

Desert Shadows Middle School
2016-17 Course Description Book
7th Grade



Prepared February 2016

English Language Arts Offerings

7 Honors English Language Arts: 4EN32S1 & 4EN32S2

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 exceed on 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.

7 English Language Arts: 4EN02S1 & 4EN02S2

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 State Standards; and (b) to exceed on 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.

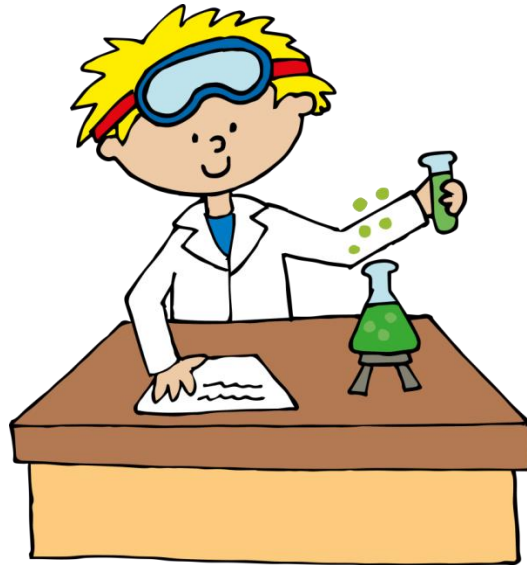


Math Offering

7 Math 4MA02S1 & 4MA02S2

This year-long course provided to ALL 7th graders addresses number sense, operations, data analysis, probability, discrete math, patterns, algebra, functions, geometry, measurement, structure, and logic as outlined in the 7th grade Common Core Standards at the advanced level. This course is specifically designed for students to grasp and appreciate mathematical concepts, problem-solving/reasoning skills, and mathematical representations. Having successfully taken this course, all 7th grade students are expected : (a) to be fully prepared for the next level of math; and (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.

Science Offerings



7 Honors Science

4SC32S1 & 4SC32S2

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

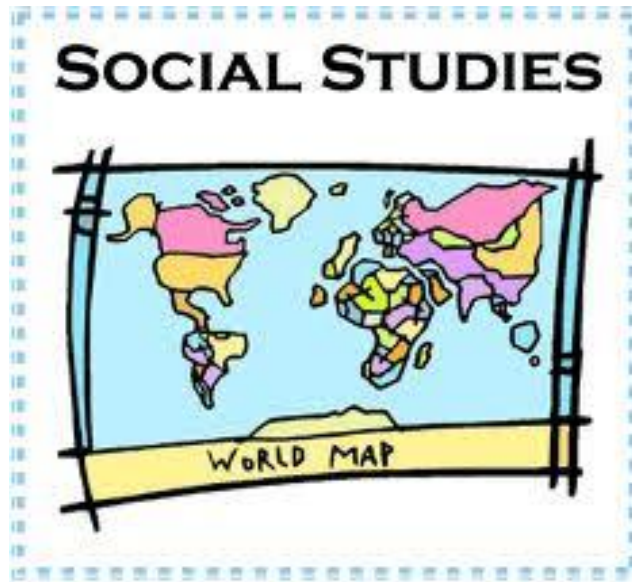
This year-long course addresses the inquiry process, experimentation, history/nature of science, science in personal/social perspectives, life science, earth science and *Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects* as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the advanced level for 7th grade. Math, reading, 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.

7 Science

4SC02S1 & 4SC02S2

This year-long course addresses the inquiry process, experimentation, history/nature of science, science in personal/social perspectives, life science, earth science, and *Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects* as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the proficiency level for 7th grade. Math, reading, and writing are infused to support the core math and language arts curricula. The purpose of the course is to expand a student's knowledge, interest, and appreciation of the ecosystem and build upon knowledge of Earth's systems and planetary sciences 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 7th 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



7 Honors Social Studies

4SS32S1 & 4SS32S2

Prerequisite: *Must have passed previous year's Social Studies 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 7th 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. In social studies, students will complete a major project (project, paper, presentation) during the second quarter. This American History course is offered to self-motivated students who wish to work beyond the regular curriculum to prepare for the Honors 8th grade class at DSMS and the Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate classes at the high school.

7 Social Studies

4SS02S1 & 4SS02S1

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. This American History course also addresses internationalism as it relates to the U.S. foundations and economy. 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:



7 SEI Reading **4EN26S1 & 4EN26S2**

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.

7 SEI Writing **4EN25S1 & 4EN25S2**

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.

7 SEI Grammar **4EN27S1 & 4EN27S2**

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

7 SEI Conversation & Vocabulary **4EN28S1 & 4EN28S2**

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

Enrichment Offerings in English Language Arts (ELA) & Math

7 Math Enrichment: STEM 4MA04S1

This is a semester-long course paired with *ELA Enrichment: Broaden your Horizons*, another semester-long course. This class is based on the Common Core Standards related to Science and Math with a specific focus on the STEM curriculum. Those who enroll in this class should have an interest/aptitude in science and math.

7 ELA Enrichment: Broaden your Horizons 5EN04S1

This is a semester-long course paired with *Science/Math Enrichment: STEM*, another semester-long course. This course teaches 7th grade students general geography based on the five themes of geography. The course will cover an overview study of the five continents of the world (based on the Olympic flag's rings) with a geographic emphasis of a selected country. Extensive reading and discussion will be conducted in terms of culture, demographics, history, sports, music, art, people, folklore, and food.

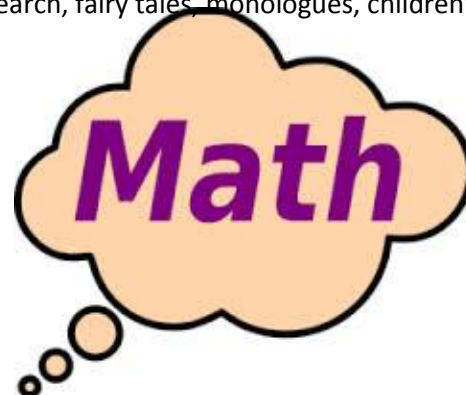


7 Math Enrichment: Career Math 5MA05S1

This is a semester-long course paired with *Right to Write*, another semester-long course. This course addresses the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Math at the 7th grade level. Students in this class will participate in a career exploration program that brings real life into the classroom. Units include: (a) goal setting (e.g., careers vs. jobs); (b) making a living (e.g., monthly budget and expenses); (c) quality of life (e.g., leisure vs. work time); (d) getting promoted / fired (e.g., changes and choices, including furthering education or switching careers). These units require students to apply math to everyday living situations.

7 ELA Enrichment: Right to Write 5EN05S1

This is a semester-long course paired with *Career Math*, another semester-long course. This course addresses the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Language Arts at the 7th grade level. In this class students are introduced to many forms of writing. Students will also demonstrate ability to read and listen to each form of writing. Genres include: short stories, narratives, poetry, explanatory text, comics, argumentation, playscripts, research, fairy tales, monologues, children's books, business writing, and one-minute speeches.



7 Math Enrichment**5MA03S1**

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 7th 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.

**7 ELA Enrichment****5EN03S1**

This is a semester-long course paired with *Math Enrichment*, another semester-long course. Reading curriculum is aligned to the 7th 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, but some require audition).

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: PE/Health and Spanish

Physical Education



7-8 Girls' PE/Health

5PE08S1 & 5PE08S2

This year-long course will address comprehensive health (50 days) and physical activity (130 days) as outlined in the State Standards at the proficiency level. This is a year-long course designed to maximize each student's potential through acquisition of knowledge, skills, and attitudes towards sports and fitness that will transfer to a healthy lifestyle. Math is integrated in the Health class to support the math program.

7-8 Boys' PE/Health

5PE07S1 & 5PE07S2

This year-long course will address comprehensive health (50 days) and physical activity (130 days) as outlined in the State Standards at the proficiency level. This is a year-long course designed to maximize each student's potential through acquisition of knowledge, skills, and attitudes towards sports and fitness that will transfer to a healthy lifestyle. Math is integrated in the Health class to support the math program.



7 Spanish

5ML02S1 & 5ML02S2

This course addresses communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities as outlined in the State Standards at the proficiency level. The goal of this year-long course is to provide the students with knowledge and appreciation of Spanish language and literature. Students focus on reading, writing, and speaking as aligned to our language arts course of study. Additionally, math is integrated in Spanish to support the math program.

7-8 Beginning Spanish

5ML04S1 & 5ML04S2

This is a Spanish course for 7th and 8th graders that are non-native speakers. Students will learn the Spanish alphabet, numbers, basic verb conjugation, and language at the conversational level. Reading and writing in Spanish will also be introduced. Students can enroll in this level of Spanish for one year only at DSMS unless approved by the principal.

Special Education Offerings



7 Resource Math

6MA12S1 & 6MA12S2

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.

7 Resource English Language Arts

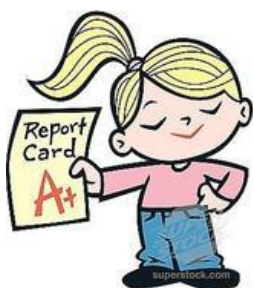
6EN12S1 & 6EN12S2

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

**7th Grade 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"/> 4EN32S1 & 4EN32S2	7 Honors English Language Arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 4EN02S1 & 4EN02S2	7 English Language Arts

Mathematics (Select 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4MA02S1 & 4MA02S2	7 Math

Science (Select 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4SC32S1 & 4SC32S2	7 Honors Science
<input type="checkbox"/> 4SC02S1 & 4SC02S2	7 Science

Social Studies (Select 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4SS32S1 & 4SS32S2	7 Honors Social Studies
<input type="checkbox"/> 4SS02S1 & 4SS02S2	7 Social Studies

Enrichment (Select 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5MA03S1 & 5EN03S1	7 Math Enrichment & 7 ELA Enrichment
<input type="checkbox"/> 5MA04S1 & 5EN04S1	7 Math Enrichment: STEM & 7 ELA Enrichment: Broaden your Horizons
<input type="checkbox"/> 5MA05S1 & 5EN05S1	7 Math Enrichment: Career Math & 7 ELA Enrichment: Right to Write

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"/> 5ML02S1 & 5ML02S2	Spanish
<input type="checkbox"/> 5ML04S1 & 5ML04S2	Beginning Spanish
<input type="checkbox"/> 5PE08S1 & 5PE08S2	Girls' PE/Health
<input type="checkbox"/> 5PE07S1 & 5PE07S2	Boys' PE/Health
Identify an alternate class in case a scheduling conflict arises: _____	

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date