

Denair Middle School
Elective Course Descriptions
7th and 8th Grade

- **7th/8th Exploratory Wheel – 9 weeks (1 quarter)**

Computer Literacy

This course provides students with an opportunity to further expand and refine their computer skills. Students will see how these skills can be used to enhance learning, expression and communication in many areas of their academic and personal lives. Students will use various software programs and Internet resources to accomplish these goals.

Introduction to Horticulture

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the growth requirements of plants. In this elective students will be participating in a variety of hands on activities around seed propagation methods, planting and caring for plants, plant life cycles and explore the nutrients and energy requirements of plants.

Introduction to Spanish

This course is designed to help students explore a new language. This is an ideal class for students who want to learn the basics of Spanish and is a great preview for students who may want to take Spanish in high school. Presentation and practice of functional expressions, vocabulary and grammar structures are interwoven with cultural information. Students may take Introduction to Spanish as a seventh grader or eighth grader but may not take the course both years.

Geometric Design

This course will combine basic geometry and design while teaching geometric shapes with an artistic and hands-on approach. The students in this class will learn to draw and create fun geometric shapes while using mathematical tools such as rulers, protractors and compasses. Students will also build 3-dimensional geometric shapes out of various materials.

- **Intervention Courses – must have teacher/parent recommendation and approval**

These courses are offered to students that have had difficulty with their core classes, difficulties with tests, and need encouragement to increase their basic skills in math and language arts. Students will be placed in these classes in the place of an elective course. Each course is one quarter long. If you are interested in any of the following classes please add it to your elective choices.

Math Rewind

This course is designed for students that are at or just below 7th grade level math ability. Students that take this class are in need of extra instruction in regards to material covered in class, assistance with daily homework, or assistance in note taking skills.

Algebra Rewind

This course is designed for students that are at or just below 8th grade level math ability. Students that take this class are in need of extra instruction in regards to material covered in class, assistance with daily homework, or assistance in note taking skills.

Math Basics

This course is designed for students that are several grade levels below grade level standard. A pre and post assessment will be given to each student and individual instruction will be designed to improve areas of weakness. This course is limited to 10-15 students so that the instruction can be individualized.

ELA/Reading Intervention

This class will help you improve your reading, vocabulary, and grammar skills and boost your interest in literature. You will be reading novels and short stories as a whole class, in pairs and individually. Increasing your vocabulary, playing word games, learning strategies to improve areas of weakness, and listening to “books on tape” are just a few of the additional activities. A pre and post assessment will be given to each student.

- **7th/8th Yearlong Classes**

***students must apply for these classes. Applications may be picked up at the office August 1st. No new adds after the second week of the school year.**

Science Olympiad

This course will explore the application of science curriculum to events modeled after the Science Olympiad competition. Student will gain knowledge and skills in a variety of topics, ranging from Astronomy and Anatomy to Bridge Building and Forensic Science.

Leadership

The Denair Middle School ASB Leadership Program serves the school as the student council while providing representation and activities for the entire student body. Four ASB Officers are elected into the class and additional students are selected to the class through an application process and through teacher evaluation. The 6th and 7th grades will have two class representatives per quarter take part in Leadership. The program instructs students on planning techniques, decision-making skills, problem solving, organizational skills, group dynamics, and principles of communication, budgeting and issues of public relations. It focuses on skill building, planning, implementation evaluation and experiential learning for the purpose of

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growing the individual students in the areas of respect, responsibility, service and initiative. An outgrowth of the program is the promotion and enhancement of a positive school climate. Responsibilities include planning lunchtime activities, dances, fundraising, recognition programs, special events and helping with the various programs of the school. Students selected to the program must be willing to give up portions of their time to serve the other students of the school.

Yearbook

This is a year-long course in which students learn the business of producing a yearbook. Students will have the opportunity to learn photography, marketing, layout and design within a Visuals Arts context. Working with our online publisher, students will create the book, page by page using state of the art publishing software. Learning to market and sell our product is the final aspect of this class. Eligible students will be self-starters with good communication skills and/or artistic ability. There will be some class assignments on evenings and weekends to photograph various school activities. Students must apply for this class.

Spanish 1

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Spanish language and Spanish culture and to develop communicative skills and cross-cultural understanding. The emphasis is on oral communication and everyday expressions. The content should include, but not be limited to, beginning skills in listening and speaking, introduction to reading, writing, fundamentals, grammar, and fundamentals of culture. Command of the English language and responsible completion of homework is expected.

Chorus

The choral curriculum provides opportunities for beginning chorus students to experience quality pieces of choral music while building their own individual vocal skill and gaining knowledge about music. Students will sing a wide variety of quality choral music. This class provides the opportunity for students to participate in a mixed choral setting. The class focuses on music fundamentals, proper tone quality, and music reading skills using the Kodaly method and knowledge to better understand choral music. Music skills are displayed through required performances during the year. This class is a combination of students from Denair Middle School and Denair High School. Each student will be interviewed prior to admission into the program.

Horticulture

Through hands-on learning in the DMS garden and greenhouse facility, as well as the classroom, students will propagate and grow plants for food, cut flowers, school grounds, and other landscape spaces. Students will explore greenhouse growing, nursery production, landscape design, pruning, vegetable/herb production, and plant identification and selection appropriate for our Northern California climate. Students will design, build, and maintain demonstration and thematic gardens in the DMS garden area and around campus. Students will gain leadership skills and insight into business practices by planning, publicizing, and managing seasonal plant sales.