

# What's different from intermediate to middle school?



Each student has 8 classes, made up of the four core subjects (English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies), physical education, health, and other electives.



All core subjects are full-year classes. Some electives are fullyear classes, but others are semester classes, so those classes will change to another halfway through the year.



SMS runs on an alternating odd/even day calendar. Students will see their period 1, 3, 5, and 7 classes on "odd" days, and period 2, 4, 6, and 8 classes on "even days". Each class period lasts for about 90 minutes.



Each student has a different schedule, so you will see different students in each class!

### New Freedoms & New Responsibilities

- Walking in the hallway & getting to class on time by yourself
- Choosing where to sit in the cafeteria
- Choosing elective classes

# **Elective Course Offerings**

Smyrna Middle School offers many opportunities for students to explore new interests, gain new skills, and meet new friends! Elective courses held during the school day include opportunities to practice creative expression, engage in hands-on activities, and develop valuable career skills for future success.

## Full-Year Elective Opportunities



**Band (Woodwinds, Brass, or Percussion) -** This class explores different types of music and teaches more complex music. Students will become more familiar with the concepts that they have learned in the past. We will have at least two concerts (one in the winter as well as one in the spring) to show off some of the hard work the students have been putting in. Students will need to practice their instrument on their own to be able to keep up with the pace of the class.



**Chorus** - In this performing arts class, we'll dive into different styles of music, tackle more challenging pieces, and build on any previous musical knowledge students may have. You'll have two opportunities to shine on stage at our concerts, as well as a spring evaluation and an additional performance at I Love Smyrna Day, showing off all your hard work. If you love to sing and want to take your skills to the next level, this is the perfect elective for you. Come and make music with us!



**Spanish 1A -** This is a full-year course designed with the intention of students developing fluency in the Spanish language. Students acquire skills in speaking, listening, writing and reading in Spanish. The course objectives will focus on learning the vocabulary and grammar that allow students to communicate with others on a basic level in Spanish. *This course is a prerequisite to Middle School Spanish 1B for 8th Grade.* 



**Art Appreciation -** Students will advance their art skills past the foundation level. This class is for passionate art students who want to refine and hone their skills and techniques in both 2D and 3D art with materials including drawing, painting, sculpting, printing, clay, and more. Students will experience lessons that incorporate art production, art history, and aesthetics.

# **Elective Course Offerings**

### Semester (Half-Year) Elective Opportunities



**Agricultural Science -** This course is an introduction to agricultural systems and technologies. Students will be accessing information through computer use, lab activities and guest speakers. Students will be extensively involved with all phases of the Smyrna Agricultural Science Department, including FFA, Environmental Resources, Wildlife Management, Agribusiness Management and Agricultural Mechanics and Technology.

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**Art Appreciation -** Students will discover the many ways art impacts their lives and helps students realize their own unique creative abilities. To achieve this, students will experience lessons that incorporate art production, art history, and aesthetics. Students will be involved in projects designed to teach the basic elements and principles of design as well as provide opportunities to learn about artists from a variety of different cultures. Students will explore a wide range of techniques and materials including sketching, painting, clay work, sculpting, paper projects, printmaking, and more.



**Business Education –** This class covers the topics of marketing, digital communication, computer science, finance / accounting, and business information management. Students will practice skills in professional communication, creating slideshow presentations, using graphic design software, and managing spreadsheets in the context of business ownership and entrepreneurship. In this course, students will develop soft skills such as time management, problem solving, and leadership.



**Family Consumer Science -** This course is an introduction to basic kitchen/culinary skills and safety with a foundation on basic life skills.



**Financial Literacy -** This course focuses on the important skills of managing and budgeting money, while exploring concepts like credit cards, debit cards, banking, and saving for long-term and short term goals.

# **SMS Course Offerings**

### Semester (Half-Year) Elective Opportunities

**Inclusion in our Community -** This course is designed to promote meaningful social inclusion in our community by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities to create accepting school environments. The primary objective is to provide opportunities for students to embrace the diversity that naturally exists to make our community stronger. As a Special Olympics Unified Champion School, we will utilize unified sports, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement to achieve our goals.



**Introduction to Spanish -** This is a one-semester course which offers basic Spanish language skills. Students will be introduced to the Spanish language with basic conversational topics such as greetings, numbers, colors, clothing, and weather. Students will also learn about the culture, food, music and daily life in Latin America.



**Music Appreciation -** This course is designed to help students understand how music is integrated into many aspects of daily lives, including other subject areas (i.e. math, science, social studies). The lives of several composers are examined, as is the history of popular American music and musical theatre.



**Novel Studies -** Students will engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books. Students will reshape and add onto their understanding of literature as they construct meaning with other readers.



**STEM - Medical Detectives -** 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, examine nervous system structure and function, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

# **Get Involved**

In addition to elective courses, SMS offers other activities, often held after school, such as sports and extracurriculars. These opportunities allow students to compete against other schools, collaborate with others, and showcase their talents.

We encourage all students to make the most of their time in middle school by trying new things, even if it means breaking out of their comfort zone!

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Fall Sports Football Cheerleading Cross Country Field Hockey Boys' Soccer Volleyball Winter Sports Boys' Basketball Girls' Basketball Cheerleading Wrestling Spring Sports Baseball Softball Boys' Lacrosse Girls' Lacrosse Track & Field Girls' Soccer

**Important:** Any student interested in playing a sport at SMS must have a completed DIAA physical form dated 4/1/25 or later, prior to tryouts.

The DIAA physical form and other information related to sports at SMS can be found on our sports website, <u>www.smyrnamiddlesports.com</u>.

### Extracurricular Clubs and Organizations





Art Club Book Club Business Professionals of America Drama Club Educators Rising FFA Junior Black Student Union National Junior Honor Society Speech and Debate Club Student Government Association Technology Student Association



