

Desert Shadows Middle School
2016-17 Course Description Book
6th Grade



Prepared February 2016

English Language Arts Offerings

6 Honors English Language Arts

EN31S1 & EN31S2

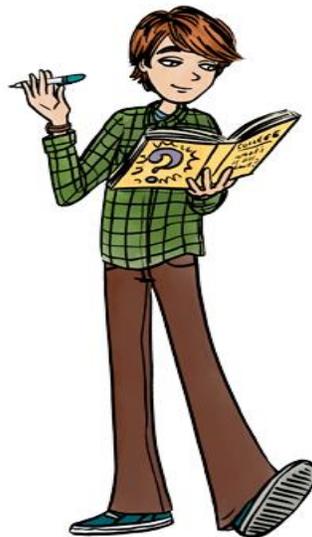
Prerequisite: *Must have passed previous year's Language Arts course with a "B" or better*

This year-long course addresses reading and writing as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the advanced level. In language arts, students will complete a major project (project, paper, presentation) during first quarter. This course is designed to challenge interested students whose reading and writing skills are above grade level. The purpose is to develop independent, capable learners at an accelerated pace. Novels (6-8), short stories, drama, poetry, and informational texts illustrate the complexity, range, and quality of student reading. Writing genres to be learned are narrative (i.e., real, imagined), poetry, explanatory, functional, informational, literary analysis, and argument. However, the emphasis will be on the use of argument (i.e., claim, reasons, evidence, opposing viewpoints, refutation) to inform and analyze. Goals of this course are: (a) to prepare students for the Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate classes at the high school level; (b) to be fully prepared for summative reading/writing tests such as AzMERIT; and (c) to create lifelong learners who can read, write, speak and think in ways that are democratic, articulate, intellectual, socially just, informed, and culturally responsive.

6 English Language Arts

4EN01S1 & 4EN01S2

This year-long course addresses reading and writing as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the proficiency level. In language arts, students will complete a major project (project, paper, presentation) during first quarter. Novels (4-6), short stories, drama, poetry, and informational texts illustrate the complexity, range, and quality of student reading. Writing genres to be learned are: narrative (i.e., real, imagined), poetry, explanatory, functional, informational, literary analysis, and argument. However, the emphasis will be on the use of argument (i.e., claim, reasons, evidence, opposing viewpoints, refutation) to inform and analyze. Goals of this course are: (a) to build confidence in reading, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, usage, and punctuation as identified in the Common Core Standards; and (b) to meet/exceed on summative tests such as AzMERIT; and (c) to create lifelong learners who can read, write, speak and think in ways that are democratic, articulate, intellectual, socially just, informed, and culturally responsive.

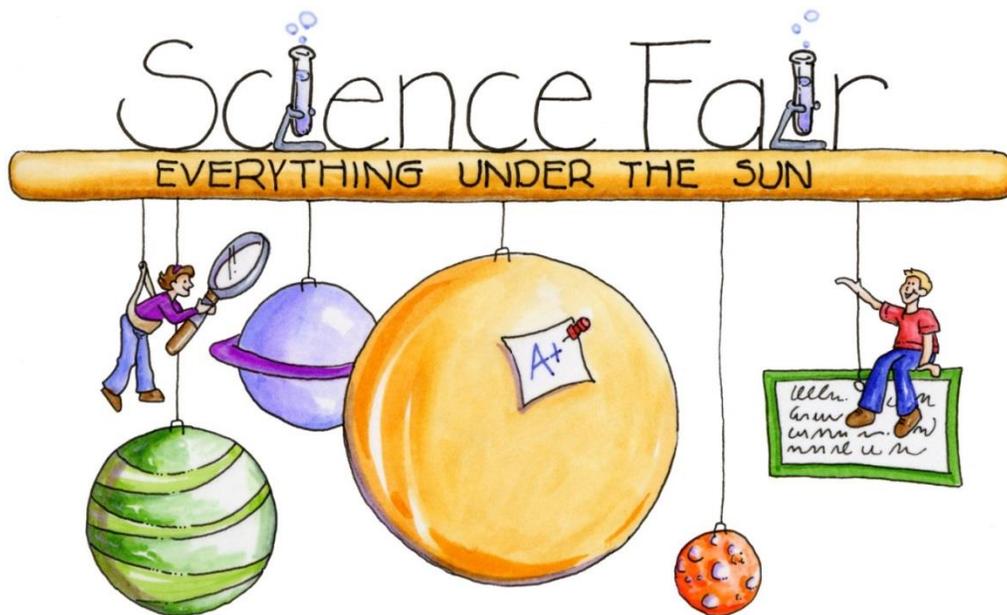


Math Offering

6 Math**4MA01S1 & 4MA01S2**

This year-long course provided to ALL 6th graders addresses number sense, operations, data analysis, probability, discrete math, patterns, algebra, functions, geometry, measurement, structure, and logic as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the advanced level. This course is specifically designed for students to appreciate mathematical concepts, problem-solving/reasoning skills, and mathematical representations. Having successfully taken this course, all 6th grade students are expected: (a) to be fully prepared for the next level of math (pre-algebra); (b) to be fully prepared for summative math tests such as AzMERIT; and (c) to be lifelong learners who use mathematical and logical reasoning to solve everyday challenges.





6 Honors Science **4SC31S1 & 4SC31S2**

Prerequisite: Must have passed previous year's math course with a "B" or better

This year-long course addresses the inquiry process, experimentation, history/nature of science, science in personal/social perspectives, life science, physical science, earth science, and *Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects* as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the advanced level for 6th grade. Math, reading, and writing are infused to support the core math and language arts curricula. In science students will complete a major project (project, paper, presentation) during third quarter. Goals of this class are: (a) to prepare students to advance to the Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate program at the high school level; and (b) to prepare for meeting/exceeding summative science exams such as AIMS or AzMERIT; and (c) to think critically and apply this higher-order thought to understanding and appreciating the earth, matter, and elements.

6 Science **4SC01S1 & 4SC01S2**

This year-long course addresses the inquiry process, experimentation, history/nature of science, science in personal/social perspectives, life science, physical science, earth science and *Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects* as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the proficiency level for 6th grade. Math, reading, and writing are infused to support the core math and language arts curricula. This course will expand a student's knowledge, interest, and appreciation of the basics in the building blocks of life science, earth science, and an introduction into physics while using a hands-on approach that is based on the scientific method. In science, students will complete a major project (project, paper, presentation) during third quarter. In 6th grade Science, students are expected: (a) to prepare for meeting/exceeding summative science exams such as AIMS or AzMERIT; and (b) to think critically and apply this higher-order thought to understanding and appreciating the earth, matter, and elements.

Social Studies Offerings

6 Honors Social Studies**4SS31S1 & 4SS31S2**

Prerequisite: Must have passed previous year's Language Arts course with a "B" or better

This year-long course addresses U.S. History, world history, civics/government, geography, and economics as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the advanced level for 6th grade. Additionally, *Literacy in History and Social Studies* is emphasized--particularly in regards to informative/explanatory and argumentative reading and writing--to support the language arts curriculum. Students are involved in open-ended projects that will focus on geographical concepts of ancient civilizations and recognition of the natural and cultural processes that impact the way in which people live and interact with each other and their environment. In social studies, students will complete a major project (project, paper, presentation) during the second quarter. Self-motivation is a must. This class is designed for students who wish to work beyond the regular curriculum to prepare for the Honors 7th and 8th grade classes at DSMS and the Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate classes at the high school.

**6 Social Studies****4SS01S1 & 4SS01S2**

This year-long course addresses U.S. History, world history, civics/government, geography, and economics as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the proficiency level. Additionally, *Literacy in History and Social Studies* is emphasized--particularly in regards to informative/explanatory and argumentative reading and writing--to support the language arts curriculum. A study of the foundations of civilizations, as well as basic geographical concepts, helps students understand both the ancient civilizations and spatial arrangements of these various environments. In social studies, students will complete a major project (project, paper, presentation) during the second quarter.

English Language Learner (ELL) Offerings

Students are identified as ELL based on a language test called AZELLA. Contingent upon those results, they are placed in Structured English Immersion (SEI) classes. Students are tested 1-2 times in a school year and may move up levels or exit from the program entirely. The goal is to exit the ELL Program in one year and be placed in mainstream language classes. In the SEI language program, students are scheduled in these classes:



6 SEI Reading **4EN22S1 & 4EN22S2**

Vocabulary and comprehension are studied in this course at all language acquisition levels. Literature that supports the Social Studies curriculum is infused in this class as well.

6 SEI Writing **4EN21S1 & 4EN21S2**

Writing conventions, processes, and elements are studied in this course. Writing genres to be learned at all language acquisition levels are: narrative (i.e., real, imagined), poetry, explanatory, functional, informational, literary analysis, and argument. However, the emphasis will be on the use of argument (i.e., claim, reasons, evidence, opposing viewpoints, refutation) to inform and analyze.

6 SEI Grammar **4EN23S1 & 4EN23S2**

Parts of speech, grammar skills, conventions, and writing / oral expression are studied in this course at all language acquisition levels.

6 SEI Conversation & Vocabulary **4EN24S1 & 4EN24S2**

Delivery, conventions, and comprehension of speech are studied in this course at all language acquisition levels.

Enrichment Offerings in English Language Arts (ELA) & Math

6 Math Enrichment: STEM 5MA02S1

This is a semester-long course paired with *Information Nation*, another semester-long course. This class is based on the Common Core Standards related to Science and Math with a specific focus on the MESA curriculum facilitated by the University of Arizona. Members of the class do not necessarily need to be a part of the MESA Club at DSMS, but they certainly can be if criteria are met. Those who enroll in this class should have an interest/aptitude in science and math.

6 ELA Enrichment: Information Nation 5EN02S1

This is a semester-long course paired with *STEM*, another semester-long course. This class is based on the Common Core Standards related to Reading and Writing, with a particular focus on informational text that informs, persuades, and dissuades. Students will learn how to employ skills and strategies when reading and writing nonfiction in order to increase comprehension, analyze text features, interpret nuances, and synthesize understandings.



6 Math Enrichment 5MA01S1

This is a semester-long course paired with *ELA Enrichment*, another semester-long course. This course addresses the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Math at the 6th grade level. Math Enrichment is a support class, so the method to learning is conceptual (hands-on) rather than traditional. Partner work and group work to solve a problem are commonplace.

6 ELA Enrichment 5EN01S1

This is a semester-long course paired with *Math Enrichment*, another semester-long course. Reading curriculum is aligned to the 6th grade Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for both Reading and Writing. For reading, these concepts will be considered: key ideas and details, craft and structure, integration of knowledge and ideas, and range of reading and level of text complexity. For writing, these concepts will be considered: text types and purposes, production and distribution, research to build and present knowledge, and range.

Elective Offerings: Instrumental Music

(All instrumental music classes are offered to 6th – 8th graders.)

Class level changes will NOT be made after the first week of school. Class / level changes will NOT be allowed at the semester).

Cadet Band **5FA02S1 & 5FA02S2**

This year-long course is for students who are beginning or intermediate band musicians. Students are encouraged to enroll in this class if they have never played an instrument, have switched to a new instrument, or need individualized help. Learning how to read music and rhythms will be an emphasis in this course. There are several required performances, which are reflected in the course grade.

Orchestra **5FA01S1 & 5FA01S2**

This year-long course is for students who are beginning or intermediate violin players. Learning how to read music and rhythms will be an emphasis in this course. There are some required performances, which are reflected in the course grade.

Concert Band **5FA03S1 & 5FA03S2**

Prerequisite: Audition, agreement, and director approval are required to be a member of this group.

This year-long course is designed for students who are intermediate or advanced band musicians who want to participate in an intermediate band. Students in this group participate in concerts and parades and may be required to attend after-school practice sessions to prepare for these events. There are several required performances, which are reflected in the course grade.

Jazz Band **5FA06S1 & 5FA06S2**

Prerequisite: Audition, agreement, and director approval are required to be a member of this group.

This year-long course is designed for intermediate / advanced music students. Enrollment in this class requires that a student play an instrument appropriate for a jazz band. Music selections include various forms of jazz, pop, Latin grooves, rock, and other high skill music. Students in this group must demonstrate a high level of commitment and superior citizenship to be successful.

Symphonic Band **5FA04S1 & 5FA04S2**

Prerequisite: Audition, agreement, and director approval are required to be a member of this group.

This year-long course is designed for intermediate / advanced music students. This course provides highly advanced music instruction in various musical styles in a balanced band. Students in this group must demonstrate a high level of commitment and superior citizenship to be successful. Students in this group will participate in concerts, parades, and special events and may be required to attend after-school practice sessions to prepare for these events. Jazz / Symphonic Band participates in numerous performances and may travel; these performances are reflected in the course grade.

Mariachi **5FA05S1 & 5FA05S2**

Prerequisite: Audition, agreement, and director approval are required to be a member of this group.

This year-long course is designed for music students of any level who play the trumpet, violin, vihuela, guitar, and/or guitarron and desire to learn and perform the intricate music and rhythm styles of the Latino cultural heritage. The curriculum is fast-paced, whereby new music is introduced at an accelerated learning pace. Students in this group must demonstrate a high level of commitment and superior citizenship to be successful. More experienced musicians will perform more often than those new to the genre. Mariachi performs in several required concerts throughout the year, which are reflected in the course grade.

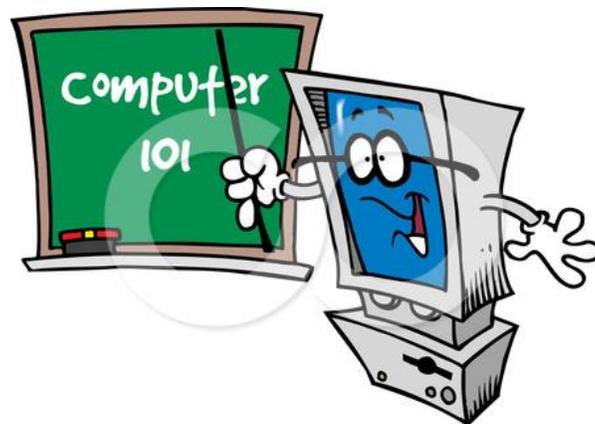
Elective Offerings: Art and Computers



6 Art

5FA07S1 & 5FA07S2

This year-long course introduces sixth graders to a variety of art techniques while developing a foundation of art concepts. One of the main goals of this course is to develop an awareness of the history and influences of artists and artwork throughout time. The Arizona State Standards divides this elective into three strands: create, relate, and evaluate. These strands are developed throughout the year. Reading and writing are infused in art class to support the language arts curriculum. In particular, Common Core texts relating to art and artists are read and analyzed.



© Ron Leishman * www.ClipartOf.com/1045470

6 Computers

5CS01S1 & 5CS01S2

This year-long class shows students how to use the computer as a tool for discovering, researching, and learning. It is intended for students at the beginning, intermediate, or advanced level of technology. The curriculum is aligned with the State Technology Standards and includes: fundamental and advanced operations and concepts, touch typing, word processing, drawing, spreadsheets, Internet use, and PowerPoint. Common Core *Literacy in Technical Subjects* is infused in the curriculum to support the language arts core program. And Common Core math standards are infused in the curriculum to support the Math core program.

Special Education Offerings



6 Resource Math

6MA11S1 & 6MA11S2

These are year-long 2-hour block courses scheduled for students who need additional help in developing and improving *math*. Placement is based on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Curriculum is drawn from grade-level resources, and AzMERIT Math is taken at grade-level. Instruction is one-on-one and small group. Students taking an alternate AzMERIT assessment are not placed in resource classes.

6 Resource English Language Arts

6EN11S1 & 6EN11S2

These are year-long 2-hour block courses scheduled for students who need additional help in developing and improving *English Language Arts*. Placement is based on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Curriculum is drawn from grade-level resources, and AzMERIT English Language Arts (ELA) is taken at grade-level. Instruction is one-on-one and small group. Students taking an alternate AzMERIT assessment are not placed in resource classes.

6-8 Life Skills (SC)

6AD11S1 & 6AD11S2

These are year-long courses scheduled for students who need additional help in developing their academics for high school and/or functional life skills to transition to work. Instruction is one-on-one and small group. Placement is based on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Curriculum is drawn from resources appropriate for each child's needs. Students enrolled in Life Skills classes take an alternate AzMERIT assessment. Students in the Life Skills program earn Pass (P) or Fail (F) letter grades as opposed to A-F letter grades.



Desert Shadows Middle School

6th Grade Course Registration Form
2016-17

Student Name _____ Student ID _____

Instructions: Please select a class for each section by putting a check mark on the line.

Language Arts (Select 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4EN31S1 & 4EN31S2	6 Honors English Language Arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 4EN01S1 & 4EN01S2	6 English Language Arts

Mathematics (Select 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4MA01S1 & 4MA01S2	6 Math

Science (Select 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4SC31S1 & 4SC31S2	6 Honors Science
<input type="checkbox"/> 4SC01S1 & 4SC01S2	6 Science

Social Studies (Select 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4SS31S1 & 4SS31S2	6 Honors Social Studies
<input type="checkbox"/> 4SS01S1 & 4SS01S2	6 Social Studies

Enrichment (Select 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5MA01S1 & 5EN01S1	6 Math Enrichment and 6 ELA Enrichment
<input type="checkbox"/> 5MA02S1 & 5EN02S1	6 Math Enrichment: STEM & 6 ELA Enrichment: Information Nation

Electives (Select 2)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5FA02S1 & 5FA02S2	Cadet Band
<input type="checkbox"/> 5FA01S1 & 5FA01S2	Orchestra
<input type="checkbox"/> 5FA05S1 & 5FA05S2	Mariachi <i>(must have director approval)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> 5FA03S1 & 5FA03S2	Concert Band <i>(must have director approval)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> 5FA06S1 & 5FA06S2	Jazz <i>(must have director approval)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> 5FA04S1 & 5FA04S2	Symphonic Band <i>(must have director approval)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> 5CS01S1 & 5CS01S2	Computers
<input type="checkbox"/> 5FA07S1 & 5FA07S2	Art
Identify an alternate class in case a scheduling conflict arises: _____	

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date