



SOUTHMORELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2023-2024

SOUTHMORELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
200 SCOTTIE WAY
SCOTTDAL, PA 15683
724-887-2029

“HIGH QUALITY LEARNING FOR ALL”



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MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

WE WILL:

- Promote excellence of character
- Inspire a life-long love of learning and the pursuit of truth
- Highlight the multiple pathways for student success
- Cultivate compassion and empathy in an inclusive environment
- Empower social, emotional and physical well-being
- Prepare future leaders and contributors in our community and beyond
- Leverage our community resources to enhance student learning and provide authentic, 21st century learning experiences
- Do all of these things TOGETHER

VISION

High Quality Learning For All



SOUTHMORELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT - "HIGH QUALITY LEARNING FOR ALL"

LANGUAGE ARTS

6th Grade ELA

Sixth grade English language arts learners will continue to show growth as readers, writers, and thinkers. Students will read a variety of genres including fiction and non-fiction; which will not only broaden academic vocabulary, but strengthen comprehension and analytical skills. Students will also engage in comprehensive projects and discussions driven by reading material that aligns with student readiness and interest.

7th Grade ELA

At this level, Seventh Grade English Language Arts students will develop strength in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will increase their ability to analyze and synthesize various texts, improve their reading ability, and become more proficient writers. Students will engage in analyzing and discussing literature in terms of plot, characterization, theme, figurative language, and symbolism, building on previous knowledge. Students will reflect on their personal writing portfolio using the writing process, and they will enhance their public speaking skills through reflections, presentations, and academic discussions.

8th Grade ELA

Eighth grade English Language Arts learners will continue to show growth as readers, writers, and thinkers. Students will read a variety of genres including fiction and non-fiction; which will not only broaden academic vocabulary, but strengthen comprehension and analytical skills. Students will also engage in comprehensive projects and discussions driven by reading material that builds on prior knowledge and also aligns with student readiness and interest. This course of study will prepare students for higher level thinking that is essential for their success in high school and beyond.



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MATHEMATICS

6th Grade Math

In 6th Grade Math, instructional time will focus on five areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) understanding division of fractions and extending the notion of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking; and (5) geometry.

7th Grade Math

7th Grade Math continues the exploration of algebraic concepts to prepare students for Algebra 1 as well as further, higher level math courses. Because Math 7 aligns closely with a Pre-Algebra, students will obtain a more thorough comprehension of these grade-level topics and set them up for a deeper understanding of these areas in higher level classes. Throughout the year, students will explore proportional relationships, percents, integer operations, simplifying expressions, solving equations and inequalities, various geometric concepts, probabilities, and statistics. In addition to the Pennsylvania Core Standards presented in seventh grade, students will continue to develop and expand their ability to make sense of word problems and problem solve, connect mathematical concepts to real life, and to apply mathematical knowledge to analyze and model situations/relationships using multiple representations and use appropriate tools to make decisions, solve problems, and to draw conclusions.

8th Grade Math

8th Grade Math stresses both procedural skills and conceptual understanding to ensure students are learning and applying the critical information they need to succeed at higher levels. Students will learn and apply concepts of the Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. This course will prepare learners for success in Algebra 1.

Algebra 1

Students will formalize and expand on algebraic concepts established in previous coursework. Students will deepen and extend their understanding of linear, nonlinear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will engage in methods for analyzing data and using functions. Students will fluently move between multiple representations of functions including but not limited to linear, exponential and quadratics.



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SCIENCE

6th Grade Science

Sixth grade science is a course that provides an overview of fundamental scientific principles. The curriculum is vigorous in scope and addresses the next generation science curriculum. Various scientific principles will be used to conduct various laboratory experiments and online activities. At this level it is expected that students will expand on science concepts established in previous coursework. Students will deepen and extend their understanding of Earth's processes. Students will investigate minerals, rocks and the relationship between them. Students will explore how deep within Earth events are occurring that impact us on the surface. Students will engage in methods for analyzing and using data and models to discover how weather is created on Earth. Students will discover why we have seasons on Earth and be able to explain why the moon has phases.

7th Grade Science

At this level it is expected that the students will apply process knowledge that enables them to become independent learners. These skills include observing, classifying, inferring, predicting, measuring, computing, estimating, communicating, using space/time relationships, defining operationally, raising questions, formulating hypotheses, testing and experimenting, designing controlled experiments, recognizing variables, manipulating variables, interpreting data, formulating models, designing models, and producing solutions. Everyone can use them to solve real-life problems. These process skills are developed across the grade levels and differ in the degree of sophistication, quantitative nature and application to the content. Students will use the above skills to study the diversity of life. Students will learn to understand how life has changed over a long period of time. This great variety of life forms continues to change even today as genetic instructions within cells are passed from generation to generation, yet the amazing integrity of most species remains.

8th Grade Science

This is a combination inquiry science and traditional science program of learning through SEPUP (the Science Education for Public Understanding Program) and a variety of textbooks and resources. SEPUP is an instructional model that integrates scientific inquiry with a thematic approach for teaching science in the context of personal and social issues. To motivate students, a personal or societal issue provides a framework for each SEPUP unit, and students' questions are addressed in the subsequent series of activities. This issue then provides a context for the activities to follow. Each activity begins with a challenge, a specific question or goal. To tackle the challenge, students collect evidence in guided or open-ended investigations. Reading activities provide background information, extend investigations, and help students make connections. Students also run experiments, collect data, and analyze their evidence, all of which builds scientific knowledge to help them address the central issue. At the end of a unit, students use their evidence and new knowledge in a culminating activity or activities that require them to reach a decision or to solve the original problem. Through these activities, they learn how science affects people's lives.



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SOCIAL STUDIES

6th Grade Social Studies

In sixth grade, students will be introduced to social studies concepts on a middle school level. More specific detail will be given to ideas that will help the transitioning learner understand the development of historical events over time from early humans through the enlightenment period which includes the study of ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, ancient Greece, ancient Rome, and Medieval Europe. A major focus will be on connecting the past with the present to develop an understanding of human history. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to understand why the past matters and how it is a road map to the future.

7th Grade Social Studies

In this course, students will use maps to locate places and explain relationships between people and their environments. Students will describe how Earth's processes affect humans and how humans impact the Earth. Students will also describe various cultures based on human settlement patterns. Students will explain how globalization connects the world's people.

8th Grade Social Studies

Eighth grade American Cultures is a comprehensive study of the history of America from the beginning until the Civil War. Main areas of focus include the colonization of America, the American Revolution, the creation of the United States government, the first Industrial Revolution, the spreading of our nation, and the causes of the Civil War. Overall, the goals for this course are to gain a better understanding of our country's history, and to learn what it means to be an American citizen.



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ART

6th Grade Art

This course answers the question: What is art? Students learn about art's different looks and purposes. Art is divided into four areas: commercial arts, fine arts, environmental & crafts, and industrial design. Projects are grouped to experiment in these four art areas, while teaching many of the basics in art knowledge and skills. The expectation is that you develop an understanding of the basic concept of what art is. Through the activities, you will learn about your own interests, abilities, and knowledge concerning art so that you will be able to make intelligent decisions about art in your future life and/or career.

7th Grade Art

As an activities/projects-based class, students will experience and explore the elements of art through two- and three-dimensional media. Emphasis will be given to a variety of techniques. Connections will be made to concepts previously learned in 6th Grade Exploratory Art. Each student will be responsible for critiquing their work and preparing their best pieces. Students will complete all projects and written assignments, as well as be responsible for the care and clean-up of all materials used.

8th Grade Art

The chief goals in the art curriculum are to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the arts, promote creative growth, and enhance critical thinking skills. Students will experience working on more advanced levels in both the two and three-dimensional arts as they draw, paint, design, print, and sculpt in various media. Computer graphics and research will be covered. The eighth grade art curriculum covers art history from the Renaissance through modern times. By analyzing artistic styles and historical periods students will develop respect for the traditions and contributions of diverse cultures. Students will respond to and analyze artworks, thus contributing to the development of lifelong skills of making informed judgments and evaluations.



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CODING

6th Grade Coding

Coding 6 will start by finding a balance in the media, privacy and security. Coding 6 utilizes the Scratch block-based programming language. Students will learn about sequencing, selection, arithmetic and logical operators, the coordinate plane, parallel behaviors, randomness, variables, loops, conditionals, control structures, broadcasting and receiving messages, and defining new commands. Basic projects using Google Docs and Slides are introduced, and students will reinforce their typing skills.

7th Grade Coding

Coding 7 introduces students to the evolution of computing devices and the growth of computing needs. Students learn about the binary number system and how computers make use of binary representations, as well as the various different methods that computers use to communicate with each other. Students will build on their skills in the G Suite with more advanced projects, with Google Sheets being introduced.

8th Grade Coding

In Coding 8, students learn how to create websites using HTML and CSS. They will learn about different ways to organize their content and to make the interface and experience user-friendly. Students will gain experience in using the developer tools to have a look at the code of any website and to test out parts of their websites. Students will cap off their skills using the G Suite by completing various advanced projects in Google Sheets.

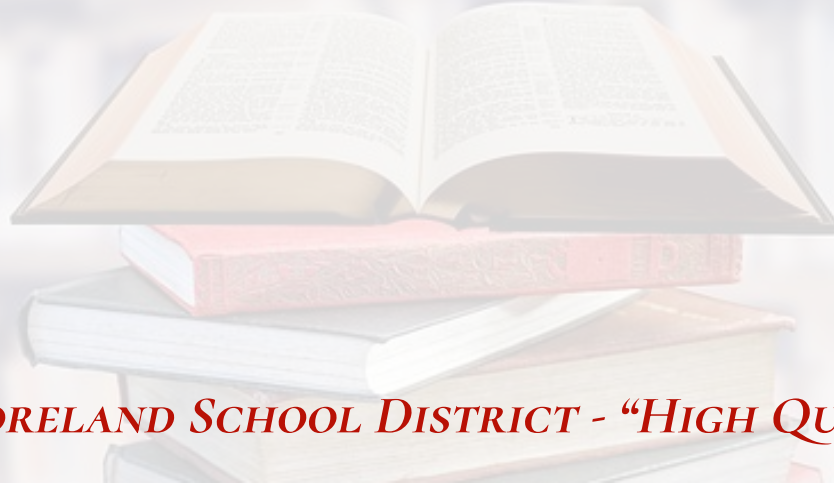


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LIBRARY

6th-8th Grade Library

Twenty-first century Information Literacy Skills are integrated into curricular content areas and include locating, accessing and evaluating information; developing searching techniques; learning a research process; and using information ethically.



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MUSIC

6th-8th Grade General Music

The focus of Music class at the Middle School level will be to continue to allow students the opportunity to explore the elements of music, styles of music, current trends in music, the history of music, music technology, and music composition. Emphasis will be placed on expanding their awareness of music, and opportunities to perform and create music on percussion instruments, guitar, piano, and via technology.

6th-8th Grade Band

The focus of Band at the Middle School level will be to continue to pursue mastery of fundamentals introduced in 5th grade Band, while incrementally adding advanced concepts as feasible throughout the school year. Solo/Small Ensemble work will allow students to employ advanced skills with other students at a similar level of musicianship. Individual as well as ensemble creativity will be emphasized as students progress along the continuum of musical maturity/mastery.

6th-8th Grade Chorus

The focus of Chorus at the Middle School level will be to foster independence and pride as a member of a successful vocal ensemble. Students will gain confidence as a singer, develop a better ear for blending with other voices, and thoroughly interpret all aspects of the musical score.



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PHYSICAL EDUCATION/WELLNESS

6th-8th Grade Physical Education

At this level students will learn how to become competent, literate, and enthusiastic about their sport experiences. Students will not only learn how to more completely play sports; they will also understand how to manage their sport experiences. Students will also learn how to correspond with others by open communication and shared responsibility while playing on their team during physical education. Students will play on teams throughout the school year, will learn skills/tactics and execute the skills in game situations. The sport units are broken down into net games, invasion games, and softball/kickball game units.

6th-8th Grade Wellness

Our health/wellness education will provide students with the opportunity to learn knowledge and skills necessary for making health promoting decisions throughout a lifetime. At SMS students will address a variety of topics such as drugs and alcohol and their effects on the body, healthy eating/nutrition, mental health, social health, violence prevention, physical health, and personal health and wellness that can be used throughout a lifetime.



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STEM

6th Grade STEM

STEM at this grade goes hand in hand with earth science, aerospace engineering, and space exploration. Students will be involved in focusing on real-world issues and problems, using the engineering design process, immersing students in hands-on inquiry and open-ended exploration, involving students in productive teamwork, applying math and science content students are learning, and allowing for multiple right answers and failure as a necessary part of learning.

7th Grade STEM

Seventh grade STEM focuses on electricity and electrical engineering as well as how machines and gears work. Students will be involved in the focusing on real-world issues and problems, using the engineering design process, immersing students in hands-on inquiry and open-ended exploration, involving students in productive teamwork, applying math and science content students are learning, allowing for multiple right answers and failure as a necessary part of learning, and using good time and project management skills.

8th Grade STEM

Eighth grade STEM focuses on elements of design and technology, prototyping, and creation. Students will be involved in focusing on real-world issues and problems, using the engineering design process, immersing students in hands-on inquiry and open-ended exploration, involving students in productive teamwork, applying math and science content students are learning, allowing for multiple right answers and failure as a necessary part of learning, using good time and project management skills, and assessing client needs and building a working prototype to match those needs.



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CAREER READINESS

In Grades 6, 7, and 8, students will be required to complete several career readiness lessons and assignments aligned to the PA Career Education and Work Standards.

The Career Education and Work Standards address four areas of knowledge:

- Career Awareness and Preparation
- Career Acquisition (Getting a Job)
- Career Retention and Advancement
- Entrepreneurship

****By the end of Grade 8, students will have an Individualized Career Plan.***



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STATE ASSESSMENTS

Students will participate in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) in Grades 6, 7, and 8 in the following subjects:

English/Language Arts - Grades 6, 7, 8

Mathematics - Grades 6, 7, 8

Science - Grade 8

****Students who are taking Algebra 1 will also take the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam, an End-of-Course Assessment that is a requirement for HS Graduation and a component of the Act 158 Graduation Pathways.***



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ADMINISTRATION/SCHOOL BOARD

Southmoreland School District Administrative Team

Mr. Vince Mascia, Superintendent

Dr. Jason Boone, Asst. Superintendent

Dr. Daniel Clara, Asst. to the Superintendent

Mr. Ronald Heitchue, Director of Special Education

Mr. Dan Krofcheck, SHS Principal

Mrs. Charity Colebank, SHS Asst. Principal

Mr. James Klugh, SMS Principal

Ms. Tracey Kuchar-Long, SES Principal

Mr. Ronald Heitchue, SPC Principal

Southmoreland School District Board of Directors

President, Michelle Williams

Vice-President, Kristin Smith

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Duane Frund

Stephanie Geyer

Anthony Lizza

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Jason Pawlikowsky

Brian Shipley



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