

SADDLEBACK VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SERRANO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**24642 Jeronimo Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630
(949) 586-3221 Fax (949) 586-3773
Bob Presby, Principal**

“A California Distinguished School”

Dear Students and Parents,

It is our pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each of you as you anticipate the beginning of the 2009-10 school year. The intermediate school experience is one filled with great opportunities. Two types of courses will be offered to all students - required courses and elective courses. In the pages that follow each course is listed for you with a brief description.

In addition to taking English, history, mathematics, science, physical education, and health/physical fitness (8th grade only), students will have the opportunity to take various elective courses while at Serrano. It is very important for students to be careful in selecting their preferences in elective courses. These choices will be used to construct the students' schedules for the year. *We will make every effort to ensure that students are assigned at least two of their requested elective courses.* Since space is limited in some courses due to room and teacher availability, a student's schedule may need to be filled with courses that may not match the student's highest choices.

We hope you will enjoy all of your classes and that the 2009-10 school year will bring you continued personal growth and academic success.

Sincerely,

The Serrano Administration and Guidance Staff

**Saddleback Valley Unified School District
*Promotion Requirements***

To be promoted from the 7th and 8th grades, a student must:

- a. earn a cumulative grade point average of 1.50 in all classes and earn at least a 1.0 GPA in English and mathematics each year;
- b. successfully pass 85% of 18 trimester* classes per year. An 85% passing level at the 7th and 8th grade means that students who fail more than three courses at either the 7th grade level or 8th grade level must repeat all the course requirements at that grade level;
- c. score on the California Standards Tests under the STAR program or other comparable District standard-based benchmarks at performance level 2 or above (including the use of the standard error of measurement) in English/language arts and mathematics.

A student not meeting the above requirements may be promoted to the next grade level if all of the above requirements are successfully completed during summer school.

To participate in the intermediate school 8th grade promotion ceremony, a student must have earned academic promotion from the 8th grade prior to the ceremony.

REQUIRED COURSES FOR PROMOTION

To be promoted to the next grade, a student must complete the following required subjects:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	7th GRADE	COURSE REQUIREMENTS	8th GRADE
English	3 trimesters	English	3 trimesters
Math	3 trimesters	Math	3 trimesters
Social Science	3 trimesters	Science	3 trimesters
Science/Quest	3 trimesters	Social Science	3 trimesters
Physical Education	3 trimesters	Physical Ed./**Health	3 trimesters
Electives	3 trimesters	Electives	3 trimesters

*All four Saddleback Valley Unified School District intermediate schools operate on the trimester system which divides the academic year into three twelve-week sessions.

Zero Period: One zero period may be offered during the 2009-10 school year. Priority will be given to eighth grade students enrolled in two year-long music or foreign language classes. Students wishing to take more elective courses should consider summer school.

****EIGHTH GRADE ONLY** - one trimester of Physical Education will focus on health related topics.

REQUIRED COURSES

ALL YEAR-LONG COURSES ARE THREE (3) TRIMESTERS

ENGLISH

7th GRADE - ONE YEAR

English 7 is a year-long program that emphasizes the integration of writing, listening, speaking, reading, and technology skills consistent with the California Language Arts Content Standards. Students write a variety of narratives, responses to literature, research reports, persuasive compositions and summaries. Reading materials include a thematic anthology, electronic media, and a diverse collection of fiction, nonfiction, and informational materials. Students learn to become strategic readers by distinguishing fact from opinion, reading actively, using prior knowledge, and using context clues. Spelling rules are covered through an integrated spelling and vocabulary program based on Greek and Latin roots.

8th GRADE - ONE YEAR

English 8 is a year-long program that emphasizes the integration of writing, listening, speaking, reading, and technology skills consistent with the California Language Arts Content Standards. Students write a variety of narratives, responses to literature, research reports, persuasive compositions, documents related to career development, and technical documents that explain a complex operation. Reading materials include a thematic anthology, electronic media, and a diverse collection of fiction, nonfiction, and informational materials. Students respond to reading using critical, interpretive, and evaluative processes, and identify significant literary devices. Spelling rules are covered through an integrated spelling and vocabulary program based on Greek and Latin roots.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

7th/8th GRADES - ONE YEAR

Students who are not native English speakers and are in the process of becoming fluent in English are screened with a CELDT test. If needed, they are placed in an English Language Development (ELD) class. Students receive instruction in structural analysis, vocabulary, comprehension, listening, writing, and speaking skills. English acquisition is taught by listening, speaking, reading and writing, using visuals, dramatization, music and the latest methodologies. Students do not sign up for this course. Placement is made by the Guidance Department.

HISTORY

7th GRADE - ONE YEAR

The study of World History and Geography continues in 7th grade with an examination of social, cultural, and technological changes during the period A.D. 500 - 1789. It includes a study of contributions made by groups and individuals of both Western and non-Western civilizations. Throughout the year, students develop timelines, create world maps, analyze cultures, and compare events, ideas and beliefs of these civilizations. The arts and humanities are used to enrich the content. Improvement of basic study skills is emphasized.

8th GRADE - ONE YEAR

The study of U.S. History and Geography begins with a review of the major ideas, issues, and events preceding the founding of the nation. Students will concentrate on the critical events of the framing of the Constitution to 1914. This 8th grade course develops an understanding and appreciation of American heritage, faith in American ideals, and skills and abilities of responsible citizens. School-wide themes will stress the integration of all curricular areas and allow students to make comparisons and connections with issues in today's society.

ENGLISH/HISTORY HONORS PROGRAM

7th and 8th GRADES - ONE YEAR

English and history honors students must be skilled writers with an extensive vocabulary. Students are expected to be intrinsically motivated, focused, and comfortable in a fast-paced, rigorous learning environment. Seventh-grade students are considered for placement in the Honors Program if they have a standardized test score of proficient or advanced on the California Standards Test (CST) in Language Arts and they have a grade of A in sixth-grade English and history. Non-GATE-identified students must also take a writing test and score at the advanced level. Eighth-grade students continue in the Honors Program if they have a grade of C or better in English 7 Honors.

MATHEMATICS

7th GRADE - ONE YEAR

Math 7 covers the five areas of the California Mathematics Standards: number and operations; functions and algebra; measurement and geometry; probability, statistics and data analysis; and problem solving, math reasoning and communication. Lessons utilize and emphasize basic skills, including the application of math and connections between concepts and skills. An introduction to problem solving involves students in group work, experiments, presentations and projects. These lessons emphasize the student's ability to select mathematical tools and techniques and to communicate their mathematical thinking in a variety of ways both oral and written form.

PRE ALGEBRA - 7th GRADE - ONE YEAR

This is an accelerated mathematics class for seventh graders. This course will prepare students for Algebra I in 8th grade, with a primary emphasis on problem solving strategies. It will include a study of rational and irrational numbers, properties, percent, geometry, linear equations, statistics, probability, patterns, functions and logic. Students enrolled in this course should have a solid foundation in calculations using whole numbers, decimals, fractions, percent and be able to work at a fast pace.

Students are placed in this course by teacher recommendation, placement test and CST math proficiency score.

MATH 8 - ONE YEAR

Math 8 is beginning to phase in more of the Algebra I course content. It continues to broaden the student's knowledge in the following areas; number and operations; measurement and geometry; probability, statistics and data analysis; problem solving, math reasoning and communications; functions and algebra. The curriculum highlights the applications of skills, looking for patterns, making generalizations during problem solving, and exploring ways of presenting oral and written information when problems are analyzed.

ALGEBRA I – 7TH/8TH GRADE - ONE YEAR

***PREREQUISITES: PRE ALGEBRA
AND PLACEMENT TEST***

This course includes a study of linear equations and inequalities with one and two variables, graphing linear equations and inequalities including slope, polynomials and factors, polynomials and rational expressions, irrational numbers, quadratic equations, statistics and probability, patterns, functions and logic, and applications of all concepts. This Algebra class is the same course as Algebra I at the high school level and successful completion will give high school graduation credit. Students are placed in this course by teacher recommendation and placement test.

HONORS GEOMETRY I – 8TH GRADE - ONE YEAR

***PREREQUISITES: A B+ OR ABOVE IN ALGEBRA I
and TEACHER RECOMMENDATION***

This course emphasizes skill in drawing, visualizing, and following algorithms; understanding properties, mathematical relationships and formal proofs; using geometric ideas in real situations; and representing geometric concept with coordinates, networks or other diagrams. This Geometry course is the same course as Honors Geometry I at the high school level and successful completion will give high school graduation credit.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

7th - ONE YEAR

8th - TWO TRIMESTERS

The state framework is the basis for the course standards in both 7th and 8th grades. The focus is on physical fitness and skills development in a variety of team and individual sports and recreational activities. An emphasis is placed on working cooperatively, following directions, playing safely, and life long health. Students will evaluate their fitness level and learn techniques to improve areas of weakness.

Those desiring advanced skill work may choose to take part in the after school activity program. Uniforms are required and lockers are provided in the dressing rooms.

HEALTH/PHYSICAL FITNESS

8th - ONE TRIMESTER

The Health Education component of Healthy Kids/Healthy California is integrated into the Physical Education program during the 8th grade. Units of study are designed to develop knowledge that will enable students to choose healthful behaviors that avoid risk situations. These include building relationships within and outside the family, caring for the human body, human growth and development, and coping with health problems in a contemporary society. Drug, alcohol, and tobacco awareness studies enable students to develop decision-making skills. Human reproduction, sexually transmitted

disease and infection, substance abuse, and the importance of practicing abstinence are among the health-related topics to be discussed.

SCIENCE

All science classes are aligned with the California Science Standards and incorporate technology as part of the course work.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE 7TH GRADE – ONE YEAR

The seventh grade integrated science curriculum will focus on Life Science. The course will emphasize cells, cell structure, genetics, physical and biological changes over time, and human body systems. The curriculum accents student involvement with hands on investigations, which include basic science skills, scientific method, reasoning and critical thinking. Students are encouraged to investigate ideas, issues, and interests that make up our contemporary understanding of science and technology.

Once a week throughout the year, the seventh grade science course includes Get/Set/Go. This is a program that offers the adolescent student an opportunity to develop skills promoting success in the intermediate school setting. Students investigate the challenges and changes in adolescence through communication skills, building self-confidence and goal setting. Decision making skills are taught with emphasis on positive choices creating healthy lifestyles and avoiding tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE 8TH GRADE – ONE YEAR

The eighth grade integrated science curriculum is a year-long class that focuses on the sciences of Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy. The course will emphasize forces, motion, interactions, and the structure and composition of matter. The curriculum accents student involvement with hands on investigations, which include basic science skills, scientific method, reasoning and critical thinking. Students are encouraged to investigate ideas, issues, and interests that make up our contemporary understanding of science and technology.

HONORS SCIENCE 8TH GRADE - ONE YEAR

The eighth grade honors science covers the same curriculum that is outlined in the integrated science program. The class curriculum will be accelerated. This will require the student to be highly motivated, well organized, self-starting, and responsible in order to be successful. The accelerated curriculum will allow the student to explore each concept deeper for a better understanding. This will involve planning and conducting investigations, evaluating data, writing conclusions, looking for mathematical relationships, and studying current events and trends in science. Placement criteria include GATE identification, a score of proficient or advanced in Math on the CST (California Standards), placement in Accelerated Math class, and recommendation of the seventh grade science teacher.

ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

This section describes the elective choices offered at Serrano. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of elective subjects to provide them with a wider breadth of learning experiences. Electives should be chosen carefully as they will be used to schedule the entire year. Think about allergies such as food or dust before choosing Food or Wood. As you make your selections, keep in mind that the decisions you make may impact your long-range goals for high school. Choose wisely and be prepared to do your very best.

Be advised that enrollment in a particular elective is based upon several variables (i.e., number of students that choose the elective, number of periods the elective is offered, and/or a period conflict with

required courses.) Every effort will be made to give students at least two of their requested electives. It could be necessary to assign electives not listed by them as a choice.

***Reading Enrichment is a program designed for students who are reading below grade level (CST 3 or below) and need to enhance skills to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). This class may be an assigned elective based on the students English Language Arts CST score.

***REACH is a program designed for students who need to develop their organizational skills, increase learning strategies and develop responsibility. This class may be an assigned elective based on the students work habits and teacher recommendation.

***Math Skills is a program designed for students who need reinforcement of math concepts. This class may be an assigned elective based on the students Mathematics CST score, incoming math grade and/or teacher recommendation.

TECHNOLOGY/COMMUNICATIONS

Computer Awareness
Web Design
Multi-Media Communications
Journalism
GMS Good Morning Serrano (8th grade only)

Yearbook (8th grade only) (Year-long)

PRACTICAL ARTS

Food 1
Home Ed/Careers
Clothing 1
Clothing 2
Wood 1
Wood 2

LANGUAGES

(Year-long courses)
French (8th grade only)
Spanish (8th grade only)

TRIMESTER ELECTIVES

TECHNOLOGY/COMMUNICATIONS

COMPUTER AWARENESS – 7th/8th GRADES

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of technology skills. Students start with the basic keyboarding skills, learn to organize the computer desktop, trouble shoot basic computer problems, will explore navigation techniques on the World Wide Web, and learn Power Point. Students will create a CD of their projects. Students will be working on the Internet. A lab fee of \$5.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested.

WEB DESIGN – 7th/8th GRADES

Learn to create a personal website. Students learn some HTML (the programming language of website designers), good design practices, create their own graphics and animated gifs, and how to work with graphics. These skills will be used to create students own web pages using GoLive and Photoshop elements. Students will create a CD of their projects. Students will be working on the Internet. A lab fee of \$5.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested.

FINE ARTS

Art 1
Applied Art

PERFORMING ARTS

Introduction to Drama

Public Speaking
Theater Production

MUSIC (Year-long courses)

Beginning Band
Intermediate Band
Advanced Band
Strings Orchestra 7th & 8th grade

STUDENT AIDES

Classroom Aide (8th grade only)
Library Aide (8th grade only)
Office Aide (8th grade only)

MULTI-MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS – 7th/8th GRADES

Create your own interactive Multimedia CD. Students will learn the techniques for every type of media: text, graphics, sound, animation, video and the Internet. These skills will be used to produce meaningful and appropriate projects that will be a strong foundation of technology skills for high school. Students will learn to use the digital video camera and will be producing videos that can be used in the classroom. Students will use iMovie, PowerPoint, Garage Band, and Keynote to design their presentations with the purpose of sharing these with audiences both inside and outside our school. Students will be working on the Internet. A lab fee of \$5.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested.

JOURNALISM – 7th/8th GRADES

The Journalism class publishes Serrano's school newspaper. The main points of emphasis are journalistic writing and teamwork. Basic desktop publishing skills are emphasized. The students and teacher work closely together to produce two to three newspapers per trimester that cover a variety of school and student oriented topics. This course will also include page layout, some photography, and interviewing skills.

GMS Broadcast – 8th GRADE

PREREQUISITE: TEACHER APPROVAL

Create videos for Good Morning Serrano (GMS) broadcast show. Students will learn techniques for producing videos for broadcasts. Students will plan, script, shoot interviews and edit news and feature formatted videos. Students will become familiar and proficient with digital editing methods. Students should have the desire and ability to work well in a group atmosphere under the pressure of a daily deadline. Most assignments will take place in class, however, occasional scheduled school activities will necessitate after schoolwork on a rotational basis. Students must have a 2.5 GPA and no N's or U's in citizenship to qualify for the class. A lab fee of \$5.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested. Please note that if you are on the GMS Crew, you must be in your SEAT and ready for our broadcast by 8:10 AM! Students will be working on the Internet.

YEARBOOK - 8th GRADE (YEAR-LONG)

PREREQUISITE: TEACHER APPROVAL

Students will work together in all phases of yearbook planning. The course will include page layout, photography, and interviewing skills. The students will learn about digital photography, Adobe Photoshop, Elite Vision (a special program used by Taylor Publishing Company for yearbook design). Students will also learn how to scan photos for their layouts as well as import them from CD's or digital cameras. During the third trimester this class will produce digital movies. Students will learn how to use digital video cameras and iMovie. Students will plan short videos that might be shown on Good Morning Serrano - our televised morning announcement show. Students will also be involved in putting together an 8th grade end of the year video. Students must maintain a B or better in their English class to be in this class.

FINE ARTS

ART I - 7th /8th GRADES

This introductory art course includes work in pencil, ink, and paint. Projects are designed to allow success for both the inexperienced art students and the aspiring artist. The students will design and create assignments while exploring different techniques and media. A lab fee of \$12.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested.

APPLIED ART - 7th /8th GRADES

PREREQUISITE: ART I

This course is designed for students with a definite interest in drawing, painting and basic three-dimensional craft projects. Students will build on the skills they learned in Art I to deepen their awareness of art concepts and techniques. Visual expression will be through the use of pencil, ink, prismacolors, watercolors, paper cutouts and clay. A lab fee of \$15.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested.

PERFORMING ARTS

All Drama classes have a stage performance requirement

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA - 7th /8th GRADES

Discover the exciting world of drama! Enhance your ability to communicate with an audience and build characters through improvisation, pantomime, theater games and scene study.

THEATER PRODUCTION - 8th GRADES (Trimester/Year-long)

PREREQUISITE: INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA, Teacher recommendation required

Theater Production is your opportunity to participate in all aspects of a play production from beginning to end. Learn what is involved in auditioning and blocking. Learn what goes on behind the scenes in publicity, sets, costumes, and props. A play will be performed for one to two evening each trimester. Students will also perform for students and parents during the day. Student directed plays or a variety show will finish off the trimester. The class may be taken for an entire year or for one or two trimesters. Some after school rehearsals may be required. A lab fee of \$5 to cover scripts and royalties will be requested.

PUBLIC SPEAKING - 7th/8th GRADES

Develop confidence in yourself as you learn how to put together various types of speeches. With fun and easy activities, students will soon feel comfortable speaking before a group. Students will have opportunities to share hobbies and interests, teach a skill (like making double fudge brownies), and sharing information about their own role models. Every effort is made to make students comfortable before an audience. For a final activity students learn persuasion and delivery of an argument.

PRACTICAL ARTS

FOODS I - 7th /8th GRADES

Students are introduced to principles of food safety, kitchen safety, use and care of equipment, basic food preparation techniques and simple table setting. A fee of \$20.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested. Students do eat items they prepare, please consider food allergies.

HOME EC/CAREERS - 7th/8th GRADES

Students are introduced to how to prepare for employment (choosing a career, resume writing, job application), money management (sample business plan, check writing, balancing a checkbook), interior and architectural design (elements of design, room makeovers), and "survival skills" such as meal etiquette, sewing on a button, hemming a garment, and repairing seams. A fee of \$7.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested.

CLOTHING I - 7th /8th GRADES

Students will study the use of the sewing machine and will learn clothing construction techniques. A fee of \$20.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested.

CLOTHING II - 7th /8th GRADES

PREREQUISITE: CLOTHING 1

Students must have a passing grade in Clothing I.

Clothing II is a course which offers a continuation of the sewing skills learned in Clothing I. Students will provide their own fabric, patterns, and supplies. There is no fee for this course.

WOOD I - 7th/8th GRADES

The student will receive an exploratory experience introducing the modern and traditional principals of wood working. There are units on wood technology, safety, measuring and design, hand and power tools, fasteners, and finishes. They work individually to complete four to five required wood projects. This is an exciting practical, "hands on" class that is taught in a laboratory, shop environment and is designed for both girls and boys. A fee of \$20.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested. Use of power tools and allergies to wood dust should be considered.

WOOD II - 7th/8th GRADES

PREREQUISITE: WOOD I

Students must have a passing grade in Wood 1.

This is a continuation of Wood I with more emphasis on the safe and proper use of both hand and power tools. The students work individually to complete four to five wood projects. The course is taught in the traditional laboratory wood shop setting. A fee of \$20.00 to facilitate the purchasing of materials for this class will be requested.

STUDENT AIDE

CLASSROOM, LIBRARY, OFFICE AIDE - 8th GRADE

Students have the opportunity to assist the Librarian, the front office staff or a classroom teacher where they will learn useful skills in organization and responsibility. A GPA of 2.5, no disciplinary infractions, and Librarian, teacher, or office staff recommendation is required.

YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES

MUSIC

To cover some of the cost of transportation to off campus music festivals, a music department T-shirt, and sheet music, a fee for the music classes will be requested. Parents of all music students are asked to voluntarily pay an additional \$50.00 for private sectional coaching throughout the year.

BEGINNING BAND - 7th and 8th GRADES

(Year-long)

Learn to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. No prior instrumental experience is required to be a part of the Beginning Band. Some of the larger instruments are provided for the year at no cost (provided the instrument is kept in good condition). Several performances are scheduled throughout the year. Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals is a required part of the class. A fee of \$60.00 to off set costs listed above will be requested.

INTERMEDIATE BAND - 7th and 8th GRADES

(Year-long)

This course is designed for students with at least one year of experience. Instruction will strengthen the skills that are necessary to qualify for the higher level performance groups. Emphasis is on the fundamentals of note and rhythm reading, tone production and concert experience. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is a required part of the class. The Intermediate Band performs several times throughout the year. A fee of \$60.00 to off set costs listed above will be requested.

ADVANCED BAND - 8th GRADE

(Year-long)

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

This is the most advanced wind and percussion performance group. Students will pursue excellence in instrumental technique and gain performance experience. Music includes standard band literature as well as popular music. The Advanced Band performs many times during the school year, participating in concerts and festivals. All rehearsals and performances are a required part of this class. A fee of \$60.00 to off set costs listed above will be requested.

STRING ORCHESTRA - 7th and 8th GRADES

All string players are welcome to participate in the String Orchestra. Students will continue to strengthen their skills in string technique and tone production as well as gain performance experience. Performances are

scheduled many times throughout the school year and include concerts and festivals. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is a required part of the class. A fee of \$60.00 to off set costs listed above will be requested. As the year progresses, the 7th grade string players will perform more frequently with the 8th grade Orchestra.

LANGUAGES

FRENCH I /SPANISH I - 8th GRADE ONE YEAR

PREREQUISITES: NONE

The Level I courses facilitate the exploration of the fascinating world of the French and Spanish speaking people. Students will enrich their own world by learning and using a new language and appreciating a new culture. Most studies are conducted in a "real world" context and speaking, listening, reading and writing skills acquired will help students develop a global understanding necessary to become effective citizens of the twenty-first century. The first year of study will also increase the student's enjoyment when traveling throughout the world where French and Spanish is spoken. Criteria include a score of four (proficient) on the CST in Language Arts.

Upon successful completion of French I or Spanish I (B average), students may enroll in French II, or Spanish II in high school. Level I credit applies toward high school and college with teacher recommendation. French and Spanish Workbook fee: \$18.00. In order to hold the Foreign Language classes a minimum enrollment of 30 students will be required.