



Deer Valley USD Middle Level Elective and Exploratory Course Guide 2019-2020

“It is our mission to provide extraordinary educational opportunities to every learner.”

Superintendent

Dr. Curtis Finch

Governing Board

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Deer Valley Unified School District is committed to providing middle school students with opportunities to explore and experience a variety of courses beyond the core curriculum to broaden their perspective. These courses allow students to develop 21st century skills such as cultural awareness, social responsibility, technology skills, communication skills, and real-world connections.

To ensure a guaranteed and viable curriculum for all middle level students throughout DVUSD, this guide was developed with the following standards:

- Exploratory and Elective course offerings will be horizontally aligned for the 7th and 8th grade across district schools.
- Performing and Visual Arts will be offered.
- Physical Education will be offered.
- Career Education will be offered.

Courses outside of the core curriculum courses fall into two categories based on campus delivery: exploratory and elective classes.

An **Exploratory Class** is a course that is assigned to a student to expose him/her to different learning opportunities. These classes are designed to inspire creativity and innovation in middle school students while honing their natural skills and talents.

An **Elective Class** is a course selected by the student that allows opportunities to explore areas of interest outside the core curriculum.

Specific offerings at each individual school are determined and driven by the school's vision, mission, and premiere programs. Courses can be delivered for the duration of a quarter, semester, or full year. Level I courses are for 7th grade students and Level II courses are for 8th grade students. Courses without a level can be offered to a combination of 7th & 8th grade students and are repeatable courses. For more information about the specific courses each school offers, please contact the school counselor.

Anthem School
<http://anthem.dvusd.org>

Gavilan Peak School
<http://gavilanpeak.dvusd.org>

Sonoran Foothills School
<http://sonoranfoothills.dvusd.org>

Canyon Springs School
<http://canyonsprings.dvusd.org>

Highland Lakes School
<http://highlandlakes.dvusd.org>

Stetson Hills School
<http://stetsonhills.dvusd.org>

Deer Valley Middle School
<http://dvms.dvusd.org>

Hillcrest Middle School
<http://hillcrest.dvusd.org>

Sunset Ridge School
<http://sunsetridge.dvusd.org>

Desert Mountain School
<http://desertmountain.dvusd.org>

Norterra Canyon School
<http://norterracanyon.dvusd.org>

Terramar School
<http://terramar.dvusd.org>

Desert Sky Middle School
<http://desertsky.dvusd.org>

Paseo Hills School
<http://paseohills.dvusd.org>

Vista Peak School
<http://vistapeak.dvusd.org>

Diamond Canyon School
<http://diamondcanyon.dvusd.org>

Sierra Verde School
<http://sierraverde.dvusd.org>

West Wing School
<http://westwing.dvusd.org>



CAREER EDUCATION

Career Action Lab I

Grade 7

PowerSchool # MCT01

This Career Action Lab allows for multiple career pathway topics. Students will engage with problem-based, real-world technology and explore their career field interests and aptitudes.

Career Action Lab II

Grade 8

PowerSchool # MCT02

This Career Action Lab allows students to explore additional career fields from a broad range of career clusters through technology-based modules.

Career Action Lab-Building Skills I

Grade 7

PowerSchool # MCT05

This Career Action Lab is a hands-on technology lab taught in a modular format with students rotating through each building trades unit. The course incorporates interactive media, project-based learning, and group collaboration as well as a career exploration component.

Career Action Lab-Building Skills II

Grade 8

PowerSchool # MCT06

This course builds on the skill set learned in the Career Action Lab-Building Skills I course to allow students to learn new skills, analyze new material based on learned skills, and to problem solve, achieve, and create. Students will harness the power of interactive multimedia delivery to provide information that must be physically applied to resolve problems similar to those found in actual building and construction industry work environments.

Career Action Lab-Health Science I

Grade 7

PowerSchool # MCT07

This Career Action Lab is a hands-on technology lab taught in a modular format with students rotating through each health career unit. The course incorporates interactive media, project-based learning, and group collaboration as well as a career exploration component.

**Career Action Lab-Health Science II****Grade 8****PowerSchool # MCT08**

This course builds on the skill set learned in the Career Action Lab-Health I course to allow students to learn new skills, analyze new material based on learned skills, and to problem solve, achieve, and create. Students will harness the power of interactive multimedia delivery to provide information that must be physically applied to resolve problems similar to those found in actual medical, nursing, and health science work environments.

Career Action Lab-STEM I**Grade 7****PowerSchool # MCT03**

This Career Action Lab is a hands-on technology lab taught in a modular format with students rotating through each STEM careers unit. The course incorporates interactive media, project-based learning, and group collaboration as well as a career exploration component.

Career Action Lab-STEM II**Grade 8****PowerSchool # MCT04**

This course builds on the skill set learned in the Career Action Lab-STEM I course to allow students to learn new skills, analyze new material based on learned skills, and to problem solve, achieve, and create. Students will harness the power of interactive multimedia delivery to provide information that must be physically applied to resolve problems similar to those found in actual technology, engineering, and science work environments.

Explorations - Careers I**Grade 7****PowerSchool # MEX30**

Career Exploration introduces students to a variety of careers. This class offers a flexible learning environment using technology and classroom instruction to address careers and skills common to virtually all occupations. Career Exploration will focus on career options, education choices and development of career plans. Students will engage in problem solving, critical thinking, and leadership building and teamwork activities. Information technology foundational skills will be reinforced.

Explorations - Careers II**Grade 8****PowerSchool # MEX31**

This course will allow students to further explore career options and education choices. Students will assess their personal interests, develop a career plan, and determine course selections for high school. Students will focus on communication, collaboration, critical thinking, leadership, and 21st century skills. Information technology foundational skills will be reinforced.

**Explorations - Computer Applications I****Grade 7****PowerSchool # MEX06**

This course provides the opportunity to become familiar with and explore a variety of computer applications. Students will develop computer skills including keyboarding with an emphasis on word processing, presentation, and spreadsheet software along with use of the Internet. *The course design is flexible for use with multiple devices, operating systems, and productivity software; however laptops and desktops are best suited for the course requirements (one-to-one student to device ratio is needed for 100% of the course).*

Explorations - Computer Applications II**Grade 8****PowerSchool # MEX07**

This project-based course provides the opportunity to further develop computer skills through the integrated use of a variety of computer applications and Internet research. Students will collaborate and develop critical thinking skills as they apply the design process to real-world projects. *The course design is flexible for use with multiple devices, operating systems, and productivity software; however laptops and desktops are best suited for the course requirements (one-to-one student to device ratio is needed for 100% of the course).*

Explorations - Computer Science**PowerSchool # MEX45**

In this course students will interact with both computer science content and computational practice. Student will utilize a variety of tools/platforms and culminate each unit with final projects around the following topics: human computer interaction, problem solving, web design, programming, computing and data analysis, and robotics. *The course design requires use of laptops or desktop computers (one-to-one student to device ratio is needed for 100% of the course).*

Explorations - Creative Publications**PowerSchool # MEX27**

In this project-based class, students will use technology and work collaboratively through the production process to develop creative products such as yearbook, newspaper, newsletter, video, website, flier, blog, or alternative format. *The course design is flexible for use with multiple devices, operating systems, and software (individual or small group student access to a device is needed for 75% of the course).*

Explorations - Family and Consumer Science**PowerSchool # MEX33**

This course provides students opportunities to develop skills used in the adult world that are useful in life and careers. Students will learn how to build positive relationships, create a budget, be a smart shopper, decorate a home, plan meals, and prepare for events. Throughout the course students will strengthen their ability to make decisions, problem solve, set goals, and plan for personal success. *The course design is flexible for use with multiple devices, operating systems, and software (individual student access to a device is needed for at least 50% of the course).*

**Explorations - Project Math****PowerSchool # MEX12**

Students will have the opportunity to apply math concepts to projects and activities including, but not limited to art, architecture, physics, chemistry, astronomy, music, children's literature, environmental concerns, forensic sciences, statistical analysis, climate change, water quality, projectile motion, consumer sciences, financial planning.

Explorations - Social Entrepreneurship**PowerSchool # MEX37**

In this project-based course students participate in the dynamic process of identifying and planning for positive change in response to a local or global social problem. Students will develop leadership skills as they create a pitch and presentation on how their selected problems can be solved through innovation and action. *The course design is flexible for use with multiple devices (one-to-one student to device ratio is needed for 50% of the course).*

Explorations - STEM I**Grade 7****PowerSchool # MEX28**

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) provides students with opportunities to apply the design processes of invention and innovation. Students experience ways in which technological knowledge and processes contribute to effective designs, abilities, and skills. Brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, constructing, testing, and refining designs provide firsthand opportunities for students to understand the uses and impacts of innovations. *The course design is flexible for use with multiple devices, operating systems, and productivity software; however laptops and desktops are best suited for the course requirements (one-to-one student to device ratio is needed for 50% of the course).*

Explorations - STEM II**Grade 8****PowerSchool # MEX29**

This course allows students to continue development of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills in an integrated approach. Students will apply problem solving, collaboration, research, exploration, inquiry, evaluation, and engineering design to address real world problems. *The course design is flexible for use with multiple devices, operating systems, and productivity software; however laptops and desktops are best suited for the course requirements (one-to-one student to device ratio is needed for 50% of the course).*

Explorations - Technology I IB**Grade 7****PowerSchool # MEX04IB**

As part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Technology course challenges students to use the design cycle to structure inquiry and analysis of problems, develop feasible solutions, create solutions, and test and evaluate their solution design problems. Students will engage with technology and digital resources to design solutions.

**Explorations - Technology II IB****Grade 8****PowerSchool # MEX05IB**

This course is part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) and a continuation of the Technology I IB course. Students will apply practical and creative thinking to solve design problems, explore the role of design in both historical and contemporary context, and engage with technology and digital resources to design solutions.

MYP Design IB**Grades 6, 7, 8****PowerSchool #MEX**

As part of the Middle Years Programme (MYP), this course specifically prepares students for the study of computer science, design technology, and information technology in a global society. Students will be challenged to apply practical and creative thinking skills to solve design problems, explore the role of design in both historical and contemporary contexts, and to consider their responsibilities when making design decisions and taking action.

HUMANITIES**Humanities - Art History****PowerSchool # MFA06**

Students will investigate various periods of art throughout history and gain an understanding of major styles, artwork and artists of each era.

Humanities - Performance and Literary Works**PowerSchool # MEX23**

This course explores the fundamentals of dramatic literary works. Students will read plays and perform theatrical project-based assignments that provide the foundations of performing literary works ranging from acting, script writing and analysis, setting, and production.

Humanities - Geography**PowerSchool # MEX25**

This course provides opportunities to to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world using critical inquiry and hands-on research and exploration. Students will go deeper in the Arizona History & Social Science standards content area of Geography for 7/8 combined and participate in a school level Geography Bee as part of their end product portfolio.

Humanities - Literature Studies**PowerSchool # MEX10**

This course provides students with the opportunity to read, discuss, compare, and analyze high quality literature. Various genres and literature selections will be provided.

**Humanities - Music History****PowerSchool # MFA24**

This course will explore current and past musical genres. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the evolution of music. Music will be analyzed to provide a better understanding of history and culture.

Humanities - Public Speaking**PowerSchool # MEX09**

This course provides students the opportunity to organize and prepare speeches and to gain confidence and experience while speaking in front of small and large groups.

Humanities - Seminar**PowerSchool #MEX26**

In this project-based course students will use critical inquiry, information literacy skills, and technology to explore human achievements within civilizations of the past and present. *The course design is flexible for use with multiple devices, operating systems, and software (individual or small group student access to a device is needed for 100% of the course).*

Humanities - World Cultures**PowerSchool # MEX24**

Students will explore the world around them examining history, art, culture, and the sciences through inquiry and analysis. Students will go deeper in the Arizona History & Social Science standards content area of History either for 7th grade or 8th grade. Students will create a portfolio or end project of their course.

Humanities - Writing Workshop**PowerSchool # MEX39**

The goal of this course is to develop and execute writing skills that are relevant and applicable to students while strengthening students' overall writing abilities. Students will learn the writing process while studying narrative, informative/argumentative, and research genres.

PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS**Art I /Art II****Grade 7 / Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA02 / MFA03**

This course will cover the basic elements of art including line, shape, form, space, value, texture, and color. The principles of design introduced in this course are repetition, balance, proportion, emphasis, variety, rhythm, unity, perspective, and value scales.

**Art I IB****Grade 7****PowerSchool # MFA02IB**

As part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP), this course will provide students with opportunities to create and present art to communicate their feelings and ideas through a variety of media. Students will learn about different cultures and art forms. They will explore why artists create and why art is important to humans.

Art II IB**Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA03IB**

This course is part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) and a continuation of the Art I IB course. In the course, students will further develop their skills and techniques to express themselves. Students will create artwork using a variety of media, collaborate with peers, reflect upon and refine their work, and examine the role of art in life and the world.

Band I / Band II**Grade 7 / Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA12 / MFA13**

Developing basic musicianship skills continues to be a priority at the Intermediate Level. Students will begin to use more articulations, perform scales and music in more difficult key signatures, demonstrate vibrato, and perform music at an intermediate level of difficulty (ABODA Solo Repertoire, Grades II-III). Ensemble skills will become more developed as students participate in full band settings. Students will describe concepts common to music and other disciplines, and will be involved in discussing various cultures, styles, composers, and historical periods.

Band I IB**Grade 7****PowerSchool # MFA12IB**

As part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP), this course will provide students with opportunities to develop skills in playing an instrument and performing for an audience. Students will learn about music from different cultures. They will explore why musicians create and why music is important to humans.

Band II IB**Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA13IB**

This course is part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) and a continuation of the Band I IB course. In the course, students will further develop instrumental skills and techniques to express themselves musically. Students will perform music in a variety of genres, collaborate with peers, reflect upon and refine their work, and examine the role of music in life and the world.

**Ceramics****PowerSchool # MFA27**

This course is comprehensive introduction to the craft of clay working. The primary emphasis is on studio work leading to a portfolio of finished pieced by the end of the term. In addition to demonstrating technique, student will examine historic and contemporary examples of fine ceramic art.

Chorus I / Chorus II**Grade 7 / Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA10 / MFA11**

This course enables students to build upon the skills and knowledge acquired at the 6th Grade level. Students continue the development of vocal production techniques and ensemble participation. Opportunities are provided for students to explore choral music as a means of expression and communication. Through the collaborative environment of the choral setting, students develop and understanding of teamwork and leadership skills. Students are provided with opportunities to participate in local, district, and state events.

Chorus I IB**Grade 7****PowerSchool # MFA10IB**

As part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP), this course will provide students with opportunities to develop skills in vocal music and performing for an audience. Students will learn about singing and music from different cultures. They will explore why vocalists create and why music is important to humans.

Chorus II IB**Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA11IB**

This course is part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) and a continuation of the Chorus I IB course. In the course, students will further develop vocal music skills and techniques to express themselves. Students will perform vocal music from a variety of genres, collaborate with peers, reflect upon and refine their work, and examine the role of vocal music in life and the world.

General Music I / General Music II**Grade 7 / Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA09 / MFA23**

This course will allow students to continue to develop performing skills and content knowledge. In addition to performance, student outcomes will include knowledge of music structure, elements, historical style, and notation. Students will have opportunities to improvise and compose rhythms and melodies, perform on instruments, and sing music.

**General Music I IB****Grade 7****PowerSchool # MFA09IB**

As part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP), this course will provide students with opportunities to acquire skills in performing music and develop content knowledge of music structure, elements, and history. Students will explore diverse music cultures from throughout the world. They will examine why humans create music and reflect upon the significance of music as a part of life.

General Music II IB**Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA23IB**

This course is part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) and a continuation of the General Music I IB course. In the course, students will further develop musical performance skills and techniques to express themselves. Students will study and perform music from a variety of genres, collaborate with peers, reflect upon and refine their work, and examine the role of music in life and the world.

Guitar I / Guitar II**Grade 7 / Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA15 / MFA16**

This course includes instrumental music instruction, training and performance with a focus on guitar.

Jazz Band**PowerSchool # MFA14**

This course extends instrumental music instruction, training and performance focusing on Jazz.

Orchestra**PowerSchool # MFA15**

This course extends instrumental music instruction, training and performance focusing on orchestral music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH**Health I****Grade 7****PowerSchool # M7PE03**

This course will provide students with the skills and knowledge to make positive health decisions. Along with the following standards, tobacco, nutrition, and skin cancer prevention/sun protection education will be included in the program. Students in grade seven generate and choose positive alternatives to risky behaviors. They use skills to resist peer pressure and manage stress and anxiety. Students are able to relate health choices to alertness, feelings, and performance at school or during physical activity. Students exhibit a healthy lifestyle, interpret health information, and promote good health.

**Health II****Grade 8****PowerSchool # M8PE3**

This class will provide students with the skills and knowledge to make positive health decisions. Students in grade eight have an understanding of the origins and causes of diseases, including the relationship between family history and certain health risks. They begin to relate short- and long-term consequences of health choices and apply health skills to specific personal, family, and community health concerns. Students can discern relationships among all components of health and wellness and knowledgeably use consumer information.

Fitness and Conditioning I / II**Grade 7 / Grade 8****PowerSchool # M7PE02 / M8PE02**

Students set personal fitness goals and work towards attaining those goals through individual and team activities.

Physical Education I / Physical Education II**Grade 7 / Grade 8****PowerSchool # M7PE01 / M8PE01**

This course develops the whole individual; physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. As students progress, they encounter concepts and information across a spectrum of fitness and sports-related activities. They are challenged to not only internalize this knowledge, but to competently apply it, using effective communication modes and through performance of various strategies, tactics, skills and techniques. Health concepts will be embedded within the course.

Physical Education I IB**Grade 7****PowerSchool # M7PE01IB**

For 7th Grade - As part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP), this course will provide students with opportunities to experience physical activity and acquire knowledge about healthy choices and practices. Students will explore a variety of physical and health education activities including team sports, individual sports, international sports and activities, and examination of fitness and nutrition components.

Physical Education II IB**Grade 8****PowerSchool # M8PE01IB**

For 8th Grade - As part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP), this course will provide students with opportunities to experience physical activity and acquire knowledge about healthy choices and practices. Students will explore a variety of physical and health education activities including team sports, individual sports, international sports and activities, and examination of fitness and nutrition components.



WORLD LANGUAGES

Foreign Language IB

PowerSchool # MEX32IB

The study of additional languages is a compulsory component of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP). In this course, students will study the French language and culture. Developing an awareness of the world and learning to communicate in a variety of ways is an essential component of an international education.

Exploration - Mandarin I

Grade 7

PowerSchool # MEX35

This course allows students the opportunity to explore the Mandarin language and culture. Students will be introduced to basic vocabulary and language structures as well as Chinese customs, traditions, and ways of life.

Exploration - Mandarin II

Grade 8

PowerSchool # MEX36

In this course, students will continue to develop Mandarin vocabulary and language skills and examine Chinese culture.

Mandarin Immersion I /Mandarin Immersion II

Grade 7 / Grade 8

PowerSchool # M7MI01 / M8MI01

Mandarin Immersion is an immersion course designed to continue students' study of the Mandarin language and culture at the intermediate proficiency level.

Mandarin Chinese 1-2 (High School Credit)

PowerSchool # HFL30Y

This course is an introduction to the Mandarin Chinese language and culture. Students learn vocabulary and basic language structures through conversation and written expression.

Mandarin Chinese 3-4 (High School Credit)

PowerSchool #HFL31Y

This course is part of a special program that expands and refines vocabulary, language structure, and knowledge of Chinese cultures. Students should expect to communicate in conversation and written expression.

Spanish 1-2 (High School Credit)

PowerSchool # HFL01Y

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Students learn vocabulary and basic language structures through conversation and written expression.

**Spanish 3-4 H** (High School Credit)**PowerSchool # HFL02YHN**

As part of the Renaissance Program, this advanced level course emphasizes the language and culture utilizing techniques from the AP curriculum. Students will engage in rigorous academic activities involving conversation and written expression as preparation for the Spanish 5-6 Honors, as well as the AP Spanish program in the 10th through 12th grades. This class requires summer reading.

NON DEPARTMENTAL COURSE**AVID****PowerSchool # MEX41**

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID students are provided with a rigorous college preparation curriculum and given support in organizational habits, notetaking and study skills, time management, and goal setting.

Leadership**PowerSchool # MEX22**

This course will expose students to the habits, practices, and mindset of effective leaders. Through project-based learning, students will develop teamwork and communication skills. Students in this course may serve on the school's student council.

Teaching Assistant**PowerSchool # MTA03**

Students work under the supervision of a teacher, counselor, or clerical staff member to assist with tasks related to the efficient functioning of the classroom or school. This is a Pass/Fail course.

Transition**PowerSchool # MNC02**

Transition is assigned to students who take courses on the high school campus to allow for travel. This is a non-graded course.

SUPPORT - ACADEMIC**Academic Academy****PowerSchool # MEX02**

Academic Academy provides students with academic intervention based on specific needs identified by screening or benchmark assessments. Enrollment in Academic Academy is flexible, allowing students to move in and out of the course and returning to exploratory coursework based on analysis of individual student achievement and growth.

**Differentiated Student Support****PowerSchool # MEX40**

Differentiated Student Support courses provide differentiated instruction based on student need. Differentiated support may include intervention for students based on needs identified in benchmark assessments or enrichment opportunities for students working on or above level. Differentiated Student Support is a Pass/Fail course.

Learning Center Supplemental**PowerSchool # MEX15LC**

This course is designed to meet the needs of students as determined by their IEP. Services provided during the learning center supplemental course should address the student's IEP goals and may include support in the following areas: reading, writing or math skills remediation, social skills, self-help, self-management, and social awareness.