

Sierra Vista Junior High School

Registration Guide

2011-2012



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WELCOME TO SIERRA VISTA JUNIOR HIGH!

This guide has been developed to acquaint parents and students with the instructional program at 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.

Mark Crawford,
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, 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. Life Science
4. World History
5. Physical Education
6. Exploratory Wheel / Parallel-Intervention class / Yearlong elective class

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 class will not select the exploratory wheel. Students in a yearlong elective class are selected through various means. Some are determined through auditions (Choir and Band) while others through an interview process (AVID). Students may be placed into a Study Skills class or Parallel 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. Physical Science
5. Physical Education
6. Activity Class / Parallel-Intervention class / Yearlong elective 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.

Students may be placed into a Study Skills class or Parallel 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 programs at Sierra Vista Junior High School for pupils who have specific learning needs. These include specific behavior, emotional, physical, and learning needs. Placement into one of these programs is determined on an individual student basis via an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) decided upon by the IEP team. 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.

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. These classes are taught in a block format with class periods arranged back-to-back. Students are placed in these classes based on their performance on the California English Language Development Test. Those students in the early stages of English language acquisition also receive their science instruction in a SDAIE science class. Students beyond the beginning or intermediate level are mainstreamed within our regular education classes although many receive further support offered in our parallel English reading 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 placement tests administered in 6th grade, STAR test results, 6th grade report card grades, and the recommendation of the previous year’s teacher. Students are placed in a class designed to prepare students for success in high school mathematics courses. Sierra Vista uses 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.

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.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra (Enriched)/ Algebra A

A challenging, fast paced, advanced level class for students functioning above grade level that is designed to prepare students for the rigor of the honor’s paced Algebra B/C 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 B/C.

7th Algebra 1AB

This is a course for students who are highly gifted in mathematics. 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 Honor’s Geometry 1AB in 8th grade.

8th Grade Algebra 8

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, with successful students completing Algebra in 9th grade. This class takes the time for students to thoroughly master the basic algebraic concepts. Students completing the course with a grade of B or better will continue to Algebra B/C in 9th grade.

8th Algebra B/C

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. Successful completion of Algebra A prior to enrolling in Algebra B/C is required. Students who successfully complete this course with a grade of B or better will take Geometry or Honor's Geometry in 9th grade.

8th Honor's Geometry 1AB

Geometry is a high school level course offered to eighth graders who have successfully completed Algebra 1AB 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 (7th grade) topics 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 and 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 (8th grade) 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

The New Physical Education Philosophy - For most of us, the old-style PE met the needs of a select few. Everyone else was often left with a lifetime of bad memories and demeaning experiences. What is the "New PE"? It means teaching fitness over sports skills in physical education classes. More importantly, it is about objective measurement over subjective grading. Today, the "New PE" classes at Sierra Vista Jr. High School are about developing a healthy lifestyle and wellness. The PE staff teaches quality/daily physical education that provides students with a moderate to vigorous activity level.

Physical Education Program features

- Quality/Daily Physical Education for grades 7-8
- Technology and Assessment- use of Heart Rate monitors
- HopSports Exercise Training System
- State of the Art Fitness Center
- FitnessGram Computer Lab
- Circuit Training Weight Room
- Survivor
- Trikkes and Tritons
- Intramural program

- Staff Wellness program
- Family Fitness Nights

Weekly Schedule

Monday: Unit Activity day

Tuesday: HopSports

Wednesday: Survivor

Thursday: Cardiovascular activity w/heart rate monitors or pedometers

Friday: Fitness Center

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 (7th grade): 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 (8th grade): 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, and industrial arts. 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**: band, chorus, AVID, yearbook or journalism instead of the exploratory wheel. These performance electives often require teacher approval to be enrolled in the class. A few are for 8th grade students only. These classes are listed after 8th grade activity classes.

\$ - Some electives solicit donations 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. 2033 to get current cost information.

* - Requires teacher approval

Exploratory American Pop Music - Combining Visual/Performing Arts and English standards, American Pop Music uses music as a source of creativity and expression for students to compose their own songs and interpret the music that surrounds them. Students also explore the various ways and uses music has influenced pop culture throughout the generations.

Exploratory Animal Sciences - This class is designed to supply students with the necessary information required to become a responsible pet owner, a knowledgeable animal caregiver, and possibly an animal science professional. This class enriches some of the standards learned in 7th grade Biological science. The main standards presented are anatomy, genetics, classification, and the experimental process. Each of these concepts will focus on the animal groups: Fish, Reptiles, Birds, Rodents, Dogs, Cats, Livestock, and Exotics.

Exploratory Art - In this class, students learn about the basic Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Value, Texture, Form, Space and Color. Through demonstrations and practice they will develop their skills in creating successful works of Art. Students will also explore different media such as charcoal, collage, pencil sketching and painting.

Exploratory Foods - Students in Exploratory Foods will learn the basics in Foods and Nutrition, kitchen safety, kitchen equipment, measurement, and the elements of cooking. The component of cooking necessitates a monetary donation. After students successfully pass the safety unit and the safety test they will be introduced into the world of cooking. Students will cook on an average of once per week. Students will learn cooking skills and techniques through classroom instruction, book work and demonstrations .

Exploratory Language (Spanish)- 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.

Exploratory Video Production- Exploratory Video Production is a quarter-long introduction to digital video, including the three stages of production: pre-production, production, and post-production. These three elements include concept development, storyboarding, scripting, properly operating a video camera, framing, camera angles (including camera techniques and angles with and without a tripod), and digital editing. Students will also analyze Charlie Chaplin's "Modern Times" and then have the opportunity to create their own silent film.

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.

***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.

***Power Math** - 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.

EIGHTH GRADE ACTIVITY CLASS PROGRAM

Some electives solicit donations 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. 2033 to get current cost information. All activity courses are dependent on staff availability.

Students may elect to take a **yearlong performance elective**: band, chorus, AVID, yearbook or journalism instead of an activity class. These performance electives often require teacher approval to be enrolled in the class. A few are for 8th grade students only.

* - Requires teacher approval

Art - Students explore different artistic media in this semester course including oil pastels, papier mache, tempera paint, watercolors, charcoal, mixed media and many others. Art history is also incorporated into the curriculum as well as the Principles of Art: balance, unity, emphasis, movement, and rhythm.

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.

***Literary Media** - Literary Media is a year long elective in which students are trained in library science. Library skills are taught so that the student is part of the library staff. Some of the necessary skills taught are Material Circulation, Electronic Media, Dewey Decimal System, Alphabetizing, Academic Vocabulary, Office Machines, Microsoft Office Software, and Customer Service. Students will select an SRC book upon which there has been a film adaptation. Students will then write an essay that compares the original author's literary work to its portrayal in the media. Each quarter, students will be required to write one brief book review to be shared via the students' choice of media. (Limited spots available for this class)

***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.

***Power Math** - 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.

Video Production - 8th grade Video Production is a semester course and continuation of the 7th grade elective. This course is comprised of both returning and new students. As a result, the class is designed to both help returning students build upon their skills, and introduce new students to more advanced elements of film-making. Students will have an opportunity to create videos for Sierra Vista, including newscasts that highlight the school's current events. In addition, students will spend time creating the annual "Welcome" video that is screened for in-coming 6th graders and parents. Other possible projects include: music montage, commercial, genre short films, and more. Sophisticated editing programs are introduced in 8th grade as well, including Final Cut Pro.

Wood - Students will be given a model of a finished product and will be able to identify each part of the project by drawing it and verbally describing to the class. In order to guarantee that a student attain expected educational goals in woodshop the student will be reviewed for course content language and vocabulary. Students will learn how to design and construct a wood project using materials from drawings and specifications for construction.

YEAR LONG PERFORMANCE ELECTIVES

***ASB/Leadership** - Students in Associated Student Body (ASB) will develop leadership skills in order to successfully plan and run school activities like dances, brunch time activities, spirit days, community service events, etc. They also learn how to organize and work as a team. My expectation is that, throughout the year, they will represent Sierra Vista Jr. High as a respectful role model other students look to, both on and off campus (thus, any students who violate ANY school rules will be asked to leave ASB). Finally, this class can lead to careers in the future such as performing as elected officers of any organization (government or otherwise), members of management teams or even public speakers or innovators. The possibilities are endless! **(8th grade only)**

***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 - Beginning Band is designed for students who want to learn more about music and performing but have never played an instrument or read music before. This class helps students learn how to play an instrument, read music and enjoy performing as a part of the biggest team at Sierra Vista. No musical experience is necessary, just a positive attitude and love for music!

***Band, Advanced** - Advanced Band is Sierra Vista's top instrumental ensemble. All students are expected to have been playing their instruments for at least 1-2 years. This group performs more exciting and difficult music and focuses more on interpreting music, preparing students for band in high school and to be life long participants in music. The band will take two field trips throughout the year and students are expected to practice their instruments outside of class and work as a team in class.

***Creative Cookery** - Creative Cookery is a two semester course with focus on Foods and Nutrition , Food service and Hospitality. Students who earn a B+ or an A in Exploratory Foods may submit an application to be in Creative Cookery. Students in Creative Cookery learn the scientific principles of food and nutrition, the relationship between health and proper nutrition, kitchen safety, emergency procedures, food safety and sanitation, meal management, food preparation, food and culture, food production, food service, manners and etiquette, menu development, place setting, team work, the use of tools, equipment and appliances, career opportunities in the food industry, regulations in food service, and professional conduct in the workplace. **(8th grade only)**

***Chorus** - Chorus is a performing group for beginning to intermediate singers. Students will develop a basic knowledge of music that includes reading and vocal production. The purpose is to develop in the student a positive attitude in choral music. Students will learn and perform styles of music varying from classical to jazz, gospel and popular. A 2.0 GPA must be maintained in order to perform. The choir will be performing in school, community and festival programs.

***Journalism** - The objective of journalism is for students to learn techniques which include writing for a school newspaper, taking photographs, interviewing, editing stories and using the latest technology to produce a traditional, as well as, an online newspaper. Students learn to work independently and collectively as they work within teams. In addition to learning the tasks of a journalist, students learn to partake in the duties of running a student store and participating in community service. The journalists are graded on meeting deadlines, participation, weekly check points and community service. This is primarily an 8th grade class, however a limited number of 7th grade students may be enrolled.

Percussion Ensemble - This brand new class is designed for students who have a desire to play one particular instrument: the drums. In this class seventh and eighth graders will learn about proper percussion technique and how to read music. Students will also be able to get experience playing in a drum line and playing drum set. A few students from this class will serve as the percussion sections for the Advanced, Beginning and Jazz Bands. The whole class will also perform as one of only two junior high percussion ensembles in the Hart District.

***Yearbook** - If you have ever thought of becoming a photographer, film maker, graphic designer, or a campus leader, then yearbook may be the place for you! Yearbook is your chance to create something that the students at Sierra Vista will have forever. It is a fun elective in which you will learn publishing, editing, and computer skills. We organize campus activities including green week and the last school wide party at the end of the year. We run the student store and participate in field trips. Students in yearbook should perform well academically and socially. We need students who think of original ideas, have energetic personalities, and who want to have fun! This is primarily an 8th grade class, however a limited number of 7th grade students may be enrolled.