

**Southern Regional Middle School
2017-18
Program of Studies**



"Where students TEAM up with P.R.I.D.E."
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Southern Regional Middle School

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Once again it is time to start planning for a new school year. The 2017-18 Program of Studies is designed to assist you in understanding the components of the middle school schedule and to select one elective course. Please read it carefully and use the information to make your course selections. The format of the book has been designed to facilitate your understanding of the process.

All middle school students must take one period each of language arts/integrated language arts lab, math/integrated math lab, social studies, science, and physical education, including a quarter of health; integrated language arts lab and integrated math lab are aligned with the regular language arts and math classes. One elective class choice is also offered to each student. Finally, each middle school student is scheduled for a lunch/literacy period; students silently read a novel of their choice in the twenty-two minute literacy portion of the period.

This booklet describes the core areas of study and the elective classes, which are all listed separately by grade level. A brief description of each of the courses is provided for your information; all are appropriately marked by grade level.

If you have questions regarding any course, please do not hesitate to contact the middle school guidance office at 597-9481 ext. 4202.

Best wishes,

Lorraine Airey

Lorraine Airey
Principal

Southern Regional Middle School

Mission Statement

THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL EXPERIENCE, A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP, WILL ASSURE OUR STUDENTS CHALLENGING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE SHAPED BY THE NEW JERSEY STUDENT LEARNING STANDARDS IN ORDER FOR THEM TO BECOME CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

Belief Statements

We believe that:

- All students possess unique talents and will be challenged and successful.
- All students will feel comfortable in a safe, nurturing environment that is established through mutual respect, acceptance and a sense that everything is valued by all involved.
- Every student should have physical and emotional security in an environment that stimulates learning and recognizes each individual's self-worth.
- Motivation is an essential element of learning.
- Everyone wants to be, and can be, productive.
- A good education provides a foundation for a productive, well-rounded contributing member of our community and is the shared responsibility of parents, school and the community.
- The role of the community is to be informed and to provide facilities, materials and personnel in a spirit of cooperation.
- The school should provide comprehensive curricula which offer students diversity of choice in an environment which stimulates learning and growth.
- The district has the responsibility to be a good steward of the financial resources provided by the community.

7th Grade Placement

Southern Regional Middle School offers all students a rigorous and comprehensive educational experience. Multiple measures are used to insure that students are appropriately placed in math. Those measurements are:

- Math placement test
- GATES test
- Learner Profile

7th Grade Core Courses

Each student will be scheduled for all of the following core courses:

Language Arts 7: This course focuses on development of communicative competence and critical thinking as well as the acquisition of skills needed for students to become lifelong learners. While informational text is heavily emphasized, students are exposed to a variety of genres through which they develop reading skills which enable them to analyze literary forms and techniques, apply strategies to comprehend more complex texts, develop stronger vocabularies and enjoy reading for pleasure. The *6 Trait Writing Program* leads students through the process of discovering their own sense of voice as they demonstrate the intricacies of writing well-constructed essays. A summer reading component is required.

Mathematics 7: The introduction of algebraic concepts and enhancement of critical and problem-solving abilities are the foundational basics of this course. Students will learn how to use algebraic methods to explore, model, and describe patterns, relationships and functions using numbers, shapes, data and graphs within realistic problem solving situations. Students will strengthen their mental math ability and develop a skill base for exploring algebra.

Integrated Language Arts Lab and Integrated Math Lab will be an extension of the language arts and math courses at all levels.

Social Studies 7: This course offers the opportunity to gain a richer understanding of the role of major civilizations through the study of geography, history, economics and civics. The impact of world history on the United States today will also be explored. In addition, students will be introduced to historical inquiry through the analysis of primary source documents and web-based lessons. The rights and responsibilities of citizenship are stressed. Students will read novels that address the cultures of the time period being studied. Critical thinking, reading and writing will be emphasized.

Science 7: This laboratory course focuses on life science. Students gain an understanding of the interrelationships of living organisms and systems through the study of ecology, genetics, biology, chemistry and kingdoms. Students will use their mathematical skills in the application of scientific formulas. The scientific concepts are taught through a laboratory approach, stressing microscope techniques and writing of lab reports. In collaborative learning projects, students develop critical thinking, processing and communicative skills.

Physical Education 7: (3/4 year) Required co-educational physical education provides each student with a wide variety of physical activities that emphasize physical fitness while developing team and social skills. Activities include pickle ball, orienteering, soccer, floor and field hockey, basketball, volleyball, softball, power walking, badminton, ultimate Frisbee, circuit training, and dance. Additionally, students complete fitness testing in the fall and spring.

Health 7: (1/4 year) Health education classes meet five days a week for one marking period. The course is designed to assist students in the transition from child to young adult by helping them learn responsibility for their personal health. Seventh grade students study nutrition, puberty, decision-making, goal-setting, drug awareness, refusal skills, first aid and safety, and physical, mental, and social wellness.

Each student should select one elective from choices 1-5:

- 1) **7th Grade Encore-** a full year course offering students a quarter each of **S.T.E.A.M., research technology or skills for life, applied technology and Spanish:**

S.T.E.A.M.: The Design Engineering Workshop is a ten week course that immerses students in real world design challenges. It has a heavy emphasis on teamwork, problem solving and the engineering process. This course finds its roots in the foundational principals of STEAM education and the maker movement. It integrates and applies meaningful and important math and science content. Students solve real world challenges while integrating 21st century methods of fabrication and prototyping. 3d printing, circuitry, vinyl, cutters, animation software, cad software are the central tools of the course.

Introduction to Applied Technology 7: This course is an introduction to the applied technology program students will experience at the high school. Students will receive instruction in materials and machine tools commonly used in industry. The class will include: shop safety, machine tools, hand tools, as well as choosing and processing materials. A large portion of the course will take place in the shop where students will use this knowledge to build a small wooden project.

Research Technology: This course introduces students to the skills needed for effective research and presentation of research applying the tools of Microsoft Office to real world situations. Students will become more proficient in word processing, email protocol, use of Excel, PowerPoint, selection of appropriate databases, and use of citations.

Skills for Life 7: This is a marking period elective that introduces students to the variety of subjects that are encompassed in the field of Family and Consumer Science. This is a class that integrates academic core subject areas into real life situations. This is a project based class where students practice resource management and decision making while creating their individually chosen projects, focusing on consumer life decisions. Students develop independent life skills, decision making skills, responsibility, teamwork, workplace readiness skills, safety awareness, math, technology and communication skills into life situations and critical thinking skills. Some basic sewing technology and kitchen safety skills will be addressed.

Spanish 7: With an emphasis on developing students' abilities to speak Spanish and further their awareness of other cultures, this course will provide students with opportunities to use Spanish in everyday situations. Students will gain confidence in conversing with one another and using Spanish effectively. Student-developed projects will enhance their understanding of the rich heritage of the Spanish-speaking world.

- 2) **Band I:** This course is for students with average accomplishment on their band instrument. Music reading and public performance are emphasized.
- 3) **Chorus:** This course provides music reading and vocal training along with the opportunity to perform publicly. Students will gain a musical and emotional understanding of pieces across various genres of music. All members must perform in two concerts a year, along with various school performances. A love and respect for the performing arts, as well as audience and audition etiquette, will also be addressed in this class. **(A request does not guarantee scheduling of this course.)**

- 4) **Drama:** Students will participate in various group and individual activities as a basis for learning basic drama and public speaking skills. This will include gaining an understanding of character development and scene breakdown, and performing in short, scripted, and improvised scenes. Drama members will experience staging techniques, as well as respect for the performing arts, audience etiquette, and audition techniques. **(A request does not guarantee scheduling of this course. Eighth grade students are given priority).**
- 5) **String Orchestra:** This course is for students who have placed a string instrument for at least one year. Instruments included in the string orchestra a Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass. Music reading and public performance are emphasized.

These programs are offered upon recommendation:

REACH: REading for **ACH**ievement is a full year course designed for students whose reading skills are significantly below grade level. Emphasis is placed on remediation in decoding and comprehension skills. Students acquire strategies needed to read a variety of reading materials that they encounter in classes and in everyday life. This course prepares individuals for accessing the more difficult text they will encounter in all academic areas. An individual student improvement plan is developed. **(Placement is determined by GATES reading level scores and teacher recommendation.)**

English as a Second Language: The English as a Second Language Program (ESL) is designed to develop English language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing to such a level that students can function in the English speaking classroom at the earliest possible opportunity and function effectively in social and academic contexts. Each student in the program receives ESL one period daily. **(Placement is based on an interview and language assessment score.)**

MAXTAP: Southern Regional's program for academically talented students derives its name from a desire to **MAX**imize the **Talent And Potential** of all its students. The program seeks to develop academic potential by promoting critical and analytical thinking, planning skills, creative problem solving, and other higher level thinking skills. Equally important are decision-making, conflict resolution, teamwork and awareness of self and others. **(Placement is dependent upon: prior school recommendation, standardized test scores, classroom performance, work ethic rubric score, essays, Sages score and self-rating score.)**

8th Grade Core Courses

Mathematics 8: This course focuses on developing a rich understanding of fundamental algebraic ideas found in everyday life. The curriculum will emphasize mathematical models, variables and functions, and symbolic reasoning rather than symbolic manipulation. The course stresses conceptual rather than procedural knowledge, with students involved in extended explorations of real world situations through graphical, numerical, and symbolic representations.

Advanced Algebra I: This is an accelerated math course which fulfills the high school algebra graduation requirement. Students are required to take the high school end of course assessment. Prerequisite for this class is a grade of 88 in advanced math 7 and teacher recommendation.

Honors Algebra I- This is an Honors Level Algebra class which expands on the Advanced Algebra curriculum with added depth of material and additional topics to be covered. The class fulfills the high school algebra graduation requirement. Students are required to take the Algebra 1 End of Course Assessment. Prerequisites for this class include a 92 Test/Quiz average in Advanced Math 7 along with teacher recommendation.

Each student will be scheduled for all of the following core courses:

Language Arts 8: Building on the components of the 7th grade program, this course continues to focus on development of communicative competence and critical thinking, as well as the acquisition of skills needed for students to become lifelong learners. While informational text is heavily emphasized, students are also exposed to different genres through which they develop reading skills which enable them to analyze literary forms and techniques, apply strategies to comprehend more complex texts, develop stronger vocabularies and enjoy reading for pleasure. The *6 Trait Writing Program* leads students through the process of developing their own sense of voice as they demonstrate the intricacies of writing well-constructed essays. Students are also introduced to the research process. A summer reading component is required.

Integrated Language Arts Lab and Integrated Math Lab will be an extension of each language arts and math course at all levels.

Social Studies 8: This course offers the opportunity to gain a richer understanding of the philosophic and historical foundations of the United States from the Revolutionary War to Reconstruction. Students will continue historical inquiry through the analysis of primary source documents and web-based lessons. The themes of geography, history, economics and civics will be further explored. Students will understand the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Critical thinking, reading and writing are emphasized.

Science 8: This course introduces students to the study of physical and earth science; areas of study include energy, the earth, and the solar system. Hands-on activities are utilized to enhance and reinforce scientific content and the development of skills in writing laboratory reports. Students will use their acquired mathematic skills in the application of scientific formulas and laws. Through laboratory experiments, students utilize the scientific method and further their problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Physical Education 8: (3/4 year) Required co-educational physical education provides each student with a wide variety of physical activities that emphasize physical fitness while developing team and social skills. The focus is on monitoring personal fitness. Activities include speedball, biking, flag football, lacrosse, volleyball, track and field, power walking, team handball, circuit training, and dance. Additionally, students complete fitness testing in the fall and spring.

Health 8: (1/4 year) Health education classes meet five days a week for one marking period. The course is designed to assist students in developing good decision-making skills and maintaining healthy relationships. Students study self-concept, decision-making, goal-setting, substance abuse, sex education, including reproductive systems, sexually transmitted diseases, birth control, and abstinence.

Each student should select one elective from choices 1-7

1) 8th Grade Encore- A full year course offering students one quarter of each of art, coding, research technology or skills for life, and Spanish

Art 8: Students are introduced to using design elements and principles to further develop their artistic skills. Students study a variety of artists through the centuries. The work serves as an introduction to different areas and mediums available in the arts. Students will use math and writing connections in their study of the arts.

Coding 8: Students are introduced to the beauty of computer programming. First, using the program Scratch, 8th grade gain insight into the logic and languages computers use to communicate. Students create multiple interactive games and animations and develop familiarity with the logic that makes programs run. Students are encouraged to work collaboratively to debug, or remove errors from the program, and creatively alter the program to make each run unique.

An introduction to Python, a general purpose programming language, culminates the course. Students use Python's interactive shell into which they enter a program and can watch it run. A focus throughout the unit is identifying and applying the logic that keeps the program from crashing.

Skills for Life 8: Skills for Life is geared to help students learn a variety of skills for the 21st century. Students will attain life and workplace readiness skills while learning about babysitting safety, kitchen safety and sanitation, preparation of healthy and fun foods, and basic craft and hand-sewing techniques.

Research Technology: This course introduces students to the skills needed for effective research and presentation of research applying the tools of Microsoft Office to real world situations. Students will become more proficient in word processing, email protocol, use of Excel, PowerPoint, selection of appropriate databases, and use of citations.

Spanish 8: Building upon the foundation of Spanish from the seventh grade, this course furthers students' communicative abilities by introducing new vocabulary, cultural topics, and grammar. Students will use Spanish to communicate in everyday situations. Group work and paired practice will afford students the opportunity to further their linguistic skills. Student projects will focus on cultural similarities and differences between the foreign culture and that of the United States thus allowing them to develop an understanding of other world language speakers. All students will create language proficiency portfolios.

- 2) **Band I:** This course is for students with average accomplishment on their band instrument. Music reading and public performance are emphasized.
- 3) **Band II:** This course is for students with above- average accomplishment on their band instrument. Music reading and public performance are emphasized.
- 4) **Chorus:** This course provides music reading and vocal training along with the opportunity to perform publicly. Students will gain a musical and emotional

- understanding of pieces across various genres of music. All members must perform in two concerts a year, along with various school performances. A love and respect for the performing arts, as well as audience and audition etiquette, will also be addressed in this class. **(A request does not guarantee scheduling of this course.)**
- 5) **Drama:** Students will participate in various group and individual activities as a basis for learning basic drama and public speaking skills. This will include gaining an understanding of character development and scene breakdown, and performing in short, scripted, and improvised scenes. Drama members will experience staging techniques, as well as respect for the performing arts, audience etiquette, and audition techniques. **(A request does not guarantee scheduling of this course.)**
- 6) **String Orchestra:** This course is for students who have placed a string instrument for at least one year. Instruments included in the string orchestra a Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass. Music reading and public performance are emphasized.
- 7) **Spanish I:** Development of communication skills remains the cornerstone of the world language department. There are several opportunities for middle school students to begin world language study. Parents and student should know that successful completion of level one (I) in the middle school could allow students to continue to the next level (II) in their high school program, grades 9-12. **However, study in grade 8 does not appear on transcripts for college, nor does it count as high school study toward college requirements.** At the completion of grade 8, student performance throughout the year, outcomes on culminating assessments and teacher recommendation will be considered when placing students in their next level of world language study. **(A request for this class is not a guarantee of placement.)**

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MaxTAP: Southern Regional's program for academically talented students derives its name from a desire to **MAX**imize the **Talent And Potential** of all its students. The program seeks to develop academic potential by promoting critical and analytical thinking, planning skills, creative problem solving, and other higher level thinking skills through the study of a variety of topics. **(Placement is dependent upon: prior team recommendation, standardized test scores, classroom performance, work ethic, essays, *Sages* score and self-rating score.)**

7th and 8th Grade Special Education

Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students with special needs take many forms and include both in-district and out-of-district programs. At Southern Regional Middle School, several special education programs are available: Resource Room, Self-Contained, and In-Class Support.

One alternative program is offered- Compass. This program is designed to meet the needs of those students who have difficulty learning in a regular class setting and have met specific criteria for placement. Innovative methods and materials are selected in order to encourage success, both academically and socially.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

"COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE"

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