2025-2026

6th Grade Electives Descriptions

Exploratory Wheel

1. **Career and College Enhansement**-9 Weeks
   This elective course provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in school and beyond. College and Career Enhancement is an elective course for grades 6, 7, and 8 with content specific curriculum that emphasizes self-advocacy, perseverance, and academic grit. Students receive the necessary knowledge to ensure successful transitions to college and career through instructional activities in self-knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, collaboration, problem solving, goal setting and organization.

2. **Multi-Cultural Exploratory**-9 Weeks
   The intent of this multicultural exploratory course is to spark an interest in continued language study. This course is designed for students to acquire basic knowledge of world cultures. Limited emphasis is placed on language acquisition. Students will investigate concepts from the target cultures and engage in process-based learning to examine essential questions. Students will be able to recognize some familiar words and phrases in the languages of the target cultures studied.

3. **Introduction to Computers/Keyboarding**-9 weeks
   Emphasis is placed on building keyboard skills and Digital Citizenship. This class is intended for 6th grade students as an introduction to basic Microsoft Office skills and the use of the Internet as a research tool.

4. **Art**-9 Weeks
   This course is a beginning level course that will help students understand, identify, and demonstrate the Elements and Principles of Design in historical and peer works of art, and in the creation of their own works of art using a variety of 2D mediums such as drawing and painting. Students will learn how to apply techniques of art materials in the creation of their own work. Students will also understand the design process in order to revise and further the development of their work. Art careers and projects will be explored.
   At varying levels, students will learn the elements of music, how to read music and concepts of music history.

Band:
Band placement will be determined by ability and experience levels, per Band Director. Band class includes Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion instruments that play in an ensemble together. Students perform in concerts, school assemblies, parades, festivals, and more. Field trips are a large part of the band experience. If you like to play an instrument, enjoy being involved in school functions, and going on trips, this is the class for you. Students bond and make music together in so many different settings in band.

Choir:
Choirs are available for different experience levels – all singers are welcome to join and more experienced singers are encouraged to audition for our smaller choir. All groups perform a mixture of works from a variety of time periods, languages, and students' requests. Field trips and festivals are offered each year and performing at school assemblies, sporting events, and other opportunities may be offered.

Investigations:
NOTE: This course is designed for Gifted (CGP and/or Honors) identified students. PBL/Genius Hour format: student driven opportunity to engage in meaningful research and exploration of a topic of the students' choice which culminates in a multi-media presentation as the demonstration of knowledge. Students will adhere to a timeline aligned to their topic of exploration meeting checkpoint benchmarks throughout the course. Each checkpoint will be highlighted with a key artifact.

Robotics:
This course is designed to teach core computer programming logic and reasoning skills using a robotics engineering context. It will provide an introduction to robotics for students with some, limited or no programming background using LEGO MINDSTORMS NXT and EV3 kits. Students will learn to construct, control and program these robots through investigative and exploration activities. Research projects will expose the students to the STEAM engineering process. *Note: This is a semester class that is linked to Technology & 3D Print Design for the other semester.*

Student Government:
This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to develop and enrich their leadership skills while promoting a positive school climate, school spirit and community involvement. Throughout this class students will implement strategies and techniques involving literacy in relation to various forms of communication. *Application Required

DLI Mandarin 1A:
This course introduces students to the basic vocabulary and grammar along with culture practices of the countries in which the target language is spoken. Methods are used to emphasize the three modes of communication: presentational, interpersonal, and interpretive. The targeted proficiency level is Novice-Mid. This course, when followed by Language Level B, is designed to meet World Language level I course competencies. Students must pass the end of year comprehensive assessment with a 70% or better and earn a 'C' or better both semesters to continue with Level B. (DLI-Mandarin Program requisite)

Orchestra:
Orchestra is a year course for beginning and advancing strings players learn in a group setting. Previous experience is recommended but not required. Students give public performances, compete regionally, and travel. All students are required to have and care for an instrument and may need to purchase a textbook. Students are also expected to practice outside of the school day. Strings violin, viola, cello and string bass. Guitar, electric bass and piano are not taught, although they may be featured as a second instrument.

Physical Education:
This course is a semester-long course but may be taken both semesters during any or all middle school academic years due to differentiated curriculum at each grade level. Physical Education students learn the value of exercise, proper nutrition, sun safety, cardiovascular fitness, health physiology, and how to incorporate fitness in their everyday lifestyles. A strong emphasis is placed on promoting a positive self-image for all students. Our objective is to assist each student to develop physically, emotionally, and mentally. We believe these skills will help students establish a lifetime appreciation of the value of fitness. Character and fair play are incorporated into all activities, including individual, team and lifetime sports, and fitness activities. Students take part in cross curricular activities to consider how Wellness integrates into other content areas. SUSD Middle Level Physical Education aims to promote the development of healthy habits and an awareness of wellness as students are encouraged to consider physical fitness plans for life.

Theatre Arts:
At varying levels, the Theatre Arts courses introduce a variety of opportunities to explore performance and technique development. Early concepts include public speaking, pantomime, monologues, puppetry, and stage performance. Additional opportunities may include improvisation, theatre history, theatre tech, staging, storytelling and script writing.

Technology & 3D Print Design:
This course will provide the students with the chance to learn programs for digital video production, web-based programs including Google Apps/Sites, and a computer-aided design (CAD) program using STEAM learning to create project based 3-D print design. Students will explore digital citizenship resources, their "digital footprint", digital privacy and technology in historical content. Students will complete a 20 Time Project for real-world problem solving. Some keyboarding practice is included.
Note: This is a semester class that is linked to Robotics for the other semester.

Video Production/Journalism:
This course is intended for students who are interested in the aspects of video production. Students will learn skills to design, write and edit in a variety of video genres. The focus will be to create and produce the DCTV9 news daily announcements via live streaming and/or the DCTV9 News website. Students will learn about developing concepts, script writing, acting on camera, filming, directing, editing, Google Sites and producing a video production.

Yearbook:
This course gives students the opportunity to record the school's history for the year. Students focus on using digital photography and publishing software to produce a digital yearbook. Emphasis is on teamwork, time management, and responsibility. Students also learn marketing and budgeting skills. *Application Required

Mathematics Placement

The math diagnostics tests given to all students in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades are aptitude tests designed to assess a student's readiness to accelerate in math. This allows students the opportunity to demonstrate readiness yearly. By using this test as one of the main indicators for math placement, we are identifying students who are indeed ready for more complex concepts.

Students are more successful in all mathematics courses if they have a solid understanding of the standards in math class prerequisites. Thus, decisions about recommending acceleration in math courses at the middle level are made very thoughtfully and in the best interest of students. It is important to note that the rigor expected in the Arizona Standards for Mathematics and the instructional materials in all K-8 Math classes promote a deeper understanding of math for all of our students, regardless of the math class in which they are placed.