

Welcome to Dixon Middle School

Course Descriptions and Registration Information

Dixon Middle School



Home of the Panthers

2023-2024 School Year

Dixon Middle School 2023-2024 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language Development (ELL Students ONLY) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language Development (ELL Students ONLY) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year
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.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

ELD:

English language development is a **required year-long** course designed for English language

learners to develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English.



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.

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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.

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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 (Coed):

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.

PE - Aerobics (Coed):

This **semester** course will include physical education activities such as circuit training, yoga, strength and conditioning, step aerobics, hand weights and power walking/running. We will also focus on healthy nutrition, eating disorders, injuries and prevention.

PE - Sports Conditioning

In this **semester** course you will develop deeper knowledge of team sports and experience fitness and exercise principles that will provide a better quality of life. Personal improvement drives the core of this class. Units included in this class: Fitness Testing, Basketball, Interval Training, Flag Football, etc.



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

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 a continuation of Art Foundations I and will introduce students to various art forms including: Drawing, Painting, Digital Art, and sculpture. Emphasis will be placed on using the creative process to find and develop ideas. ***Students must have completed Art Foundations I to take this course.***

Class Fee: \$12

Art Foundations - Digital Art:

In this **semester** course, students will create digital artworks with iPads, chromebooks, and various design apps and software used by professional artists. Emphasis will be placed on using the creative process to find and develop ideas.

Class Fee: \$12

Advanced Foundations - Sculpture:

This **semester** course introduces students to various forms of sculpture including clay sculpture, digital sculpture, and 3d printing. These skills and mediums are widely used in the production of movies, video games, engineering, etc."

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

Costume Fee: \$25

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
Costume Fee: \$25

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
Costume Fee: \$25

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. ***You will need to register as either a leader or follower.*** Leaders are traditionally men; followers are traditionally women. ***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. ***You will need to register as either a leader or follower.*** Leaders are traditionally men; followers are traditionally women. ***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 - Soprano/Alto:

A **semester** course for 7th and 8th grade students who love to sing and who haven't yet learned to read music or are just getting started. Besides learning to read music, students will also develop good vocal techniques and will sing in one concert at the end of the semester. ***This class is for students with higher voices who will sing soprano or alto.***

Class Fee: \$6

Chorus I - Tenor/Bass:

A **semester** course for 7th and 8th grade students who love to sing and who haven't yet learned to read music or are just getting started. Besides learning to read music, students will also develop good vocal techniques and will sing in one concert at the end of the semester. ***This class is for students with lower voices as well as students whose voices are becoming lower. These students will sing tenor or bass.***

Class Fee: \$6

Chorus I - Year:

A **year-long** course for 7th and 8th grade students who love to sing and perform. ***This choir is for students with both high and low voices.*** Previous experience with reading music and

singing in choir is preferred, but not required. These students will develop good vocal techniques, will learn music theory, and will perform in 4-6 concerts throughout the school year.

Class Fee: \$12

Chorus II - Concert:

A **year-long** course for 8th grade students who love to sing and perform. ***Students in this choir will either sing soprano, alto, or baritone.***

These students will continue to develop good vocal techniques, will learn more advanced music theory, and will perform in 4-6 concerts throughout the school year. ***Application required.***

Class Fee: \$12

Chorus II - Aria:

A **year-long** course for 8th grade students who love to sing and perform. ***Students in this choir will either sing 1st soprano, 2nd soprano, or alto.*** These students will continue to develop good vocal techniques, will learn more advanced music theory, and will perform in 4-6 concerts throughout the school year. ***Application required.***

Class Fee: \$12

Band I - Beginning:

This **year-long** course is for students who have no experience playing a band instrument. Students in this class will have the choice of playing flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, or euphonium. Students will need to buy or rent an instrument and will be expected to practice at home regularly.

School Instrument Rental: \$75

Class Fee: \$12

Band I - Intermediate:

This **year-long** course is for students who have completed at least one year of band class. Most students will continue on the same instrument but may have the opportunity to switch to a similar instrument (with teacher approval) to expand and balance the instrumentation of the ensemble. (For example, a clarinet player may be able to switch to saxophone or a trumpet player may be able to switch to French horn). Students will need to buy or rent an instrument and will be expected to practice at home regularly.

School Instrument Rental: \$75

Class Fee: \$12

Band II - Concert:

This **year-long** course is an advanced class for students who have completed at least one year of instruction and have also demonstrated proficiency on their instrument. Most students will continue on the same instrument but may have the opportunity to switch to a similar instrument (with teacher approval) to expand and balance the instrumentation of the ensemble. (For example, a clarinet player may be able to switch to saxophone or a trumpet player may be able to switch to French horn). Students will need to buy or rent an instrument and will be expected to practice at home regularly.

School Instrument Rental: \$75

Class Fee: \$12

Band II - Symphonic:

This class requires teacher permission for registration. This **year-long** course is our most advanced class for students who have achieved a high level of proficiency on their instrument. This class will be held to a higher level of performance expectations. Students will need to buy or rent an instrument and will be expected to practice at home regularly.

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 **year-long** 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: \$10



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, 2023 to June 30, 2024. English and Spanish forms can be found at*

<https://www.schools.utah.gov/schoolfees?mid=4340&tid=3>