



# Course Guide

2026 - 2027

SONORAN  
TRAILS MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

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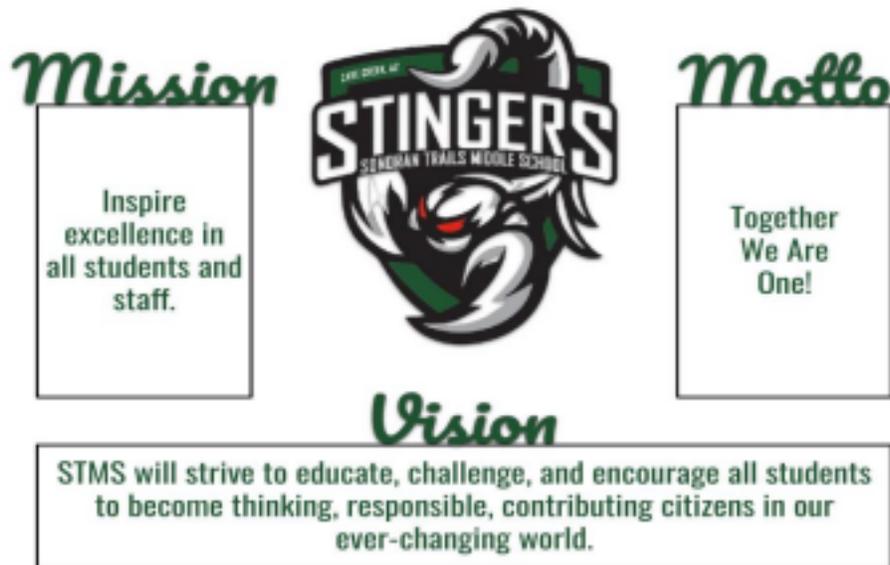
### **District Administration**

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Dr. Ryan Pletnik, Chief Financial Officer

### **Sonoran Trails Middle School**

Mr. David Boggs, Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Reyes, Assistant Principal

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Phoenix, AZ 85054  
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The core beliefs that shape our educational philosophy are extremely important and what we live by at Sonoran Trails Middle School. At the heart of our approach is a commitment to fostering a supportive and enriching environment that nurtures the intellectual, social, and emotional growth of your children.

#### Individualized Learning:

- We recognize that every student is unique, possessing distinct strengths, interests, and learning styles. Our dedicated team of educators is committed to providing individualized attention to ensure that each child reaches their full potential. Through differentiated instruction and personalized support, we aim to inspire a lifelong love for learning.

#### Holistic Development:

- Education extends beyond the classroom, and we embrace a holistic approach to nurturing your child. In addition to academic excellence, we emphasize character development, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Our goal is to prepare students not only for academic success but also for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in life.

#### Inclusive Community:

- At STMS, we celebrate diversity and promote an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and respected. We believe that a diverse community enriches the educational experience and prepares students to thrive in a global society. Our commitment to inclusivity extends to collaboration with parents, ensuring that the school-home partnership is strong and supportive.

#### Social and Emotional Well-being:

- Middle school is a pivotal time in a child's life, and we prioritize their social and emotional well being. Our comprehensive approach includes social-emotional learning programs, counseling services, and a positive school culture that fosters empathy, resilience, and a sense of belonging. We strive to create an environment where students feel safe expressing themselves and developing strong interpersonal skills.

## Registration

Pre-registration is conducted each spring for the following school year. Students will have a planned visit to STMS to see the campus and observe in classes. Following this experience, students will work with the STMS counselors, their teacher, and family to select courses. Prior to the start of the new school year, students will have another opportunity to visit campus for Trail Days where they will meet their new middle school teachers and walk their schedule. Administration will contact families via email or autodial to alert them when schedules are available online. It's important for families to complete their annual update to ensure access to PowerSchools, our student information system (SIS). This will allow you to see your child's schedule, get them a bus route, and see course progress grades throughout the school year.

## Courses Offered

This booklet lists the courses available at Sonoran Trails Middle School. Although a course is listed, it may not be offered every semester if the enrollment number is not sufficient to hold the class. Courses offered may have limited enrollment and can reach capacity. Student requests determine whether a specific course will be offered. Requests do not guarantee placement in a specific class.

## Academic Standards

Core classes at Sonoran Trails Middle School are aligned with the State of Arizona's Academic Standards. To read about the specific standards by core area, please visit the Arizona Department of Education's website: <https://www.azed.gov/standards-practices>

## Honor Roll and Principal's List

Sonoran Trails Middle School takes pride in its high academic standards and honors students who achieve success. Placement on the academic Honor Roll is awarded to all students who have attained a semester average of 90-94.99%. Placement on the Principal's List is awarded to all students who have attained a semester average of 95%-100%. This is determined by adding all grades during the semester and dividing by six. This is the score, and results are not rounded up.

## Explanation of Grades/Honor Roll

Percentage	Letter Grade Equivalent	Grade Point Average
100-90	A	4.0
89-80	B	3.0
79-70	C	2.0
69-60	D	1.0
59 and below	F	0

## **Honors Courses**

Honors classes are for students identified as academically talented as well as for students who display high achievement, work ethic and/or interest in specific areas. These in-depth classes provide a more challenging program with a focus on critical thinking. Students may request honors classes each year through the regular registration process.

Students who elect honors level courses may be required to take a placement exam. In addition, the following factors will be considered to ensure students are enrolled in the best level for their learning:

- Achievement assessment scores (highly proficient and proficient levels)
- Teacher recommendation regarding ability, aptitude, and attitude
- Placement exam score
- Previous year level placement and student's performance
- Grade Point Average (GPA)

## English

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
6th Grade English	6	Year-long
Description:		
<p>6th Grade ELA coursework aligns to the State Standards and focuses on four critical areas of student literacy: 1) the reading of grade-level appropriate literary and informational texts; 2) the writing of various modes, including narrative, informative and persuasive/argumentative; 3) the building of speaking and listening skills through independent and collaborative tasks; 4) the close study and development of language vocabulary. Through standard-aligned units and lessons, students will develop skills in critical analysis and thinking, the writing process, research, and effective communication.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Honors 6th Grade English	6	Year-long
Description:		
<p>This course begins the ELA Honors program in CCUSD, setting the foundational expectations of increased rigor and enrichment that includes higher expectations for student performance. The class will develop critical analysis and reasoning skills. 6th Grade ELA Honors coursework aligns to the State standards and focuses on four critical areas of student literacy: 1) the reading of grade-level appropriate literary and informational texts; 2) the writing of various modes, including narrative, informative and persuasive/argumentative; 3) the building of speaking and listening skills through independent and collaborative tasks; 4) the close study and development of language vocabulary. Through standard-aligned units and lessons, students will develop skills in critical analysis and thinking, the writing process, research, and effective communication.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
7th Grade English	7	Year-long
Description:		
<p>This course builds upon skills developed in 6th grade and creates opportunities for students to apply those skills through an increased focus on progressively more challenging texts and tasks. 7th Grade ELA coursework aligns to the State standards and focuses on four critical areas of student literacy: 1) the reading of grade-level appropriate literary and informational texts; 2) the writing of various modes, including narrative, informative, and persuasive/argumentative; 3) the building of speaking and listening skills through independent and collaborative tasks; 4) the close study and development of language vocabulary. Through standard-aligned units and lessons, students continue to develop skills in critical analysis and thinking, the writing process, research, and effective communication.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Honors 7th Grade English	7	Year-long

**Description:**

This course builds upon the foundations of the 6th Grade Honors ELA class with increased rigor and achievement that includes higher expectations of student study and performance. Students who enroll will continue to develop their skills of critical reading and written analysis. 7th Grade Honors ELA coursework aligns to the State standards and focuses on four critical areas of student literacy: 1) the reading of grade-level appropriate literary and informational texts; 2) the writing of various modes, including narrative, informative and persuasive/argumentative; 3) the building of speaking and listening skills through independent and collaborative tasks; 4) the close study and development of language vocabulary. Through standard-aligned units and lessons, students continue to develop skills in critical analysis and thinking, the writing process, research, and effective communication.

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
8th Grade English	8	Year-long

**Description:**

This course builds upon skills developed in 7th grade and creates opportunities for students to apply those skills through an increased focus on progressively more challenging texts and tasks. 8th Grade ELA coursework aligns to the State standards and focuses on four critical areas of student literacy: 1) the reading of grade-level appropriate literary and informational texts; 2) the writing of various modes, including narrative, informative, and persuasive/argumentative; 3) the building of speaking and listening skills through independent and collaborative tasks; 4) the close study and development of language vocabulary. In 8th grade, argumentation is introduced where students will learn to support a position using evidence and reasoning. Through standard-aligned units and lessons, students continue to develop and strengthen skills in critical analysis and thinking, the writing process, research, and effective communication, while preparing students for the demands of High School coursework.

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Honors 8th Grade English	8	Year-long
Description:		
<p>The design for this Honors course is to continue the deep enrichment and rigor found in the previous classes within the Honors ELA program. 8th Grade ELA coursework aligns to the State standards and focuses on four critical areas of student literacy: 1) the reading of grade-level appropriate literary and informational texts; 2) the writing of various modes, including narrative, informative, and persuasive/argumentative; 3) the building of speaking and listening skills through independent and collaborative tasks; 4) the close study and development of language vocabulary. In 8th grade, argumentation is introduced where students will learn to support a position using evidence and reasoning. Through standard-aligned units and lessons, students continue to develop and strengthen skills in critical analysis and thinking, the writing process, research, and effective communication, while preparing them for the demands of High School coursework.</p>		

### **English Language Development**

All students who enter Cave Creek schools with a Primary Home Language Other Than English (PHLOTE) are screened with the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA) to determine their proficiency in English.

ARS 15-756.01 requires that all middle school English learners receive 100 minutes of English Language Development (ELD) instruction per day, five hundred minutes per week or three hundred hours per school year.

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
English Language Learning Lab	6,7,8	Year-long
Description:		
<p>This course will provide students with an identified English language need with access to high-quality education and the supports for success to include, at a minimum, integrated and targeted English Language Development, as well as providing extracurricular academic support, and adopting a program focused on postsecondary readiness. This course will provide competency in academic subjects such as mathematics, science, and social studies.</p>		

## Mathematics

STMS offers three pathways in math in order to meet a variety of student learning aptitudes. All levels include the rigorous AZ State Standards. The recommendation for advanced and accelerated math is thoughtfully done in order to ensure a student is at the level he/she is best prepared to be successful in. Considerations for advanced and accelerated courses will be based on state assessment scores, student grades, and a placement exam given at the middle school.

On Grade Level		Advanced		Accelerated	
6	6th Grade Mathematics	6	Honors 6th Grade Mathematics	6	6/7th Grade: Pre Algebra
7	7th Grade Mathematics	7	6/7th Grade: Pre Algebra	7	Algebra I
8	8th Grade Math: Pre-Algebra	8	Algebra I	8	Honors Geometry

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
6th Grade Mathematics	6	Year-long
Description:		
<p>The instruction provided in this course of study follows the 6th grade State standards and will focus on three critical areas: 1) develop understanding of ratio and rate and use multiplicative reasoning to solve ratio and rate problems; 2) develop competency of division of whole numbers and fractions and extend the notion of number to the system of rational numbers; and 3) develop understanding of expressions, equations, and inequalities.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Honors 6th Grade Mathematics	6	Year-long
Description:		
<p>This accelerated course will follow all the State standards for 6th grade math and selected State standards for 7th grade math. The course will focus on four critical areas: 1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; 2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; 3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and 4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Students will also learn to reason about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume. After successful completion of this course, students will be prepared for Honors 7th Grade Mathematics.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
7th Grade Mathematics	7	Year-long
Description:		
<p>The instruction provided in this course of study follows the 7th grade State standards and will focus on two critical areas: 1) develop understanding of proportional relationships, and 2) develop understanding of operations with rational numbers and work with expressions, inequalities, and linear equations.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
6th/7th Grade: Pre-Algebra	6,7	Year-long
Description:		
<p>This accelerated course will follow all the State standards for 7th grade math and selected State standards for 8th grade math. The course will focus on four critical areas: 1) develop understanding of and applying proportional relationships; 2) develop understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 3) solving problems involving scale drawings and geometric constructions and working with two- and three dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and 4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. After successful completion of this course, students will be prepared for Algebra I.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
8th Grade Math: Pre-Algebra	8	Year-long
Description:		
<p>The instruction provided in this course of study follows the 8th grade State standards and will focus on three critical areas: 1) develop understanding of expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; 2) develop understanding of the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships; and 3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, congruence, and understanding, and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Algebra I	7,8	Year-long
Description:		
<p>This course is designed to introduce the skills, strategies, and vocabulary involved in algebraic problem solving. It includes algebra concepts, functions, probability, statistics, analysis of graphs and charts, number theory, and connections to geometry. Emphasis will be on skills and application of the concepts of algebra and building a strong foundation for continuing the study of mathematics.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration	
Honors Geometry	8	2 Semesters	CSHS 2863
<b>Description:</b>			
<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Algebra I with a grade of 'A' or 'B' and site approval.</p> <p>This is an accelerated course in plane and solid geometry for superior students who have proven their exceptional interest, ability, and industry in math. The content of the regular geometry course will be covered in depth, with additional topics in analytic geometry and trigonometry. Placement will be determined by the teacher and/or administrator.</p> <p>NOTE: Students enrolled in Honors Geometry will earn High School credit on their High School transcript. Completion of this honors level high school course earns the student 1.0 high school math credit, which will be factored into the student's GPA. The credit is weighted due to the Honors level and designation. Depending on course enrollment, students may take this course at Cactus Shadows High School where transportation will be provided.</p>			

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration	
Math Lab	6,7,8	Semester	
<b>Description:</b>			
<p>Math Lab will provide more instruction time using a hands-on approach for the student who needs additional mathematics support. Students will be placed in Math Lab according to teacher recommendations and/or test results. Students must be enrolled in a Math course concurrently with Math Lab.</p>			

## Science

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration	
Science 6	6	Year-long	
<b>Description:</b>			
<p>This course covers topics of life, physical, and earth/space sciences. Life Science includes the analysis of the relationships among various organisms and their environment by studying populations of organisms in an ecosystem. The main concept in the physical science portion is energy and how it is stored and transferred. Earth and Space Science provides the foundation for students to understand the relationships between the atmosphere, along with its layers, and the Earth's water, along with the Earth's relationship to the solar system. The process of scientific experimental design through the use of Science and Engineering Practices, the history, and nature of science, which includes personal social perspectives, is interwoven throughout the course. This course is taught using standards-based research modules that highlight 3-3-Dimensional Learning and future ready skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, communication, and high student engagement.</p>			

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Science 7	7	Year-long
Description:		
<p>7th grade science emphasizes the following major concepts: Observations, Questions and Hypotheses, Scientific Testing, Analysis/Conclusions, Communication, Nature of Scientific Knowledge, Changes in Environment, Science and Technology, Interdependence of Organisms, Structure of the Earth, Earth's Processes and Systems, and Earth in the Solar System and Universe. Students continue to improve their own understanding through an inquiry-based approach. Assessment activities are varied and will evaluate comprehension and performance.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Honors Science 7	7	Year-long
Description:		
<p>An honors science course includes a challenging curriculum that requires students to ask scientific questions and develop, test, and refine ideas through laboratory investigations. Students will analyze and interpret data to support and defend scientific claims that reflect a high level of comprehension. Rigorous assessments will include application of knowledge to real-life situations. Emphasis is placed on scientific research projects.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Science 8	8	Year-long
Description:		
<p>8th grade science continues to build on student concepts and skill development with a balance of chemical, physical, biological, and environmental science topics. The major scientific topics for this course are: The Scientific Method, History and Nature of Science, Science in Personal and Social Perspectives, Reproduction and Heredity, Diversity, Adaptation and Behavior, Properties of Matter, Physical and Chemical Changes, Forces and Motion. Again, assessment activities are varied, and they will evaluate comprehension and performance</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Honors Science 8	8	Year-long
Description:		
<p>An honors science course includes a challenging curriculum that requires students to ask scientific questions and develop, test, and refine ideas through laboratory investigations. Students will analyze and interpret data to support and defend scientific claims that reflect a high level of comprehension. Rigorous assessments will include application of knowledge to real-life situations. Emphasis is placed on scientific research projects.</p>		

### Social Studies

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Social Studies 6	6	Year-long
Description:		
<p>This course examines Global Studies: World Regions and Culture of the Eastern Hemisphere from ancient civilizations to the Renaissance and Reformation. The content focus will be viewed through geographic and historical lenses. Sixth grade students will understand the cultural, religious, economic, and political systems of selected societies in the Eastern Hemisphere. Regions in the Eastern Hemisphere include the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Asia (east, south, and southeast), and Oceania. The course will include content from the following historical eras: the beginnings of human society, early river civilizations, classical civilizations, the rise and fall of empires, the development of the feudal systems, and the Renaissance and Reformation. Students will be able to apply the lessons of world history to their lives as citizens of the United States and members of the world community.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Social Studies 7	7	Year-long
Description:		
<p>This course presents our nation's geography, history, economics, sociology, and politics, from early Colonial America through the 19th Century. Major units of study include the American Revolution, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Imperialism, Industrialization, and Immigration. Additionally, this course looks at the foundations of government and the concept of citizenship. Students will study the foundations and explore the inner workings of the American government. Additionally, students will develop an understanding of the Constitution and the role of government. Students focus on thinking critically about issues, communicating responses effectively, and applying past information to current situations. Coursework will foster the use of technology in word processing, online research, and enhanced presentations.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Honors Social Studies 7	7	Year-long
Description:		
<p>7th Grade Honors Social Studies is designed to provide high performing students with the complexity and rigor best suited to their needs. Students placed in this class will work with seventh grade standards and objectives but at a deeper, more complex, and more rigorous level. Students will closely examine the decisions the historical figures made, while also analyzing events throughout history. Reading and writing homework may occur nightly, as well as on the weekends. Students can expect to actively participate in academic discussions and make presentations. Honors Social Studies students are expected to be self-guided learners who are willing to maintain a strong work ethic and diligent study habits. Students enrolled in Honors Social Studies have previously demonstrated strengths in literary comprehension, understanding primary and secondary sources and analysis, as well as in written expression and techniques. Therefore, students should be willing to move beyond those areas of proven accomplishment if they are to develop new skills and confidence.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Social Studies 8	8	Year-long
Description:		
<p>The focus of the eighth grade curriculum is US history in the 20th Century, including World War I through the present day. Students will gain knowledge of the conflicts, both domestic and international, the United States has been involved in since WWI. They will analyze the impact of those conflicts and the civil rights movement on the evolution of our society. Students will be asked to develop their own opinions and support them with evidence. Opportunities for the use of technology will include word processing, online research, and enhanced presentations. In addition, geography, economics, and government are embedded into the curriculum as students learn throughout the year.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Honors Social Studies 8	8	Year-long
Description:		
<p>8th Grade Honors Social Studies is designed to provide high performing students with the complexity and rigor best suited to their needs. Students placed in this class will work with eighth grade standards and objectives but at a deeper, more complex, and more rigorous level. The focus of the eighth grade curriculum is US history in the 20th Century, including World War I through the present day. Students will gain knowledge of the conflicts, both domestic and international, the United States has been involved in since WWI. They will analyze the impact of those conflicts and the civil rights movement on the evolution of our society. Students will be asked to develop their own opinions and support them with evidence. Students can expect to actively participate in academic discussions and may have work to do on a nightly basis. Honors Social Studies students are expected to be self guided learners who are willing to maintain a strong work ethic and diligent study habits. Students enrolled in Honors Social Studies have previously demonstrated strengths in analyzing primary and secondary sources as well as in written expression and techniques.</p>		

## World Languages

Students who complete world language levels A, B, and C at Sonoran Trails Middle School will be prepared to enroll in a level III world language at Cactus Shadows High School. Students who complete levels A and B will be prepared for enrollment in level II at Cactus Shadows High School. Taking a world language in middle school allows students to start high school at a higher level, therefore giving them the opportunity for more advanced language study (Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and World Language/Biliteracy Seals). While world language is not a high school graduation requirement, it is a college entrance requirement and often considered a “core” subject for selective college admissions.

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
French B	7,8	Year-long
Description:		
<b>Prerequisite: French A</b>		
French B builds on the vocabulary and concepts from French A, exploring them at a deeper and more intrinsic level. Students will continue to develop their communication in the target language through interpersonal speaking and writing, presentational speaking and writing and interpretive speaking and writing.		

\*\*\*Offered 2027-2028\*\*\*

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
French C	8	Year-long
Description:		
<b>Prerequisite: French B</b>		
French C builds on the strategies learned in French A and B, applying them to express various tenses for storytelling and discussing past events. Students will continue to develop their communication in the target language through interpersonal speaking and writing, presentational speaking and writing and interpretive speaking and writing. Students will use authentic resources (literature, articles, songs, etc) to research and describe their thoughts in the target language.		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Spanish A	6,7	Year-long
<b>Description:</b>		
<p>This course introduces students to fundamental vocabulary, phrases, grammar, and structure in the Spanish language. Students will learn to form complete thoughts and ask questions to engage in simple conversations. Students will master regular present tense verb conjugation with an introduction to common irregular verbs.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Spanish B	7,8	Year-long
<b>Description:</b>		
<p><b>Prerequisite: Spanish A</b></p> <p>Spanish B builds on the vocabulary and concepts from Spanish A, exploring them at a deeper and more intrinsic level. Students will master preterite tense verb conjugations with an introduction to common irregular verbs. Students will apply these concepts to create basic conversations on a given topic, using the Present Tense.</p>		

**\*\*\*Offered 2027-2028\*\*\***

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Spanish C	8	Year-long
<b>Description:</b>		
<p><b>Prerequisite: Spanish B</b></p> <p>Spanish C builds on the strategies learned in Spanish A and B, applying them to express various tenses for storytelling and discussing past events. Students will master preterite, imperfect, and present tense verb conjugations. Students will learn to create their own conversations, incorporating these strategies and tenses.</p>		

## Elective Courses

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Empower 6	6	Semester
Description:		
<p>This exciting 6th-grade course is designed to equip students with essential life skills for academic, personal, and social success. Through hands-on activities, expert talks, and digital resources, students will develop strong study habits, organization, and time management skills. As the semester progresses, they'll build confidence in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving while exploring strategies for managing stress, staying healthy, and fostering positive relationships. <b>Empower6</b> prepares students for middle school and beyond, helping them approach challenges with a flexible and resilient mindset!</p> <p><i>This course is required for all incoming 6th grade students at Sonoran Trails Middle School. Students will take this course either first or second semester.</i></p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Studio Art	6, 7, 8	Semester
<p>This introductory course delves into a comprehensive array of artistic techniques spanning both 2D and 3D dimensions. Beginning with foundational exercises and projects, students will explore drawing, painting, sculpture, and 2D/3D design. The curriculum covers a wide spectrum, including fundamentals such as perspective, composition, color theory, and various mediums like color pencil, watercolor, acrylic, clay, wood, and more. Emphasis is placed on fostering creativity through independent “out-of-the box” projects. Topics include self-portraiture, still life, graphic design, sculptural forms, architectural drawing, and mixed media concepts. Integrated throughout are elements of art history, design principles, and color theory to enrich the creative process.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Studio Art - Advanced	7,8	Year-long
Description:		
<p><b>Prerequisite: Studio Art</b></p> <p>This year-long course is designed for students who have a foundational understanding of visual arts and are ready to push their creative practice further. Students will explore advanced concepts in composition, materials, and media; engage in collaborative and independent projects that emphasize innovation, experimentation, and aesthetics; and develop their voice as visual artists. Emphasis will be placed on the processes of creating original artworks, presenting their works, critically responding to peers and professionals, and making connections between art and their world. The course will culminate in a gallery-style exhibition of student work.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Band	6,7,8	Year-long
Description:		
<p>Students learn the fundamentals of instruments. Instruction emphasizes elements of style, musicianship, sight-reading, and performance techniques. A variety of formal and informal performances provide opportunities for students to showcase musical skills</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Chorus	6,7,8	Semester
Description:		
<p>This course is open to all students who like to sing, regardless of experience. Students will learn how to read music, beginner music theory, sight-reading, and use proper vocal production. This course is designed to develop quality singers and to enjoy music. There are evening performances at the end of each semester in December and May.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Drama	6,7,8	Semester
Description:		
<p>This course is designed to introduce students to the basics of dramatic performance and develop new skills for students' future. It will help students develop self-confidence, enhance public speaking skills, and understand the power of what happens when students learn to work as a team. Students will be exposed to the vocabulary of acting, styles of dramatic performance, and various practice techniques. Students will participate in class performances, script writing, directing, stagecraft, improvisation, voice, and movement.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Drama-Advanced	7,8	Year-long
Description:		
<p><b>Prerequisite: Drama</b></p> <p>This year-long course is designed for experienced theatre students ready to take their skills to the next level. Students will explore the creative process through improvisation, directing, playwriting, and performance, while also learning about the technical and production sides of theatre. Emphasis will be placed on collaboration, creative problem-solving, and developing a confident artistic voice. Throughout the year, students will create original scenes, direct short works, and take on leadership roles in class projects. The course will culminate in a public performance, allowing students to showcase their work for a live audience.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Stinger Guitar	6,7,8	Semester
Description:		
<p>This course is open to students at all levels who desire to learn and/or improve their guitar playing. The students will learn the basics of music theory, reading music, rhythm, tablature and playing skills. Guitars are available for students at school. Students may bring their own guitar, however, the school district takes no liability for the care or security of the instrument. Students will be evaluated on written and performance exams. There are no formal performances outside of school. ***Space is limited due to the number of instruments available.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Physical Education 6	6	Semester
Description:		
<p>Students will build basic skill levels of proficiency in each of the following explored throughout the course: partner sports, recreational games, team sports, and fitness activities. Instruction will focus on the natural connection between beginning athletic skill development and the promotion of fitness and good health. This course is designed to also build self-confidence and character education in addition to physical fitness.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Physical Education 7 & 8	7, 8	Semester
Description:		
<p><b>Girls' PE</b> offers a safe, comfortable, and fun environment to participate in a combination of partner games, creative activities, group fitness, new games, and traditional recreational games. Examples of unit plans offered: table tennis, pickleball, badminton, yard games, spike ball (new), dance, yoga, gaga ball, frisbee, nitroball (new), mat ball, and battle flags (capture the flag).</p> <p>Students will review basic skill levels and learn intermediate skill levels of proficiency in each of the following explored throughout the course: partner sports, recreational games, team sports, and fitness activities. Instruction will focus on the natural connection between intermediate athletic skill development and the promotion of fitness and good health. This course is designed to also build self-confidence and character education in addition to physical fitness.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Physical Education 7 & 8	7, 8	Semester
Description:		
<p><b>Boys' PE</b> offers a focused environment to participate in a combination of partner games, fitness, new and traditional recreational games. Unit plans provide opportunities for respectful participation, hard work, and other valuable life skills. Examples of unit plans offered: table tennis, pickleball, badminton, spike ball (new), dodgeball, mat ball, battle flags (capture the flag), and other fun popular games.</p> <p>Students will review basic skill levels and learn intermediate skill levels of proficiency in each of the following explored throughout the course: partner sports, recreational games, team sports, and fitness activities. Instruction will focus on the natural connection between intermediate athletic skill development and the promotion of fitness and good health. This course is designed to also build self-confidence and character education in addition to physical fitness.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Sci-Tech Action Lab	7,8	Semester
Description:		
<p>Students who take Sci-Tech will have the opportunity to complete four (4) of twelve (12) interactive education labs. Labs include Alternative Energy, Computer Aided Drafting, Computer Graphics and Animation, Electricity and Electronics, Flight Technology, Forensic Science, Laser Technology, Structural Engineering, Nursing, Sports Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Science in the Kitchen. Learning is student-centered, guided, hands-on, and aligned with national and state education standards. The labs also include formative assessment and address all types of learning styles. Each lab is a 10 day exploration unit where students practically apply Math, Science, Language Arts, and Technology skills in real world situations.</p>		

Course Title	Grade(s)	Duration
Instructional Assistant-Peer Mentor	6,7,8	Semester
Description:		
<p>7th and 8th grade students have opportunities for peer mentoring that are also provided within our PALS program. Students are selected through an application and interview process. Applications to be an Instructional Assistant will be available after the start of the school year.</p>		

## **Exceptional Student Services**

The Cave Creek School District provides a full range of special education services for students with disabilities. The Cave Creek Unified School District, as required by the Office of Special Education (OSEP) and Arizona Department of Education (ADE), is responsible for ensuring that all children with disabilities age three (3) through twenty-one (21) years be located, identified, and evaluated for a potential need for special education and related services. A full and individual evaluation encompassing existing and additional data shall be conducted for each child to determine if the child is a child with a disability and the educational needs of the child before the initial provision of special education and related services. If eligible for special education, a team will develop an appropriate Individual Education Plan (IEP). The intent of the IEP is to provide specially designed instruction in the least restrictive environment. Related service staff (i.e. nurses, counselors, physical therapists, vision consultants, etc.) aid in the identification and remediation process. If you believe that a student is eligible for special education services, contact the school psychologist to obtain more information.

### **Special Education Resource Program**

Special education resource is a cross-curriculum program that provides a continuum of services in the general education classroom or resource room in the areas of reading, mathematics, written expression, behavior support, and study skills based on the student's needs.

### **Special Education Life Skills Program**

Self-Contained I and Self-Contained II (9-12) are programs that provide students an opportunity to learn academics, socialization, communication skills, pre-vocational/vocational skills, community based instruction, and daily living skills, enabling students to function at their most independent level.

Note: Case managers will work with students for placement in suitable courses.