

Welcome to Dixon Middle School

Course Descriptions and Registration Information

Dixon Middle School



Home of the Panthers

2021-2022 School Year

Dixon Middle School 2021-2022 Course Descriptions

Middle School Requirements:

7 th Grade		8 th Grade	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts 7 • 7th Grade Math • Integrated Science 7 • CCA (Bus, FACS, Tech) Learning Strategies • Art Foundations I • Music • PE • Utah Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year • Year • Year • Year • Semester • Semester • Semester • Semester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts 8 • 8th Grade Math • Integrated Science 8 • US History I • Health • PE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year • Year • Year • Year • Semester • Semester
Electives: 2 Semesters		Electives: 4 Semesters	

** As per board policy, we will use the academic performance of every student as the prime criteria for placement in courses, including advanced and remediation courses. Placement will be based on current performance, current teacher recommendations, and end of the year content area assessments.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: REQUIRED CLASSES



ENGLISH

Language Arts 7:

This **year-long** course is a grade level appropriate exploration of reading, writing, inquiry and critical thinking.

Language Arts 7 Pre-AP:

This **year-long** course provides an intensive curriculum designed to empower students with the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills they'll need to succeed at the highest levels of academic achievement. Pre-AP English is well-suited to students with a demonstrated ability to read and write at (or above) grade level and who are prepared for the intellectual rigor of a challenging course.

Language Arts 8:

This **year-long** course is a grade level appropriate exploration of reading, writing, inquiry and critical thinking.

Language Arts 8 Pre-AP:

This **year-long** course provides an intensive curriculum designed to empower students with the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills they'll need to succeed at the highest levels of academic achievement. Pre-AP English is well-suited to students with a demonstrated ability to read and write at (or above) grade level and who are prepared for the intellectual rigor of a challenging course.



MATHEMATICS

7th Grade Mathematics:

In this **year-long** course, students will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems

involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

7th/8th Grade Mathematics:

This **year-long** course is an advanced math class that covers both 7th Grade Mathematics and 8th Grade Mathematics standards in one year rather than two.

STEM 7:

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 7 is a **year-long**, two period course that teaches the curriculum of 7th Grade Mathematics, Integrated Science 7, along with some engineering/technology concepts and processes. Students will participate in a competition or presentation that will showcase what the students have learned.

8th Grade Mathematics:

In this **year-long** course, students will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Math 8/Secondary Math I:

This **year-long** course is an advanced math class that covers both 8th Grade Mathematics and Secondary Mathematics I standards in one year rather than two.

Secondary Mathematics I:

This **year-long** course will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomenon, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas are

tied together. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Secondary Mathematics II:

This **year-long** course will focus on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions, extend the set of rational numbers to the set of complex numbers, link probability and data through conditional probability and counting methods, study similarity and right triangle trigonometry, and study circles with their quadratic algebraic representations.

STEM 8:

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 8 is a **year-long**, two period course that teaches the curriculum of 8th Grade Mathematics, Integrated Science 8, along with some engineering/technology concepts and processes. Students will participate in a competition or presentation that will showcase what the students have learned.



SCIENCE

All Science classes require a \$10 class fee

Integrated Science 7:

This **year-long** course covers the nature and process of developing scientific knowledge and understanding, which includes constant questioning, testing, and refinement, which must be supported by evidence and has little to do with popular consensus. They should observe, inquire, question, formulate and test hypotheses, analyze data, report, and evaluate findings. Students, as scientists, will have hands-on, active experiences with the science curriculum. The standards help students find value in developing novel solutions as they engage with complex problems.

STEM 7:

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 7 is a **year-long**, two period course that teaches the curriculum of 7th Grade Mathematics, Integrated Science 7, along

with some engineering/technology concepts and processes. Students will participate in a competition or presentation that will showcase what the students have learned.

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STEM 8:

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HISTORY

Utah Studies:

Utah Studies is a **semester** course required by the State of Utah for all 7th graders. The study of Utah permits students to understand more deeply the place they call home.

U.S. History I:

United States History I is a **year-long** course that includes events and issues in United States history from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries.



HEALTH

Health:

This **semester** course provides opportunities for 8th grade students to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for life-long, health-enhancing behaviors.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All PE classes require a \$5 class fee

PE (Boys or Girls):

The goal of this **semester** course is to develop healthy, responsible students who have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to work together in groups, think critically, and participate in a variety of activities that lead to a lifelong healthy lifestyle.



COLLEGE AND CAREER AWARENESS

College and Career Awareness (FACS, Tech, Business) Learning Strategies:

College and Career Awareness is a **year-long** course designed to prepare students for college and careers.

Class Fee: \$20



Art Foundations I:

This **semester** course extends the elementary art core, with an emphasis on drawing skills, color, and design objectives. It is a pre-requisite to all other art electives. Basic vocabulary, technical skills, aesthetics, art history, production,

and art criticism are part to this course. (See *electives section for other art classes.*)

Class Fee: \$6



MUSIC

NOTE: **One semester of music is required in the 7th grade.** 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.



ART – Fine Arts

Advanced Foundations - 2:

This **semester** course is an extension of Art Foundations I. Students will further their technical artistic skills, art vocabulary, and art history, and begin to build an aesthetic understanding of the Principles of Design.

Students must have completed Art Foundations I to take this course.

Class Fee: \$12

Art Foundations - Drawing:

In this **semester** course, students will learn advanced drawing and shading strategies and techniques, and will deepen their use of proportion and perspective. They will also build an aesthetic understanding of the Principles of Design. All work will be two-dimensional.

Class Fee: \$12

Advanced Foundations - 3D Art:

This **semester** course is an extension of the three-dimensional skills gained in Art Foundations I. Students will work with a greater variety of 3D materials and deepen their spatial awareness and reasoning skills, while also building an aesthetic understanding of the Principles of Design. ***Students must have completed Art Foundations I to take this course.***

Class Fee: \$12



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE/HOME ECONOMICS:

FACS Exploration - Foods:

In this **semester** course, students will learn about nutrition, basic cooking skills, kitchen safety and sanitation, measuring, kitchen equipment, cooking terms, microwave cooking, etiquette and manners, child nutrition, free enterprise, and career exploration.

Class Fee: \$10

FACS Exploration - Sewing:

In this **semester** course, students will learn basic sewing and serging skills, and an introduction to interior design, fashion design, and entrepreneurship.

Class Fee: \$10



COLLEGE PREP

AVID:

AVID is a **year-long** course. AVID is proven to improve college readiness, college acceptance, and persistence once in college. AVID provides students with academic, social, and emotional support to help them succeed in rigorous courses. In AVID, students will work to improve critical-thinking and note taking skills and learn how to collaborate effectively. Learn more about the program and research at www.avid.org



DANCE – Fine Arts

Dance I A:

This **semester** course is a beginning level dance class. Students will develop a foundation in the basic body control skills of technique, strength, flexibility, alignment, and coordination. Students will have the opportunity to explore various genres of dance, such as: Contemporary Jazz, Modern, and Hip Hop. Students will also explore

their choreographic skills. Participation in the semester-end concert is required. ***This course fulfills the state PE requirement.***

Class Fee: \$6

Dance I B:

Dance I B is a **semester** course that builds upon the experience in Dance I A. It provides further exploration of the genres of dance as well as experiences in dance technique, choreography, and improvisation. Participation in the semester-end concert is required. ***Students must have completed Dance I A or get an application from Mrs. Strauss to take this course. This course fulfills the state PE requirement.***

Class Fee: \$6

Dance I - Company:

This **year-long** course will expand on the genres of dance: Jazz, Modern, Hip Hop, and Lyrical. Dance Company students will expand their knowledge of technique, improvisation and choreography. Students will learn how to stage a dance for concert, which includes: staging, costumes, lights etc. Participation in both semester-end concerts is required. Students will perform their own choreographed dance pieces as well as instructor taught dance pieces. ***Application required. Auditions for Dance I - Company will be held in the spring. This course fulfills the state PE requirement.***

Class Fee: \$12

Social Dance Ballroom I:

No experience is necessary! This **semester** course will introduce students to the Cha cha, Foxtrot, Waltz, Swing, etc. Emphasis is given to correct technique and leading and following. Social etiquette is introduced and used. ***This course fulfills the state PE requirement.***

Class Fee: \$6

Social Dance Ballroom II:

In this **semester** course, students will learn steps and technique of Foxtrot, Cha cha, Tango, Swing and Samba. Students will participate in multiple aspects of Ballroom Dance: performance, competition and social. ***Must have taken Social Dance Ballroom I. This course fulfills the state PE requirement.***

Class Fee: \$6

Ballroom Dance Company – Team:

Audition Only! In this **year-long** course, students will learn formation routines using the dances and steps learned in previous classes and are given the opportunity to perform those routines. Previous experience in Ballroom is necessary. ***This course fulfills the state PE requirement.***

Class Fee: \$12



DLI FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Portuguese 3 DLI:

This **year-long** course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. 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.***

Class Fee: \$10

Portuguese 4 DLI:

This **year-long** course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. 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.***

Class Fee: \$10

DLI Portuguese Culture and Media:

This **year-long or semester** course builds skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students utilize media and authentic texts to discuss the diverse cultural products, practices and perspective of the Portuguese-speaking world. ***For Dual Immersion students only. Students will earn High School credit upon completion of this course.***

Class Fee: \$5

Spanish 3 DLI:

This **year-long** course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. 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.

Class Fee \$10

Spanish 4 DLI:

This **year-long** course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. 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.***

Class Fee: \$10

DLI Spanish Culture and Media:

This **year-long or semester** course builds skills in 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.

Class Fee: \$5



FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Chinese - 1A Intro:

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

Class Fee: \$5

Chinese - 1B:

This **semester** course is a continuation of Chinese - 1A Intro.

Class Fee: \$5

Portuguese 1A - Intro:

This **semester** course introduces students to basic concepts of the Portuguese language and culture.

Class Fee: \$5

Spanish 1A - Intro:

This **semester** course introduces students to the Spanish language and culture. Students will study grammar, along with frequently used words and phrases.

Class Fee: \$5

Spanish 1B:

This **semester** course is a continuation of Spanish 1A - Intro.

Class Fee: \$5



MUSIC – Fine Arts

Chorus I:

A **semester** course designed to develop musical understanding through choral education.

Students will learn the basics of choral singing, general music skills, different musical genre, and music theory. Students do not need previous experience to be eligible.

Class Fee: \$6

Chorus I - Year:

A **year-long** course designed to develop music understanding through choral education.

Students will learn the basics of choral singing, general music skills, different musical genre, and music theory. This course will work at a quicker pace than the semester course and is designed specifically for students who **want** to sing in choir for the entire school year. In addition to performances, students in this course will also participate in choral festivals during semester two.

Class Fee: \$12

Chorus II - Concert:

A **year-long** advanced mixed chorus for 8th grade students who have applied and been accepted during the spring of their 7th grade year. This performance ensemble requires a full year

commitment, focuses on performing at a high level, and sings a variety of musical genre throughout the year. Performing 4-6 concerts throughout the school year, this ensemble also participates in choral festivals during semester 2 and auditions for state choir festival annually.

Application required.

Class Fee: \$12

Band I - Beginning:

This **year-long** course is for students with no previous experience in band. Students are OBLIGATED for the entire school year. Students can choose one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone. This class requires daily practice at home. Students are encouraged to rent/purchase their own instruments from a music store. School instruments are limited and should be rented only if there is no way for the student to get their own instrument.

School Instrument Rental: \$75
Class Fee: \$12

Band II - Intermediate:

This **year-long** course is for students with one year of instruction on their current instrument. Students are OBLIGATED for the entire school year. This class requires daily practice at home. Students are encouraged to rent/purchase their own instruments from a music store. School instruments are limited and should be rented only if there is no way for the student to get their own instrument.

School Instrument Rental: \$75
Class Fee: \$12

Band III - Concert:

This **year-long** course is an accelerated performance class for serious music students who have completed 1-2 years of instruction on their current instrument. Audition is required. Students are OBLIGATED for the entire school year. This class requires daily practice at home. Students are encouraged to rent/purchase their own instruments from a music store. School instruments are limited and should be rented only if there is no way for the student to get their own instrument.

School Instrument Rental: \$75
Class Fee: \$12

Band II - Jazz

Jazz Band is an advanced class that requires an audition. Auditions will be held the 1st week of school. This class meets at 7:00-7:45 am Tuesday - Friday.

School Instrument Rental: \$75
Class Fee: \$12

Band I - Percussion:

This is a **year-long** course for students to learn skills for playing percussion. They will learn to play bells and snare drum. They will need to practice at home daily. Students who wish to play percussion with the band will need to sign up for Band II – Intermediate 2nd semester. Students must provide their own percussion kit. School rentals are limited and should only be used if there is no way for the student to get a percussion kit from a music store. **(Limited enrollment.)**

School Instrument Rental: \$40
Class Fee: \$12

Guitar - Beginning:

This **semester** course teaches fundamental chord and note reading skills for guitar. Students will need to practice 20-30 minutes daily to keep up in this class because it is fast paced. Students will need to rent or purchase an acoustic guitar. This class will have a required evening recital at the end of the semester. **(Limited enrollment.)**

School Instrument Rental: \$40
Class Fee: \$6

Orchestra I - Beginning:

This **year-long** course will teach a student to read music and play a stringed instrument. Previous experience not required. This class will have three performances per year. Students are OBLIGATED to continue with this class for the entire school year.

School Instrument Rental: \$75
Class Fee: \$12

Orchestra II - Concert:

This **year-long** course is for students who have prior experience (typically more than one year) with string instruments. Students will learn shifting, vibrato, and other high-level string techniques. This class 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.

School Instrument Rental: \$75
Class Fee: \$12

Orchestra III - Chamber:

This **year-long**, advanced course is for string students who have had more than two years of playing experience. The class will perform in at least one festival and give four concerts in addition to a small ensemble performance. Students will pursue shifting, vibrato, tuning, as well as other high-level string techniques. Students are OBLIGATED to continue with this class for the entire school year.

School Instrument Rental: \$75
Class Fee: \$12



TECHNOLOGY:

Creative Coding I:

This **semester** course is an introduction to programming and publishing mobile apps and games.

Class Fee: \$5

Exploring Technology – Robotics I:

In this **semester** course, students build and program robots individually and in teams. Students will learn drafting skills to draw plans for their robots.

Class Fee: \$10



READING & WRITING

Creative Writing I:

In this **semester** course, 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.



THEATRE – Fine Arts

Theatre Foundations I:

This **semester** course will expose students to various forms of theater and communication. Students will develop and demonstrate abilities in the following areas: Improvisation, Storytelling, Movement, Two-Person Scene, and Script Analysis.

Theatre Foundations II:

This **semester** course is for students interested in the world of theater. The focus will be on developing skills in acting, improvisation, and theatre jobs: including set design, light design, costume design, and stage make up. ***Theatre Foundations I is highly recommended.***



SOCIAL STUDIES

SSE - World Cultures:

This **semester** course focuses on cultures around the world through discovery and how culture makes people unique.



SCHOOL SPIRIT AND SERVICE

Latinos in Action:

Latinos in Action (LIA) is a **year-long** course. The purpose of Latinos in Action is academic excellence, career awareness and planning, social and cultural identity. LIA students serve the community, serve as role models, and develop their academic skills. ***8th grade students are eligible if they are bi-lingual and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Application required.***

Peer Tutor:

In this **semester** course, students will teach and support special needs students to learn academics, vocational, social, and leisure skills.

Student Government:

This **semester** course teaches leadership skills and offers opportunities to work in our school. Students work with the student body officers in groups 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.**

Yearbook:

In this **semester** course, students 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. **Application required.**

Class Fee: \$5



CLASSROOM AIDES, OFFICE AIDES AND LIBRARY AIDES

Student Aide:

We are always on the look out for smiling and reliable students! This **semester** course is for you if you enjoy working with people and are able to work independently.

DISCLAIMER:

- * *Additional courses may be offered after enrollment numbers are available.*
- * *Not every course herein may actually be offered each year due to low student enrollments, a change in teaching assignment, or other such reason.*
- * *Class fees subject to change.*

Fee Waiver:

* *Fees will be waived in accordance with the Utah State Board of Education standards for students whose parents or legal guardians verify evidence of inability to pay. Inability to pay is defined as those who are in state custody, foster care, or receiving public assistance in the form of Aid for Dependent Children, Supplemental Security Income, or are eligible according to Income Eligibility Guidelines July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021. English and Spanish forms can be found at <https://schools.utah.gov/schoolfees?mid=4340&tid=3>. Case-by-case determinations are made by school administrators for those who do not qualify under one of the foregoing standards, but who, because of extenuating circumstances such as, but not limited to, exceptional financial burdens, loss of substantial reduction of income or extraordinary medical expenses, are not reasonably capable of paying the fee. (The receipt of unemployment compensation and/or reduced price school lunch does not constitute public assistance as defined above.)*