



DEER VALLEY
Unified School District



**Renaissance
Highly Gifted Program
at Hillcrest Middle School**



Global Studies



Hillcrest: A Great Choice for Gifted Learners

1

A-Rated School

2

True Middle
School Model

3

Advanced Academic
Opportunities & Engaging
Elective Choices

4

Clubs, Activities
and Sports

5

Social Emotional
Learning and
Supports

6

Global
Studies

A-Rated

Through quality instruction and work with our PLC teams, Hillcrest is an A-Rated School.



Middle School Model vs. Junior High

Junior High Model

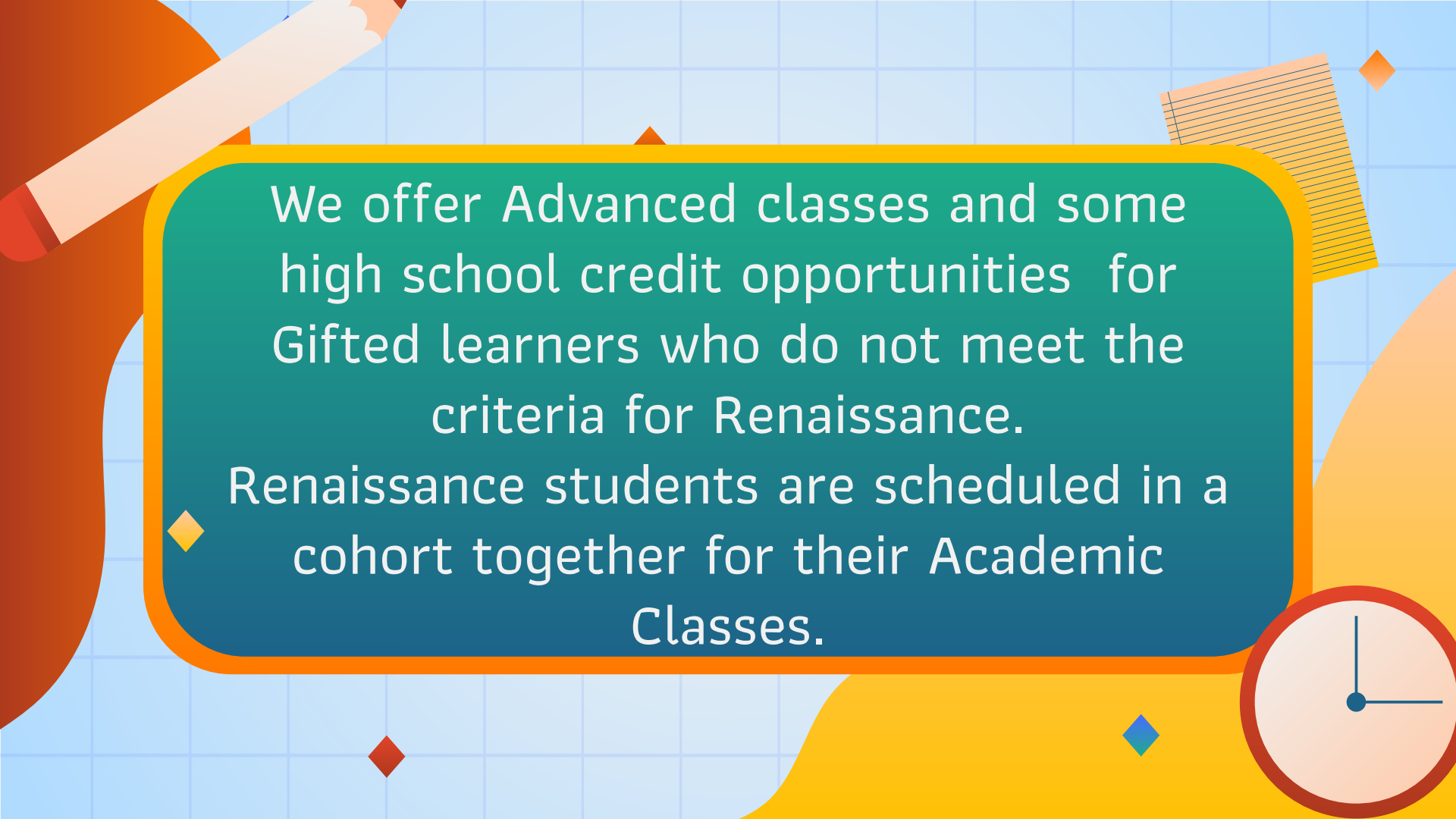
- An entire grade level is scheduled so they are mixed in with the entire campus. This is the same way students are scheduled in a high school.

Middle School Model

- Students are scheduled into core teams which creates small schools within the school. Core team consists of an ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science Teacher. That group of four teachers are assigned a group of students. The Renaissance gifted students will be assigned to a core team and will be a cohort on that team. This will ensure they have some of their peers in their elective classes despite the diverse offerings.
- Core teams help our students develop closer relationships with their peers, allow for more cross curricular planning opportunities and emotional support.

Middle School Core Teams



The background is a light blue grid pattern. In the top left, there is a stylized pencil with a red eraser and a yellow body. In the top right, there is a yellow notepad with horizontal lines. In the bottom right, there is a circular clock face with a red border and black hands. Several small, colorful diamonds (orange, red, blue) are scattered across the background.

We offer Advanced classes and some high school credit opportunities for Gifted learners who do not meet the criteria for Renaissance.

◆ Renaissance students are scheduled in a cohort together for their Academic Classes.

High School Credit Opportunities

Subject	7th Grade	8th Grade	Summer 8th- 9th
Math	<p>Algebra 1-2 H [For gifted students who completed Math 8 in 6th Grade Note - All other gifted students will take Math 8 in 7th grade.</p>	<p>Algebra 1-2 H for students who completed math 8. Geometry 1-2 H for students who completed Algebra 1-2H [Note- this class is taken on Aspire or at the high school 1st hour].</p>	
Foreign Language	<p>Foreign Language 1-2 [Renaissance Students Only]</p>	<p>Foreign Language 3-4 [Renaissance Students Only Who completed Foreign Language 1-2] Foreign Language 1-2 All 8th grade students</p>	
English		<p>English Language Arts 1-2 H [Renaissance Students Only]</p>	
Physical Education/ Health			<p>PE/Health through Aspire - *Note there is a fee for this class</p>

Electives

Career Action Lab	Paxton Patterson Lab with an emphasis on medical careers
STEM I and II	Gateway to Technology - Engineering Focus
Art	Drawing, painting and ceramics
Band	Wind and percussion (our band is intermediate level so some music experience is required)
Chorus	Singing and performing
Performance and Literary Works (Drama)	In class acting and improv activities
Physical Education	They are sorted by theme so you can use them in all kinds of presentations
Spanish 1-2 and 3-4	High School Credit
Mandarin 1-2 and 3-4	High School Credit (*Desert Sage Mandarin Immersion students only)
Creative Publications	This class is for 8th grade students. School announcement class, yearbook and newsletter.
Project Math and Project Science	This class is a semester long project based class to help engage students. Students do activities such as create an escape room or do a bowling activity to learn probability and distance.

Engaging Electives



Art



Performance and Literary Works - Drama Class



Physical Education



Creative Publications - Announcement Class

◆ STEM and Career Action Labs



STEM - Engineering Focus



**Career Action Lab
Medical STEM**



Sports

Fall	Winter	Spring
Boys Baseball	Volleyball	Basketball
Girls Softball	*Cross Country	*Track and Field
Spiritline [All Year] - Cheer and Pom	*Wrestling	*These are no cut sports

For questions about Sports Contact our Athletic Director Courtney Biller -
courtney.biller@dvusd.org

Clubs and Activities

Student Council	Contact - tracey.brody@dvusd.org , clara.valdes@dvusd.org
NJHS [National Junior Honor Society]	8th grade students - Community service projects - madeleine.krull@dvusd.org
Drama Club	Perform a play in the fall and in the spring - jane.jennewine@dvusd.org
Anime Club	Run by Art teacher - create Art and talk about Anime - heaven.weary@dvusd.org
Game Club	Play board games such as checkers and chess and some interactive games such as “One night Werewolf” - madeleine.krull@dvusd.org
FCA [Fellowship of Christian Athletes]	Friday morning meetings twice a month for games and fellowship. - courtney.biller@dvusd.org
Jazz Band	Practices after school and performs at Band concerts - brandyn.leverage@dvusd.org
Community Ed Morning Weightlifting	Before school two days a week in our weight room - kenneth.bloomfield@dvusd.org
Model UN	Students research issues and information on the countries of the world and then represent those countries in a general assembly meeting as well as various council meetings. Students learn the complex global connections of our modern world through research, debate, collaboration, and problem solving. - jakob.baker@dvusd.org

Clubs



Social Emotional Lessons - SEL

Each month SEL lessons focus on a theme. For example, the theme for November is Being Thankful. Lessons are created by members of the SIT committee on campus and are presented to students once a week during FLEX time.



Social Emotional Support

- There are two full time counselors at Hillcrest and each are assigned a grade level Counselors move up with their students and students are assigned the same counselor for their time at Hillcrest. Students are able to see their counselor by request.
- The counseling office has a quiet room for students to use if they need a break during the day. A couch, coloring pages, a glider chair, fidget toys to help provide a calming environment.
- SEL lessons are taught by the counselor to Renaissance students during FLEX time once a week.
- We have two 7th grade lunches and two 8th grade lunches to ensure a smaller safe environment.
- The Renaissance students will be scheduled at the same lunch.



100% of our Falcon staff specialize
in the adolescent student.
We help students to:



◆ **GROW**



DISCOVER

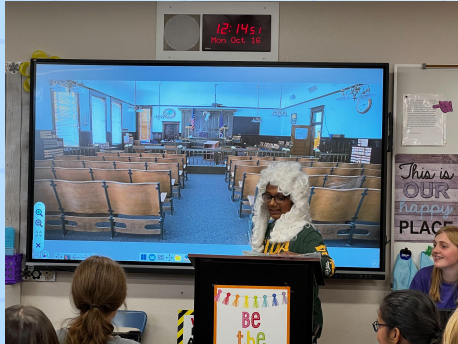


LAUNCH ◆

Inquiry-Based Learning

The Trial of the “Old Man” in Tell Tale Heart In Mrs. Jennewine’s 8th Grade Renaissance ELA 1-2 H Class

Board Game Creation in Ms. Valdes’ 7th Grade Renaissance Social Studies Class



FLEX Time Intervention and Enrichment



Global Awareness Overview



◆ Foreign Language

◆ Curricular Connections

◆ Extra Curricular Activities



Foreign language opportunities will be available to Renaissance students starting in 7th Grade. Currently we offer Spanish and Mandarin*

*Mandarin is currently offered only to students who attended an immersion program in elementary school.

Foreign Language

7th Grade AZ Standards in SS Integrated Global Studies



- ◆ The content focus will be viewed through historical and geographic 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 American, and Russian)

8th Grade AZ Standards in SS 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.*



Hillcrest offers Model UN as an after school program which connects to our Global Studies Renaissance program. Students research issues and information on the countries of the world and then represent those countries in a general assembly meeting as well as various council meetings. Students learn the complex global connections of our modern world through research, debate, collaboration, and problem solving.

Model UN @ Hillcrest!



Questions Related to Gifted Services?
kimberly.christensen@advusd.org

Questions Related to Academics, Electives, & Clubs?
renea.herold@advusd.org

Questions Related to Anything Else?
brad.brazell@advusd.org





If you are interested in applying

Renaissance Application Information -

<https://www.dvusd.org/domain/12747>

Open Enrollment Application

(only needed if you reside outside of the Hillcrest boundaries)

<https://www.dvusd.org/openenrollment>

If you are interested in Gifted Testing please visit -

<https://www.dvusd.org/giftedtesting>

Visit the Hillcrest website for more information

<https://www.dvusd.org/hillcrest>