



DEERFIELD-WINDSOR SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL



COURSE CATALOG

— 2026-2027 —

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DWS Academics

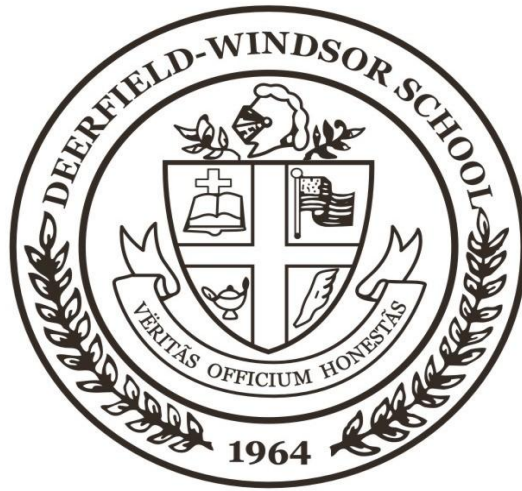
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DWS MISSION STATEMENT

**Deerfield-Windsor School exists to inspire in its students
a passion for learning, a commitment to personal integrity, and
a dedication to social responsibility.**



OUR CORE VALUES:

HONOR, ENCOURAGEMENT, CHARACTER, SERVICE

OUR ACADEMIC PHILOSOPHY:

The goal of the curriculum of Deerfield-Windsor School is, as reinforced by our mission statement, to nurture students to demonstrate the qualities of a well-rounded individual.

Our school exists to inspire:

- *Learning to think for oneself and to develop an appreciation for the differences of others.
- *Learning how to learn and encouraging that skill to develop in interests beyond the traditional classroom.
- *Learning the true value of character through our school's approach to honesty and integrity.
- *Learning that serving others benefits just as much as serving oneself.

All courses in our catalog are subject to change by semester or school year.

OUR ACCREDITATIONS:

SAIS (Southern Association of Independent Schools)

Cognia

GAC (Georgia Accrediting Commission)

DWS Academics: Passion for Learning



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

SIXTH GRADE

Welcome to middle school! At DWS, we believe that these three transformative years hold value: teaching responsibility, independence, and introducing students to opportunities that develop passion.

Core Academic Courses:

Language Arts 6 – This foundational course focuses on the skills students need for critical reading and analysis. Genres include novels, short stories, poetry, plays, and excerpts from non-fiction selections. These readings enable students to recognize and analyze figurative language, themes, and other literary elements and provide an opportunity to connect reading to their own lives. Grammar skills are consistently developed, practiced and reinforced within all writing assignments. Writing includes narrative, comparison/contrast, argument, and analysis. Research is introduced.

Social Studies 6 – This course is a study of American history from the Civil War to the present. Major topics of emphasis are the Civil War, industrialization and the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, WWI, the Great Depression and World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Cold War era. The course includes discussions of current events in the state, nation, and world.

Math 6 – This foundational course provides in depth study of the properties of numbers and shapes, computation, and problem solving. Topics covered include operations of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, geometric applications, ratios, percentages, integers, exponents, and the metric system.

Earth Science 6 – This course is a culmination of topics including geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy. The first unit includes the study of the nature of science and the scientific method, which is referenced and applied throughout the course. Next, the processes that shape and change our planet are investigated and discussed. The third unit includes the study of resources and conservation. The final unit will cover the interactions between the Sun, the Earth, and the Moon. This unit will also cover movement in space, and the Solar System. Knowledge built throughout the year is used to analyze how the different branches interact with each other to create habitats and ecosystems and how resource use and the addition or removal of important species can impact resource use and the ecosystem as a whole. Topics are supplemented with lab activities, and students begin learning the basics of writing lab reports.

Spanish 6 – This introductory course exposes students to the core elements of the Spanish language. Basic vocabulary, verb and grammatical structures as well as cultural elements are taught. This course is input based, focusing on vocabulary and reading comprehension. Spoken and written elements will be composed of mostly memorized phrases.



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

SIXTH GRADE

Exploratory courses are just that... exploratory! Students rotate through each of the grade level options throughout the year. These courses are for a nine week period and are based on effort grades. These classes are intended for students to be introduced to a passion they may not realize.

Exploratory Courses:

Art 101 – This course emphasizes the elements of art-line, shape, form, color, texture, space, and value – the rules that govern how elements are organized in a composition. A variety of media are taught and connections to art history, cultures, and artists are made. Students gain a foundation to discuss and evaluate their own artwork, along with peer artwork, in a supportive atmosphere.

Band – This course provides students with learning and performance opportunities on a wide variety of “modern day” instruments (acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, piano, and drums), as well as the traditional wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of skills that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance, while maintaining a fun and exciting musical environment. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in solo and small ensembles and honor bands.

STEAM Agriculture – This course introduces students to the connections between science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and mathematics through the study of agriculture and sustainability. Students explore topics such as plant science, soil health, ecosystems, food production, agricultural technology, and environmental stewardship. Through interactive projects, experiments, engineering challenges, and collaborative activities, students develop problem-solving, creativity, and critical-thinking skills.

Intro to Technology Skills

This course introduces students to essential technology skills to prepare them for success in middle school and beyond. Students will build a strong foundation in typing through regular practice using Typing Club, focusing on speed, accuracy, and proper technique. They will also develop digital literacy and real-world problem-solving skills by working through engaging, project-based lessons in Google’s Applied Digital Skills curriculum. Throughout the course, students will gain proficiency in Google Workspace tools such as Docs, Slides, Sheets, and Drive, while also learning about online safety, digital citizenship, and responsible technology use.

*Grade level exploratory courses vary from year to year

MS Adaptive Strategies Academic Support -

Students participating in the Comprehensive Program must have a current psychological report on file at DWS. Students will receive additional academic support services during their exploratory class to help in their area of need. The ASC will help structure study time, work on test taking and study strategies, maintain communication with classroom teachers and provide weekly updates to parents.



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

SEVENTH GRADE

Core Academic Courses:

Language Arts 7 – This course builds on and extends the skill sets developed in Language Arts 6. Students analyze increasingly complex texts, write personal narratives and persuasive and exploratory pieces with increasing sophistication, speak and listen more effectively and research with increasing independence. Students learn to identify central ideas and themes in literature and support claims with explicit and relevant textual evidence. Students further develop their knowledge of literary terminology and apply that knowledge in the analysis of literary texts with increasing sophistication. Rigor increases each nine weeks to include more challenging texts to engage in deeper levels of critical reading, thinking, and more advanced writing assignments.

Spanish I-A – This course introduces the Spanish language and aims at novice proficiency in the language encouraged through listening, speaking, reading, and writing practices. By interweaving language and culture, the course seeks to broaden students' communication skills while at the same time deepening their appreciation of other cultures. This is the first year of a two-year course.

Life Science 7 – This course begins with a study of the methods of science. The following units cover the systems of the body, and include the immune system and pathogens, the skeletal system, muscular system, integumentary system, digestive system and nutrition, excretory system, respiratory system, circulatory system, nervous system, and reproductive and endocrine systems.

Social Studies 7 – This course is divided into two distinct units of study.

1st semester: The first unit is a study of state and federal government and civics education. Major topics include how our government was founded, the Constitution, the branches of government, Constitutional Amendments, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

2nd Semester: Georgia Studies is a semester-long course for all 7th graders. The course provides students with an overview of the history, politics, geography, and culture of Georgia. It demonstrates how Georgia fits in with the global economy, the history of the United States, and also the unique features of the state.

CP Pre-Algebra 7 – This course builds upon and extends the study of concepts learned in sixth grade with an emphasis on pre-algebra skills. Rules, mechanics, and computations are stressed to enable the student to prepare for Algebra I. Concepts related to solving equations are developed throughout the course.

OR

AC Pre-Algebra 7 – This course builds upon and extends the study of concepts learned in sixth grade with an emphasis on pre-algebra skills and elements of geometry, with emphasis placed on application. This accelerated course requires students to engage in deeper levels of critical thinking and more extensive problem solving than CP Pre-Algebra 7.



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

SEVENTH GRADE

Exploratory Courses:

Art 102 – This course emphasizes the principles of art and the importance of balance, unity, contrast, emphasis, pattern, movement, and rhythm in the design process. A variety of media are explored and may include painting, sculpture, fiber, book arts, drawing, cartooning, and clay. Resources from art history, cultures, and other artists are used to inspire work

Band – This course provides students with learning and performance opportunities on a wide variety of “modern day” instruments (acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, piano, and drums), as well as the traditional wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of skills that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance, while maintaining a fun and exciting musical environment. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in solo and small ensembles and honor bands.

STEM-This course is an engaging, hands-on class designed to introduce middle school students to the exciting fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Students will explore real-world problems through creative projects, teamwork, critical thinking, and innovation. Activities may include coding, robotics, engineering design challenges, digital design, problem-solving tasks, and scientific investigations.

Digital Media-

In this course, students will explore the fundamentals of digital media through hands-on projects that build skills in graphic design, video production, and audio editing. Students will use tools such as Canva, iMovie, Davinci Resolve, Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Audition, Google Workspace, and more to create multimedia content that tells compelling stories and communicates ideas effectively. By the end of the course, students will have built a portfolio showcasing their creativity and technical skills.

*Grade level exploratory courses vary from year to year

Learning Support:

MS Adaptive Strategies Academic Support

Comprehensive Program)-Students participating in the Comprehensive Program must have a current psychological report on file at DWS. Students will receive additional academic support services during their exploratory class to help in their area of need. The ASC will help structure study time, work on test taking and study strategies, maintain communication with classroom teachers and provide weekly updates to parents.



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

EIGHTH GRADE

Core Academic Courses:

CP Language Arts 8 – This course builds on, and extends, the skill sets developed in Language Arts 7. The texts invite students to discover what it means to be fully human in our technological world. Themes include the coming of age, overcoming adversity, solving mysteries, and standing up for what is right. Students experience Shakespeare through drama and poetry; they read and reflect on selections through writing and class discussions. Grammar instruction continues as students grow as critical and creative writers. Vocabulary, critical reading and analysis, research, and technology usage continue to be emphasized and enhanced. Collaborative work with other subject areas is created throughout the year.

AC Language Arts 8 – This course builds on the skill sets developed in AC Language Arts 7. The study of non-fiction, mystery, drama, horror, and dystopian selections serves as a springboard to understanding the present and possible future world and invites students to discover what it means to be fully human in our technological world. Themes include coming of age, overcoming adversity, solving mysteries, and standing up for what is right. Students experience Shakespeare through drama and poetry; they read and reflect on selections through writing and class discussions. Grammar instruction continues as students grow as critical and creative writers. Vocabulary, critical reading and analysis, research, and technology usage continue to be emphasized and enhanced. The accelerated course requires students to work more independently and to read more challenging texts at a faster pace and to engage in deeper levels of critical reading, thinking, and more advanced writing assignments.

Social Studies 8: – This course offers students an in-depth study of global geography, major world regions, and contemporary issues shaping the world today. Students will explore physical and human geography, cultural patterns, political systems, and economic structures across continents. Through the study of global issues such as migration, geopolitical conflict, climate patterns, and economic development, students will gain a deeper understanding of the interconnected world they live in. The course also places a strong emphasis on cultivating students' reading, writing, and communication skills. By the end of the year, students will have the knowledge and skills necessary for success in 9th grade World History.

CP Algebra 1-A – This course is designed to build a solid foundation for success in high school Algebra I. It begins with a review of key math and pre-algebra concepts essential for understanding algebraic principles, then transitions into introductory Algebra I topics. The first semester centers on solving equations and inequalities, while the second semester shifts focus to linear functions. Lessons are paced to promote deeper comprehension and long-term mastery of these core mathematical concepts.

OR

AC Algebra I – This course is intended for students with strong mathematical skills and progresses at an accelerated pace. It offers an in-depth review of fundamental mathematical properties and operations involving algebraic expressions, including polynomial addition, factoring, graphing equations, solving inequalities, and simplifying radicals. These foundational skills support a deeper exploration and understanding of linear, exponential, and quadratic functions.



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

EIGHTH GRADE

Physical Science 8 – This course is based on the study of matter, energy, and motion. The course develops skills and knowledge through lecture and lab activities in measurement, motion, classification of matter, light, sound, heat, electricity, and magnetism. The mathematical measurements and calculations associated with concepts studied are taught during the course.

Spanish I-B – This course builds on and extends the skills acquired in Spanish I-A through the continued study of the Spanish language and the culture. Proficiency in the language is encouraged through listening, speaking, reading, and writing practices. By interweaving language and culture, the course seeks to broaden students' communication skills while at the same time deepening their appreciation of other cultures. This is the second year of a two-year course; the prerequisite for this course is Spanish I-A or an equivalent.



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

EIGHTH GRADE

Exploratory Courses:

Art 102 – This course emphasizes the principles of art and the importance of balance, unity, contrast, emphasis, pattern, movement, and rhythm in the design process. A variety of media are explored and may include painting, sculpture, fiber, book arts, drawing, cartooning, and clay. Resources from art history, cultures, and other artists are used to inspire work

Band – This course provides students with learning and performance opportunities on a wide variety of “modern day” instruments (acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, piano, and drums), as well as the traditional wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of skills that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance, while maintaining a fun and exciting musical environment. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in solo and small ensembles and honor bands.

STEM - This course is an engaging, hands-on class designed to introduce middle school students to the exciting fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Students will explore real-world problems through creative projects, teamwork, critical thinking, and innovation. Activities include coding, robotics, engineering design challenges, digital design, problem-solving tasks, and scientific investigations.

Theatre - This course features a range of theatre based activities including scripted theatre, theatre makeup, technical theatre, and theatre movement. Students will learn to face fears while working to free the imagination, build self-confidence, and become more receptive to playful ideas in a safe atmosphere. This course encourages students to become more comfortable in themselves. The course also offers opportunities to dive into the world of technical theatre, learning basic and special effect makeup application, principles of costume and set design, and aspects of moving properly for the stage.

Digital Media- In this course, students will explore the fundamentals of digital media through hands-on projects that build skills in graphic design, video production, and audio editing. Students will use tools such as Canva, iMovie, Davinci Resolve, Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Audition, Google Workspace, and more to create multimedia content that tells compelling stories and communicates ideas effectively.

*Grade level exploratory courses vary from year to year

MS Adaptive Strategies Academic Support -

Students participating in the Comprehensive Program must have a current psychological report on file at DWS. Students will receive additional academic support services during their exploratory class to help in their area of need. The ASC will help structure study time, work on test taking and study strategies, maintain communication with classroom teachers and provide weekly updates to parents.



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

Academic and Learning Support

In sixth through eighth grades, the learning center emphasizes self-awareness, executive functioning skills, social skills and the acquisition of academic skills necessary for college preparatory work. The learning center advocates for students who need extra support and accommodations to be successful in their academic endeavors. In addition, the learning center supports DWS teachers who work to implement the accommodations for students in the mainstream classroom.

Tier 1: Comprehensive Program Required for 6th grade

Requirements:

- Current psychological report on file at DWS (every three years)
- Signed parent contract for ASC services (yearly)

Provisions:

- The ASC will provide an elective class (required for all 6th grade ASC students) to assist students with executive functioning skills, to include but not limited to: study skills, test-taking skills, planning, and organization..
- The ASC will assist students in learning how to communicate with their teachers via email, Google Classroom and face-to-face interactions.
- The ASC will facilitate testing and instructional accommodations recommended by the psychologist.
- The ASC will provide support services during daily tutorial.
- The ASC will facilitate communication between parents and teachers, as the need arises.
- The ASC will send a weekly email update to parent(s) regarding upcoming academic activities.
- The ASC will send a weekly update to the students' ASC Google Classroom, listing their tests and quizzes.

Tier 2: Academic Program Available to 7th and 8th grades

Requirements:

Current psychological report on file at DWS (every 3 years)
Signed parent contract for ASC services (yearly)
Participate in the adaptive skills study hall in the ASC as an elective.

Provisions:

The ASC will facilitate testing and instructional accommodations recommended by the psychologist.
The ASC will assist students with executive functioning skills, to include, but not limited to: study skills, test-taking skills, planning, and organization during their adaptive skills elective.
The ASC will provide support services during tutorial at least once per week.
The ASC will send a weekly email update to parent(s) regarding upcoming academic activities
The ASC will send a weekly update to the students' ASC Google Classroom, listing their tests and quizzes.

Tier 3: Support Program Available to 7th and 8th grades

Requirements:

Current psychological report on file at DWS (every 3 years)
Signed parent contract for ASC services (yearly)

Provisions:

The ASC will facilitate testing and instructional accommodations recommended by the psychologist.
The ASC will provide support services during tutorial at least twice a month.
The ASC will send a weekly email update to parent(s) regarding upcoming academic activities.
The ASC will send a weekly update to the students' ASC Google Classroom, listing their tests and quizzes.

Exclusions: All recommendations made on the psychological report may not be implemented based on the resources available.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Schedule

Monday:	Tuesday:	Wednesday:	Thursday:	Friday:
8:10-8:15 Homeroom	8:10-8:15 Homeroom	Faculty Development *Tutorial by appointment*	8:10-8:15 Homeroom	8:10-8:15 Homeroom
Class (8:15-9:15)	Class (8:15-9:15)	Class (9:00-10:00)	Class (8:15-9:15)	Class (8:15-9:15)
Class (9:15-10:15)	Class (9:15-10:15)	Break (10:00-10:20)	Class (9:15-10:15)	Class (9:15-10:15)
Break/FLEX (10:15-10:35)	Break/FLEX (10:15-10:35)	Class (10:20-11:20)	Break/FLEX (10:15-10:35)	Break/FLEX (10:15-10:35)
Class (10:35-11:35)	Class (10:35-11:35)	Lunch (11:20-11:55)	Class (10:35-11:35)	Class (10:35-11:35)
Class (11:35-12:35)	Class (11:35-12:35)	Class (11:55-12:55)	Class (11:35-12:35)	Class (11:35-12:35)
Lunch (12:35-1:15)	Lunch (12:35-1:15)	Class (12:55-1:55)	Lunch (12:35-1:15)	Lunch (12:35-1:15)
FLEX (1:15-1:55)	W.A.T.C.H (1:15-1:55)	Stay Tutorial (1:55-2:10)	Clubs (1:15-1:55)	FLEX (1:15-1:55)
Class (1:55-2:55)	Class (1:55-2:55)	Class (2:10-3:10)	Class (1:55-2:55)	Class (1:55-2:55)

- W.A.T.C.H- Advisory
- FLEX- Flexible time (may be used as Tutorial or RESET)
- Tutorial- Study Hall
- RESET- Outside time



MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY

W.A.T.C.H.

WORDS * ACTIONS * THOUGHTS* CHARACTER* HABITS

DWS is dedicated to the idea of mentoring and helping young people navigate the ups and downs of adolescence. An active, comprehensive advisory system ensures that every student meets and interacts with caring, concerned adults who can help guide a student through his or her time in the Middle School at DWS.

W.A.T.C.H. provides middle school students with a foundation for personal growth by helping them understand how their choices shape who they are.

Structure

Students meet weekly in small, grade-level groups led by a teacher advisor. These groups create a safe, consistent environment for connection and reflection.

Focus

Through guided lessons and discussions, students:

- Build positive relationships with peers and adults
- Develop self-awareness and emotional regulation
- Practice responsible decision-making
- Strengthen character and integrity



MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS AND SERVICE

Clubs

Deerfield-Windsor School students are encouraged to participate in clubs each year. Some of our club offerings include:

- Academic Bowl
- Student Ambassadors (application required)
- Art Club
- Chess Club
- Chorus
- FCA
- GirlTalk
- MATHCOUNTS
- Music Club (Band)
- Outdoor Adventure Club
- Spanish Club