

2025-2026

SMITH-COTTON JUNIOR HIGH



COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

SEDALIA #200 SCHOOL DISTRICT

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WELCOME TO SCJH!

Greetings Students,

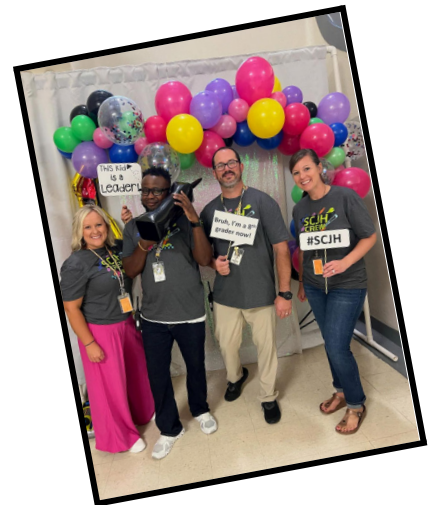
This guide was developed to provide information for you and your parents to process together. We encourage you to discuss the required classes as well as the elective classes. You will note that junior high offers many opportunities to “explore” new areas of study. Depending on individual needs and levels of development, you will have an opportunity to strengthen skills through advanced levels of course work as well as to take part in a wide range of academic opportunities.

Junior high level learning opportunities are exciting, enjoyable, and challenging. Administrators, counselors, and teachers at our school are available and ready to help you make the best choices for your next academic school year. We’re excited about the many possibilities that are ahead for you and we look forward to helping you experience the very best that junior high education has to offer.

Sincerely,

Ashleigh Noland

Mrs. Ashleigh Noland
Principal
Smith-Cotton Junior High





ENROLLMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Junior High School Day

Students attend SCJH from 7:30 a.m. to 2:43 p.m. During that time, they have seven regular classes and one short seminar period. Seminar is used for getting support/assistance from teachers, student meetings, assemblies, homework, make-up work, and more.

Teaming

Students are taught by a team of teachers who coordinate instruction and routines to address student needs. The team consists of the students' ELA, Math, Science, & Social Studies teachers. Team teachers are located in close proximity to each other. There are three teams per grade level: Eighth grade Dynamo, Navigators, and Sarah's Champions. Seventh grade Cosmic Kids, Legacy, and Voyagers. Sixth grade All Stars, Dream Team, & MVP. Many factors are used to balance teams, therefore, team requests or changes will not be approved.

Course Offerings

Due to staffing patterns and student requests, specific course offerings will be limited based upon the total number of requests. A minimum number of students are needed in any course to warrant final placement onto the master schedule. Thus, not all courses listed in this Course Description Guide may materialize.

Possible Conflicts

It is necessary that we gather student requests as early as possible to determine staff, faculty, and equipment needs. The master schedule is planned to provide students with all courses they request, except for possible course conflicts. While accommodating the greatest number of students, some conflicts may occur.

Schedule Changes

Changing schedules after the master schedule is completed results in a large number of unbalanced classes. If a student has enrolled with the advice of his/her parents, teachers, and grade-level counselor, changes are usually unnecessary and often denied. However, if it becomes necessary, students who want to change their class schedules should visit the counselor to discuss the change and obtain a "Schedule Correction Form." Only changes that are educationally sound will be considered. Classes cannot be changed after the first two days of school or after the first two days of second semester without the consent of an administrator. As stated above, team requests or changes will not be approved.

MSHSAA Eligibility

Due to Missouri State High School Activity Association (MSHSAA) guidelines, students participating in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities must pass 80% of their coursework. This means a student must pass 6 out of their 7 classes each quarter. Student MSHSAA eligibility is determined by the preceding quarter.

Opportunities to Earn High School Credit

Smith-Cotton Junior High offers three courses where an eighth-grade student can receive High School credit while enrolled at SCJH: Algebra I, French I, and Spanish I. The grade received in these courses will be placed on their high school transcript and will directly impact the student's GPA for High School. Please see those course descriptions for prerequisites and selection criteria.

Grades and Grade Point System

Parents/Guardians can check grades anytime through their Canvas Observer Account. Contact your child's teacher or counselor for questions regarding accessing your Canvas Observer Account. Letter grades are based on the following percentages:

95-100%	A	4.00	80-82%	B-	2.67	67-69%	D+	1.34
90-94%	A-	3.67	77-79%	C+	2.34	63-66%	D	1.00
87-89%	B+	3.34	73-76%	C	2.00	60-62%	D-	0.67
83-86%	B	3.00	70-72%	C-	1.67	0-59%	F	0.00

Honor Roll

Honor Roll has been established at Smith-Cotton Junior High School to recognize outstanding academic achievement. The High Honor Roll will recognize students earning an overall GPA of 3.67-3.99 in all scheduled subjects (no grades below a C). The Principal's Honor Roll will recognize all students earning a 4.0 GPA.

Military Families

At Smith-Cotton Junior High, we're honored to be a Purple Star School, dedicated to supporting military-connected students and families. We understand the unique challenges of military life and provide a welcoming environment where students can thrive academically and socially. We're proud to serve military families and help students succeed in school and beyond.



SMITH-COTTON JUNIOR HIGH

ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

Activity/Sport	Grade
Band *	6, 7, 8
Competitive Speech & Debate *	7,8
Fellowship of Christian Athletes/Fellowship of Christian Students (FCA/FCS)	7,8
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)	7, 8
Introduction to Jazz	8
Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC) *	8
Library Clubs & Activities: STEM, Coding, Origami, Book Club, Rubik's Club, Lunch in the Library	6,7,8
National Junior Honor Society	8
Orchestra *	6, 7, 8
Pound for Pound	7,8
Team Screech (Robotics)	8
Team Shriek & Team Squeak (LEGO League Robotics)	6,7
Sound Effects, Soundsation, Symphonix, Soundwave *	7, 8
Student Council	6, 7,8
Theatre/School Play	6, 7, 8
Teen Outreach Program (TOP) Club	7,8
Girls' Basketball	7,8
Boys' Basketball	7,8
Cheerleading	7,8
Cross Country	7,8
Football	7,8
Track	7,8
Volleyball	7,8
Wrestling	7,8

These are current offerings. These opportunities are subject to change for the 2025-2026 school year.

** An asterisk next to an activity indicates the student must be enrolled in the associated course*

SCJH COURSE LIST

ENGLISH

[6th Grade Writing ELA](#)
[6th Grade Reading ELA](#)
[7th Grade English Language Arts](#)
[8th Grade English Language Arts](#)

MATHEMATICS

[6th Grade Math](#)
[7th Grade Math](#)
[7th Grade Pre-Algebra](#)
[8th Grade Math](#)
[Integrated Algebra I](#)

SCIENCE

[6th Grade Science](#)
[7th Grade Science](#)
[8th Grade Science](#)

SOCIAL STUDIES

[6th Grade Social Studies](#)
[7th Grade Social Studies](#)
[8th Grade Social Studies](#)

FINE ARTS

[Art 6th Grade](#)
[Art I](#)
[3D Art](#)
[Fiber Art](#)
[Intro to Drawing](#)
[Pottery](#)
[Broadcasting](#)
[Competitive Speech & Debate](#)
[Public Speaking](#)
[Theatre Arts](#)
[Theater in Practice](#)
[Band 6th Grade](#)
[Band 7th Grade](#)
[Band 8th Grade](#)
[Elements of Music](#)
[Mixed Chorus 6th Grade](#)
[Orchestra Advanced](#)
[Orchestra Beginning](#)
[Orchestra Intermediate](#)
[Sound Effects](#)
[Soundsation](#)
[Soundwave](#)
[Symphonix](#)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

[French I](#)
[Introduction to World Languages](#)
[Spanish I](#)

PE & HEALTH

[Health](#)
[Intro to Athletic Conditioning 7th](#)
[Intro to Athletic Conditioning 8th](#)
[Lifetime Fitness](#)
[Team Sports & Active Fitness](#)
[Physical Education](#)
[Physical Education 6th Grade](#)

PRACTICAL ARTS

[Advanced LEGO Botics](#)
[Computers 6th Grade](#)
[FACS Focus on Foods](#)
[Family & Consumer Science](#)
[Intro to Computer Applications](#)
[Intro to Digital Design & Media](#)
[LEGO Botics](#)
[PLTW App Creators](#)
[PLTW Automation & Robotics](#)
[PLTW Design & Modeling](#)
[PLTW Energy & the Environment](#)
[PLTW Flight & Space](#)
[PLTW Green Architecture](#)
[PLTW Innovators & Makers](#)
[PLTW Medical Detectives](#)
[Yearbook](#)

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

[Cafeteria Worker](#)
[Career Education](#)
[Current Events](#)
[Educational Resource Reading](#)
[Educational Recovery](#)
[Educational Resource Social Skills](#)
[ESOL](#)
[JROTC](#)
[Leadership](#)
[STARS](#)



Helpful navigation tip:

If you click on the course name, it will take you to the corresponding course description!



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

6th Grade Writing English Language Arts

Grade Level: 6

Full Year

This course focuses on creating thoughtful readers and writers. The reading portion of this course emphasizes student reading comprehension across literature and informational/expository text while utilizing various strategies. The writing portion has students compose narratives and informational/expository and argumentative pieces with additional focus on research, language, speaking and listening, and multimedia integration. The ultimate goal is to produce lifelong readers and writers who can be successful in future endeavors. This is a DESE MAP required course.

6th Grade Reading English Language Arts

Grade Level: 6

Full Year

This course focuses on cultivating thoughtful readers with a strong emphasis on comprehension across literature and informational texts, employing a variety of strategies. The goal is to produce lifelong readers and writers equipped for success in various endeavors. This course integrates reading, writing, and oral communication into real-life and literary situations, covering genres such as Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Short Stories, Traditional Literature, and Memoir. Students actively engage in Reading Workshop and apply key strategies like predicting, making connections, visualizing, questioning, inferring, and responding emotionally, fostering a comprehensive skill set for both academic and personal growth. This is a DESE MAP required course.

7th Grade English Language Arts

Grade Level: 7

Full Year

This course continues to build upon the foundational skills learned in grades K-6 and guides students to additional components of analyzing texts from the approach of a reader, a writer, and a researcher. Students will begin to pull specific evidence from what they read to support their thinking, using personal perspectives to help summarize and see how multiple points of view can be found in various texts. Students also continue to work on comprehension skills, drawing conclusions, inferencing, and structural elements. All of these skills will help students with critical thinking, comprehension, and application of knowledge in all of their classes. This is a DESE MAP required course.

8th Grade English Language Arts

Grade Level: 8

Full Year

This course continues to build upon the foundational skills learned in grades K-7 and guides students to additional components of analyzing texts from the approach of a reader, a writer, and a researcher. Students will deepen their analysis of text to make connections among different text, they will have the skills to evaluate what they read by understanding the intent of the author, determine bias, and create objective summaries. Students continue to work on comprehension skills, drawing conclusions, inferencing, and structural elements. The writing, reading, and analysis skills taught in this class will help prepare students for their coursework in high school as well as essential life skills. This is a DESE MAP required course.

MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

6th Grade Math

Grade Level: 6

Full Year

Sixth Grade Math is a transitional math class. It is a capstone class for concrete mathematical computations that students began in their elementary classes. It also functions as a foundational class introducing abstract concepts that will grow students toward an understanding of algebraic math, geometric concepts, and linear functions. Sixth Grade Math will utilize pieces of technology, cooperative learning, and other quality teaching practices to enhance the learning experience. The three focal points include: 1) using ratios to solve problems and understanding fractional parts, 2) using reasoning skills to construct and solve problems with variables that may come up throughout their lives, and 3) solving problems involving the concepts of area, surface area, and volume. This is a DESE MAP required course.

7th Grade Math

Grade Level: 7

Full Year

Seventh Grade Math is an introductory math class. It is the first place that students are introduced to many abstract, algebraic concepts. This class will grow students toward an understanding of algebraic math and linear functions. Seventh Grade Math will utilize pieces of technology, cooperative learning strategies, and additional quality teaching practices to enhance the learning experience. The three central focal points include: 1) using ratios and proportions to solve problems and understand rates of change, 2) constructing and solving expressions, equations, and inequalities, and 3) being able to extend their knowledge of mathematical operations and apply that knowledge to solve problems that come up in their daily lives; present and future. This is a DESE MAP required course.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra

Grade Level: 7

Full Year

Seventh Grade Pre-Algebra is a class built to prepare a foundation for students who intend to take Integrated Algebra 1 as an eighth-grade student. It covers the necessary content to present the Missouri Learning Standards for mathematics from 7th grade to students as well as vital standards for success from 8th grade that do not coincide with Algebra 1. This class will grow students toward an understanding of algebraic math and linear functions. Seventh Grade Pre-Algebra will utilize pieces of technology, cooperative learning strategies, and additional quality teaching practices to enhance the learning experience. The three central focal points include: 1) using ratios and proportions to solve problems and understand rates of change, 2) constructing and solving expressions, equations, and inequalities, and 3) being able to extend their knowledge of mathematical operations and apply that knowledge to solve problems that come up in their daily lives; present and future. Additionally, students will cover radical numbers, rules of exponents and exponential processing, and the Pythagorean Theorem. This is a DESE MAP required course. Pre-Requisites: Qualifying score on 7th-grade placement exam given in 6th grade. 4th grade, 5th grade, and 6th grade (if available) MAP scores in the Proficient and Advanced ranges. Must have 80% or higher in 6th Grade Math. Limited exceptions are allowed at the administrative level upon parental appeal.

8th Grade Math

Grade Level: 8

Full Year

Eighth Grade Math is a preparatory math class meant to include standards that give students a foundational introduction to many abstract algebraic concepts. This class will grow students toward an understanding of algebraic math and linear functions. Eighth Grade Math will utilize pieces of technology, cooperative learning strategies, and additional quality teaching practices to enhance the learning experience. The three central focal points include: 1) being able to define, evaluate, and compare functions, 2) understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem, and 3) understanding the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations. This is a DESE MAP required course.

Integrated Algebra I

Grade Level: 8

Full Year

Integrated Algebra I is a high school math course that combines algebraic fundamentals with basic geometry concepts. Students master algebraic operations, equations, and functions while exploring core geometric principles. This course equips students with problem-solving skills and shows how algebra and geometry connect, providing a solid foundation for future math courses and real-world applications. Using interactive tools and practical examples, students gain a well-rounded mathematical skill set, enhancing their academic and career prospects. ***Students who successfully complete a full year of this course will earn one high school credit and the grade earned each semester will go on their high school transcript. Students who take Integrated Algebra I in 8th grade will be required to take the Algebra II EOC while in high school. Pre-Requisites: Qualifying score on 8th grade placement exam given in 7th grade. 5th grade, 6th grade, and 7th grade (if available) MAP scores in the Proficient and Advanced ranges. Must have 80% or higher in 7th Grade Math/Pre-Algebra. Limited exceptions are allowed at the administrative level upon parental appeal.***

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

6th Grade Science

Grade Level: 6

Full Year

This course takes a phenomena-based, hands-on approach to explore science areas of the ecosystem, life science, geology, and weather. Students will conduct various investigations within these areas, learn to interpret data/graphs, and use evidence to support their own claims within their learning. Specific learning will be centered around but not limited to populations of organisms, living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem, animal behaviors, environmental changes, and genetic factors that influence the growth of organisms, earth's history, rock formations, seafloor structures, minerals, and groundwater resources.

7th Grade Science

Grade Level: 7

Full Year

This course takes a phenomena-based, hands-on approach to explore science areas of energy, force & motion, and space. Students will conduct various investigations within these areas, learn to interpret data/graphs, and use evidence to support their own claims within their learning. Specific learning will be centered around but not limited to mass, motion, energy transfers, waves, gravity, the solar system, and seasonal patterns.

8th Grade Science

Grade Level: 8

Full Year

This course is an interactive, inquiry-based, and hands-on general science course where students will focus on the discipline of engineering including design processes and models, technology, and how engineering helps solve societal problems. Students will also explore physical science including atoms, molecules, and how they interact. Students will focus on the discipline of life science, including cells, heredity, and the diversity of living things. Students learn to understand how atomic structure determines chemical properties and how atoms and molecules interact. Students learn to understand that natural and human events change the environmental conditions on the earth. Students learn to understand the predictability of characteristics being passed from parent to offspring and how a particular environment selects traits that increase survival and reproduction by individuals bearing those traits. Students in 8th grade science will experience many engineering activities throughout the year which require critical thinking and problem-solving skills to develop solutions to real-world and contrived problems. This is a DESE MAP required course.



SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

6th Grade Social Studies

Grade Level: 6

Full Year

This course covers the development of ancient civilizations in the Mediterranean area and Asia. In sixth grade, students are ready to deepen their understanding of the Earth and its peoples through the study of history, geography, politics, culture, and economic systems. Sixth Grade Social Studies follows the course of human development from prehistoric hunter-gatherers, through the development of agriculture, and the organization of societies and governments. Ancient cultures that are covered include: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, India, and China. Students analyze the interactions among the various cultures, emphasizing their lasting contributions and the link between the present and ancient worlds. World and regional map skills are practiced weekly.

7th Grade Social Studies

Grade Level: 7

Full Year

This course is designed to connect European history to early American history and to study the influential people, ideas, and principles that formed our country. From the Ice Age to the vast civilizations of the Aztec and Inca, this course analyzes the journey of mankind and the rise and fall of early Native American civilizations in North and South America. In addition, this course studies the British Atlantic, specifically the North American colonies, the motivations to colonize, the governments that were put in place, and the conflict that reshaped the continent. This course is designed to help reshape student's perspective of mankind and the journey of human civilization and colonization.

8th Grade Social Studies

Grade Level: 8

Full Year

This course explores American history from the Articles of Confederation to the Civil War. The course focuses on the following topics: America's first form of government, U.S. Constitution, citizens' rights and responsibilities, Washington and Jefferson Era, Industrial Revolution, Jacksonian Democracy, Manifest Destiny, Westward Expansion, Texas Independence, Mexican-American War, Abolitionist, Women's Suffrage, and Civil War. The course analyzes political, social, and economic trends during the time examined.

FINE ART COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART

Art 6th Grade

Grade Level: 6

One Semester

This exploratory class is designed to strengthen students' basic art skills. Those skills include drawing, painting, and sculpting, designing artwork using a variety of media and techniques, and developing students' creativity and self-expression. Focus will be placed on recognizing and using the art elements including line, shape, color, value, form, texture, and space, and design principles including rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, emphasis, harmony, and unity.

Art I [Video](#)

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester

Students will be introduced to advanced techniques using professional mediums to increase awareness of art as an important aspect of our culture. Advanced techniques in painting and drawing will be explored as well as the study and role of art in history. ***This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.***

3D Art I [Video](#)

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester

Fee: \$15.00

This course is an alternative to Art I. While Art I teaches the elements of art by completing two-dimensional projects with drawing, painting, coloring, and shading, 3D Art I teaches these elements by completing hands-on, three-dimensional sculptures. The projects from this class will mostly be sculpture-based and will include name sculptures, printmaking, foam board houses, coil clay cups, and many more. ***This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.***

Fiber Art [Video](#)

Grade Level: 8

One Semester

Fee: \$20.00

This course adds to the concepts learned in Art I by focusing on three-dimensional art and hand-building. Students will experience fiber art forms by concentrating on weaving, mask-making, basketry, tie-dye, and much more. ***Prerequisite: Art I or 3D Art I with a C or higher and/or art teacher recommendation.***

Intro to Drawing [Video](#)

Grade Level: 8

One Semester

Fee: \$10.00

Intro to Drawing is a one-semester course designed to build on drawing concepts introduced in Art I. Students will use color, shading, and light to create original artwork that shows their understanding of drawing. Students will study graffiti art, perspective, and still lifes and show their skills at graphing. ***Prerequisite: Art I or 3D Art I with a C or higher and art teacher recommendation.***

Pottery [Video](#)

Grade Level: 8

One Semester

Fee: \$20.00

Pottery class is a one-semester course designed to help students explore and develop skills in 3D art by using clay. This pottery hand-building course will teach 3 main techniques: Pinch, Coil, and Slab Construction. In addition to these techniques, background in the art form, glaze, and other decorative techniques will be introduced. Students will experience clay by completing a tea set, coil plate, fairy house, lantern, and many more projects. ***Prerequisite: Art 1 or 3D Art I with a C or higher and art teacher recommendation.***

DRAMA

Broadcasting

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester

This course introduces students to the world of broadcasting and media production. Through hands-on projects and collaborative learning, students will explore the fundamentals of journalism, video production, and digital storytelling. By the end of the course, students will have a strong foundation in broadcasting and the confidence to express their ideas creatively and effectively. ***Prerequisite: B or better in ELA, application, and teacher recommendation. This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.***

Competitive Speech & Debate

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester

In this course, students will prepare dramatic and humorous presentations to compete in speech and drama tournaments. Events include Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation, Prose, Poetry, Duet Acting, Storytelling, Improvisation, and Impromptu. Students must demonstrate and maintain good citizenship and good grades. ***This class may be taken in both 7th & 8th grades. Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation.***

Public Speaking

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester

This class is designed to introduce students to public speaking and communication. It focuses on the organization of thoughts, outlining, and presenting ideas orally before a group. ***This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.***

Theatre Arts

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester

This course is designed to introduce students to theatre and theatrical elements. These will include movement, motivation, characterization, memorization, and voice. Activities will include improvisation, oral interpretation, duet acting, and pantomime. Theater history, set design and construction, costuming, makeup, lighting, directing, play analysis, playwriting, theatre etiquette, and musical theatre will be parts of the curriculum. ***This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.***

Theatre in Practice

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester

The focus of Theatre in Practice will be on the entire play production process. Students will develop a One Act performance from beginning to end and perform it at the end of the semester. Study will be done in voice, movement, characterization, and acting techniques. Time will also be spent on technical theater, including lighting, costuming, directing, and set design. ***This class can be taken in both 7th & 8th grades.***

MUSIC

Band 6th Grade

Grade Level: 6

Full Year

This course is a study of basic fundamental techniques of instrumentation. Students learn to read music and develop foundational instrumental techniques that can be applied to areas such as musical performance, composition, and improvisation.

Band 7th Grade	Grade Level: 7	Full Year
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The seventh-grade band consists of students with at least one year of school band experience on a concert band instrument. Students continue to develop general music literacy and instrumental techniques that can be applied to areas such as musical performance, composition, and improvisation. Students taking private instrument instruction may join after completing an audition, and interview, with an ensemble director.

Band 8th Grade	Grade Level: 8	Full Year
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The eighth-grade band consists of students with at least two years of school band experience on a concert band instrument. Students continue to develop general music literacy and instrumental techniques that can be applied to areas such as musical performance, composition, and improvisation. Students taking private instrument instruction may join after completing an audition, and interview, with an ensemble director.

Elements of Music	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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The course provides opportunities for growth in understanding the following musical elements: rhythm, melody, form, tempo, dynamics, harmony, expression, and style. The course also encourages interest in music from diverse cultures and historical periods, exploring genres such as jazz, rock 'n roll, classical, and pop. The student experience will include the completion of in-class activities using music programs such as Chrome Music Lab and Noteflight. This is a non-performance class. ***This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.***

Mixed Chorus 6th Grade	Grade Level: 6	Full Year
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Mixed Chorus offers students with varying levels of interest and talent the opportunity to participate in a large ensemble. Various styles of choral music are studied and performed. Student's vocal techniques and musicianship are strengthened.

Orchestra Advanced	Grade Level: 8	Full Year
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8th Grade Orchestra is designed to continue to build upon skills and musical knowledge students will need at the high school level. The class will use String Basics, Book 3, and students will learn to play in higher positions. Sheet music for full-length pieces will be handed out and rehearsed daily. Owning an instrument is not required but preferred. Students are expected to play in the Winter Orchestra Concert and the Spring Orchestra Concert. The instrumentation is violin, viola, cello, string bass (sorry, no guitars). ***Prerequisite: Intermediate Orchestra or teacher recommendation.***

Orchestra Beginning	Grade Level: 6, 7, 8	Full Year
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Beginning Orchestra is designed for students who have had little to no instruction on string instruments. Owning an instrument is not required but preferred. Students will learn the proper string techniques needed to play their instrument and read music. The class uses a method book called String Basics, Book 1. Students are expected to play in the Winter Orchestra Concert and the Spring Orchestra Concert. Instruments include violin, viola, cello, and string bass (sorry, no guitars).

Orchestra Intermediate	Grade Level: 6, 7, 8	Full Year
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Intermediate Orchestra is designed for students who have had one year of experience on string instruments. Owning an instrument is not required but preferred. Students will learn the proper string techniques needed to play their instrument and read music. The class will finish the method book String Basics, Book 1, and transition

to Book 2 during the school year. Students are expected to play in the Winter Orchestra Concert and the Spring Orchestra Concert. Instruments include violin, viola, cello, and string bass (sorry, no guitars). **Prerequisite: Beginning Orchestra or teacher recommendation.**

Sound Effects	Grade Level: 7, 8	Full Year	Fee: \$150.00
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Sound Effects is the premiere performance group at Smith-Cotton Junior High. Focusing on continued growth in the fundamentals of music, vocal technique, and dance, students are immersed in highly competitive show choir and concert settings. Performances include concerts/performances throughout the year and a minimum of four show choir competitions within the state. Teamwork, positive self-concept, and discipline are fostered as the students are prepared for continued participation in show choir at the high school level. **AUDITION ONLY. This class may be taken in both 7th & 8th grades.**

Soundsation (Women's Choir)	Grade Level: 7, 8	Full Year
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In this class, students continue developing skills and knowledge pertaining to the fundamentals of music. This includes but is not limited to, music reading, proper vocal production, performance practices in various musical genres, and other elements related to choral singing. Students will work together to perform in formal and informal settings, including concerts throughout the year and other opportunities in venues around the community. **AUDITION ONLY. This class may be taken in both 7th & 8th grades.**

Soundwave (Men's Choir)	Grade Level: 7, 8	Full Year
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In this non-audition class, students continue developing skills and knowledge pertaining to the fundamentals of music. This includes but is not limited to, music reading, proper vocal production, performance practices in various musical genres, and other elements related to choral singing. Students will work together to perform in formal and informal settings, including concerts throughout the year and other performing opportunities in venues around the community. **This class may be taken in both 7th & 8th grades.**

Symphonix (Women's Choir)	Grade Level: 7, 8	Full Year
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In this non-audition class, students will learn the fundamentals of music through singing choral music. Music reading, proper vocal production, various musical styles, and other elements related to choral singing will be studied as the students work together to perform in formal and informal settings. The students learn to work as a team, as well as build a positive self-concept through their performances and daily rehearsals. **This class may be taken in both 7th & 8th grades.**

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

French I	Grade Level: 8	Full Year
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This level I foreign language course will introduce students to basic vocabulary and grammar, rudimentary communication with learned phrases, and simple questions and answers in the target language. Students will require an understanding of the customs and traditions of the countries where the target language is spoken.

Spots are limited and students are selected based on GPA. ***Students who successfully complete a full year of this course will earn one high school credit and the grade earned each semester will go on their high school transcript. Prerequisite: Teacher/counselor recommendation only.***

Introduction to World Languages	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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This course introduces students to a variety of world languages to better prepare them for citizenship in a global community. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills are explored in numerous languages found in the U.S. Culture lessons seek to emphasize the similarities that unite the world community and the differences that enrich it. ***This course can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.***

Spanish I	Grade Level: 8	Full Year
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This level I foreign language course will introduce students to basic vocabulary and grammar, rudimentary communication with learned phrases, and simple questions and answers in the target language. Students will require an understanding of the customs and traditions of the countries where the target language is spoken. Spots are limited and students are selected based on GPA. ***Students who successfully complete a full year of this course will earn one high school credit and the grade earned each semester will go on their high school transcript. Prerequisite: Teacher/counselor recommendation only.***

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Health	Grade Level: 7	One Semester
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This course is designed to introduce students to the following topics: Your Health and Wellness, Mental and Emotional Wellness, Healthy Relationships, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Personal Health, Body Systems, and Drugs, Alcohol, & Tobacco. ***REQUIRED for one semester in 7th grade.***

Intro to Athletic Conditioning 7th Grade	Grade Level: 7	One Semester
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This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of weightlifting, focusing on using the body for weight training including squats, planks, and push and pull techniques. This course aims to develop students' understanding of proper weightlifting techniques, safety protocols, and the importance of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle. This class will fulfill the Physical Education requirement. ***Prerequisite: Must plan to participate in a school-sponsored sport during the upcoming school year. One semester of either Lifetime Fitness, Team Sports, OR Intro to AC REQUIRED in both 7th & 8th grades.***

Intro to Athletic Conditioning 8th Grade	Grade Level: 8	Full Year
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The class is an introduction to general fitness principles and techniques that the students can take with them through life. The students will work on improving overall fitness through weight training activities, agility drills, muscular and cardiovascular endurance, and flexibility. This class will fulfill the Physical Education requirement. ***Prerequisite: Must plan to participate in a school-sponsored sport during the upcoming school year. One semester of either Lifetime Fitness, Team Sports, OR Intro to AC REQUIRED in both 7th & 8th grades.***

Lifetime Fitness	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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Recent studies have shown that increasing your physical activity by a small amount can make huge gains in your health. This class will allow students to improve their health through fitness walking and tracking their heart rate. Students will be expected to walk daily and participate in stretching, yoga, or other light cardio activities. Students will not be required to dress out for this class but must wear appropriate attire for walking outside, ex: sweats, loose-fitting jeans, shorts, and tennis shoes. Walking will be done inside and outside at the teacher's discretion based on the weather. ***One semester of either Lifetime Fitness, Team Sports, OR Intro to AC REQUIRED in both 7th & 8th grades.***

Physical Education	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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This class will focus on physical activity, including team sports, lifetime sports, and individual fitness. Emphasis is placed on active participation and positive social interactions during activities. ***One semester of either Lifetime Fitness, Team Sports, OR Intro to AC REQUIRED in both 7th & 8th grades.***

Team Sports & Active Fitness	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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This course is for students who have a desire to be active by participating in traditional and nontraditional team sports and fitness activities as a vehicle to promote life-long wellness. Students will attain knowledge, skills, and fitness through a variety of activities including; racquet sports, individual and team sports, recreational and non-traditional fitness games, and activities. In addition, general fitness improvement in flexibility, muscular strength, and cardiovascular conditioning through stretches and jogging will also be emphasized. This course will encourage the development of positive attitudes toward physical activity and fitness, increase fitness knowledge, increase participation in physical activity, and lead to better individual health. ***One semester of either Lifetime Fitness, Team Sports, OR Intro to AC REQUIRED in both 7th & 8th grades.***

Physical Education 6th Grade	Grade Level: 6	One Semester
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This class will focus on physical activity, including team sports, lifetime sports, and individual fitness. Emphasis is placed on active participation and positive social interactions during activities. ***REQUIRED for one semester in 6th grade.***

PRACTICAL ART COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Advanced LEGO Botics	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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Students will create their own LEGO Robotics Games including the theme, rules, mission models, and props. They will use 3-D modeling programs to produce components of their designs, use publishing software to create Rule Books, provide possible solutions, and build directions. They will code robots to perform the actions needed

to fulfill their game requirements. They will complete multimedia presentations to promote their games.

Prerequisite: LEGO Botics with a B or higher. This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.

Computers 6th Grade Video	Grade Level: 6	One Semester
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In this class, students will improve keyboarding skills, explore cyber literacy and safety, and complete projects using Google applications such as Docs, Slides, etc. This semester class introduces and explores new concepts related to grade-level interests. Students will use presentation and word processing software in a way that they can use them in their classes at Smith-Cotton Junior High School.

FACS Focus on Foods	Grade Level: 8	One Semester	Fee: \$15.00
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FACS Focus on Foods is a one-semester course designed to teach students nutrition, food science, meal planning, and cooking techniques. Students will learn how to plan a balanced meal. Students will practice different cooking methods and explore food science through experimentation. Students will learn guidelines for event menu planning and table setting. They will create a recipe book throughout the course of the semester.

Prerequisite: Family and Consumer Science (FACS) with a C or higher.

Family and Consumer Science (FACS)	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester	Fee: \$15.00
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In this class, introductory experiences are provided in the subject matter areas of family and child development. Students are introduced to the knowledge and skills needed for their roles as homemakers, consumers, and wage earners. Introductory experiences are provided in the subject matter areas of personal development, consumer education, child development, cooking techniques, clothing & sewing, interior design, and housing/living environments. **This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.**

Intro to Computer Applications Video	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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This course deepens students' understanding of concepts in computer science, media literacy, design thinking, and information literacy. Students will examine how mass sharing of information impacts day-to-day lives and how we can debunk harmful misinformation. This class is built on project-based learning and students will have freedom in the topics they explore and products they create with digital tools. **This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.**

Intro to Digital Design and Media Video	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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This introductory course will expose students to areas of graphic design and digital media. Students will explore the basics of photography and how to use the elements of design to create different types of media. Students will learn to discriminate, differentiate, and recognize digital design and techniques in contemporary society. It is recommended that students have access to a digital camera or a cell phone with the ability to take photos. **This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.**

LEGO Botics Video	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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This course is a hands-on, technology-based, course where students will work in teams to build and test LEGO-based challenges. With easy-to-use hardware and an intuitive drag-and-drop coding language based on Scratch, SPIKE Prime continuously engages students through playful learning activities to think critically and solve complex problems. Students will choose from challenges such as Invention Squad, Life Hacks, Kick Start a

Business, Training Trackers, and Lego Competitions. **Strong math and science abilities are required. This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.**

PLTW App Creators	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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In this Project Lead the Way Course, students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as other disciplines, particularly biomedical science.

Prerequisite: C or higher in Innovators and Makers. This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.

PLTW Automation & Robotics Video	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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In this Project Lead the Way Course, students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students will learn different gear systems and apply programming in order to solve real-world problems. Students use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build, and program objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. **Prerequisite: B or higher in math and science. This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.**

PLTW Design & Modeling Video	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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In this Project Lead the Way course, students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams; solving a real-world problem by mastering measurement, drawings, dimensions, creating a computer-automated prototype. Using design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions. **Strong math and science abilities are required. This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.**

PLTW Energy & The Environment	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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In this Project Lead the Way course, students are challenged to think big and look toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. Students will design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption. **Strong math and science abilities are required. This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.**

PLTW Flight & Space	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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In this Project Lead the Way course, the exciting world of aerospace comes alive through flight and space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space travel. **Strong math and science abilities are required. This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.**

PLTW Green Architecture Video	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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In this Project Lead the Way course, students learn how to apply green concepts to the fields of architecture and construction. They explore dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability and apply what they have

learned to design affordable housing units using Autodesk's 3D architectural design software. ***Strong math and science abilities are required. This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.***

PLTW Innovators and Makers [Video](#)

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester

In this Project Lead the Way Class, students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. Designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, they code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. The unit broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications. Teams select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices. ***Strong math and science abilities are required. This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.***

PLTW Medical Detectives [Video](#)

Grade Level: 8

One Semester

In this Project Lead the Way course, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. ***Strong math and science abilities are required.***

Yearbook

Grade Level: 7, 8

Full Year

In this class, students will create and develop the annual school yearbook. Duties will include attending school events, taking pictures, and creating attractive layouts. Students must have good organizational skills and have completed a computer class in 6th grade. References and grades will be checked. Spots are limited. ***Application and teacher recommendation only. This class may be taken in both 7th & 8th grade.***

NON-DEPARTMENTAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Cafeteria Worker

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester

Students enrolled in Cafeteria Worker will be stationed in the Cafe over the lunch hour. They will be assigned various duties including wiping tables between lunch shifts. ***Selection is based on citizenship & discipline.***

Career Education

Grade Level: 8

One Semester

This course is the beginning of the career development process in which students will practice decision-making and problem-solving skills for high school and postsecondary planning. Students will explore educational and career information to learn more about themselves, their interests, and abilities. This course will guide students through the process of investigation and help them develop an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP). Students will use interest inventories, online resources, and other tools to explore areas of personal interest. Each student will have the opportunity to explore educational requirements as well as career options for a variety of chosen career paths. ***REQUIRED for one semester in 8th grade.***

Current Events	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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This elective course introduces students to the exciting world of current events, fostering critical thinking and awareness. Students will explore a variety of topics including science, technology, culture, and more. Through engaging activities and discussions, students will enhance their ability to think critically and participate in thoughtful conversations about the world around them. ***This class can only be taken one time in either 7th or 8th grade.***

Educational Resource Reading	Grade Level: 6, 7, 8	Full Year
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Reading is a class for students who are struggling to read fluently or lack understanding and comprehension of what they have read. The goal of this course is to focus on reading fluency and comprehension to build more confidence in the student and to get them to read on level with their current class. This class has smaller numbers allowing each student to get more one-on-one attention from the teacher in ways that will help them advance and grow in their skills. This class aims to help students understand and comprehend what they have learned to boost their understanding and joy of reading. With a higher understanding of what they are reading, it will allow each student to perform better in all content areas. ***Teacher/team referral required.***

Educational Recovery	Grade Level: 6, 7, 8	Full Year
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This course is designed for students who wish to improve conduct and behavior. The primary goal of the course is to instruct students in the skills and techniques needed to interact appropriately with others. Instruction is provided to address specific behavioral concerns. ***Teacher/team referral required.***

Educational Resource Social Skills	Grade Level: 6, 7, 8	Full Year
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This course will include individualized instruction in specific social interactions, as well as assistance in identified areas of difficulty, including continual development and improvement in overall social vocabulary. In addition, students will be instructed in workplace skills, including skills and techniques for interacting appropriately with others. ***Teacher/team referral required.***

ESOL	Grade Level: 6, 7, 8	Full Year
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This course develops listening and speaking skills in speakers of languages other than English and prepares them to function in educational and/or personal English-speaking contexts. This course also aims to develop reading proficiency, vocabulary, writing, and grammar skills of students who speak a language other than English. ***Teacher/team referral required.***

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC)	Grade Level: 8	Full Year	Fees: Uniform - See Below
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Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC) is a leadership and character development program. The Program of Instructions being taught uses the latest instruction technologies and focuses on student (“cadets”) centered learning in a structured environment. Through participation in the learning process, cadets can get a deeper understanding of the subjects and how they may apply what they have learned. Co-curricular and competitive activities for 8th Grade will include Color Guard Team, Drill Team/Exhibition Armed/Unarmed New Cadet Only, Raider Team (Non-National Team), Cadet Challenge competitions, Leadership/Adventure Training events, field trip(s), and an annual District JROTC Ball. They also earn rank and JROTC awards for their achievements. Certification of a cadet’s physical health is also a requirement to be enrolled in this class. The JROTC Program prepares students for responsible leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as American citizens. The program is a stimulus for promoting graduation from

high school and it provides instruction and rewarding opportunities, which will benefit the student, community, and nation. JROTC provides education and training in skills and knowledge like Leadership, Service Learning, Community Service, Geography, and Goal Planning, which are useful to students upon graduating from high school. **In addition to classroom instruction, students will be expected to wear a JROTC Polo, Khakis, and black shoes (purchased by their parents).** Students must also participate in physical training events as required.

Leadership	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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Do you want to be a leader? This class will teach the qualities of a great leader by analyzing past and current leaders, identifying leadership styles, and encouraging personal growth. This course is designed to study the concepts of cooperative planning, shared responsibilities, positive action, and mutual understanding. An emphasis will be placed on student participation and involvement with real school and student concerns. Students will be challenged in the areas of communication, confidence, planning, critical thinking, and team building.

STARS - Office/Library Workers	Grade Level: 7, 8	One Semester
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Front/Guidance Office Worker STARS students will complete tasks requested by office staff. Tasks include running student request slips, giving building tours, and much more. Library Worker STARS students will complete tasks requested by the librarian. Tasks include checking books in and out, assisting students, and more. Library workers also organize and complete a service project. **Students must complete the STARS application and selection is based on citizenship, discipline, grades, & quality of application. Students must maintain good citizenship and grades to remain eligible to be a STARS student.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding courses or course selections for the upcoming year, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate grade-level counselor. Make sure students carefully select classes because schedule changes are discouraged and often denied. We look forward to working with you and your child!

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It is the policy of the Sedalia School District 200 not to discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in its programs or employment practices as required by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Inquiries related to District programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to Chris Pyle, Assistant Superintendent, 2806 Matthew Drive, Sedalia, MO 65301, (660) 829-6450.