



# **Sierra Vista Junior High School**

## **Registration Guide**

**2019 - 2020**

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## WELCOME TO SIERRA VISTA JUNIOR HIGH!

We are excited to have you and your student join the Sierra Vista family. Our goal is to help students develop positive and supportive relationships between students, staff, and our community. We are committed to providing all students with an engaging academic program that supports the learning needs of every student. This guide has been developed to acquaint parents and students with the instructional program at Sierra Vista Junior High School and contains an overview of our courses and programs. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this booklet, please do not hesitate to call on any Sierra Vista staff member to clarify your concern. Our phone number is (661) 252-3113. My best wishes for a successful year.

Carolyn Hoffman,  
Principal

### SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS

Congratulations! Your upcoming promotion from the sixth grade represents a milestone in your personal and academic growth and development.

Seventh grade is the start of a very new and exciting part of your education. At Sierra Vista you will be scheduled on to a team where teachers work together to teach English, science, math, and social studies. There are many benefits to being a member of a team. You and the other students assigned to the same team will feel that you belong to a special group. They will design flexible schedules that will enable you to participate in special curricular and engaging activities related to the subjects being taught. You will be enrolled in classes with the same 140-170 seventh graders, and you will get to know them well by the end of the year. There are many skills to master and much learning ahead of you. We look forward to including you in this exciting process! We are excited and want you to know we care about you and that all SV staff are here to help and support you. We are delighted that you are coming to what we considered a California Gold Ribbon School. Listed below are the subjects that all seventh graders must take.

1. English
2. Mathematics (placement is determined by Hart District math placement exam administered by 6th grade teacher)
3. Life Science
4. World History
5. Physical Education
6. Elective class / Parallel-Intervention class / Yearlong elective class

### EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

Congratulations! You are about to enter your final year of junior high school.

Being in the eighth grade means many things. It means that you are the campus student leaders. It means that this is your final year of preparation before going to high school. It also means that you are rapidly becoming a young adult. As you anticipate the eighth grade, it is our hope that you will endeavor to make this the best year of your life. Listed below are the subjects that all eighth grade students must take:

1. English
2. Mathematics (placement of eighth graders into appropriate mathematics class is determined by the student's academic progress during 7th grade)
3. U.S. History
4. Physical Science
5. Physical Education
6. Elective Class / Parallel-Intervention class / Yearlong elective class

## ***ACADEMIC PROGRAM***

Our students have access to standards based core curriculum focused on ensuring students gain proficiency with the essential skills necessary for their transition to high school and beyond. We want our students to be successful and prepared for their future. Literacy skills are embedded in all subjects. Teachers provide relevant cross curricular infusion of technology engaging activities within lessons to encourage communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking skills.

### ***LANGUAGE ARTS***

With the combined efforts of students and their English teachers, the language arts program at Sierra Vista is both challenging and rewarding. Our English students are taught reading, literature appreciation, composition, spelling and vocabulary, grammar and usage, punctuation, and public speaking. Our goal at Sierra Vista is to create a language arts program that integrates skills from all of these areas as students master the Common Core State Standards.

Following the recommendations of the California Common Core State Standards, we have developed a skill and performance based English program at Sierra Vista. During yearlong English classes, students are exposed to many great works of literature selected from our district's "Core" reading list. These novels, short stories, poems, and essays are studied in depth and serve as springboards to student writing, speaking, and acquisition of the conventional and mechanical skills of English. Students will also read and comprehend expository (non-fiction) text, to make claims from this reading based on evidence found therein. To enhance students' abilities students are expected to read outside of class and are required to report regularly on their reading selections.

Developing writing fluency is another priority of our English department. At Sierra Vista, we teach composition as a process. This process includes the stages of pre-writing, drafting, editing, revising, and publishing which embed technology skills. Student interaction with peers is an important component of the writing process.

### ***MATHEMATICS***

The Sierra Vista mathematics program places students according to placement tests administered in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students are placed in a class designed to prepare students for success in high school mathematics courses. Sierra Vista uses state-approved mathematics textbooks that are aligned with the California Common Core Standards. Our math program strives to provide a balance between written practice and interactive math activities.

#### **Math 7**

In 7th Grade Mathematics, students focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers; working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; working with two- and three- dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

#### **Accelerated Math 7**

In 7th Grade Mathematics Accelerated, students focus on learning and applying proportional relationships; developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers; working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples. In this class, students will cover the curriculum of Math 8 which covers formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation; solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; analyzing two- and three dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence; and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

#### **Math 8**

In 8th Grade Mathematics, students focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation; solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; analyzing two- and three dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence; and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

## Honors Algebra 1

This class contains topics from the traditional Algebra 1, Algebra II and precalculus classes. Students completing Honors Algebra will also complete 1/3 of the precalculus standards. Students successfully completing H Algebra I, H Geometry, and H Algebra II have completed all of the precalculus standards and can take Calculus after H Algebra II. Topics covered in H Algebra I are: relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations and their graphs, polynomial and quadratic expressions, equations and functions, factoring, completing the square, descriptive statistics, linear and exponential functions, matrices, and complex numbers.

## SCIENCE

In alignment with the Science Content Standards, two years of science are divided thematically between seventh and eighth grade. Students focus on life science in seventh grade and on physical science in the eighth grade. Science is considered to be the process of learning based on asking meaningful questions followed by conducting careful investigations. Relevant and technology infused lessons incorporate collaborative opportunities to develop students' listening and speaking skills. Vocabulary building, reading, and writing are stressed as a key part of unlocking understanding of science concepts. Laboratory work is used throughout a school year to enhance student learning and inquiry skills.

Life science (7<sup>th</sup> grade) topics include:

- All living things are made of cells, which have definite structure and function.
- Organisms' traits are based in genetics with modification by the environment.
- A tremendous variety exists among species and this variety can be shaped by environmental factors.
- The study of earth processes allows the understanding that patterns of change occur in cycles over long periods of time.
- There is a complimentary relationship between structure and function in the anatomy and physiology of plants and animals.
- In an ecosystem, the growth and population increase of organisms is limited by resources, as well as interactions between species.
- Energy and matter are transferred via food webs and through parts of environments.
- Biodiversity can be a measure of an ecosystem's health; human influence can impact biodiversity within an ecosystem.

8th grade science:

The CA Science Framework was adopted by the California State Board of Education on November 3, 2016. The overview of instructional segments for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical science are as follows:

### 1 Energy of Motion

Students investigate how objects move and collide. They use their observations as evidence that an exchange of energy occurs during these interactions. They refine their model of energy transfer as they develop solutions to minimize damage during collisions.

### 2 Gravity, Energy Related to Position

Students develop a model of the relationship between gravity, force, and energy.

### 3 Electric and Magnetic Interactions and Energy

Students investigate electrical and magnetic interactions to gather evidence that fields exist between the objects. They ask questions about what affects the strength of the forces between objects and develop a model relating the position of the objects to potential energy in the system.

### 4 Waves Transmitting Energy and Information

Students explore how waves interact with different objects so that they can develop a model of how the energy is reflected, absorbed and transmitted. They then explore how waves can transmit information encoded either as analog or digital signals.

### 5 Thermal Energy and Heat Flow

Students refine their model of matter at the scale of individual particles and use this model to describe how materials change when heated or cooled. They relate the microscopic behavior to energy changes observed at the macroscopic scale as they design a device to maximize thermal energy transfer.

### 6 Chemical Energy and Reactions

Students investigate how properties change when substances mix together and react. By analyzing patterns, students refine their model of matter further by representing each particle as a collection of atoms bonded together. They use this model to explain the bulk changes they observe in chemical reactions such as temperature changes.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

For most of us, the old-style PE met the needs of a select few. Everyone else was often left with a lifetime of bad memories and demeaning experiences. What is the “New PE”? It means teaching fitness over sports skills in physical education classes. More importantly, it is about objective measurement over subjective grading. Today, the PE classes at Sierra Vista Jr. High School are about developing a healthy lifestyle, wellness, and citizenship. Our standards based Physical Education curriculum provides students with a moderate to vigorous activity level.

Physical Education Program features

- Daily Physical Education
- Technology and Assessment
- Individual/Team sport skills
- Trikkes with proper safety gear
- Hop Sports Exercise Training System
- Fitness Center
- Fitness Gram- State Testing
- Weight Room Training
- Team Building activities
- Literacy Activities

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students are exposed to two years of standards based Social Studies during the seventh and eighth grade years. A year of World History is taught during the seventh grade, and one year of United States History is taught during the eighth grade. Literacy skills are embedded in lessons to help students develop proficiency in reading, writing and analytical skills.

**World History (7<sup>th</sup> grade):** Provides a broad chronological overview of Western Civilization. Important ideas, inventions and institutions, and great civilizations will be studied. Units of study include: basic world geography, Ancient Rome, Islam/Middle East, China & Japan, Middle Ages, Renaissance/Reformation, Age of Enlightenment (Philosophies) and Exploration.

**U. S. History (8<sup>th</sup> grade):** Students in grade eight study the ideas, issues and events from framing the Constitution up to the US in the early 1900s. The course provides a review of the major events preceding the founding of the nation. A more extensive study of the Constitution, the new nation and first five Presidents, the Westward Expansion, causes of the Civil War, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Industrial Revolution, and Immigration. Students learn the challenges facing the nation with an emphasis on the causes, course and consequences. They make connections between the contemporary social and economic conditions.

## **ELECTIVE PROGRAM**

The purpose of our elective program is to provide our students with opportunities to explore a variety of experiences in areas of fine arts, practical arts, and technology through standards based curriculum. We have designed a process that allows seventh and eighth grade students to experience a series of electives. Each elective class will be one semester in duration. All elective classes are subject to change and dependent on staff availability. The number of electives taught varies from year to year.

*Some electives solicit donations from parents to cover costs of materials consumed during class. The almcollection of these donations by Sierra Vista assists us in providing materials to students with which to work. Teachers will provide information regarding this at the beginning of each course. No student shall be denied class participation if you are unable to contribute funds to assist with material costs. Parents may call 252-3113 ext. 2033 to ask about donations.*

\* - Requires teacher approval

**Beginning Art** - Students learn about the basic Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Value, Texture, Form, Space and Color. Through demonstrations and practice they will develop their skills in creating successful works of Art. Students will also explore different media such as charcoal, collage, pencil sketching, painting in oil pastels, paper mache, tempera paint, watercolors, mixed media and others. Students will learn about Art history as well as the Principles of Art: balance, unity, emphasis, movement, and rhythm.

**Beginning Culinary** - Students in Beginning Culinary will learn the basics in Foods and Nutrition, kitchen safety, terminology, measurement, equipment and food preparation, and the elements of cooking. After students successfully pass the safety unit and the safety test they will be introduced into the world of cooking. Students will cook on an average of once per week. Students will learn cooking skills and techniques through classroom instruction and demonstrations.

**Beginning Design and Engineering** - Bring your designs to life as we explore the different fields of engineering! In this class, we'll learn what makes each field unique, and then you'll work with classmates to complete challenges in those different fields. We'll cover everything from environmental to aerospace engineering making sure to find something you'll love!

**Beginning Guitar** - This class is meant to be an introductory course to learn the basics of playing a guitar. This is a hands-on class where students are provided with a guitar to play and practice with while in the classroom. The goal is for students to have a fundamental understanding of the instrument and to be able to perform a piece of music for an audience.

**Beginning Video Production**- Beginning Video Production is a semester-long introduction to digital video, including the three stages of production: pre-production, production, and post-production. These three elements include concept development, storyboarding, scripting, properly operating a video camera, framing, camera angles (including camera techniques and angles with and without a tripod), and digital editing. Students will be able to create silent films, music videos, commercials and more.

**Exploring Computer Science** - Exploring Computer Science is a one-semester class designed to introduce students to the field of computer science and prepare them to take year-long courses in high school. Using *Scratch* and other web-based programs, students will become programmers as they create fun and exciting projects including their very own app and video game. Students will also be introduced to robotics as they learn to program them to complete a variety of challenges.

**Intro to Computers** - Intro to Computers is a one-semester course designed to provide students with a basic understanding of computers and how the proper use of technology will enhance their education and daily lives. Through individual and group projects, assignments, and classroom discussion, students will learn about the operating system, touch-typing, digital citizenship, file management, effective communication via email, word processing, multimedia presentations, and computer science.

**Introduction to Music** - An introduction to the world of music via listening, playing, and singing. Various musical instruments and artists will be explored. Students will learn the basics of reading music as well.

**Teen Leadership** - Teen Leadership is an elective that helps students foster academic and personal success, along with their leadership abilities, in their junior high school career and to aid in successfully reaching life goals set by each student. Teen leadership focuses on the social-emotional and academic preparation essential for a variety of personal experiences, education, training, and future employment options. Students will develop their leadership skills and personal outlook to help them be more successful in all aspects of life. They will also acquire an understanding and respect for themselves and others as well as the skills to be responsible citizens in the community.

**\*Achieve** - Information coming soon!!

**\*Power Math** - Re-teaches, reviews, and supports basic math skills and math fluency. Reinforces the California Common Core state math standards being taught in the Math class in which they are concurrently enrolled.

**\*Reading Lab**- Using alternative reading material, this parallel intervention class will focus on building fluency and comprehension by a variety of strategies. Some of these are vocabulary development activities such as word wheels, word sorts and word building. The class will also focus on analyzing text structure of a variety of writing genres as well as visualizing and predicting activities. The broad objective of the class will be to build success and confidence in struggling readers.

**\*Student Service/Peer Tutor** - Prerequisite: Must be an eighth grader and have admin approval. Students are assigned to work with staff members (administrative, teaching, or secretarial). Students will have the opportunity to learn general office procedures and business decorum in a working situation. Students are limited to two quarters of student service or four quarters of peer tutor.

### ***YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES***

Students may elect to take a **yearlong elective**, such as band, chorus, ASB, yearbook, or journalism/SV Life. These yearlong electives require teacher approval, through an application or audition process, to be enrolled in the class.

*Some electives solicit donations from parents to cover costs of materials consumed during class. The collection of these donations by Sierra Vista assists us in providing materials to students with which to work. Teachers will provide information regarding this at the beginning of each course. No student shall be denied class participation if you are unable to contribute funds to assist with material costs. Parents may call 252-3113 ext. 2033 to ask about donations.*

\* - Requires teacher approval

**\*Achieve** - Achieve is a designated course to support Long-Term English Learners (Emerging, Bridging, Expanding) with grade level content. This course provides an opportunity during the regular school day to support language development, meaning making, effective expression, foundational skills, and content knowledge across the content areas so that students can reclassify. Achieve 7 provides time for students to focus on the language of the content areas closely aligned class instruction.

Achieve is aligned with the California Department of Education (CDE) English Language Arts Standards (ELA), California Common Core State Standards, and Wm. S. Hart UHSD instructional methodologies. In addition, ELD students receive additional, scaffolded instruction as outlined in the California English Language Development Standards. These standards focus on collaborative engagement, improving academic language skills, comprehension and analysis of written and spoken texts, actively listening, discussing and answering questions using precise vocabulary.

Course goals include rigorous instruction and support to help students achieve success with:

- speaking, listening, reading and writing in all content areas.
- academic vocabulary in all content areas.
- collaborating with peers and adults
- thinking critically, making connections, and understanding content material
- use of technology including: Gmail, Infinite Campus, Classroom, iLit20
- reclassification

**\*Advanced Art-** Do you enjoy drawing, painting, or just being creative? Do you want to learn more about famous artists and their work? If so, Advanced Art is the elective for you! This class expands your knowledge on the Elements of Art and Principles of Design as well as art history and evaluation. Advanced Art is a year long elective for 7th and 8th graders. There is an application process that takes place at the end of your 7th grade year in order to get into Advanced Art in 8th grade. However, this year we are opening this class up to 7th graders as well.

**\*ASB/Student Government** - Students in Associated Student Body (ASB) will develop leadership skills in order to successfully plan and run school activities like dances, brunch/lunch time activities, spirit days, community service events, etc. They also learn how to organize and work as a team. Students in this program must represent Sierra Vista Jr. High as a respectful role model other students look to, both on and off campus (students who violate school rules will be asked to leave ASB). Finally, this class can lead to careers in the future such as performing as elected officers of any organization (government or otherwise), members of management teams or even public speakers or innovators. The possibilities are endless!

**Band, Beginning** - Beginning Band is designed for students who want to learn more about music and performing but have never played an instrument or read music before. This class helps students learn how to play an instrument, read music and enjoy performing as a part of the biggest team at Sierra Vista. No musical experience is necessary, just a positive attitude and love for music!

**\*Band, Advanced** - Advanced Band is Sierra Vista's top instrumental ensemble. All students are expected to have been playing their instruments for at least 1-2 years. This group performs more exciting and difficult music and focuses more on interpreting music, preparing students for band in high school and to be life long participants in music. The band will take two field trips throughout the year and students are expected to practice their instruments outside of class and work as a team in class.

**\*Creative Culinary** – This is a year-long course with focus on foods, nutrition, food service, and hospitality. Students in Creative Cookery learn the scientific principles of food and nutrition, the relationship between health and proper nutrition, kitchen safety, emergency procedures, food safety and sanitation, meal management, food preparation, food and culture, food production, food service, manners and etiquette, menu development, place setting, team work, the use of tools, equipment and appliances, career opportunities in the food industry, regulations in food service, and professional conduct in the workplace. **(8th grade only)**

**\*Chorus** - Chorus is a performing group for beginning to intermediate singers. Students will develop a basic knowledge of music that includes reading and vocal production. The purpose is to develop in the student a positive attitude in choral music. Students will learn and perform styles of music varying from classical to jazz, gospel and popular. The choir will be performing in school, community and festival programs.

**\*Journalism/SV Life** - Sierra Vista Journalism is responsible for bringing our daily morning video announcements, Sierra Vista Life, to over 1,200 students and staff each day. Putting on a daily show is lots of fun, but it's also hard work. If you visit [SierraVistaLife.com](http://SierraVistaLife.com), you'll see all the great things that happen in front of the camera, but there is so much more that happens behind the camera--script writing, filming, editing, organization, communication, and teamwork. The Sierra Vista Life team is looking for students who are hard-working, selfless, determined, and can work independently. Applications will be available online at <http://www.SierraVistaLife.com>.

**Percussion Ensemble** - This class is designed for students who have a desire to play one particular instrument: the drums. In this class seventh and eighth graders will learn about proper percussion technique and how to read music. Students will also be able to get experience playing in a drum line and playing drum set. A few students from this class will serve as the percussion sections for the Advanced, Beginning and Jazz Bands. The whole class will also perform as one of only two junior high percussion ensembles in the Hart District.

**\*Yearbook** - If you have ever thought of becoming a photographer, film maker, graphic designer, or a campus leader, then yearbook may be the place for you! Yearbook is your chance to create something that the students at Sierra Vista will have forever. It is a fun elective in which you will learn publishing, editing, and computer skills. From time to time we assist in organizing campus activities including the Yearbook distribution party at the end of the year. Students in yearbook should perform well academically and socially. We need students who think of original ideas, have energetic personalities, and who want to have fun!

**Yes I Can** - The Yes I Can elective is designed for students to learn about people with disabilities and to understand the supports needed in order to overcome social barriers. Yes I Can strives to create a stronger sense of school community for everyone by helping students to find a common ground and at the same time appreciate diversity and the unique capacities of each person. Students develop these social skills through lessons on character and participation in social and recreational activities. Activities include weekly group speech and counseling sessions, celebrations, social events, and group tasks.

### ***SPECIAL PROGRAMS***

The current programs offered at Sierra Vista may include:

**Resource Specialist Program** - Resource support in a Special Day Class

**Special Day Class** -

- Specialized academic instruction in a Special Day Class
- Specialized academic instruction for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder taught in a Special Day Class
- Specialized academic instruction for students with Emotional/Behavioral/Social difficulties taught in a Special Day Class

*Programs subject to change as advised by District.*

### ***ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS***

A brief program explanation of the ELL program:

In accordance with the California Department of Education, Sierra Vista aims to achieve the following goals:

- Ensure that English learners achieve the same rigorous grade-level academic standards expected of all students. To meet this goal, all English learners are placed in mainstream English classes in combination with Achieve as their support class.
- Work to ensure that English learners acquire proficiency in English in order to attain parity with native speakers of English. To meet this goal, English Learners are placed in Achieve elective classes designed to support the needs of ELL students and develop the skills required to meet reclassification criteria and redesignation to “Reclassified Fluent English Proficient” (RFEP.)