Welcome to Dixon Middle School

Course Descriptions and Registration Information for Students and Parents

2015-2016 School Year

*Additional courses may be offered after enrollment numbers are available*
Dixon Middle School  
2015-2016 Course Descriptions

Middle School Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7th grade</th>
<th>8th grade</th>
<th>Class length</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Full year</td>
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<td>Math</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Full year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>History (U.S. History)</td>
<td>Full year</td>
<td>Full year</td>
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<td>College and Career Awareness (Bus, FACS, Tech)</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Full year</td>
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<td>History (Utah Studies)</td>
<td>P.E.</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<td>Art 1</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.E.</td>
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<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
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<td>1 Semester</td>
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Electives: 2 Semesters  

Electives: 4 Semesters

* There is a minimum keyboarding standard (35 wpm with 6 or fewer errors) that all students are required to demonstrate. Students not able to demonstrate the standard will be enrolled in a keyboarding class.
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:
REQUIRED CLASSES

MATHEMATICS

Math 7, 7I, 7 Honors:
In this year-long course, students will extend their understanding of ratios and develop understanding of proportionality to solve single- and multi-step problems. Students will develop a unified understanding of number, recognizing fractions, decimals (that have a finite or a repeating decimal representation), and percents as different representations of rational numbers. Students will continue their work with area from Grade 6, solving problems involving the area and circumference of a circle and surface area of three-dimensional objects. Students will build on their previous work with single data distributions to compare two data distributions and address questions about differences between populations.

STEM 7:
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 7 is a year-long, three period course that teaches the curriculum of Science 7, Math 7, along with CTE curriculum. By combining these disciplines, this challenging course seeks to provide students with a greater depth of knowledge and skills than found in independent science or mathematics classes. Students enrolled in this course will be required to participate in a competition or presentation that will showcase what the students have learned.

Please return the STEM 7 Request Slip at registration to be considered for enrollment in this course. Enrollment is limited and is based on teacher recommendation, grades, and end-of-level test scores.

Math 8, 8I, 8 Honors:
In this year-long course, students will use linear equations and systems of linear equations to represent, analyze, and solve a variety of problems. Students will strategically choose and efficiently implement procedures to solve linear equations in one variable, understanding that when they use the properties of equality and the concept of logical equivalence, they maintain the solutions of the original equation. Students will grasp the concept of a function as a rule that assigns to each input exactly one output. Students will use ideas about distance and angles, how they behave under translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations, and ideas about congruence and similarity to describe and analyze two-dimensional figures and to solve problems.

STEM 8:
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 8 is a year-long, two period course that teaches the curriculum of Science 8, Math 8, along with some engineering/technology concepts and processes. By combining these disciplines, this challenging course seeks to provide students with a greater depth of knowledge and skills than found in independent science or mathematics classes. Students enrolled in this course will be required to participate in a competition or presentation that will showcase what the students have learned.

Please return the STEM 8 Request Slip at registration to be considered for enrollment in this course. Enrollment is limited and is based on teacher recommendation, grades, and end-of-level test scores.

Secondary Math 1:
This year-long course covers traditional Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 topics. These topics include solving equations, inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, functions (linear, quadratic and exponential), descriptive statistics in both one and two variables (categorical and numerical), transformations in the plane, congruence, constructions and coordinate geometry.
Enrollment is limited and is based on teacher recommendation, grades, and test scores.

American Studies 8:
This year-long combination English/History class is designed to provide an advanced/honors experience for students. The class is co-taught by 2 faculty members and offers a unique 2 period cohort experience to explore American History and English. Students will explore many historical documents, events, historical figures, important literary books, and non-fiction literatures. They learn more about American History and apply their English writing skills. Students will also be required to participate in out of class activities, projects, and writing assignments beyond the typical course expectations. This course is designed to provide a deeper understanding of History and English through unique classroom activities. Please return the American Studies 8 Request Slip at registration to be considered for enrollment in this course.
HISTORY

Utah Studies:
Utah Studies is a semester course required by the State of Utah for all 7th graders. Utah’s pre-history, Native American life, Euro-American settlement, and African American cultures will be the major content. Students will be involved in reading, writing, and research to develop problem solving skills, critical and creative thinking processes.

U.S. History:
United States History is a year-long course that emphasizes historic events from the age of exploration to reconstruction and the western movement. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to: the age of exploration, colonization, the Revolutionary War, national period, constitutional issues, the Civil War, reconstruction and the western movement. The emphasis of this course is on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. There will be a continued effort to review and develop content, process and thinking skills introduced in previous grades.

U.S. History Honors:
U.S. History Honors is a year-long writing course where students will be reading about, analyzing, and writing about historical events from the Viking Era to the end of the Reconstruction period. Emphasis will be on cause and effect as students research the whys and hows of history. The course will also include an introduction to the latest research on ancient Americans, a brief analysis of the U.S. Constitution, and a citizen's place in modern American democracy. Students will be presenting what they have learned in class as the year progresses. Welcome aboard and buckle up! Please return the U.S. History Honors Request Slip at registration to be considered for enrollment in this course. Enrollment is limited and is based on teacher recommendation, grades, and end-of-level test scores.

American Studies 8:
This year-long combination English/History class is designed to provide an advanced/honors experience for students. The class is co-taught by 2 faculty members and offers a unique 2 period cohort experience to explore American History and English. Students will explore many historical documents, events, historical figures, important literary books, and non-fiction literatures. They learn more about American History and apply their English writing skills. Students will also be required to participate in out of class activities, projects, and writing assignments beyond the typical course expectations. This course is designed to provide a deeper understanding of History and English through unique classroom activities. Please return the American Studies 8 Request Slip at registration to be considered for enrollment in this course. Enrollment is limited and is based on teacher recommendation, grades and test scores.

SCIENCE

Science 7:
This year-long course focuses on the theme of “structure.” Physical, earth and life science content are integrated with two primary goals: (1) Students will value and use science as a process of obtaining knowledge, based on observable evidence, and (2) students will develop an understanding of structure as a general science concept common to all areas.

Science 7 Honors:
This year-long course will cover the Utah 7th grade science core by “doing” science through experimental and project-based learning. The class focuses on the theme of “structure.” Physical, earth and life science content are integrated with two primary
goals: (1) Students will value and use science as a process of obtaining knowledge, based on observable evidence, and (2) students will develop an understanding of structure as a general science concept common to all areas. Please return the Science 7 Honors Request Slip at registration to be considered for enrollment in this course. Enrollment is limited and is based on teacher recommendation, grades, and end-of-level test scores.

STEM 7:
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 7 is a year-long, three period course that teaches the curriculum of Science 7, Math 7, along with the CTE curriculum. By combining these disciplines this challenging course seeks to provide students with a greater depth of knowledge and skills than found in independent science or mathematics classes. Students enrolled in this course will be required to participate in a competition or presentation that will showcase what the students have learned. Please return the STEM 7 Request Slip at registration to be considered for enrollment in this course. Enrollment is limited and is based on teacher recommendation, grades, and end-of-level test scores.

Integrated Science 8:
This year-long course includes concepts from chemistry, ecology, physics, and geology focused around the themes of change, matter, and energy. This serves as a broad introduction to the overall field of science, rather than an in-depth study of any specific scientific discipline. Major projects in this course may include a science project and a machine project.

Science 8 Honors:
This year-long course is designed for 8th grade students who show a strong interest and aptitude for using inquire-based skills as evidenced by test scores and teacher recommendation. The class will cover the Utah 8th grade science core by “doing” science through experimental and project-based learning. The focus will be on using scientific processes and advanced thinking skills to analyze and evaluate data. The use of technology in presentations of scientific principles will be incorporated to help students increase their skills in communicating scientific findings. A science project and participation in the school science fair is required. If you enjoy a challenge and want to know how the world works while preparing for advance level high school science classes, this class may be for you. Please return the Science 8 Honors Request Slip at registration to be considered for enrollment in this course. Enrollment is limited and is based on teacher recommendation, grades, and end-of-level test scores.

STEM 8:
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 8 is a year-long, two period course that teaches the curriculum of Science 8, Math 8, along with some engineering/technology concepts and processes. By combining these disciplines, this challenging course seeks to provide students with a greater depth of knowledge and skills than found in independent science or mathematics classes. Students enrolled in this course will be required to participate in a competition or presentation that will showcase what the students have learned. Please return the STEM 8 Request Slip at registration to be considered for enrollment in this course. Enrollment is limited and is based on teacher recommendation, grades, and end-of-level test scores.

HEALTH

Health:
Health is a semester course for 8th graders concerning personal development of the student, achieving personal health in the physical, emotional, mental and social aspects. Subjects include: mental and emotional health, social health, nutrition and
fitness, human diseases, substance abuse, personal safety, and human development.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Physical Education (Boys or Girls):**
This semester course is designed to encourage students to increase their lifetime participation skills in a wide variety of activities, to improve their teamwork and cooperation skills, and to maintain personal fitness. Activities will include, but are not limited to: Softball/Baseball, Soccer/Speedball, Aerobics, Volleyball, Basketball, Football, Recreational Games, Jump Rope and Presidential Physical Fitness activities. **This is a “LEARN BY DOING” COURSE.**

**Sports Conditioning (Girls Only):**
This semester course is designed for those students who are training for various sports teams. This class is NOT for the weak. Sports conditioning will emphasize the five fitness components including cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and total body composition. Free weights and conditioning activities will be incorporated to promote improvement in strength, endurance, balance, agility, and speed. Proper technique, safety precautions and proper application of the principles of training will be emphasized. If you are ready to work hard, push hard and are dedicated to fitness, then sign up for this class!!

**CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

**College and Career Awareness (Bus, FACS, Tech):**
Career and Technical Education Introduction is a year-long course that allows students, through activity-centered lessons, to utilize technology, develop beginning skills, and explore careers. The course provides information regarding additional courses and training related to each student’s career field of interest. It is a full year course divided into trimesters. Courses of study are: Business & Marketing; Family & Consumer Science & Health Occupations; Technology & Engineering and Information Technology. **This is the only course at DMS that will be on trimesters.**

**ART**

**Art 1:**
This semester course is an extension of the elementary school art core, with an emphasis on drawing, color and design objectives. It is a pre-requisite to all other art electives. Basic vocabulary, aesthetics, art history, higher-level thinking skills, production and art criticism are part of this course. **(See electives section for other art classes.)**

**MUSIC**

NOTE: One semester of music is required in middle school. Please see course descriptions under electives.
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - ELECTIVE CLASSES**

*IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ELECTIVES: You may not transfer out of a year-long elective at the semester or at term.*

**READING & WRITING**

**Creative Writing:**
This is a semester course in which students will learn how to be creative and think in new and unusual ways. They will work on improving and strengthening writing skills to publish articles, stories, cartoons, and drawings.

**MUSIC**

**General Music:**
This semester course is a study of different aspects of music including music theory, history, and culture. This course fulfills the state music requirement.

**Choir 7:**
This is a semester course designed to develop musical understanding through learning the basics of music theory and proper choral technique. Students also listen to and sing a variety of music in order to understand musical concepts. Students do not need previous experience to be eligible. This course fulfills the state music requirement.

**Choir 7Y:**
This is a year-long course designed to take students beyond the basics of music theory and proper choral technique. Students may have the opportunity to participate in numerous performances and choral festivals throughout the year. This course fulfills the state music requirement.

**Girl’s Ensemble:**
This is a year-long advanced choir for 8th grade girls who have auditioned and been accepted during the spring of their 7th grade year. This is a performing choir and requires full dedication. Students sing a variety of challenging music that may include simple choreography. This course fulfills the state music requirement.

**Concert Choir:**
This is a year-long advanced mixed choir for 8th grade students who have auditioned and been accepted during the spring of their 7th grade year. This is a performing choir and requires full dedication. Students sing a variety of challenging music that may include simple choreography. This course fulfills the state music requirement.

**Beginning Band:**
This year-long course is for students with no previous experience in band and who do NOT plan to participate in Dixon’s summer band program. Students are OBLIGATED to continue with this class for the entire school year. Students can choose one of the following instruments to learn: flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone. This course fulfills the state music requirement.

**Panther Band:**
This year-long course is for students with previous experience on a band instrument OR who plan to attend Dixon’s summer band program. Students are OBLIGATED to continue with this class for the entire school year. This course fulfills the state music requirement.

**Concert Band:**
This year-long course is an accelerated performance class for 8th grade students who are serious about the study of music and who have successfully completed a band class the previous year. Students are OBLIGATED to continue with this class for the entire school year. This course fulfills the state music requirement.
**Percussion:**
This is a **semester** course designed for students to learn fundamental skills for playing percussion. They will learn to play bells and snare drum. Students must provide their own percussion kit. *This course fulfills the state music requirement.* (Limited enrollment.)

**Beginning Orchestra:**
This **year-long** course is for students who would like to learn to play a stringed instrument. Previous experience not required. Students will learn to read music, explore the elements of music, and learn to play music of different cultures and genres. This class will have three to four performances per year. Students are OBLIGATED to continue with this class for the entire school year. *This course fulfills the state music requirement.*

**Intermediate Orchestra:**
This **year-long** course is for students who have prior experience (typically more than one year) with string instruments. This is an **audition-only** class - students who have not previously played in Dixon's orchestra program must audition for Mrs. Quinn in order to join this class. Students in this class will learn shifting in third and fourth positions, vibrato, as well as other high-level string techniques. The intermediate orchestra will have four performances per year in addition to a small ensemble performance. Students are OBLIGATED to continue with this class for the entire school year. *This course fulfills the state music requirement.*

**Concert Orchestra:**
This **year-long**, advanced course is for string students who typically have had more than two years of playing experience. This is an **audition-only** class - students who have not previously played in the Dixon concert orchestra must audition for Mrs. Quinn in order to join this class. The class will perform in at least one festival and will give four to five concerts in addition to a small ensemble performance. Students in this class will pursue shifting to fourth and fifth positions, vibrato, tuning, as well as other high-level string techniques. Students are OBLIGATED to continue with this class for the entire school year. *This course fulfills the state music requirement.*

**Beginning Guitar:**
This **semester** course teaches the fundamental techniques for reading music and for playing classical, folk, country and modern styles. Students must provide their own acoustic guitar. You will be expected to practice at home daily and will have a required evening performance at the end of the semester. *This course fulfills the state music requirement.* (Limited enrollment.)

**DANCE**

**Ballroom-Male and Female:**
No experience is necessary! This is a **semester** course that will introduce students to the Cha cha, Foxtrot, Waltz, Swing, etc. Emphasis is given to performing the dances in front of an audience. Social etiquette is introduced and used.

**Intermediate Ballroom:**
This is a **semester** course for students to learn steps and technique of Foxtrot, Cha cha, Tango, Swing and Samba. Students will have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of Ballroom Dance: performance, competition and social. *Must have taken Ballroom.*
FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Introduction to Spanish:
This semester course introduces students to the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn basic grammar, along with frequently used words and phrases.

Spanish 1:
This year-long course is a continuation of Introduction to Spanish. Students will be introduced to Spanish grammar, vocabulary, culture, and speaking. This is a pre-requisite for Spanish 2 taught in high school.

Spanish 3 DLI Honors:
This year-long course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the native country are taught through reading selections. For Dual Immersion students only. (7th Grade) Students will earn High School credit upon completion of this course.

Spanish 4 DLI Honors:
This year-long course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the native country are taught through reading selections. For Dual Immersion students only. (8th Grade) Students will earn High School credit upon completion of this course.

DLI Spanish Culture and Media:
This semester course builds skills in cultural-linguistic competencies necessary for successful communication with native speakers (reading, writing, speaking and listening). Students utilize media and authentic texts to discuss the diverse cultural products, practices and perspective of the Spanish-speaking world. For Dual

Immersion students only. Students will earn High School credit upon completion of this course.

Introduction to Chinese:
This semester course introduces students to basic concepts of the Chinese language and culture.

Chinese:
This semester course is a continuation of Introduction to Chinese.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Cultures:
This semester course focuses on learning about cultures around the world through discovery. In this class, the focus is on how culture makes people different. Movies, pictures, and food are used to help students see and experience the many exciting cultures that exist throughout the world.

SCIENCE

Young Astronauts:
This semester course is a student directed study course. Students will be provided material and opportunities to learn more about space travel and exploration. Part of this course has been designed to give the students a better understanding of their place in history, as this relates to what we know about space. Also, this course will introduce students to the constellations, our solar system, and other heavenly bodies as well as focusing on the Earth as a reference point. As part of the class, the students will be given an overview of the history of space exploration as well as learning about what it is like to live in space.
TECHNOLOGY:

Keyboarding:
This is a semester course where students will master touch operation on a computer keyboard. Correct fingering by touch and good techniques will receive primary emphasis; speed and accuracy will be given secondary emphasis. The fourth row numbers and symbols and 10-key pad will also be taught. The student will use basic work processing functions on a variety of document types. There is a minimum keyboarding standard (35 wpm with 6 or fewer errors) that all students are required to demonstrate. Students not able to demonstrate the standard will be enrolled in a keyboarding class.

Digital Design:
This semester course will introduce students to the world of Coding and Programming. Students will be introduced to basic computer science topics by using Coding, SCRATCH and PROCESSING languages. Students will also participate in App design, Animation, Robotics, Problem Solving, Story-boarding and other interactive activities.

Exploratory Technology:
This is a semester course where students learn about the world of technology. Students will be learning technology by hands-on projects. They will design, construct and evaluate many technology activities. Some of the class projects are: Lego robots, CO2 cars, airplanes, pneumatic cars, solar power, electric cars, boat hull, catapults, water pumps, finger skateboards and others.

Intro to Communications (Computer Graphics & Drafting):
This semester course is designed to help students with graphic arts and electronic communication skills. Some assignments are: personal resume, maze creation, web page creation, GPS, creating of video games, business card and brochure, mechanical drafting, architectural drafting, electronic projects and video production.

IPAD/Computers in Business:
This is a semester course where students will be introduced to business systems and experience how computers are used as tools in business with an emphasis on creation and design. We learn web page design, digital photography and editing, audio editing, and video production and we also design and create video games! Elements of business ethics, economics, finance, marketing, and communications will be presented. Exposure to business software applications will be an integral part of the class, including Internet browsers, search engines, e-mail, word processing, presentation, and share ware software programs. Students learn the basics and are given the resources, knowledge and understanding to continue their interests in any of the above-mentioned areas.

Digital Publishing:
In this semester course, students will find their voice by creatively producing various media. Students will have opportunities to learn Photoshop, photography, film making and stop motion. They will use software to edit photos, film and create a variety of print projects including a student newspaper, yearbook, public service videos, posters and flyers. This class strengthens student’s writing, photography and computer skills. Software learned in this class includes Photoshop, Premier, and iMovie. Interest survey and application required from Mrs. Moody.
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE/HOME ECONOMICS:

FACS Exploration - Sewing:
This semester Family and Consumer Science elective course is open to everyone! In this class, students will learn basic sewing and serging skills. Students will have a variety of projects to choose from. Project Options include the following: square hot pad, pillow, pin cushion, placemats, mouse pad, heating pad, neck pillow, sleep mask, burp cloth, stuffed animals, wallet, back pack, gym bag, slippers, etc… This class also has units providing students with the opportunity to learn basic life skills and explore career possibilities.

FACS Exploration - Foods:
This semester Family and Consumer Science elective course is open to anyone who would like to learn about nutrition and basic cooking skills. In this class students will learn about kitchen safety and sanitation, measuring, kitchen equipment, cooking terms, microwave cooking, etiquette and manners, child nutrition, free enterprise, and career exploration.

ART

Architectural Rendering:
This semester course uses technical aspects of drawing to create depth on a flat sheet of paper. Students will work on creating both exteriors and interiors of houses and buildings. Colored pencils are required for this course.

CAD Drawing and Architecture:
This semester course will help students learn basic drafting and design fundamentals using computer aided drafting (CAD) tools. Students will complete real-world projects, and gain a better understanding of how CAD is used in various professions.

Art 2:
This semester course is an extension of the knowledge gained in Art 1. Students will gain a more in-depth knowledge of art through a historical lens, and will increase their ability to create art by learning about the Principles of Art. Students must have completed Art 1 to take this course.

Honors Art:
This semester course is for students who are more advanced in their art skills, and who are serious about art. The projects in this class will be based on a wider scope of ideas and concepts, with much more room for individual pursuits than other art classes. Students in this class are expected to regularly submit their art to local art shows. Students must have completed Art 1 to take this course.

Photography:
This semester course introduces students to basic photographic concepts, including camera functions and photo composition. Photography is used to preserve memories, document events, and create artistic works. Students will learn what it takes to create a good photograph. They will begin working with their photographs using photo-editing software. Through a variety of projects, students will engage their creativity by photographing a range of subjects and learning to see the world through the lens of their cameras.

THEATRE ARTS

Intro to Drama:
This semester course is an introductory course into the world of speech/theater. It is designed to expose students to various forms of theater and communication. In the class,
students will develop and demonstrate abilities in the following areas: Improvisation, Storytelling, Movement, Two-Person Scene, and Script Analysis.

**Drama 1:**
This is a *semester* course for students interested in the world of theater. The focus will be on developing skills in acting, dramatic and humorous monologues, improvisation, and theatre jobs, including set design, light design, costume design, and stage make up. Students will work in small and large groups. There is no prerequisite for this class.

**Drama 2:**
Drama 2 is a *semester* course dedicated to the more advanced actor. In this course, students will create different kinds of theater based on the history of theater (including Greek, Medieval Mystery play, Shakespeare and musicals), continue to develop improvisational skills, as well as be involved in the production of a class play. *Students who sign up for this course should have completed Drama 1. Consent must be given by the instructor to register for Drama 2 without the completion of Drama 1.*

**SCHOOL SPIRIT AND SERVICE**

**Leadership:**
The purpose of this *semester* course is to teach leadership skills and to offer realistic opportunities to put these skills to work in our building. Students will work in groups and individually to plan, prepare and serve the school. The course includes theories of leadership, communication, problem solving, speech making, committee work, and citizenship development. *Application required.*

**Peer Tutoring:**
In this *semester* course, students will teach and support special needs students to learn academics, vocational, social, and leisure skills. *Teacher approval required.*

**Latinos in Action:**
Latinos in Action (LIA) is a *year-long* course set up to support bi-lingual Latino students in utilizing their language skills to support the school and district community and to move the students toward a career. This class provides work experience for Bilingual Hispanic students to serve as Para educators and role models for their peers and younger Hispanic students in our local elementary schools, neighborhoods, and at Dixon. LIA students render service in their community, serve as role models, and develop their academic skills. The purpose of Latinos in Action is academic excellence, career awareness and planning, social and cultural identity. *8th grade students are eligible if they are bi-lingual and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students interested must submit an application to Ms. Ordaz.*

**CLASSROOM AIDES, OFFICE AIDES AND LIBRARY AIDES**

**Aides:**
We are always on the look out for smiling and reliable students! This *year-long* course is for you if you enjoy working with people and are able to work independently. We want to hear from you! *Limited enrollment, by application only.*