

**Desert Shadows Middle School**  
**2017-18 Course Description Book**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**



Prepared February 2017

## English Language Arts Offerings

### **8 Honors English Language Arts**

**4EN33S1 & 4EN33S2**

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

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.

### **8 English Language Arts**

**4EN03S1 & 4EN03S2**

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, informed, socially just, and culturally responsive.



## Math Offerings

### 8 Math

4MA03S1 & 4MA03S2

This year-long course provided to 8<sup>th</sup> graders addresses number sense, operations, data analysis, probability, discrete math, patterns, algebra, functions, geometry, measurement, structure, and logic as outlined in the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are expected: (a) to be fully prepared for the next level of math; (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.



### 8 Honors Algebra I

4MA33S1 & 4MA33S2

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

This year-long course provided to 8<sup>th</sup> graders addresses number sense, operations, data analysis, probability, discrete math, patterns, algebra, functions, geometry, measurement, structure, expressions, equations, transformations, two and three-dimensional figures, statistics, and probability/logic as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the advanced level. This course is specifically designed for students to use algebra as a vehicle to grasp and appreciate mathematical concepts, problem-solving/reasoning skills, and mathematical representations. Having successfully taken this course, all 8<sup>th</sup> graders are expected: (a) to be fully prepared for the next level of math, including the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes at the high school level; (b) to be fully prepared for summative math tests such as AzMERIT (both 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade levels); and (c) to be lifelong learners who use mathematical and logical reasoning to solve everyday challenges.

## Science Offerings



### 8 Honors Science

4SC33S1 & 4SC33S2

**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, life science, physical science and *Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects* as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the advanced level for 8<sup>th</sup> 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; (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.

### 8 Science

4SC03S1 & 4SC03S2

This year-long course addresses the inquiry process, experimentation, history/nature of science, life science, physical science, and *Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects* as outlined in the Common Core Standards at the proficiency level for 8<sup>th</sup> 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 biology, chemistry, and 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science, students are expected 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.

## Social Studies Offerings

### 8 Honors Social Studies

4SS33S1 & 4SS33S2

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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. This course has a multidisciplinary focus. The course provides students with a firm foundation in geography, government, and United States history within a global framework to foster understanding of the United States' role in the world, both historically and currently. Assignments for this course will include independent and cooperative research, using both primary and secondary sources, thematic presentations, debates, opinion papers, and simulations. In social studies, students will complete a major project (project, paper, presentation) during the second quarter. Students taking this course should be highly motivated, independent learners who possess an intellectual curiosity about the course topics. This course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate Program at the high school.

### 8 Social Studies

4SS03S1 & 4SS03S2

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. Students will study governments, the U.S. Constitution, and internationalism. There will also be a focus on how democracy helps societies cooperate rather than fight. 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:



### **8 SEI Reading** **4EN210S1 & 2EN210S2**

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.

### **8 SEI Writing** **4EN29S1 & 2EN29S2**

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.

### **8 SEI Grammar** **4EN211S1 & 4EN211S2**

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

### **8 SEI Conversation & Vocabulary** **4EN212S1 & 4EN212S2**

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

## Elective Offerings: Instrumental Music

*The following instrumental music classes are offered to 8<sup>th</sup> graders, but some require an audition  
Class / level changes for music will NOT be allowed during the year or at the semester. So please select wisely.*



### 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, Spanish



### 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.



### 8 Spanish

5ML03S1 & 5ML03S2

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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Enrichment Offerings in English Language Arts (ELA) & Math

### **8 Math Enrichment: Personal Finance** **5MA07S1**

This is a semester-long course paired with *A Glimpse of India*, another semester-long course. Course curriculum is based on the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Math. These concepts will be considered: expressions, the number system, functions, equations, transformations, two and three-dimensional figures, statistics, and probability. Particular themes for this course will include: economics, budgeting, ways to save money, investing, balancing a checkbook, credit cards, insurance, tipping, comparison shopping, finding a job, interviewing, resume writing, careers, and retirement planning.

### **8 ELA Enrichment: A Glimpse of India** **5EN07S1**

This is a semester-long course paired with *Personal Finance*, another semester-long course. Course curriculum is based on the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for 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. Particular themes for this course will include: history, geography, culture, religion, art, society, sports, politics, fashion, and tourism.



**8 Math Enrichment** **5MA06S1**

This is a semester long course paired with one of the following semester long courses: *(a) Debating Current Events; (b) Film Critique; of (c) Right to Write*. This course addresses the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Math at the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



**8 ELA Enrichment: Debating Current Events** **5EN08S1**

This is a semester-long course paired with *Math Enrichment*, another semester-long course. Course curriculum is based on the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening. These concepts will be considered: 1) Developing public speaking skills, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated and appropriate; (2) Develop debating skills; and (3) Critically think and analyze public media information covering current events. Additionally, this course integrates reading and writing. Participation in a local or state debate may be expected.

**8 ELA Enrichment: Film Critique** **5EN010S1**

This is a semester-long course paired with *Math Enrichment*, another semester-long course. Course curriculum is based on the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Listening and Writing. This course will help students understand and appreciate the film medium. Students will analyze selected films from various genres of classic films both American and foreign. By the end of this course students will have the ability to use appropriately the basic terminology of film production and film analysis, apply various approaches to film analysis--including feminist, economic, historical, psychological, and sociopolitical--and develop the ability to think critically about their own and other individuals' responses to selected films.

**8 ELA Enrichment: Right to Write** **5EN09S1**

This is a semester-long course paired with *Math Enrichment*, another semester-long course. This class will encourage students to play detective as they solve mysteries based on evidence and create arguments. In addition, they will analyze literary texts and related media through close reading. The class promotes logic and higher order thinking skills as students learn how to read a literary analysis prompt, plan the response, and write short and long pieces. This is the class students want to enroll in, if they want a strong foundation for their high school English classes.

## Special Education Offerings

### 8 Resource Math

6MA13S1 & 6MA13S2

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.

### 8 Resource English Language Arts

6EN13S1 & 6EN13S2

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.



### 8 Peer Tutor

5PT01S1 & 5PT01S2

**Prerequisites: To be considered for peer tutoring, all of the following criteria must be met:**

- ✓ **Have A's and B's in previous year's classes**
- ✓ **Score proficient/highly proficient on recent AzMERIT for the assigned class (i.e., math or English Language Arts)**
- ✓ **Demonstrate outstanding behavior**

This is a year-long course (unless removed by administration for discipline/academic reasons). Peer tutors aid *students* who struggle. Placement is only for math, ELL, resource, Life Skills. The peer tutor should be good at explaining ideas, concepts, and reasons. Students who are considering teaching for a career and meet the criteria stated above should consider being a peer tutor. See the counselor for additional details.

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# Desert Shadows Middle School

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration Form  
2017-18



Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

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

Language Arts (Select 1)		
_____ 4EN33S1 & 4EN33S2		8 Honors English Language Arts
_____ 4EN03S1 & 4EN03S2		8 English Language Arts

Mathematics (Select 1)		
_____ 4MA03S1 & 4MA03S2		8 Math
_____ 4MA33S1 & 4MA33S2		8 Honors Algebra

Science (Select 1)		
_____ 4SC33S1 & 4SC33S2		8 Honors Science
_____ 4SC03S1 & 4SC03S2		8 Science

Social Studies (Select 1)		
_____ 4SS33S1 & 4SS33S2		8 Honors Social Studies
_____ 4SS03S1 & 4SS03S2		8 Social Studies

Enrichment (Select 1)		
_____ 5MA07S1 & 5EN07S1		8 Math Enrichment: Personal Finance & 8 ELA Enrichment: A Glimpse of India
_____ 5MA06S1 & 5EN08S1		8 Math Enrichment & 8 ELA Enrichment: Debating Current Events
_____ 5MA06S1 & 5EN10S1		8 Math Enrichment & 8 ELA Enrichment: Film Critique
_____ 5MA06S1 & 5EN09S1		8 Math Enrichment & 8 ELA Enrichment: Right to Write
Identify an alternate class in case a scheduling conflict arises: _____		

Electives (Select 2)		
_____ 5FA05S1 & 5FA05S2	Mariachi	<i>(must have director approval)</i>
_____ 5FA03S1 & 5FA03S2	Concert	<i>(must have director approval)</i>
_____ 5FA06S1 & 5FA06S2	Jazz	<i>(must have director approval)</i>
_____ 5FA04S1 & 5FA04S2	Symphonic	<i>(must have director approval)</i>
_____ 5ML04S1 & 5ML04S2	Beginning Spanish	
_____ 5ML03S1 & 5ML03S2	Spanish	
_____ 5PE08S1 & 5PE08S2	Girls' PE/Health	
_____ 5PE07S1 & 5PE07S2	Boys' PE/Health	
Identify an alternate class in case a scheduling conflict arises: _____		

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date