

## A message from Principal Scott Tatum

### **The educational opportunities at Sierra are fabulous!**

For students to benefit from the program they must become engaged in the curriculum.

All students are enrolled in five periods of required coursework.

The sixth and seventh periods of instruction offer students an opportunity to select an area or areas of interest in which they would like to explore.

Please take note of several things before you proceed in making your elective selections:

1. Some elective courses are identified as year-long courses. If you choose one and meet the prerequisites, you are essentially guaranteed a spot. Your schedule will be the same for the entire year.
2. Some elective courses are less than a year in length. The options included within this catalog are courses the staff wants to teach, and which many students have expressed an interest in taking. We will ask you to select 4 electives that you would like to be enrolled in next year and then based on interest, we will determine which courses to offer.
3. Elective courses are offered at different times throughout the day. This means that we may run into difficulty trying to schedule students into only elective courses that they chose. It is very important that students and parents spend time making these selections. **We will do our best to allow students the opportunity to take those exploratory clusters that they choose, however, please understand that there will be instances where a student may be scheduled in a cluster that they didn't choose as their first choice.**
4. Some of our electives are required, targeted instruction classes. These classes are for students who need extra instruction in reading, mathematics, and/or study skills. A student is chosen for these classes by their performance on the California Assessment of Student Performance and progress in school. The goal in these classes is to provide appropriate interventions so that students are successful in reading, mathematics and/or study skills. Students may also be selected for our Life Management elective. This will be a year long elective to help students create academic and social success while at Sierra and as they transition to high school.
5. **Please see the attached scan-tron sheet. Please bubble only (2) electives on the scan-tron sheet. Also complete the sheet listing 2 alternate electives.**

## **SPARTAN COURSE OFFERINGS 7TH AND 8TH GRADE PROGRAM**

All 7th and 8th grade students are required to take the following courses:

English	1 period
Social Sciences/History	1 period
Math	1 period
Physical Education	1 period
Science	1 period
Electives	2 periods

Most 7<sup>th</sup> graders will take Math 7. Students who have successfully completed math 7 course work and have a teacher recommendation, may be enrolled in Math 8.

8<sup>th</sup> graders will be enrolled in Math 8, unless qualified to enroll in Math 9I/T.

### **EXPLORATORY 1**

#### **TEAM GAMES-semester**

Students will learn and play a variety of sports and outdoor games. The focus on this class will be team building, sportsmanship, and fun.

#### **WOODWORKING - semester**

Woodworking is an exploratory course in the use of hand and power processes used in woodworking. Students will spend several weeks completing course work that will introduce them to necessary information on careers, manufacturing, and power tool safety. Most of the quarter will be for students to make projects based on their experience and expertise. Many students enjoy making baseball bats, bowls, lamps, rocking horses, cabinets and many other exciting projects.

#### **COMP PROGRAMMING 2-semester**

##### **Coding (HTML) and 3-D Design**

Students in this class will begin the semester learning HTML programming. They will progress through multiple languages such as JAVA, CCSS, and Python. Students will also have the opportunity to work on 3-D designs that can be printed on our 3-D Printer. Students will be using Khan Academy, Code Academy, Code and Project Ignite to develop their programming and 3-D design skills.

## **EXPLORATORY 2**

### **WEIGHT TRAINING-semester**

Students will learn appropriate techniques for lifting weights with an emphasis on developing strength for athletics. Students will also focus on building stamina and flexibility through proper conditioning.

### **STEM-semester**

This class will have a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students will have the opportunity to explore and have hands-on experiences with in-class projects. The goal of the class is learning while having fun. According to the STEM Education Coalition, there will be over 9 million jobs in STEM fields in the next decade. This class will be an introduction for students to be creative and problem solve as they learn more about integrating these topics.

## **EXPLORATORY 3**

### **TEAM GAMES-semester**

Students will learn and play a variety of sports and outdoor games. The focus on this class will be team building, sportsmanship, and fun.

### **DRAFTING-semester**

This is a semester long elective class where the first quarter is focused on Art and the second quarter transitions to mechanical drawing and drafting. During the Art portion, students will learn the basic principles of cartooning, landscape, portrait, and still life drawing. During the drafting portion, students will begin with simple 3D drawings and progress to home design. In both sessions, students will be exposed to technology programs such as Planner5D, Google Sketchup, and Google Draw.

### **FOODS-semester**

Explore the basics of cooking. Learn to read a recipe and prepare great foods for you and your family. During the quarter you will prepare food selections for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert. A fee of \$10.00 is appreciated.

## **EXPLORATORY 4**

### **FOODS-semester**

Explore the basics of cooking. Learn to read a recipe and prepare great foods for you and your family. During the quarter you will prepare food selections for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert. A fee of \$10.00 is appreciated.

### **BOOK CLUB-semester**

Students will choose books to read with a group of 3 – 5 other students. They will discuss the book as they read it and upon completion share with the class their thoughts and insights about the book. Each group will have a wrap-up project at the completion of each book such as a creating a game, designing a new book cover, recording a book review or acting out a portion of the book. Students will have the opportunity to work on their reading, writing and presenting skills in a safe environment.

## **EXPLORATORY 5**

### **WEIGHT TRAINING-semester**

Students will learn appropriate techniques for lifting weights with an emphasis on developing strength for athletics. Students will also focus on building stamina and flexibility through proper conditioning.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING-semester**

In this course, students will practice their public speaking skills through various activities such as: skits, fishbowl discussions, socratic seminars, and individual student speeches. Students will have the opportunity to reflect over their interests and passions, select topics, and engage in dialogue with peers. In addition, students will have the opportunity to experience creating and performing Spoken Word and appropriate Rap.

## **EXPLORATORY 6**

### **ART-semester**

This class will focus on recycling to make art projects. Students will use a variety of mediums to produce projects. The value of taking old items and making new ones. The idea is help develop less waste in landfills and allow students to produce wonderful works of art. It is a student driven class and our projects will be based on available items and students choices.

### **SERVICE LEARNING-semester**

An elective class that invites students to go on a personal “Odyssey” that fosters an individual connection to the community while also enhancing personal growth. Students will create art as they learn about different topics connected to our community. Students will have the opportunity to being “reading buddies” with elementary students at different school sites and will build connections with other agencies in the community. Students will develop a broader understanding of the community they belong to, its needs, and how they can be resources for change. Students will keep a portfolio or video portfolio of their projects. Other activities may directly affect the school campus allowing students to acquire a leadership role.

### **PSYCHOLOGY-semester**

Students can expect to explore the topics of human behavior and interactions. This class will take a look at why humans behave in the way they do in settings such as group, culture, family, and stranger interactions. Enjoy hands-on experiments in the classroom, observing human life outside of the classroom, and taking a look at past experiments and their findings. Find out what dynamics are found in groups, how humans handle conflict and resolution, and what influences us the most.

## **EXPLORATORY 7**

### **BALLOONS/ROCKETS/PLANES-semester**

Explore aerodynamics with balloons, planes and rockets. You will build paper airplanes, tissue hot air balloons and model rockets. Learn about flight while doing.

### **COMPUTER PROG 1-semester**

#### **JAVASCRIPT**

Students in this class will begin the semester learning **javascript programming**. They will progress through multiple languages such as HTML, CCSS, and Python. Students will also have the opportunity to work on 3-D designs that can be printed on our 3-D Printer. Students will be using Khan Academy, Code Academy, Code and Project Ignite to develop their programming and 3-D design skills.

### **MIXED MEDIA/VIDEO PRODUCTION-semester**

Students will experience video production including, but not limited to; using a green screen, reporting, anchoring, filming, editing, sound production, and streaming. Students will also explore other aspects of media centers. Students will be responsible for creating a weekly morning video announcement for the school. Students will be responsible for editing, filming and broadcasting this weekly production.

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**EXPLORATORY 8****DRAMA-semester**

Mr. Bartram's drama elective will focus solely on IMPROVISATION. That is, acting without scripts or memorizing lines. Think "Whose Line Is it, Anyway?" Each day will begin with a class warm-up, followed by improv games. In order to be a part of this class, you need to be a team player and be willing to jump in and think quick on your feet!

**THEATER (T.O.P. Drama)-semester**

Theater is an elective class designed to examine the definitions of peace and non-violence through theater arts. We will explore the extraordinary power that comes from knowing one’s self and developing the skills to settle conflicts peacefully. In this semester-long course students will explore the themes of peace and non-violence through improvisational role-playing, character and personality analysis, internal conflict monologues, scripted theater, computer research, and film. There will be a considerable amount of reading, group work, debate, and public speaking involved in our investigation of the subject. The class is designed to be a fun and transformative experience with a fair amount of homework, mostly memorizing materials. However, your work outside of class will certainly include discussing what you have learned with others in your home, practicing your active listening skills, and practicing for speeches, debates, and skits.

## **YEAR LONG ELECTIVES**

### **AIDE (LIBRARY)**

Library aides are essential to the smooth, efficient operation of the Library Media Center. They help the library media teacher and assistants with a variety of jobs such as checking materials in and out, filing magazines, and running errands. They put books back and straighten bookshelves, process magazines, help with library displays, and keep the library neat and orderly. An ability to alphabetize and an understanding of decimal numbers are desirable. A positive attitude and a willingness to help others is a must. **PRINCIPAL APPROVAL IS REQUIRED. 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS ONLY.**

### **AIDE (OFFICE)**

Under the direction of the office supervisor and the secretary, office aides routinely do general office work in the school office. Tasks include filing, message delivery, marquee updates and housekeeping chores as assigned. Some phone answering may be required. A neat appearance and a positive attitude are essential. **PRINCIPAL APPROVAL IS REQUIRED. 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS ONLY.**

### **AIDE (TEACHER)**

Teacher Aide is a position of responsibility that offers students an opportunity to work closely with a teacher. Tasks will vary dependent upon the teacher to whom a student is assigned. Tasks will include entering data into a Macintosh computer, preparing instructional materials, offering classroom tutoring, and other tasks as assigned. **TEACHER APPROVAL IS REQUIRED. 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS ONLY.**

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHOIR**

Students will learn to use their singing voice to its fullest potential as they prepare to perform a full spectrum of music. There are at least three evening performances each year. There are also opportunities for solos, honor choirs, and field trips.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHOIR**

Students will learn to use their singing voice to its fullest potential as they prepare to perform a full spectrum of music. There are at least three evening performances each year. There are also opportunities for solos, honor choirs, and field trips.

### **LEADERSHIP**

Our award winning Leadership Class teaches students to be responsible effective leaders through a variety of experiences. Students will develop personal leadership skills, learn how to make large group presentations to a variety of audiences, put on school wide activities, and organize/participate in a number of community service projects. Students must be positive role models, love being involved with school activities, and commit their time before, during, and after school. ***In order to be a member of this class, you must have applied and been accepted in the spring of 2017.***

## **LIFE MANAGEMENT**

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to take on the college and career world by equipping them with the tools necessary to succeed in middle school, at high school, and beyond. This class will introduce and reinforce important life-long skills that our students will need to be successful at Sierra Middle School and beyond. The curriculum includes instruction on:

- Creating academic and social success through goal setting, study skills development, time management, and organization
- Creating and effectively mastering oral presentations
- Fostering an environment where teamwork is a main focus.
- Learning self-assessment techniques since many activities in life require self-reflection and learning to be able to self-assess behaviors and set manageable goals.
- Examining long-term goals and implementing action plans to achieve these goals.

**You must be selected to be a part of this team of students.**

## **ORCHESTRA**

This class is for students who have played a string instrument for at least one year. This orchestra has consistently received command performance ratings at festival. They perform many times at school concerts, district festivals, community service, and a tour of local elementary schools. They also have special opportunities such as honor orchestra and solo/ensemble festivals. They wear classy uniforms and have traveled to exotic places such as Disneyland.

## **SIERRA BAND 7 (7<sup>th</sup> grade only)**

The Concert Band is generally geared towards students who have played 1-3 years on their instrument. It is the band that most 6th graders will sign up for. It is a full year elective. Typical instrumentation is trumpet, trombone, tuba, baritone, French horn, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, oboe, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, and percussion. The Concert Band concentrates on teaching students the many aspects of performance and playing in a band on a daily basis, and improves student musicianship through the use of method books and appropriate literature. Students have several performance opportunities during the year.

## **SIERRA BAND 8 (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)**

Symphonic Band is an advanced concert band class generally geared towards students who have played 2-4 years on their instrument. It is a full year elective. Typical instrumentation is trumpet, trombone, tuba, baritone, French horn, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, oboe, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, and percussion. Students have several performance opportunities during the year.

### **SIERRA HONORS WIND ENSEMBLE 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

Wind Ensemble is an advanced concert band class for students who have played 3-4 years on their instrument and **COMPLETE AN AUDITION. It is a full year elective.** Typical instrumentation is trumpet, trombone, tuba, baritone, French horn, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, oboe, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, and percussion. The Wind Ensemble performs at a high level and guides students to a new level of musicianship. Students have several performance opportunities during the year.

### **YEARBOOK**

This class is responsible for producing Sierra's yearbook. Students will photograph campus activities, students, and events for inclusion in the yearbook. Students will work with software applications such as Photoshop to create the yearbook by specified deadlines. Students will complete each spread from start to finish: taking photos, writing captions and headlines, completing layout, proofreading, and deciding which photos to include. Students are also responsible for selling ad space. Our yearbook is produced using the same software as Lincoln High School, so if taking photos and being a part of producing your school's yearbook is something you want to learn to do, then this is the class for you! The yearbook is distributed the last week of school. Computer knowledge is helpful but not at all necessary.