

Welcome to
Shelton Intermediate School

COURSE SELECTION BOOKLET
2023-2024



John P. Skerritt, Principal
Victoria Sargeant, Assistant Principal

Please visit our website: <http://sheltonintermediate.sheltonpublicschools.org>

Dear Parents and Students:



Welcome to Shelton Intermediate School (SIS). This will be an exciting time in your life. These "Middle School" years will come with challenges, but will also come with numerous opportunities to learn and grow as individuals. During this unique time period you will experience a tremendous amount of social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth. To assist students 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 are based on the concept of "learning for understanding." Students will be 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 - Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science. All students take these four core courses five times a week. With the exception of Algebra and Geometry, every class is heterogeneously grouped with differentiated instruction to meet the various needs of students. In addition to the core courses, all students will take the Strategies to Improve Skills (S.I.S.) course. This SIS course 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 also required courses like our core subjects. They are offered on a rotating schedule. Each grade level includes a Family Life Health unit within the general health curriculum.

Grade 7 students will have the opportunity to explore several elective courses on a rotating basis. Grade 8 students will be given the opportunity to select Unified Arts courses as electives. These courses are offered as full-year courses. Grade 8 students who qualify may elect to take Italian, French, or Spanish every day for a full year. With the exception of Spanish, the world language course offerings may vary from year to year based on student interest and enrollment. All of our UA courses are weighted and affect student averages, as well as impact the honor roll.

We are happy to detail our course offerings on the following pages. This information will provide you with an overview of the school's program of studies and an explanation of the various courses. If you do have any further questions, or would like clarification, our counselors would be happy to assist you. Their contact information is:

Grade 6 students:	Mrs. Mackniak	lmackniak@sheltonpublicschools.org
	Mr. Cummings	tcummings@sheltonpublicschools.org
Grade 7 students:	Mrs. Brouillette	cbrouillette@sheltonpublicschools.org
Grade 8 students:	Mrs. Salado	msalado@sheltonpublicschools.org
Grade 7/8 students:	Mr. Camerino	fcamerino@sheltonpublicschools.org

The entire staff at SIS is committed to providing your child with every opportunity to feel success and happiness here at the Intermediate School. We look forward to welcoming you to SIS next year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Skerritt'.

John P. Skerritt
Principal

The Mission Statement of Shelton Intermediate School

Shelton Intermediate School's mission is to provide a comprehensive educational experience that fosters student growth through diverse and challenging educational opportunities and human connections. With the teamwork of staff, parents, and community, we commit to provide students with a safe and respectful environment so that they may be engaged learners, meet high expectations, achieve excellence throughout life and ultimately become empowered, self-sufficient, and successful global citizens.



Leadership

Teamwork

Focus

CORE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

GRADE 7

LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Language Arts, which encompasses reading and writing, is delivered through a model of instruction that 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 this 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. 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

This 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 Relationship, Geometry and Statistic and Probability. This course reinforces foundational skills while emphasizing problem solving in real-life applications. Units of study for seventh grade includes scale drawings, introducing proportional relationships, measuring circles, proportion relationships and percentages, rational number arithmetic, expressions, equations and inequalities, angles, triangles and prisms, and probability and sampling. Students are encouraged to justify and support their reasoning using mathematical practices. The math curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards, and mathematical practice.

ACCELERATED MATHEMATICS 7

This accelerated 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 Relationship, Geometry and Statistic and Probability. This course applies foundational skills while emphasizing problem solving in real-life applications. Unit of study for accelerated seventh grade includes rigid transformation, scale drawing, similarity and slope, writing and solving equations, inequalities, expressions and equations, linear relationships, functions and volume, exponents and scientific notation, Pythagorean Theorem and irrational numbers. Students are expected to justify and support their reasoning using mathematical practices. The math curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards, and mathematical practice.

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 7, students also participate in performance tasks in preparation for 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 to explore the different global regions throughout the world. Within these themes, students will use inquiry skills to explore how the concepts of Human-Environment Interaction, Global Interconnections, and Movement of people and ideas have affected and currently affect the world around us. 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, which encompasses reading and writing, is delivered through a model of instruction that 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 this 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. 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

This eighth grade Mathematics course is designed to prepare students for Algebra in high school. The major domains covered are Number Systems, Expressions and Equations, Ratios and Proportional Relationship, Geometry and Statistic and Probability. This course reinforces foundational skills while emphasizing problem solving in real-life applications. Units of study for eighth grade includes rigid transformation and congruence, dilations, similarity and introduction to slope, linear relationships, functions and volume, associations in data, exponents and scientific notation, Pythagorean Theorem and irrational numbers. Students are encouraged to justify and support their reasoning using mathematical practices. The math curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards, and mathematical practice.

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 received will appear on the high school transcript and count toward the 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 Shelton High School credit and will be able to take Geometry in 8th or 9th grade.

GEOMETRY

This course is designed for those students who have demonstrated mastery of seventh and eighth grade standards. Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I

In this course students will engage in the process of deductive and inductive reasoning while exploring in depth the characteristics and relationships of geometric shapes and structures. Students will develop their spatial

visualization and problem solving skills through real-world applications, the use of a variety of geometric tools, and appropriate technology. Topics stressed include properties of planar figures, congruent and similar figures, area, perimeter, volume, and properties and measurements of solid figures. Current methods of teaching mathematics indicate that ownership of a graphing calculator is highly recommended 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 received will appear on the high school transcript and count toward the 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.

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 Forces and Motion, Matter and its Interactions, Earth Systems and Space Science. 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 8, students also participate in performance tasks in preparation for 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 provide a chrono-thematic overview of the early history of the United States. This course will look at 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. Areas of study include the Revolution, The Constitution and Civics, Westward Expansion, and a Nation Divided and Rebuilt with the Civil War and Reconstruction. 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.

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 - GRADE 7

SIS 7th grade unified arts electives are exploratory, with students enrolled in all four electives over the course of the school year. These elective courses are designed to immerse students in experiences and pursuits that inspire new interests, broaden skills and encourage students to take risks, to be playful, and to venture into new territory such as art, music, robotics, STEM, Career and Technical Education, personal finance, and more.

Introduction to Art

In this course, students will build their repertoire of art skills in Drawing and Painting. Prominent figures from art history will be discussed, and the Elements of Art will be applied to a wide variety of works of art.

Introduction to CTE - Media, Marketing, and Money

This course is designed to introduce students to the concepts in Career Technical Education and makes *first connections* to popular career and college pathways. “Media, Marketing and Money” introduces students to the concepts of media communications technologies, emphasizing photography, video recording, editing, and marketing design. Students have a unique opportunity to experience the innovative world of digital communications using Shelton Intermediate School’s recently updated in-house studio. Through teamwork and cooperation, students learn the talent and engineering knowledge required for on-camera work, off-camera studio, and marketing activities. Additionally, students begin their journey to financial literacy and money management in a way that will stay with them throughout their lives.

Introduction to General Music

SIS General Music provides 7th grade students with the opportunity to explore music and sound through hands-on experience. Students will experience the basics of written and aural music, explore a variety of genres and culture, and experience a variety of instruments and music software. General music will encourage students to be creative with sound while composing, performing, analyzing and connecting with various genres of music throughout the world.

Introduction to STEM

Intro to STEM will provide students with an opportunity to explore the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Career Technical Education. Throughout this course, students will learn critical thinking skills, problem-solving strategies, and use the Engineering Design Process. Students will be introduced to electronics, coding, 3D design, 3D printing, mechanical systems, and robotics and make a solid introduction to the career pathways in each.

PERFORMANCE ARTS ELECTIVES GRADE 7/8

BAND

Do you love music? Are you a musician or want to learn how to play an instrument? Then join our team and become part of the **SIS Concert Band**! Music is a great way to express yourself and be creative through music. This class is for students who want to learn to play a musical instrument and perform their music with others. Band instruments include flute, trumpet, clarinet, trombone, drums, marimba and other pitched instruments, bass, saxophones (soprano, alto, tenor and baritone), french horn, baritone and tuba. You will need to purchase or rent an instrument for you to participate in this class. You will have the opportunity to play and rehearse with your friends during the school day as well as meet with your teacher for individual lessons on your instrument throughout the school year. Classes include frequent play and performance opportunities as well as lessons to develop strategies to learn music theory and literacy.



Performances throughout the year may include:

- **The Trills and Thrills Festival at Lake Compounce.**
We perform for judges at the end of the school year and spend a fun filled day at LAKE COMPOUNCE together afterwards!
- A Winter and Spring concert at SIS on the big stage.
- Local holiday parades and other Shelton events throughout the year.

To play in the ***SIS Band*** you must sign up for the band elective.

CHOIR

Do you love to sing? Do you like to have fun? Well, imagine yourself singing a variety of music with your peers who share the same passion as you! **Choir** students will learn proper vocal technique, how to read music, sight-singing skills, as well as performance etiquette. You will have the opportunity to sing various styles of music such as folk songs, spirituals, multicultural songs, and pop songs! Choir also provides students the opportunity to develop teambuilding and leadership skills.

Choir students rehearse with the full choir every week during Flex and in smaller groups during the day as part of this performing ensemble. Performances we participate in include:

- Winter and Spring Concerts at SIS
- **The Trills and Thrills Festival at Lake Compounce** where we perform for judges and compete against other school choirs then spend the rest of the day at Lake Compounce
- School events such as assemblies



Come join our amazing community of singers by signing up for **Choir**!

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.

UNIFIED ARTS ELECTIVES - GRADE 8

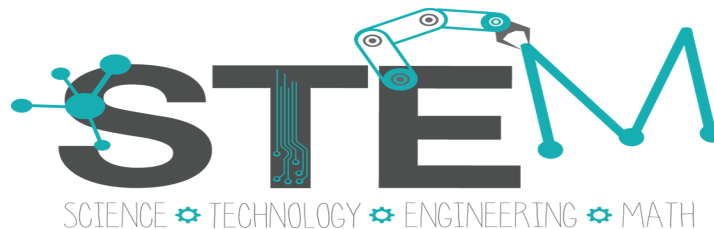


ART 2

In this course, students will build their repertoire of art skills from Art 1 and expand their knowledge through the use of Mixed Media and Sculpture. Contemporary artists and illustrators will be discussed, and they will layer the Principles of Design to their overall understanding of art.

MUSIC PRODUCTION

Music production gives you the opportunity to **explore music and sound** through the use of technology and hands-on experience. You will create original audio projects and performances using digital devices, microphones, sound and light boards, DJ equipment and music software such as Soundtrap, Novation studio, Google Chrome music lab and Ableton Live. Classes include hands-on training in concert preparation and backstage direction while working on technical aspects of lighting and sound. You will have the opportunity to study the basics of **piano keyboarding** while learning to read and write common music notation. Enjoy a journey through a variety of musical genres and explore the effect it has had on music history, culture and society.



STEM 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.

AGRI-SCIENCE

In this course, students will work with a variety of plants and animals found and raised in the SIS Community Garden, SIS outdoor classroom, and surrounding landscape. Students will also work with our indoor aquaponics center, terrariums, aquariums and house plants. They will investigate, discover, and analyze many aspects of the plant and animal life processes through their senses which will occasionally be enhanced by equipment such as microscopes and magnifying glasses. Throughout the course, students will gain an understanding of the plant and animal life cycles as well as gardening basics and discover the importance of pollinators in a hands-on manner. Students will also understand the idea of “seed to table” and will be involved in the entire growing process from planning the garden, harvesting their produce, and finally the retail sales process. Students will additionally investigate and analyze the current state of the standard American diet and will be empowered to make positive, healthy food choices. For students to enjoy this class they must be willing to responsibly, respectfully and safely interact with nature which includes soil management, working with plants and animals including insects. Students will also understand and value the importance of working with others as teamwork is heavily relied upon in this hands-on course.

INVENTOR'S LAB

This course will appeal to the motivated and independent learner 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. Working through both the Design Thinking and Engineering Design processes, students will be engaged in the following:

- Exploration of **3D Design and Printing**, where students will utilize 3D design software to model products that will be manufactured through the use of our **Makerbot, Ender3, and Dremel 3D printers**.
- Learning how **LASER technology** and **2D Design** can be used to produce creative and useful objects using our **LASER cutting and engraving** machine.
- Developing **creative coding skills**, along with a general knowledge of **electronics**, to design and build a Human Interface Device (like a game **Game Controller**) to interact with their program.
- Exploration of the current and future uses of **Drone Technology** as well as the basic **principles of flight**. Students will incorporate their coding skills to program a **Quadcopter Drone** to complete specific missions.

VIDEO GAME DESIGN

An introduction to computer programming. Students will use the Construct 3 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

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.

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.

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.

World Language is an accelerated program. The World Language program requires a full year commitment to the specific language of the student's choice. A student must be proficient or better in Language Arts and Math in order to select a World Language course. World language course offerings are based on student interest and enrollment. French and Italian may not be available every year. These courses are high school credit courses. Final grade earned will appear on the student's high school transcript. Midterm and final exams are required components of these courses.

Shelton Intermediate School

COURSE SELECTION WORKSHEET - GRADE 8 ONLY

Directions: Please complete the worksheet and then view the [course selection presentation](#) for directions on how to input your course requests into Infinite Campus.

Student Name:	
Team:	Homeroom:

Students are given the opportunity to select two requests for Unified Arts courses and two alternate Unified Arts courses. MOST electives are offered as **full-year** courses meeting every other day (with the exception of World Languages). Eighth-grade students who qualify may elect to take French, Italian, or Spanish for a full year. Descriptions of these courses are included in this booklet.

Directions:

After reviewing the course selection booklet, please list two electives and two alternate courses selected from the unified arts section of this booklet.

Unified Arts Requests:

1.
2.

Unified Arts Alternates:

1.
2.

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.

DO NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM

Once completed, please follow the instructions for inputting your course requests into Infinite Campus.