



Deer Valley USD Middle Level Elective and Exploratory Course Guide

2017-2018

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

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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 visit the school's website.

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

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 # MEX

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 I

Grade 7

PowerSchool # MEX33

This course provides information on decision-making, problem-solving, goal setting, money management, career pathways, personal success in the world of work and simulation of life as a working adult.

Explorations - Family and Consumer Science II

Grade 8

PowerSchool # MEX34

This course provides students with continued opportunities to develop problem-solving skills and goal setting ability. Students examine personal finance, career choices, and aspects life management.

Explorations - Project Math PowerSchool

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

Students learn real-world lessons on what it takes to solve problems through innovation. They will conduct research and a market analysis, determine their business model, create branding, and a social media strategy, develop a pitch and presentation, and create action steps.

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.

Explorations – Woodworking**PowerSchool # MEX20**

This course provides opportunities for students to design and make projects in a woodworking lab. Students will learn about and apply safety procedures, develop millwork techniques, and employ design principles.

Career Action Labs I**Grade 7****PowerSchool # MCT01**

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

Career Action Labs II**Grade 8****PowerSchool # MCT02**

This course builds on the skill set learned in the Career Action Lab 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 work environments.



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

Using the Arizona State Standards for Geography, this class will provide an understanding of the human and physical characteristics of the Earth. The students will be able to understand local, national, and global issues through the study of geography.

Humanities - Literature Studies Grades 7 and 8

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 be introduced to the language, arts, music, literature, foods, religions, customs, and holidays of a variety of cultures in today's global community.

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

Grade 7

PowerSchool # MFA02

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

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

Grade 8

PowerSchool # MFA03

This course will teach the basic elements of drawing. The students will learn perceptual skills as well as apply The Elements of Art and Principles of Design. The course will focus on line, shape, form, perspective, and value scales. The techniques being taught will include shadowing, cross hatching, stippling, and blending with three shades (light, medium, dark).

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****Grade 7****PowerSchool # MFA12**

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 II**Grade 8****PowerSchool # 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.

Chorus I**Grade 7****PowerSchool # MFA10**

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, regional, and state events.

**Chorus II****Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA11**

This course enables students to build upon the skills and knowledge acquired at intermediate level. As students perform choral works and sight-read materials, they expand their performance abilities and creativity. Through the collaborative environment of the choral setting, students demonstrate teamwork and display leadership skills. They develop an understanding of and an appreciation for vocal/instrumental music and its relationship to other disciplines. Students are provided with opportunities to participate in local, district, regional, 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**Grade 7****PowerSchool # MFA09**

This course will allow students to develop both a degree of performing skills and content knowledge. In addition to performance, student outcomes will include knowledge of music's structure, elements, historical style, etc. as well as some experience in improvising or composing rhythms and melodies.

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****Grade 8****PowerSchool # 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 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**Grade 7****PowerSchool # MFA15**

For 7th Grade - This course includes instrumental music instruction, training and performance with a focus on guitar.

Guitar II**Grade 8****PowerSchool # MFA16**

For 8th Grade - 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 class 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. Instructor must be properly certified.

Health II

Grade 8

PowerSchool # M8PE3

This class will provide students with the skills and knowledge to make positive health decisions. Instructor must be properly certified.

Fitness and Conditioning I

Grade 7

PowerSchool # M7PE02

For 7th Grade - Students set personal fitness goals and work towards attaining those goals through individual and team activities.

Fitness and Conditioning II

Grade 8

PowerSchool # M8PE02

For 8th Grade - Students set personal fitness goals and work towards attaining those goals through individual and team activities.

Physical Education I

Grade 7

PowerSchool # M7PE01

For 7th Grade - 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.



Physical Education II

Grade 8

PowerSchool # M8PE01

For 8th Grade - 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.

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 Spanish 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**Grade 7****PowerSchool # M7MI01**

7th grade Mandarin Immersion is a partial immersion course designed to continue students' study of the Mandarin language and culture at the intermediate proficiency level.

Mandarin Immersion II**Grade 8****PowerSchool # M8MI01**

8th grade Mandarin Immersion is a partial immersion course designed to further 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 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 COURSES

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

Grade 8

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 – Math

PowerSchool #MEX03

Academic Academy Math provides students with academic intervention for Math 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/elective coursework based on analysis of individual student achievement and growth. Academic Academy courses are Pass/Fail courses.

Academic Academy - Reading

PowerSchool # MEX01

Academic Academy Reading provides students with academic intervention for Reading 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. Academic Academy courses are Pass/Fail courses.

Differentiated Student Support

PowerSchool # MEX40

Differentiated Student Support courses are offered in the exploratory/elective block to 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.