



HILLCREST
Middle School



DEER VALLEY
Unified School District

2024-2025 Continuum of Gifted Services

Gifted Specialist: kimberly.christensen@dvusd.org

	Gifted Services Provided
Grades 7 & 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifted Cluster Placement • Renaissance Highly Gifted & Global Studies Program • Advanced content classes in all core subject areas • High School Algebra and Spanish for qualifying students • STEM classes • Career Action Labs 1 & 2 • Band, Choir, & Theater Arts
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in the Renaissance Program are eligible to take High School Spanish 1-2
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School Spanish 1-2 for qualifying students • High School Spanish 3-4 for students completing Spanish 1-2 • Students in the Renaissance Program will also receive High School English Language Arts for credit
Extra-Curricular Activities & Programs	<p>Drama Robotics National Junior Honor Society</p> <p>After School Clubs Student Council Middle School Athletics</p> <p>Global Studies Academy – Model UN</p>

Hillcrest Mission Statement: We are committed to nurturing an innovative environment where students discover their unique potential by facilitating academic and personal growth, cultivating relationships, modeling integrity, and encouraging collaboration.

Gifted Testing Placement –

Students are assessed in three areas (Verbal, Quantitative, & Nonverbal) using the CogAT assessment. Hillcrest offers gifted services for students who score at or above 94% in one or more areas. Placement testing occurs at least 3 times per year based on teacher and parent recommendation. Students may also qualify based on other state approved gifted identification assessments. Students may only participate in testing once per calendar year. Parents are able to register for gifted testing on our DVUSD Gifted Services Website at Giftedservices@dvusd.org.

Hillcrest.dvusd.org



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Engaging Students & Supporting Their Potential

Gifted Program Details –

2024-2025 Description of Gifted Services

Gifted Cluster Placement: Gifted identified learners and students who demonstrate academic potential may be placed in one our Advanced Gifted Cluster courses. In these courses, students are given opportunities for enrichment and extension through novel studies, non-fiction studies, choice boards, project-based learning research reports, accelerated math and reading, independent studies, and technology.

Walk-Up to Math: Students who score at the 94th percentile (or higher) on a state-approved gifted assessment and earn a passing score on the DVUSD Middle School Math Placement Test (80% or higher) are eligible to be placed in the above grade level's gifted cluster math class for instruction. In this model, the content is taught by the above grade level teacher in the above grade level classroom. Students who are new to Deer Valley and come close (but do not quite) meet these requirements may be provisionally placed depending on their previous enrollment. The walk-up model applies through 8th grade Math. After 8th grade Math, students working above grade level would be enrolled in a high school Algebra 1-2 Honors course and begin receiving high school Math credits.

Renaissance Highly Gifted & Global Studies Program: All students in this program are in a gifted classroom with a highly qualified, gifted endorsed teacher for all core academic subjects. Students in Renaissance are also involved in the Global Studies Academy, which involves Foreign Language opportunities to earn high school credits in Spanish (both as 7th graders with Spanish 1-2 and as 8th graders with Spanish 3-4). Mandarin is also offered to our incoming immersion students.

7th Grade Arizona Standards in Social Studies will be taught along with integrated global studies. The content focus will be viewed through historical and geographical lenses. Seventh grade students will understand the relationships and interactions between societies and cultures in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. United States history will be taught as it intersects with global issues. Example: American Revolution is studied and its effect on other revolutions around the world (French, Latin America, and Russian).

8th Grade Arizona Standards in Social Studies will be taught along with citizenship and civic engagement. Eighth grade students will make connections between historical and current/recent issues as a base for implementing change in society. Students will recognize and practice their roles and responsibilities as both American and global citizens. Example: Students create and showcase a website that discusses solutions to global issues that occur all over the world.

In order to be considered for placement into Hillcrest's Renaissance Program, families must complete the online application. Placement criteria and application information are available at www.dvUSD.org/renaissance. Please contact DVUSD Gifted Services at 623-445-5588 or Giftedservices@dvUSD.org.

