



SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

700 Duck Creek Pkwy, Smyrna, Delaware 19977

Telephone (302) 653-8584

Fax (302) 653-3424

Mrs. Stephanie Smeltzer
Principal

Mr. Trey Scott
Associate Principal

Mrs. Irene Buscemi
Associate Principal

Mr. Martez Stevens
Associate Principal

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SMS Parents and Guardians:

Smyrna Middle School's eighth grade counselors will be meeting with all seventh-grade students during social studies classes on March 3rd-March 7th. They will be reviewing courses and assisting students in filling out course requests for next year.

Every student will receive the following courses: Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Health, and Physical Education. Your child also gets an opportunity to choose electives. In the following pages you will find a list of eighth grade electives and a short description for them. Some of the electives are year-long courses and some of them are semester (half a year) courses. Please review these courses with your child and discuss the courses that interest him/her. The SMS counselors will assist your child in filling out the course request form. Requests will be done through Infinite Campus this year. Please encourage your student to bring a charged Chromebook with them during this scheduling time. These requests will be used to develop student schedules for next year. **Please understand that there is no guarantee that your child will be placed in all of the courses he/she requests.**

We look forward to assisting your child with his/her electives.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Smeltzer

Principal

SMS Course Information

Grade 8

Full Year Elective Opportunities

Band - This class explores different types of music and teaches more complex music. Students will become more familiar with the concepts that they have learned in the past. We will have at least 2 concerts, one in the Winter as well as one in the Spring to show off some of the hard work the students have been putting in. Band classes for next year will include choices of Jazz, Percussion, Woodwinds, and Brass. Students will need to practice their instrument on their own to be able to keep up with the pace of the class.

Chorus - In this performing arts class, we will be exploring different types of music and learning complex music as the students become more familiar with the concepts that they have learned in the past. There will be two concerts to show off what we have been working on. If you love to sing and want to learn more about it, this is the elective for you.

Spanish 1A - The course is designed with the intention of students developing fluency in the Spanish language. Students acquire skills in speaking, listening, writing, and reading in Spanish. The course objectives will focus on learning the vocabulary and grammar that allow students to communicate with others on a basic level in Spanish.

Spanish 1B - This course is designed with the intention of students further developing fluency in the Spanish language. Students will build on the vocabulary and grammar they learned in Middle School Spanish A, with the course objective to communicate primarily in Spanish. Students will work to enhance their skills in speaking, listening, writing, and reading in Spanish. *Can only be taken with successful completion of Spanish 1A.*

Agricultural Science - Deep Dive - This course was built specifically for those students who want to take a deep dive into the world of Agriculture. Students will learn about FFA, plant and soil science, landscaping, food science, and animal science. In the plant and soil science unit we will cover the growth processes of plants and look at soil composition. We will utilize the school greenhouse as our laboratory. In Animal Science, we will discuss factors of dog ownership, as well as the production processes of cattle, poultry, pigs, and goats. Careers in agriculture will also be covered in depth along with how food gets to us, the consumers. If you are excited about Agriculture this is the course for you!

Art Appreciation - This course is designed for students who are passionate about advancing their art knowledge and skills. Students will take an in-depth look at the many ways art impacts their lives through lessons on art making, art history, and aesthetics. Through these lessons, students will explore the elements and principles of art, explore various artists and cultures, and explore how to express themselves through their artwork. As a year-long art student you will challenge yourself, learn problem solving skills, and build confidence.

SMS Course Information

Semester Course Opportunities

Agricultural Science - This Agricultural science course was designed to give students a brief overview of what Agriculture is all about. It provides students with an opportunity to learn about FFA, the fundamentals of plant science, different species of animals, as well as how to care for these animals. Careers in agriculture will also be explored. Through hands-on learning activities, the students will enhance principles learned from classroom materials. The grounds of Smyrna Middle School and the greenhouse will serve as the hands-on laboratory.

Art Appreciation - Students will discover the many ways art impacts their lives through lessons on art making, art history, and aesthetics. Students will explore a variety of techniques and materials such as painting, drawing, sculpting, printmaking, and more.

Brain Games - This course is designed for students to analyze puzzles and games using complex reasoning. Students will develop strategic thinking skills through play. Students will play a new game almost every day of the course. Students should be open to trying new things and challenging themselves.

Business Education - This class covers the topics of marketing, digital communication, computer science, finance / accounting, and business information management. Students will practice skills in typing, formatting documents, creating slideshow presentations, using graphic design software, and managing spreadsheets in the context of business ownership and entrepreneurship. In this course, students will practice professional communication and develop soft skills such as time management, problem solving, and leadership.

Family Consumer Science - Students will engage in culinary skills including food safety and preparation techniques. They also practice soft skills required in the working environment.

Introduction to Allied Health - This course is designed for students who are interested in the medical field. Students will study medical terms, learn the systems of the human body, and be introduced to various healthcare disciplines.

Introduction to Educators Rising - This course is designed for aspiring teacher candidates. The primary objective is to develop the skills needed to be a successful educator through hands-on teaching experience. Successful completion of the course would set up a student for success in the K-12 or Early Childhood Pathway at Smyrna High School.

Legal Studies – Learn to think like a lawyer! This course explores the role of lawyers and paralegals in the legal community, focusing on legal rights and legal analysis of the law.

Literature and Film - This course is designed to show the relationships between film and literature, including how themes, characters and concepts can be translated from written words into performance.

SMS Course Information

Music Appreciation - This course is designed to help students understand how music is integrated into many aspects of daily lives, including other subject areas (i.e. math, science, social studies). The lives of several composers are examined, as is the history of popular American music and the musical theatre.

Novel Studies/Literature Circles - Students will engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books. Students will reshape and add to their understanding of literature as they construct meaning with other readers.

Public Speaking - In this course students will learn how to become proficient at public speaking. Students will learn the qualities of an effective speech, read, and listen to model speeches, learn to choose speaking topics and adapt them for specific audiences.

Sports History - This course will advance students' knowledge related to sports, the history, and the impact around the globe. Sports will be looked at historically, politically, socially, and economically. Sports studied will include the Olympics, baseball, football, basketball, soccer, hockey, golf, and tennis.

STEM – Students will explore topics in science, technology, engineering and math through hands-on learning activities.

