

ELD English Reading

This is a beginning English reading course for students who score Pre-Emergent or Emergent on the AZELLA. Students will develop reading skills in four areas: word analysis, fluency and vocabulary, comprehension, and basic literary analysis and response. Students use sequential reading instructional materials at their level to establish a base for further content area and narrative reading tasks. Students develop a sight word vocabulary as well as receive explicit phonics and decoding skills instruction. ***Basic or Intermediate students will be looked at on a case by case basis.**

ELD English Writing

This course is designed to provide students with a foundation to English writing. Students in the course receive direct instruction in grammar, sentence expansion and writing forms (paragraphs, essay descriptive, narrative, and first person). Students will learn specific skills for pre-writing, draft composition, and editing using a process writing format.

***Schools with twenty or more ELLs spread over three grade levels have four hours of ELD in which case students will also be required to take ELD English Writing.**

Arts

Visual Arts

These classes, which are based on the Arizona State and District Standards, provides an environment for students to grow both perceptually and cognitively, increasing their knowledge and skills in Creating Art, Art in Context, and Art as Inquiry. Students will explore drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics and sculpture integrating cultural and historical concepts while applying the Elements and Principals of Design.

Computers

Middle level computer courses prepare students for academic success and continuous learning. Computer courses reinforce the skills students need to analyze, learn and explore resources as digital learners, allowing students to develop as 21st century learners for their future in a competitive global job market. Computer courses inspire and motivate students to study and pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Elective computer course offerings vary by site.

Computers (1 Semester 6th, 7th & 8th Grades)

The curriculum is aligned with Arizona State Technology Standards and SUSD core curriculum performance objectives. Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel and PowerPoint) is the instructional software program. Learning to use computers will prepare students to be successful in the future.

Introduction to Computers/Keyboarding

Emphasis is placed on building keyboard skills. This class is intended for sixth grade students as an introduction to basic Microsoft Office skills and the use of the Internet as a research tool.

Computer Basics

In this course, students will learn to use the computer as an academic resource tool. Word Processing, Drawing, Spreadsheet data entry (using formulas and functions), Graphs, PowerPoint, Internet research and Digital Citizenship are the focus areas. Students will build keyboarding skills with a goal of 30 words per minute.

Advanced Computers-Prerequisite: Computer Basics

Advanced computer course availability and the curriculum for these courses vary at each site. Where offered, the curriculum is aligned with the Arizona State Technology Standards and builds on students' basic computer knowledge to ensure proficient digital learners.

Music

Band

Students will have the opportunity to experience the joy of creating and performing music while learning to play an instrument. Students learn basic to advanced rhythmic patterns, music theory and history, intonation, performance etiquette and teamwork. Students perform in winter and spring concerts and festivals.

Chorus

Students will have the opportunity to prepare and perform vocal selections in rehearsal and concert settings. Students learn to read notes and rhythms, learn basic music theory and history and performance etiquette. Students perform in winter and spring concerts and festivals.

Strings

Students will have the opportunity to experience the joy of creating and performing music while learning to play a stringed instrument. Students learn basic to advanced rhythmic patterns, music theory and history, intonation, performance etiquette, and teamwork. Students perform in fall, winter, and spring concerts and festivals.

Physical Education (Semester 6th, 7th and 8th and 8th Grades)

P.E. classes place a strong emphasis on the importance of promoting a positive self-image for all students. Students learn the value of exercise, proper nutrition, sun safety, cardiovascular fitness, health physiology and how to incorporate fitness in their everyday lifestyles. Our objective is to assist each student to develop physically, emotionally and mentally. We believe that these valuable skills will help students establish lifetime appreciation of the value of fitness. The 6 pillars of character and good sportsmanship are incorporated into all activities including individual, team and lifetime sports and fitness activities. Students are encouraged to consider how the idea of wellness integrates into other content areas. SUSD middle level Physical Education hopes to promote the development of healthy habits and an awareness of wellness as students are encouraged to consider physical fitness plans for life.

World Languages

Two years of the same language are required for Arizona state universities (example: French I and French II), but many universities have a three year requirement. Specific university admission policies should be referenced. SUSD's World Language courses are rigorous courses with an emphasis placed on listening, reading, speaking and writing to facilitate communication in the target language. Vocabulary acquisition and a cultural overview are integral components of Level I coursework, which is based on District and State Standards.

Students who are considering enrollment in the International Baccalaureate program in high school should plan to take Spanish I or French I in their 8th grade year. Semester and/or year-long World Language classes vary depending on the school and grade level.

NOTE: As of the 2011-12 school year, students enrolled in Spanish I, French I or Mandarin I in 8th grade will be allowed to choose whether they'd like to have these courses count for HS credit on their HS transcript. Parents and students will be notified to indicate their choice after grades have been awarded to students. For detailed information about the timeline parents and students can elect to earn credit for World Language I courses, please see the "letter to 8th grade parents" in the SUSD Digital Backpack (available on the SUSD website).

Multi-cultural Exploratory-1867

Prerequisites: None

This exploratory Middle School course is designed for students to acquire a basic knowledge of at least eight major world languages. They will gain the ability to communicate and understand basic greetings, colors, numbers, dates and information on family, school and activities. They will also learn about the cultures in the historical/geographical context.

French Exploratory -1766

Prerequisites: None

This exploratory Middle School course is designed for students who have minimal or no prior knowledge of the French language. It will include, but not be limited to:

- Brief introduction to French as well as francophone cultures across the world through topics such as Geography, Family/Home, Food, Leisure/Recreation and Shopping
- Acquisition of basic French pronunciation
- Introduction to French phonetics
- Listening and speaking practice for daily conversation on the topics listed above as well as numbers, colors, dates and weather

Learning will be enhanced by simple dialogues, songs, short movies, illustrations and group games that incorporate TPR (Total Physical Response) and individualized instruction for differentiated learning.