



March 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian of Rising 8th Graders:

This letter provides important information regarding the **2023 – 2024** course registration process at Southwest Middle School. The resources and information below will help guide decisions about your student's course requests and help them reach the next stage of academic progress.

You may also find information about our school's registration process on Southwest Middle School's website under the Counseling Department tab.

You can access the link to the online version of the registration book at www.gcsnc.com, search for Registration Toolbox – Registration Books. The registration book contains information about the multitude of choices in GCS and is designed to help you and your student make the best choices for their middle/high school education and post-secondary opportunities.

Your student will register for their course requests using the Online Course Registration. The registration window will open for SWMS at **5 PM on March 3, 2023 to 5PM on March 12, 2023**. Parents/guardians may review their student's **2023-2024** course requests by accessing the PowerSchool Parent Portal. You may find the parent portal on our school's webpage by clicking the tab for Parents.

Before submitting your child's course requests, please take time to review and discuss your student's course requests. We encourage students to take advantage of rigorous coursework as GCS is proud to offer courses and programs that will prepare students for educational and career opportunities after high school.

Sincerely,

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Guilford County Schools administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, marital status, parental status, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

8th Grade Courses available at SWMS:

Math

***Math 8**

*** Math 1-Strong A/B students with high EOG scores**

*** Math 2 (Only for students that have successfully completed Math 1 in 7th Grade)**

ELA (English/Language Arts)

***ELA 8**

*** Advanced LA 8**

SCIENCE

***Science 8**

SOCIAL STUDIES

***Social Studies 8**

ARTS Education

***Band 8 (Yearlong)** This class is open to students with previous band experience and involves a more advanced study of music, concepts and literature.

***Orchestra 8 (Yearlong)** This course is open to students with previous string experience and involves a more advanced study of music, concepts and literature.

***Chorus 8 (Yearlong)** This course is open to all interested eighth graders. Students begin a more in-depth study of vocal technique and choral literature.

***Music Appreciation**- Students will study different genres of music.

*** Art 8 (semester)** This course is open to all interested 8th grade students. The major focus will be on individual exploratory involvement.

CTE (Career and Technical Education)

***Exploring Technological Systems 8** -This middle school course focuses on students' understanding of how technological systems work together to solve problems and foster innovation.

***Exploring Business & Entrepreneurship 8** –This course will introduce students to the basics of business, marketing and entrepreneurship. Throughout the course, students gain awareness of career opportunities, and practice completing business tasks.

***Exploring Personal Finance and Hospitality 8**-Continue the study of Family & Consumer Sciences focusing on developing additional skills in personal finance and resource management, problem solving and decision making.

***Computer Science Discoveries III**- This course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS and data.

***Exploring Careers and Employment**-Emphasis is placed on self-awareness, understanding the world-of-work, and the career planning process.

World Language

***Spanish IB**- Only available to students that have successfully completed Spanish IA in 7th. Students will continue acquisition of language skills and further understanding of Spanish-speaking culture and civilization.

Physical Education/Health

***PE/Health 8**-This course provides students with information and skills that enables them to problem solve and make decisions. It focuses on helping student understand the importance of health risks for their age group. In addition, lifetime physical activity and fitness is emphasized. Students will also be taught the Heimlich maneuver and pass the skills test of CPR (a graduation requirement)

Team Sports-Students-Students will learn about different sports.

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