DESERT CANYON

COURSE REQUEST GUIDE for Parents

2025-26



Introductions

Mr. Akhbari – Principal

Mrs. Holmes – Assistant Principal

- Student Services
- 504 coordinator
- Student discipline

Mrs. Ross – Guidance Counselor

- Academic guidance
- Student support

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Purpose:

- To review and understand the course request process and answer questions about courses.



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Topics

- Completing the Course Request form
- Core Classes
- Specialized Programs
- Enrichment / Elective Courses
- What is the Explorative Wheel?
- Course Descriptions
- Application Required courses
- Upcoming Events
- Course Request due date

A

DCMS 6th Grade Course Request Form
2025 – 2026

Student Name: _____ Student ID #_____

Current School: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE FILL OUT THE BACK SIDE OF THIS FORM WITH YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION
BE SURE TO READ THE DIRECTIONS THAT ACCOMPANIES THIS FORM

Core Classes
All 6th Grade Students will be enrolled in "4 Core Classes" (Math, Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts), Lion' Time/Advisory, and Lunch.
Math placement is based on the District's matrix, and/or placement test

Specialized Programs
Please check the appropriate box, if you are currently enrolled in either specialized program

☐ Comprehensive Gifted Program (Students must have Qualified though the District Gifted Department)

☐ Dual Language Immersion - Mandarin 1A & Science (5th grade Program Enrollment prerequisite)

Honors ELA
Students registering for honors English Language Arts will be scheduled into an honors level course as space allows. Students who score highest on the matrix/indicators will be scheduled into honors classes first, among all students registering for the honors course. There's a limit of 33 spaces available. (Honors Application Required – See attached)

Is the student interested in Honors ELA Yes☐(Attach application) No☐

Enrichment Classes (Elective)
All 6th grade students will be enrolled in the **Exploration Wheel** and have a choice of a second elective.

Note: The "Exploration Wheel" is a nine-week rotation consisting of Career & College Enhancement, Computers (focus on Digital Citizenship), Art, and Multi-Cultural Exploration.

Directions: Mark an X for up to 4 (four) choices.

☐ Band - Did you play in 5th grade? ☐Y or ☐N If so, what instrument? _____

☐ Orchestra - Did you play in 5th grade? ☐Y or ☐N If so, what instrument? _____

☐ Choir

☐ Student Government ** (limited number (11) of seats available)

☐ Video Production

☐ Physical Education

☐ Yearbook** (limited number (11) of seats available per grade)

☐ Investigations (Gifted & Honors student only)

☐ Theatre Arts

☐ Technology- 3D printing / Robotic

** Teacher recommendation and application required
DCMS reserves the right to adjust your schedule to meet your academic needs first. You may not get the elective you have chosen due to scheduling constraints. Please be flexible.**

Students selecting Student Government or Yearbook
Application is required for these leadership courses.
Print and attach the application to this course request form.

https://bit.ly/3WWZUJO

****DCMS reserves the right to adjust your schedule to meet your academic needs first. You may not get the elective you have chosen due to scheduling constraints. Please be flexible.****

By signing below: My student and I have worked together to review and choose classes. I am aware and agree that academic core courses take priority when creating a schedule.

Print Parent / Guardian's Name: _____.

Phone #: _____. Cell Phone: _____.

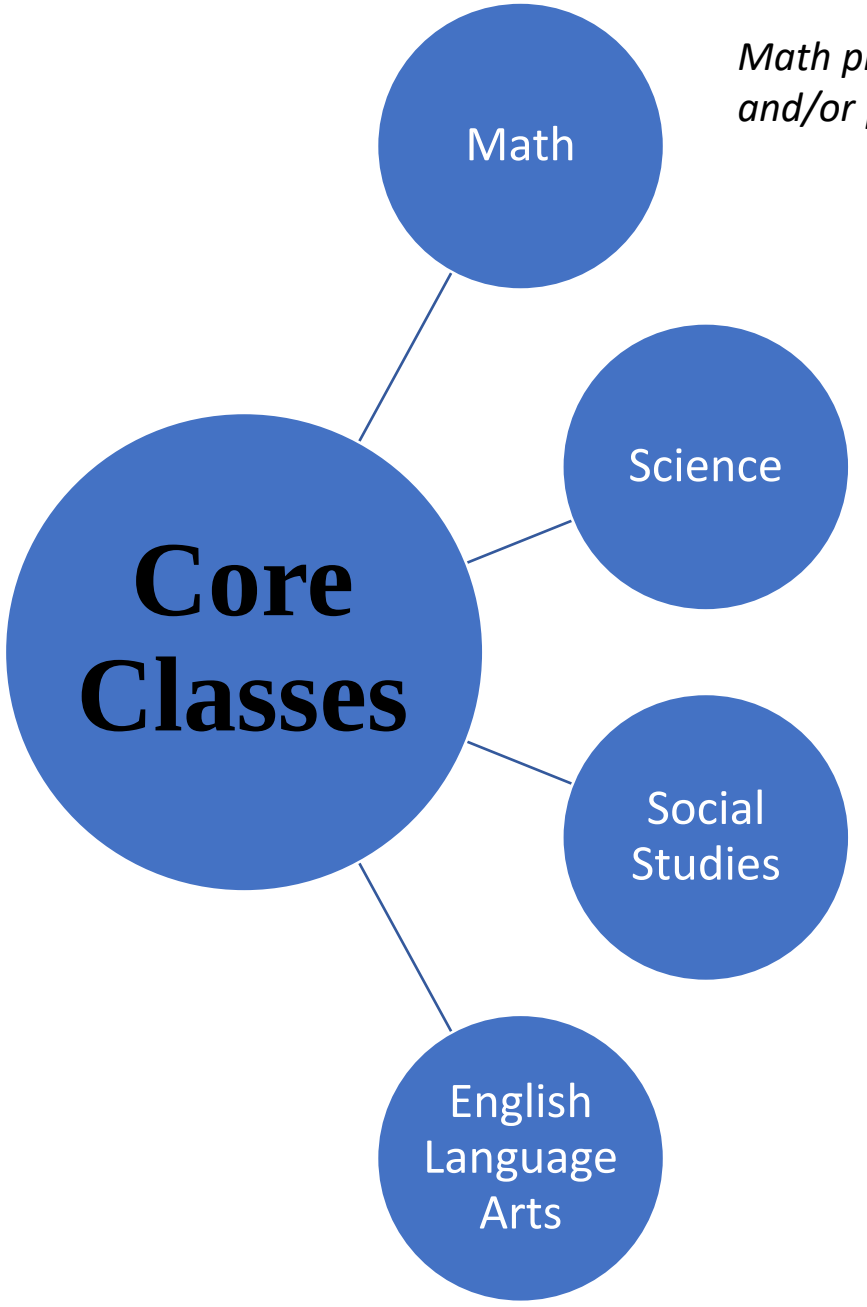
Email Address: _____.

Student Signature: _____. Parent Signature: _____.

For more information about course descriptions, copy and paste this into the URL bar
https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1715789743/susdorg/enngyssxrpxmazcn6wm5/s_5d_info_Middle-School-Planning-Guide-sy2425_English.pdf

How to complete the Course Request form

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Math placement is based on the District's matrix, and/or placement test.

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Specialized Programs at DCMS

- Honors - ELA *
- Comprehensive Gifted Program (CGP) *
- Dual Language Immersion (DLI) – Mandarin **

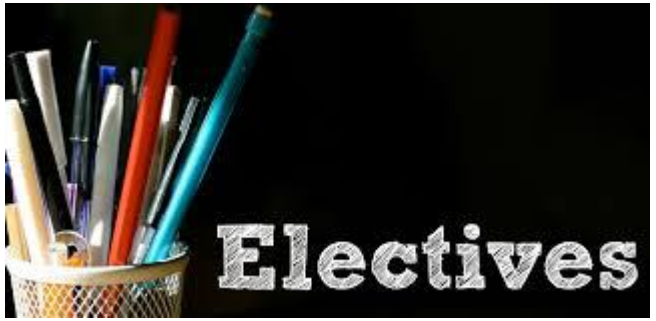
Additional Enrichment Programs:

Music – Band, Orchestra and Choir

*Application Required
** Previous Enrollment required

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Enrichment / Elective Courses

Student Choice

+

Exploratory Wheel

→

2 Electives

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The Exploratory Wheel



Career and College Enhancement-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.

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 a 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.

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.

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.

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Course Descriptions

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 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.

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.

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.

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Course Descriptions Continued

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 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.

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.

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Courses Requiring an Application & Teacher Recommendation

Yearbook

Student Government

https://bit.ly/3WWZUJO

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Extra Curricular Activities

- Full Middle School Sports
- Award winning Robotics club
- Designated a NO Place for Hate school 6years in a round
- Video Journalism
- Before school math tutoring
- Band, orchestra and choir competitions at Disney
- Honor roll & Principal list distinction awards
- Grade level field trips
- National Junior Honor Society School

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Course Request Due

January 31st

to your homeroom teacher

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Mark Your Calendar

Middle School Survival Guide

May 7th, 2025

5:30 – 6:30

Mountain Lion's Camp

July 25th, 2025

7:30 – 12:00

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This presentation will be posted on the DCMS website

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