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SDUHSD
Middle School Course Descriptions

English: required

Visit OC website, click on ‘2017-2018 Registration’ and under “read only” documents, view: **7th and 8th grade English College Prep & Honors Guide.**

Math: required

Visit OC website, click on ‘2017-2018 Registration’ and under “read only” documents, view: **Math Course Profiles, SDUHSD Math Pathways, Math Course Placement Recommendations (for 8th grade only).**

Social Science: required

World History

Grade level: 7

This course examines the political, social, cultural and economic developments around the world from approximately 500 A.D. through the 1700’s. Students examine the history and cultures of Africa, the Middle East, Asia, the America’s, and medieval Europe through the Age of Enlightenment. This course is the second in a World History sequence that began with the sixth grade Ancient Civilizations course and continues in the tenth grade course on the Modern World.

United States History

Grade level: 8

This course examines the political, economic and social developments in the United States from colonial times through 1914. Particular emphasis is placed on examining the political values on which our nation was based, as well as issues and events that affected their continued development.

Science: required

7th Grade Science

Grade level: 7

7th Grade Science is a year-long inquiry-oriented and integrated science course for 7th graders. In addition to addressing portions of life science content from outgoing California State Standards, some engineering, physical, and Earth-space science content will also be included as SDUHSD transitions to the new California-adopted Next Generation Science Standards for the 2017-18 school year.

8th Grade Science

Grade level: 8

8th Grade Science is a year-long, inquiry-oriented and integrated science course for 8th graders. In addition to addressing portions of physical science content from outgoing California State Standards, some engineering, life, and Earth-space science content will also be included as SDUHSD transitions to the new California-adopted Next Generation Science Standards for the 2017-2018 school year.

PE Courses - All PE Courses are Year-Long: required

General Physical Education

Grade level: 7 and 8

This course is designed to be part of a continuous process to meet the following goals of physical education as set by the California State Frameworks: to improve physical activity, physical fitness, wellness, movement skills and knowledge; social development and interaction; self-image and self-realization and individual excellence.

Independent Study PE (ISPE)

Grade level: 7 and 8

This course is designed for the athlete who competes in an individual sport. Students are off campus during period 1, or period 5 (option for zero period students only), or period 6 to participate in their sport. ***SDUHSD Online ISPE Contract & Documents required; must apply by deadline and meet criteria for enrollment, visit www.sduhsd.net.***

Semester Elective Courses

General Studio Art:

Grade level: 7 and 8

A hands on class suitable for all levels of artists from first time beginners to the very experienced. Studio Art will allow students to experiment and create with a variety art forms, media, techniques and styles. This exposure will create a common core of knowledge, familiarize the student with his/her cultural heritage, develop and refine his/her sensibilities toward the arts and enable the student to express his/her own creativity and increase his/her capacity for problem solving and nurture an enthusiasm for and appreciation of the arts

Art for New Media:

Grade level: 7 and 8

This course is designed to merge the best of General Studio Art and Digital Arts. Students will utilize the Elements of Art and Principals of Design along with creative problem solving, experimentation, and personal expression to invent and design their artwork. Students will learn basic concepts in both Adobe Photo Shop and Adobe Illustrator. Students will create in the studio and combine this with the benefits of digital software.

Cartooning (Animation):

Grade level: 7 and 8

Cartooning is taught both in the computer lab and in the classroom. The first several weeks in class will be spent learning the animation process and practical drawing techniques that will help you to create realistic animations. In the computer lab students will learn to animate cartoons with animation software used by professionals in the field of Animation. Animations projects will include stop motion, white board animations, Claymation, and cartoon animations. Selected quality animations are often shown to the student body during school wide homeroom and at the Learning Commons. Animations are also posted on the Oak Crest Facebook page and YouTube for students to share.

Introduction to Drama:

Grade level: 7 and 8

This course is designed to introduce the student to the cultural heritage and artistic process of acting. The student's skill in expressing thought and feelings through both verbal and non-verbal means will be developed. Positive self-image and confidence are developed through the emphasis on a graduated sequence of success-oriented activities.

CE-SMART (Career Exploration of Science and Math Applications to Research and Technology):

Grade level: 7 and 8

This semester elective class delivers a contemporary curriculum of technological content and scientific inquiry through the balanced use of multimedia, video and hands-on activities. The integrated units include, Alternative Energy, Apparel Merchandising, Laser Technology, CAD, Electricity, Digital Music, Flight Technology, Forensic Science, Energy and Power, Materials and Processing, Mechanics, Pneumatics, Research and Development, Robotics and Robotics Engineering, Structural Engineering, and Virtual Architecture. In addition; students are introduced to 21st century skills including: teamwork, initiative, problem solving, self-direction, and career development.

Computer Programming and App Design (Coding & Robotics):

Grade level: 7 and 8

This course will provide students with an exploratory course in computer science as well as an introduction to programming language and logic. Build 21st century skills by exploring a variety of programming applications (*Alice, Kodu, Scratch, LEGO robotics*, etc.) through design-based and project-based learning. The LEGO robotics component will have students code the software, build the robot and test their work. Develop personal connections to computing by drawing upon interests, creativity, and imagination.

Medical Detectives

Grade level: 7 and 8

In the Medical Detectives (MD) elective, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA and other forensic evidence found at a variety of "crime scenes." They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

Multimedia

Grade level: 7 and 8

This is an elective course designed for all students. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of multimedia production through instruction in digital photography and digital photo and graphics manipulation using Adobe Photoshop, basic web page design using Google Sites, and multimedia presentation using PowerPoint. Designed within this curriculum, students will also use Microsoft Office - Word, Excel, and Publisher - as well as learn to navigate and research the Internet and to critically evaluate the quality of websites. Infused into the curriculum will be keyboarding practice to increase typing speed and accuracy. Finally, the class will be introduced to the basics of video editing and online journalism with an emphasis on writing news stories, feature stories and opinion articles.

Adaptive PE Tutor

Grade level 8

*** Online application and approval of instructor required**

The APE Peer Tutor program is currently being used in over 200 schools in the United States and Canada. The basic idea is the use of peer tutors to assist students with special-needs within the physical education environment. Our goal is to strive to meet the needs of students with challenges providing a fun and successful experience in A.P.E. Peer tutors suit up for active participation in physical activity and receive P.E. credit. Tutors gain self-satisfaction, personal growth, and a better understanding, as they become involved with the students and the program. Fitness testing, research paper, skill tests, and teaching an APE lesson are essential element of evaluation for all students enrolled in this course.

Year-Long Elective Courses

***Spanish I (College Prep) : Spanish 1 Course Profile**

Grade level: 7 and 8

Fulfills CSU/UC Requirements

This course consists of a series of linguistic activities and cultural topics, which enable the student to communicate about daily activities at a survival level. These activities are chosen for their personal significance to the students, thereby providing an aspect of spontaneity to the communication. At the end of this course, the student will be able to understand, speak, read, and write about high frequency expressions and phrases and make him/herself understood by the teacher.

***Spanish II (College Prep): Spanish II Course Profile**

Grade level 8

Fulfills CSU/UC Requirements

This yearlong course consists of a series of linguistic activities and cultural topics, which enable the students to communicate about daily activities at a functional level. Curriculum is based on the California World Languages Framework, and activities are chosen for their personal significance to the students, thereby providing an aspect of spontaneity to the communication. At the end of the course, the student will be able to understand, speak, read, and write about basic daily activities, high frequency expression, and make him/herself understood by a sympathetic native speaker.

**A world language is not required for a high school diploma; however, two years minimum are required to apply to a four-year university. At least one year needs to be taken at the high school for all years to count (for example, you cannot take just Spanish I and Spanish II in 7th and 8th grade for it to count for college. You will need to take Spanish III in 9th grade for your middle school Spanish to count). You are advised to begin your language by 9th or 10th grade. You will have to wait until high school if you wish to study a language other than Spanish.*

Reading (Read 180)

Grade level: 7 and 8

This course provides support for students who are reading below grade level (SRI: Scholastic Reading Index score will be considered for placement in the class). Students will receive individualized instruction in reading comprehension, spelling and vocabulary on computer software, as well as small group instruction and independent reading time. Progress will be monitored regularly.

Leadership (ASB)

Grade level: 7 and 8

***Online application required**

Leadership is a year-long class that prepares students to participate effectively in student government. Students are provided learning experiences in areas of planning, implementation and evaluation of programs. Improved time management, goal setting, communication and organizational skills are stressed. Students gain insight into parliamentary procedure, California state law, and the education code and school finance. A basic objective of the course is to nurture student appreciation of the democratic process. Students who are enrolled in Leadership will also participate in Broadcasting. Students experience the process of filmmaking and videography from inception of an idea to completion of a project based on student video projects.

Yearbook

Grade level: 7 and 8

***Online application required**

The course encompasses the production of the school yearbook. The production of the yearbook begins in the early spring of each year when the staff of the ensuing year is selected. This is done through a process of interviewing and screening prospective students for editor and staff positions. During the year, production is geared for coverage of all school activities through the final deadline time in late March or April. This class will introduce you to design, copyrighting, publishing, digital photography, interview techniques, speaking and computer skills. While adhering to publisher deadlines, Yearbook offers an opportunity to: promote school spirit and pride; encourage high-standards of scholarship and citizenship; film and broadcast productions that will capture the emotions and events of the entire school, as well as document your school's place in history; develop leadership skills and create positive relations among students, staff and community members.

Advanced Drama:

Grade level: 7 and 8

***Online application required**

This course is designed to refine the basic skills developed in "Intro to Drama." The intent is to develop within the student a positive self-concept, and an ability to perceive and interact successfully with others. There will be a greater emphasis on "in-class" performances.

Band (Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced/Symphonic levels available)

Grade level: 7 and 8

***online music application required for all levels**

****audition required for intermediate and advanced levels**

This course offers students the opportunity to continue their study of standard woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, and to participate in band performances. Successful completion of this course qualifies students to progress to the high school band program.

NOTE: Please refer to the Course Request Form for the elective courses currently offered at Oak Crest Middle School. Final elective courses offered are based on student sign-ups and staffing availability.

All students in the San Dieguito Union High School District shall be accorded equality of consideration for program offerings without discrimination or abridgement on account of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or handicap.

Visit us at oc.sduhsd.net

San Dieguito
Union High School District

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