molecules.
- The periodic table has its organization based on the properties and structure of the elements.
- Chemical principles are the foundation of life processes in biology.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students at Sierra Vista are required by Board Policy to enroll in physical education during both seventh and eighth grade years. Students are instructed in the rules and skills of team sports, individual sports, and life-long, carry-over physical activities. Physical fitness instruction and tests will be conducted at both grade levels. The following units of instruction are presented to our students.

7th Grade

Frisbee
Street Hockey
Basketball
Softball
Track and Field

8th Grade

Racquetball
Paddle Tennis
Football
Soccer
Volleyball

Fitness Activities

Survivor (Cooperative Team Events)
2 runs per week
Eight-minute run
Nutrition
Cardiovascular Training

The State of California requires that students be programmed into co-educational physical education class. Sierra Vista has a complete program for our students with exemptions practiced according to provisions made by the law. Physical education grades are based on a well-defined, specific system that considers the student's skill level, achievement on tests, daily participation and effort.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The students at Sierra Vista are required to complete social studies during the seventh and eighth grade years. A year of World History is taught during the seventh grade, and one year of United States History is taught during the eighth grade.

World History provides a broad chronological overview of Western Civilization. Important ideas, inventions and institutions, and great civilizations will be studied. Units of study include: basic world geography, Ancient Rome, Islam/Middle East, China & Japan, Middle Ages, Renaissance/Reformation, Age of Enlightenment (Philosophies) and the French Revolution

U. S. History: Students in grade eight study the ideas, issues and events from framing the Constitution up to World War I. The course provides a review of the major events preceding the founding of the nation. A more extensive study of the Constitution, the new nation and first five Presidents, the Westward Expansion, causes of the Civil War, the Civil War, reconstruction, the Industrialization, and Immigration. Students learn the challenges facing the nation with an emphasis on the causes, course and consequences. They make connections between the contemporary social and economic conditions.

SEVENTH GRADE EXPLORATORY PROGRAM

The purpose of our exploratory program is to provide our students with experiences not previously available to them. We feel that it is important for students to be exposed to a variety of experiences. We have designed a program that allows seventh grade students to have a block of classes called the **exploratory wheel** which incorporates four classes teaching each of these three areas of experience: fine arts, practical arts, industrial arts along with Teen Issues. Each of the four classes teaching these experiences will be one quarter in duration. All activity classes are dependent on staff availability.

Students may elect to take a **yearlong performance elective**: beginning band, chorus, or journalism instead of the exploratory wheel. These performance electives often lead the student toward taking that same subject, at an advanced level, in the eighth grade.

\$ - Some electives solicit funds from parents to cover costs of materials consumed during class. The collection of these donations by Sierra Vista assists us in providing materials to students with which to work. Teachers will provide cost information at the beginning of each course. No student shall be denied class participation as a result of failure to contribute funds to assist with material costs. Parents may call 252-3113 ext. 2013 to get current cost information.

** - Requires teacher approval*

Teen Issues - This course has been designed to complement the seventh grade Life Science. The new state adopted text, Teen Health Book highlights the following topics: Total Health-Wellness and Your Health; Your Mental and Emotional Health; Your Social Health; Conflict Resolution; Wellness and Your Body Systems; Communicable Diseases; Non-communicable Diseases; Tobacco and Your Health; Alcohol and Your Health, and Drugs and Your Health. Students are assigned projects such as a personal goal poster, career report and a teen health report. Parents are invited to serve as guest speakers as part of the career development or health awareness units. Each class will participate in a multi-cultural luncheon.

Exploratory Art - An introduction to basic design: line, color, balance, space, form, and texture in a variety of mediums such as pencil, pen, and color markers.

Exploratory Foods - This is an exploratory class in the field of foods and nutrition. Emphasis is placed on safety, terminology, measurement, equipment, and food preparation as it applies to the basic food patterns for balanced meals.

Exploratory Language (Spanish or French)- This is an opportunity to discover the wonderful world of foreign language. In this course you will be introduced to a foreign language and culture. From greetings to farewells, food to animals, you will enjoy learning another language through fun activities and lessons.

Exploratory Music - An introduction to the world of music via listening, playing, and singing. Various musical instruments and artists will be explored. (Dependent upon staff availability)

Exploratory Theatre- Students will learn the basics of theatre and drama through a variety of theater games, performance experiences and interactive projects. Students will learn the vocabulary of the theater, create characters, learn to improvise on stage, and perform for fellow students. The objective of this class is to develop an appreciation for live theater experience.

Exploratory Video Production- Students will learn the basics of video technology, including various aspects of the TV/Video industry. These include camera operations, editing, script writing and directing. Students will learn the components necessary to produce their own TV/Video content.

Exploratory Wood - The basics of lab safety and the proper use of hand tools and light power tools will be taught in a woodshop setting. Students will design and build their own group project. Emphasis will be on working with a group to solve problems and work together.

Keyboarding/Computer Applications- This course is to give students the basic keyboarding and computer skills needed in today's workplace. Students will use various software programs to create documents, use the Internet and present to their peers.

Strategic Math Acceleration- Re-teaches, reviews, and supports basic math skills and math fluency. Reinforces the California state math standards being taught in the Math 7 class that they are concurrently enrolled in.

Year Long Performance Courses

Band, Beginning - The fundamentals of techniques and musicianship are taught in this course. This includes care of the instrument, correct embouchure, breath control, tone production, intonation, and fingerings. Students electing to take this course will have to furnish their own instrument in most cases. No previous musical knowledge is required.

Chorus, Beginning - This course is open to all students. No previous music experience is necessary. This exciting class offers the student an opportunity to perform for the school and community in annual holiday concerts and festivals throughout the year.

Chorus, Intermediate* - Prerequisites for this course include successful completion of beginning chorus, audition, and/or the teacher's recommendation. Students enrolled in this class will continue to develop their skills and proficiency in part-singing, vocal techniques, and ear training.

EIGHTH GRADE ACTIVITY CLASS PROGRAM

Some electives solicit funds from parents to cover costs of materials consumed during class. The collection of these donations by Sierra Vista assists us in providing materials to students with which to work. Teachers will provide cost information at the beginning of each course. No student shall be denied class participation as a result of failure to contribute funds to assist with material costs. Parents may call 252-3113 ext. 2013 to get current cost information. All activity courses are dependent on staff availability.

* - Requires teacher approval

A.V.I.D.- The AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) class is an elective class focused on the skills of learning, understanding the college preparatory path, writing, note-taking, and collaborative study. It is designed to help students succeed in the most rigorous curriculum, increase their enrollment in four-year colleges and become educated and responsible participants and leaders in life. Students and parents are required to commit to a full year within the AVID program.

Band, Beginning – (fall) **Intermediate** - spring semester. The fundamentals of techniques and musicianship are taught in this course. This includes care of the instrument, correct embouchure, breath control, tone production, intonation, and fingerings. Students electing to take this course will have to furnish their own instrument in most cases. No previous musical knowledge is required.

Band, Advanced* - This course is for concert band students. Emphasis is placed on advanced types and styles of music, development in sight-reading, scales, and performances. Grading in this course takes into consideration attendance and performance at out-of-school music performances. The approval of the band director is necessary to enroll in this class.

Chorus, Beginning - This course is open to all students. No previous music experience is necessary. This exciting class offers the student an opportunity to perform for the school and community in annual holiday concerts and festivals throughout the year.

Chorus, Intermediate* - Prerequisites for this course include successful completion of beginning chorus, audition, and/or the teacher's recommendation. Students enrolled in this class will continue to develop their skills and proficiency in part-singing, vocal techniques, and ear training.

Creative Cookery* - This class is open to 8th grade students who have completed Exploratory Foods and have obtained the teacher's approval. This class will give students experience in meal planning, preparation, and service for various occasions. Emphasis will be placed on foods for entertaining and gourmet cookery. There is a materials cost involved.

Drama - Theater games, improvisation, pantomime, and lip sync are just a few of the activities explored in this class. In addition, stagecraft, costuming, and theater make-up are emphasized.

Wood - Woodwork construction techniques are learned by the student as various projects are constructed. Time is spent exploring related wood topics such as abrasives, fasteners, glues, woods, and finishes.

Foods - This course begins with exploratory in foods and nutrition with emphasis on safety, terminology, measurement, equipment and food preparation. Second quarter will emphasize advanced food preparation and planning in the areas of yeast baking, international cookery, microwave cookery, and meat and poultry cookery.

Journalism* - In this yearlong course, students enrolled in journalism write, edit, design, and publish Sierra Vista's monthly newspaper, the Plainsman Press. After a brief period of training, students are assigned to editorial and managerial positions, and the class operates as any professional newspaper would to meet deadlines and distribute copy.

Yearbook* - This course involves students in the development and production of the Sierra Vista Plainsman Yearbook from designing the cover, creating the layouts, as well as photographing the students and events during the year. Upon completion of the yearbook production, the class changes its focus to academic and school service projects.

Leadership/ASB - This one semester class provides students with the opportunity to plan and organize Associated Student Body (ASB) activities that will take place during brunch, lunch, activity periods, and after school. Organizational and leadership skills will be taught as well.

Student Service* - Prerequisite: Must be an eighth grader and have teacher/parent permission. Students are assigned to work with staff members (administrative, teaching, library, or secretarial). Students will have the opportunity to learn general office procedures and business decorum in a working situation. Students are limited to two quarters of student service. Students must have a cumulative 2.0 GPA and good attendance and citizenship records.

Reading Lab- Using alternative reading material, this parallel elective class will focus on building fluency and comprehension by a variety of strategies. Some of these are vocabulary development activities such as word wheels, word sorts and word building. The class will also focus on analyzing text structure of a variety of writing genres as well as visualizing and predicting activities. The broad objective of the class will be to build success and confidence in struggling readers.

Strategic Math Acceleration- Re-teaches, reviews, and supports basic math skills and math fluency. Reinforces the California state math standards being taught in the Pre-algebra 8 class that they are concurrently enrolled in.