

SHELTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION BOOKLET 2019-2020



MISSION STATEMENT

Through shared *leadership*, the Shelton Intermediate School fosters student growth by means of diverse and challenging educational opportunities. With the *teamwork* of our staff, parents, and community, we commit ourselves in providing a comprehensive educational experience with high academic standards for all students. We commit to developing successful citizens in an ever-changing global society through a learning environment that has a *focus* of respect, responsibility, and safety.

GOALS OF SHELTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

The goal of Shelton Intermediate School is to increase student performance in the areas of literacy, numeracy, and inquiry, through consistent implementation of best instructional based practices, which address 21st century skills, are supported by data, and are measured through standards based assessments.

Dear Parents / Students:

Welcome to Shelton Intermediate School (SIS). The “Middle School” years are a unique period of time during which a tremendous amount of social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth occurs within our students. To assist them during their years spent at SIS, we have developed a comprehensive academic program. Our academic program is designed around a set of learning principles, or core beliefs, which frame the concept of “learning for understanding” in which students are challenged to apply their knowledge in a variety of contexts.

Our goal at the Intermediate School is to offer a varied and expanded program, dedicated to excellence. All students receive a developmentally-appropriate academic program that also allows for exploration experiences. Students will be exposed to an expanded program, structured to meet their academic, developmental, and pre-vocational needs.

The basic core program is standard for all students, focusing on our core subjects--Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. All students will take these four core courses five times a week. With the exception of Algebra, every class is heterogeneously grouped with differentiated instruction to meet the needs of the students. In addition to the core courses, all students will take the Strategies to Improve Skills (S.I.S.) course. SIS meets every other day for the full year. Within SIS, students receive either remediation in reading and math or enrichment opportunities. The faculty and staff at the Intermediate School are trained to provide the best educational opportunities for the pre-adolescent student.

Physical Education and Health are required courses. The Physical Education class meets every other day for three marking periods. Health consists of a course that meets every other day for one marking period. Each grade level includes a Family Life Health unit within the general health curriculum.

Students are given the opportunity to select their Unified Arts courses as electives. These courses are offered as half-year courses. Grade 8 students, who qualify, may elect to take French or Spanish for a full year. All of our UA courses are weighted and affect student averages, as well as impact the honor roll.

The SIS staff is committed to providing your child with every opportunity to feel success and happiness here at the Intermediate School.

The following pages will give you an overview of the school's program and an explanation of the various courses. If you have any further questions, please contact our guidance counselors at 203-926-2000.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Saranich

Kenneth D. Saranich
Principal

CORE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

GRADE 7

LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Language Arts instruction, which encompasses reading and writing, is delivered through the workshop model. This model of instruction allows students to gain the benefits of reading and writing by self-selection, self-pacing, and time spent working collaboratively and independently. The teacher demonstrates how to explore literature and supports student-led reflection and discussion. Students gain the knowledge to understand literature on multiple levels and respond to it thoughtfully. The ultimate goal of the workshop model is for students to become successful independent readers and writers as this format promotes the gradual release of responsibility from teacher to student. The components of a lesson include a mini-lesson, independent practice/small-group collaboration, and a final share/wrap-up. Units of study for seventh grade include Fiction, Narrative Writing, Informational Evaluation and Argumentative Writing, Assessment Strategies, Genre Study, and Informative Writing. Embedded in each unit is the instruction of literary devices, vocabulary, and grammar. The Language Arts curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards and current best practice of literacy instruction.

MATHEMATICS 7

The seventh grade Mathematics course is designed to prepare students for Algebra as either an eighth or ninth grader. The major domains covered are Number Systems, Expressions and Equations, Ratios and Proportional Relationships, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. This course reinforces foundational skills while emphasizing problem solving in real-life applications. Algebra is introduced as a strategy to solve problems in each unit. Units of study for seventh grade include Operating with Rational Numbers, Expressions and Equations, Inequalities, Ratios and Proportions, Percents, Two-Dimensional Geometry, Three-Dimensional Geometry, and Probability. Students are encouraged to justify and support their conclusions using the mathematical practices. This course is designed to prepare students for success in either eighth grade Pre-Algebra or Algebra I. The math curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards and mathematical practices.

SCIENCE 7

The Grade 7 science program is a general science course with a strong focus on Life Science. Students will understand and apply basic concepts, principles, and theories related to the Nature of Science, Cell Structure and Function, Human Body Systems (structure and processes), Genetic and Heredity, and Natural Selection and Adaptations. Teachers prepare their students to become active learners. A vital part of science is its connections to the other subject areas. Teachers utilize interdisciplinary connections when applicable.

A central focus for the SIS Science program is on scientific inquiry and literacy. Cooperative group work, content-area writing, research, experimentation, hands-on activities, as well as collaborative projects provide students with opportunities to investigate and explore topics of relevance and develop their understanding of essential science concepts. In grade seven, students also participate in performance tasks in preparation for the district and state assessments and

courses of study at Shelton High School. The Grade 7 science curriculum units are aligned to the Middle School Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) which provide students with a foundation to develop an understanding of scientific ideas and principles as well as access to rigorous learning opportunities based on best instructional practices.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

This course focuses on the themes of geography, history, and modern issues throughout various regions of the world including Middle America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe. Within these themes, students will use inquiry skills to explore how the concepts of human-environment Interaction, regional definitions, environmental changes, cultural diffusion, human population, and the movements of people affect each one of these regions. This is the second half of a two-year course that students began in sixth grade, which will continue to build on their prior knowledge of these themes and concepts.

GRADE 8

LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Language Arts instruction, which encompasses reading and writing, is delivered through the workshop model. This model of instruction allows students to gain the benefits of reading and writing by self-selection, self-pacing, and time spent working collaboratively and independently. The teacher demonstrates how to explore literature and supports student-led reflection and discussion. Students gain the knowledge to understand literature on multiple levels and respond to it thoughtfully. The ultimate goal of the workshop model is for students to become successful, independent readers and writers as this format promotes the gradual release of responsibility from teacher to student. The components of a lesson include a mini-lesson, independent practice/small-group collaboration, and a final share/wrap-up. Units of study for eighth grade include Poetry, Narrative Writing, Argumentative Writing, Nonfiction, Assessment Strategies, Informative Writing, and a Close Study of an Anchor Text. Embedded in each unit is the instruction of literary devices, vocabulary, and grammar. The Language Arts curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards and current best practice of literacy instruction.

PRE-ALGEBRA

The eighth grade mathematics course is Pre-Algebra. The major domains covered are Number Systems, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. This course reinforces basic skills while emphasizing problem solving in real-life situations. Algebra is utilized in each unit. Units of study for eighth grade include Two- Dimensional Geometry, Solving Linear Equations, Graphing Linear Equations, Systems of Linear Equations, Properties of Exponents, Patterns in Data, and Volume. Students are encouraged to justify and support their conclusions using the mathematical practices. Students successfully completing this course will be prepared to take Algebra I as high school freshmen. The math curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards and mathematical practices.

ALGEBRA 1

This course is designed for those students who have demonstrated mastery of seventh and eighth grade standards. Admission to the course is based on a review of the student's entire math profile including, but not limited to, performance in class and on state and district assessments.

In this course, students will engage in the formal study of algebraic concepts with a focus on problem solving, real-world application, modeling, and the appropriate use of technology. Course content includes the study of real numbers, variables, equations, inequalities, linear and quadratic functions and their graphs, systems of equations, polynomials, and data analysis. Current methods of teaching mathematics indicate that the ownership of a graphing calculator is highly beneficial for this course.

This course is a high school honors level class and the Shelton High School guidelines must be followed. This includes the administration of a midterm and a final. The grade your child receives will appear on their high school transcript and count toward their high school cumulative GPA. No student can withdraw mid year or choose to retake this course at Shelton High School in an effort to earn a better grade. Students successfully completing this course will be awarded SHS credit and will be able to take Algebra II in 9th grade.

SCIENCE 8

The Grade 8 Science program is a general science course which includes disciplines in Physical, Chemical, and Earth Science. Students will understand and apply basic concepts, principles, and theories related to and Forces and Motion, Matter and its Interactions, Earth and Space Science, and Earth's Dynamic Systems. Teachers prepare their students to become active learners. A vital part of science is its connections to the other subject areas. Teachers utilize interdisciplinary connections when applicable.

A central focus for the SIS science program is on scientific inquiry and literacy. Cooperative group work, content-area writing, research, experimentation, hands-on activities, as well as collaborative projects provide students with opportunities to investigate and explore topics of relevance and develop their understanding of essential science concepts.

In grade eight, students also participate in performance tasks in preparation for the district and state assessments and courses of study at Shelton High School. The Grade 8 science curriculum units are aligned to the Middle School Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) which provide students with the foundation to develop an understanding of scientific ideas and principles as well as access to rigorous learning opportunities based on best instructional practices.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

The primary aim of this course is to view, in historical perspective, the role of the United States as a champion of liberty, democratic values, the free enterprise system, and the republican form of government. Teaching strategies will focus on geography, literacy, and inquiry skills, as well as analyzing and interpreting historical primary source documents. In this course, we find the United States emerging as a world power and explore our place in the global community. Areas of study include immigration, overseas expansion, the Great Depression, World Wars I and II, Cold War conflicts, the Vietnam War, and present day issues. Completion of the eighth grade program will provide a sound foundation for Social Studies courses at the high school level.

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SKILLS (S.I.S.)

Strategies to Improve Skills (SIS) is the Shelton Intermediate School's SRBI (Scientific Research-Based Interventions) program. SIS is an approach to education designed to ensure that all students receive high-quality instruction in the general education curriculum, as well as targeted interventions for those students who may benefit from additional academic assistance. All students attending Shelton Intermediate School take SIS every other day for the full year. Every level (or tier) is designed to support and/or enhance the student's education.

SRBI is a way to provide support and instruction to all students at their different learning abilities. Student progress is monitored, and decisions regarding instructional strategies and other learning supports are determined for the student. SRBI is most commonly used in addressing needs in the areas of reading, math, and behavior. A "continuum of support" is developed by the school, and programs are designed to meet students' needs.

The SRBI framework has three "tiers." Each tier provides differing kinds and degrees of support. The program provides individualized instruction for students who need the most support. It provides help for students who need more support than they are receiving from the general curriculum, while it also allows enrichment opportunities for those students who do not need additional support.

Tier 1 is the general curriculum received by all students. Students who do not require additional support in reading or math will have other academic opportunities during SIS. These students will have the opportunity to work independently and collaboratively on project-based assignments aligned with the content curricula and state standards. Each class is designed using a module approach in which students are engaged in enrichment learning tasks to enhance their understanding of the content material. The modules focus on developing and improving students' skills in the areas of literacy, research, experimentation, STEM, civics, economics, geography and history.

Students will also be instructed in information and computer literacy in the areas of: search engines (Destiny, iConn, Shelton Public Library), online privacy and safety, digital media, cyberbullying, copyright laws, and how to submit work to an online authenticity website (turnitin.com). Students will also produce google slides and forms, prezis, glogsters, and remixes, honing their presentation and research skills. Students will practice finding and evaluating sources. The TRAILS and keyboarding assessments will be used to measure growth.

Tier 2 Reading and Math interventions are delivered by the Language Arts and Math teachers every other day. During this period, instruction is focused on learning strategies and concepts. Differentiation is based on students' individual needs.

Tier 3 Reading and Math interventions are delivered by the Reading Specialists and Math teachers. During this period, instruction is focused on learning foundational strategies and concepts. Students are given individualized or small group instruction based on their needs.

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

HEALTH 7

The purpose of the seventh grade health program is to aid the students' growth in self-confidence and to discuss vital issues concerning students today. Students develop and learn skills in communication, the group process, and decision making. Units covered are social responsibility, drugs, alcohol and smoking, personal development and self-esteem, family life, and disease prevention.

HEALTH 8

Eighth grade health follows the developmental health unit introduced in grade seven. The family life unit addresses sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, and sexual responsibility. Students continue to explore the harmful effects of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. They also discuss developing coping skills, learning to recognize the importance of the self-concept, and the dynamics of peer group pressure.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program provides opportunities for participation in a wide range of activities with an emphasis on the area of fitness. Components of flexibility, strength, and endurance are stressed. In addition, each student is given an opportunity to improve his or her skill level in a program designed to teach techniques by demonstration and practice. There is an emphasis on team sports at this level, and a basic understanding of the rules and strategies of each sport is introduced and developed. The program also attempts to promote growth in the area of social interaction by encouraging positive attitudes and behaviors relating to sportsmanship, self-control, and teamwork.

UNIFIED ARTS ELECTIVES

MUSIC

BAND

This class is for students who want to play their musical instrument and perform in a concert band ensemble! If you play a band instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone or percussion) and you have taken at least one year of lessons on one of these instruments (in school or privately), then you are invited to sign up and be a part of the SIS Viking Band. Some students may even be eligible to learn *new instruments* such as: *piccolo, bass clarinet, tenor sax, bari sax, french horn, baritone or tuba*. Percussionists will learn how to play mallet percussion as well as at least 15 other *new* percussion instruments.

Band students rehearse with the full band every week during Flex and with smaller groups during the day as part of the Band class. Time will be spent playing and rehearsing for performances and also learning new strategies to increase musical literacy. Some performances we may participate in include:

- Trills and Thrills Festival at **Lake Compounce** - we perform for judges and compete against other schools and spend the rest of the day at Lake Compounce (*We Won 1st Place Last Year!*)
- Winter and Spring Concerts at SIS
- Recruiting concerts for Perry Hill School
- Parades may include the Memorial Day (Shelton/Derby), Barnum Festival Great Street Parade (Bridgeport), Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day and Columbus Day Parade.
- Other school events like assemblies, the student-faculty basketball game, and more!

If you want to be in the SIS Band, then you **MUST** sign up to take it as a class.

JAZZ CHOIR

Get a head start on your dreams by signing up for Jazz Choir. Imagine yourself center stage singing popular songs with your peers who share the same interests! Learn how to sing with an experienced singing coach/teacher and join us for our annual field trip to Lake Compounce "Trills and Thrills" music festival in the Parks. So, if you would like to learn how to sing and have fun, sign up for Jazz Choir!

MUSIC PRODUCTION

The Music Production course provides students the opportunity to learn and explore music through the use of modern technology. Students create original projects using media devices and software such as; Soundtrap, iPhones, iMacs, Novation launchpad, Android devices, Garageband, Audacity, YouTube, Soundcloud, iMovie, Light and Sound Boards as well as recording devices and DJ Equipment. This course will teach the fundamentals of playing the piano and reading/notating music in order to write original songs and play popular music. Students will listen to different genres of music and explore the effect it has had on music history, society and culture.

In-class projects will include creating digital music, Audacity music mash-ups, professional radio edits, YouTube-quality music videos, original songwriting/arrangements, video trailers, and hands-on

training in the auditorium working technical aspects of lighting, sound, and backstage direction.
Musical experience is recommended.

SIS STRING ENSEMBLE

The SIS String Ensemble is open to all Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass players in 7th and 8th grade. It is required that you own or rent one of the above listed instruments and have taken at least one year of private instruction on your instrument or participated in the Perry Hill strings program before joining. Students will study various exercises to build technique and musicianship on their instrument while developing strategies in musical literacy. Performance and rehearsal materials will include excerpts from classical to modern repertoire. The SIS string ensemble will engage in a variety of public performances throughout the school year including the Winter and Spring concerts at SIS.

HUMANITIES

EXPLORING WORLD CULTURES

Exploring World Cultures is an introductory course focusing on languages and cultures. Take a trip around the world from one cultural theme to another while examining various languages and aspects of culture including foods, holidays, current events, people, and other traditions. Accepting diversity, and gaining a better understanding of our world's cultures and its people is our goal.

These topics are studied through individual exploration and group activities. Therefore, students taking this class should be self-motivated, curious, and able to work well independently.

THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART & DESIGN

In this course students will explore ceramics and 3D sculpture but also focus on drawing and design. Half the course will consist of ceramic experiences including hand-built construction and using the methods of slab, coil and pinch as well as basics of firing, glazing and decorating clay. The other half of the course will focus on students learning and applying the Art Elements and Principles of Design to create various works of art!

TWO-DIMENSIONAL ART & ILLUSTRATION

In this course, students will build their repertoire of art skills in drawing, painting, and mixed media. Students will learn about prominent fine artists and illustrators and discuss various art and design related careers. A strong focus will be placed on visual communication and storytelling through art.

S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS

This course will allow students to explore the design and use of robots in the real world. Mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems will all be explored. Using the VEX Robotics platform, students will take on the role of mechanical and software engineers to design and program robotic arms, clawbots, traffic lights, and more. Students will also be given challenges in which they will design, build, and program robots with the purpose of competing against one another in the classroom.

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

In this introductory course, students will explore the “World of Business.” A variety of topics will be covered such as stocks, economics, management, marketing, businesses in the U.S., and international business. Every class begins with current events and how they relate to the business world. Internet activities, teamwork, real world connections and media outlets are used regularly to reinforce each lesson. Projects include creating your own business, inventing and marketing a product and preparing for a business trip to another country.

This course will serve as a background for other business courses students may take in both high school and college. It will also help students to become better informed citizens for an ever changing and expanding global economy.

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

This course is designed to introduce students to the concepts of communications technologies with an emphasis on digital photography, video recording and editing, and marketing and design. In each case, the social importance and recent advancement in these media platforms are explored.

In this class, students are given a unique opportunity to experience the real world of communications with the use of Shelton Intermediate School’s in-house studio. Students learn through the basic concepts of hands-on activities with an emphasis on teamwork and cooperation. Students can explore the talent and engineering knowledge required for on-camera work, as well as the engineering knowledge required for off-camera studio and editing activities.

THE LIFE LAB - (Agri-Science Course)

Interacting with the SIS Community Garden and the indoor aquaponics center, students will investigate, discover, and analyze many aspects of the plant growing process. During the course, students will gain an understanding of the plant life cycle and gardening basics. Students will take an active part in both the aquaponics crop production as well as the Community Garden. Students will truly understand the idea of “seed to table” and will be involved in the entire growing process from planning the garden, instituting their design, harvesting their produce, and finally the retail sales process. Students will investigate and analyze the current state of the standard American diet and will be empowered to make positive, healthy food choices. Working collaboratively with the Inventor’s lab course in the STEMovation Center, the year will culminate with a MILESTONE project where students will identify a global challenge, research, and develop solutions using the Design Thinking process.

INVENTOR'S LAB

This course will appeal to the motivated and independent learner that is willing to take on the challenge of solving 21st century problems through hard work and collaboration.

Students enrolled in the Inventor's Lab will be engaged in the "4 P's of Creativity", Projects, Peers, Passion, and Persistence. Developed on a belief that creativity is not only a valuable academic tool but also a life skill, students in this course will explore several modules including, LittleBits Electronics, Circuit Design through virtual and hands-on breadboarding, 3D Design and Printing, and Coding.

In the LittleBits Electronics module, students will follow an engineering design process to create original solutions to real world problems. Circuit Design will engage student in exploration and design of virtual electronic circuits followed by the actual construction of their design. The 3D Design and Printing module will utilize 3D design software to model products that will be manufactured through the use of 3D printer technology. Using Scratch, students will learn to create with code and then invent a Human Interface Device (HDI) to interact with their program. Working collaboratively with the Life Lab course, the year will culminate with a MILESTONE project where students will identify a global challenge, research, and develop solutions using the Design Thinking process.

VIDEO GAME DESIGN

An introduction to computer programming. Students will use the Construct 2 software to build and code video games of different genres. Using the design process, students will take video games from concept to finish, learning programming logic and debugging along the way. With the video game industry worth over \$25 billion, various careers within the field will be researched and explored.

WORLD LANGUAGES

World Language is an accelerated program. The World Language program requires a full year commitment to the specific language of the student's choice. In both courses, a student must be proficient or better in Language Arts and Math.

FRENCH I

French I is a full-year course that stresses the communication skills of language. The objective of French I is to teach the students to understand the spoken language as well as reading and comprehension. Students will learn to construct simple sentences and understand the cultures of French-speaking people. Successful completion of the French I program will enable the student to take French II in ninth grade. Continued study of French throughout high school will provide the opportunity to take Advanced Placement or UCONN French.

SPANISH I

Spanish I is a full-year course that stresses the communication skills of language. This course is designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and to help students to communicate in the present tense at the novice level. The cultures of several Spanish-speaking countries are explored. Focus is on all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Successful completion of the Spanish I program will enable the student to take Spanish II in ninth grade. Continued study of Spanish throughout high school will provide the opportunity to take Advanced Placement Spanish in twelfth grade.

ITALIAN I*

Italian I is a full-year course that stresses the communication skills of language. The objective of Italian I is to teach the students to speak, read, write, and understand the Italian language. Students will learn to respond to oral questions, write sentences and compositions, and will also learn about the customs of the people of Italy. Successful completion of the Italian I program will enable the student to take Italian II in ninth grade.

*Italian I MAY BE offered for 8th graders during the 2019-2020 school year.

SIS COURSE SELECTION SHEET

Student Name: _____

Team: _____ Homeroom: _____

Students are given the opportunity to select two electives for Unified Arts courses and two alternate Unified Arts courses. MOST electives are offered as **half-year** courses meeting every other day (with the exception of STEMovation Center, *students who qualify may elect to take French, Italian, or Spanish for a full year*). Descriptions of these courses are located on pages 7-12 of the course selection booklet.

Procedure: After reviewing the course selection booklet, please list two electives and three alternate courses selected from pages 7-12.

Unified Arts Electives:

1. _____

2. _____

Unified Arts Alternate Courses:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Once completed, students will turn in the course selection sheet to their homeroom teachers. Registration will be completed during the school day with the students' homeroom teachers through the Infinite Campus student portal.

Parent/Guardian Signature

(The schedule that you choose during this course selection process will be treated like a contract. You will be expected to take and complete all the courses on your schedule for the upcoming year. No course changes will be allowed. Although every effort is made to accommodate requests, please understand that schedule constraints may prohibit us from fulfilling all requests.)