

Double Peak School

2023-24 Course Descriptions

111 San Elijo Road, San Marcos, CA 92078



English Language Arts

6th Grade English Language Arts

Sixth grade English Language Arts classes use the curriculum in SpringBoard textbooks. Our common theme throughout the year is “Change.” The SpringBoard textbook follows a literacy workshop model, which provides opportunities for students to improve their reading and writing strategies. From this curriculum, students will learn how to make meaning from their own experiences in reading and writing. This course will allow students to read, write, think, collaborate, compose, and work in groups. Students will study a variety of authors in a variety of genres. Students will explore argumentative topics and develop researched-based assignments related to current events. There will be 6 - 8 major writing assignments given during the year on a variety of genres such as writing a personal narrative, writing a short story, responding to literature, writing an expository essay, debating a controversy, writing an argumentative letter, researching Shakespeare and performing an excerpt from Shakespeare. There will be many formative and summative assessments given throughout the year as well. Overall, students will comprehend, appreciate, and respond to diverse selections of literature, including novels, short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction and informational text.

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● To understand how change can be significant.● To analyze key ideas and details in addition to craft and structure in print and non-print texts● To use narrative techniques such as sequencing, dialogue, and descriptive language● To write narratives to develop real or imagined events● To understand pronouns and the conventions of punctuating dialogue● To analyze literary elements● To apply a variety of reading strategies to fiction and nonfiction texts● To collaborate and communicate effectively● To write an expository essay● To practice using verb tenses and creating sentence variety	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● To analyze informational texts● To practice nonfiction reading strategies● To support a claim with reasons and evidence● To engage effectively in a variety of collaborative discussions● To write an argumentative letter● To understand and use simple, compound, and complex sentence structures● To analyze and understand the relationship among setting, characterization, conflict, and plot● To research a drama from a different time period● To rehearse and present an engaging performance of a drama● To revise for effective sentence variety

7th Grade English Language Arts

Seventh grade English Language Arts classes use the curriculum in Spring Board textbooks. Our common theme throughout the year is “Choices.” With this curriculum, students have opportunities to improve their reading and gain the tools to become better writers via a writing workshop approach. In addition, students will learn how to make meaning from their own experiences and incorporate that into their reading and writing. Students will study a variety of genres from different authors. Students will be expected to do independent reading throughout the year, choosing books that are both challenging and of high interest. Students will write in the following genres: personal narrative, literary analysis, expository essay, argumentative essay, constructed response and responses to their independent reading. Students will also conduct oral presentations as well as participate in Socratic Seminars. Formative and summative assessments are used throughout the course to determine student progress.

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Analyze the use of foreshadowing, flashback, and characterization● Cite textual evidence to support inferences and predictions● Analyze literary elements in novels and how they contribute to tone, theme and other elements in a novel● Write literary analysis response paragraphs● Analyze genres and their organizational structures● Examine the function of narrative elements● Apply techniques to create coherence and sentence variety in writing● Apply revision techniques in preparing drafts for publication● Engage in collaborative discussions	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Increase textual analysis skills across genres● Cite textual evidence to support inferences and predictions● Strengthen verbal and nonverbal communication skills● Improve oral fluency and presentation skills● Write an argumentative essay● Identify and analyze the use of appeals, language, and rhetorical devices in informational and argumentative texts● Write an expository essay● Understand how our lives are affected by outside influences

7th Grade English Language Arts Honors

7th grade Honors will cover the 7th grade ELA standards based on the descriptions above with more collaborative conversations, in depth analysis of text, and higher expectations with differentiated materials. Students who select ELA Honors are committing to a year-long course that will be challenging and require perseverance.

Recommendations for 7th grade ELA Honors: Lexile above 1200, excellent work habits, and strong grasp of 6th grade ELA reading/writing/speaking standards as evidenced by multiple measures.

8th Grade English Language Arts

In eighth grade, all English Language Arts classes will use Springboard, a district-approved curriculum which spans 3-4 units, each of which focus on a particular challenge of life and society. Through Springboard, eighth graders will read a variety of texts, write stories, practice arguments, produce research, and present and publish their work using technology. This course curriculum aligns with the California State Standards for Language Arts, which may be viewed on the California Department of Education website: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>.

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Evaluate the audience and purpose of a text● Students will be able to analyze narrative for archetypes and narrative techniques● Students will be able to see understand tone and mood words● To develop informative/explanatory texts using the compare/contrast organizational structure● To develop effective arguments using logical reasoning, relevant evidence, and persuasive appeals for effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students will be able to analyze and synthesize a variety of texts to support claim in argumentative essay● To analyze and evaluate a variety of expository and argumentative texts for ideas, structure, and language● To create an informative and persuasive multimedia presentation● To strengthen writing through the effective use of voice and mood● Constructed response relating to each unit focusing on comparing two texts and the central theme● Comparing themes from two literary texts● Justify how setting creates/develops conflicts● To analyze how a variety of authors create humor in print and non-print texts● To analyze how humor is used to reveal a universal truth (theme)● Editing and revising own writing● To write a well-developed analysis of a humorous text

8th Grade English Language Arts Honors

8th grade Honors will cover the 8th grade ELA standards based on the descriptions above with more collaborative conversations, in depth analysis of text, and higher expectations with differentiated materials. Students who select ELA Honors are committing to a year-long course that will be challenging and require perseverance.

Recommendations for 8th grade ELA Honors: Lexile above 1400, excellent work habits, and strong grasp of 7th grade ELA reading/writing/speaking standards as evidenced by multiple measures.

Mathematics

6th Grade Math

Students will focus on four critical areas of study: 1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; 2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; 3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions, equations and inequalities; and 4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Students also work towards fluency in multi-digit division and multi-digit decimal operations, and build on their work with area, surface area, and volume. Students will engage in complex tasks that allow for extension and differentiation as well as developing a deep understanding of mathematical concepts. Procedural fluency skills will continue to be developed. Collaborative mathematical talk is emphasized.

This class will prepare you for -- Math 7 and Accelerated 7-8

Recommended next course -- Math 7 or Accelerated 7-8

7th Grade Math

Students will focus on four critical areas of study: 1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships, including percentages; 2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 3) solving problems including scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with 2- and 3-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area and volume; and 4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Students also work towards fluently solving equations of the form $px + q = r$ and $p(x + q) = r$. Collaborative mathematical talk is emphasized.

Recommended class to take prior -- Math 6

This class will prepare you for -- Math 8

Recommended next course -- Math 8

7th Grade Accelerated Math 7–8

Accelerated 7-8 students' progress at a rigorous pace to cover all the 7th grade standards and half the 8th grade standards while focusing on the 8 Standards for Mathematical Practices. Within the 8th grade material, students will cover exponents, scientific notation, roots, Pythagorean Theorem, volume of geometric shapes, transformations, angles and triangles. Collaborative mathematical talk is emphasized. Refer to 7th grade math and 8th grade math descriptions for more information on these standards.

Recommended class to take prior -- Math 6

This class will prepare you for -- Math 8 and Accelerated Algebra

Recommended next course -- Math 8 or Accelerated Algebra

8th Grade Math

Students will focus on four critical areas of study: 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 2- and 3-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Students also work towards fluency using exponents to simplify numerical expressions, finding volume of 3-dimensional figures, and various ways to display statistical data. Collaborative mathematical talk is emphasized.

Recommended class to take prior -- Math 7

This class will prepare you for -- Algebra 1

Recommended next course -- Algebra 1

8th Grade Accelerated Algebra

Accelerated Algebra students will engage in half of the California State Mathematical standards for 8th grade Math and all of the California State Mathematical standards for Algebra 1. Students will also develop and utilize the 8 Standards for Mathematical Practices. During the academic year students will cover solving, graphing, and writing linear equations, systems of linear equations, quadratic equations, and linear inequalities. Students will also be solving and graphing exponential and quadratic functions. Lastly, students will learn and apply the properties of integer exponents and polynomials. Collaborative mathematical talk is emphasized.

Required class to take prior -- Accelerated 7-8

This class will prepare you for -- Algebra 1, Geometry and Honors Geometry

Recommended next course -- Algebra 1, Geometry or Honors Geometry

Science

6th Grade Integrated Science

Our 6th grade Science students will focus on the three-dimensional learning model of the Next Generation Science Standards using the Interdisciplinary model of Earth, Life and Physical Science. The year will be divided into 5 main units: **Cells and Body Systems, Thermal Energy, Light and Matter, Weather & Energy and Human Impact**. 6th grade students will be required to collaborate with their peers, as well as use scientific equipment and technology as tools for learning throughout the school year.

1st Semester	2nd Semester
<p>During the Cells and Body Systems unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cells make up all living things. • The function and structure of cell components. • How the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells. <p>During the Light and Matter unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to see things, we need light. • Light travels in straight lines. • The light bounces off an object and travels in a straight line to our eyes. • When a light input is detected by sense receptors in our eye, it is turned into a signal that travels along the optic nerve to the brain, which processes it into what we see. • Light can be reflected, transmitted or refracted. 	<p>During the Thermal Energy unit, students will study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature is a measure of the average kinetic energy of particles of matter. • Energy is spontaneously transferred out of hotter regions or objects and into colder ones. <p>During the Weather unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the cycling of water through Earth's systems is driven by energy from the sun and the force of gravity. • Evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses results in changes in weather conditions. • How unequal heating and rotation of the Earth cause patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional climates. <p>During the Human Impact unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The factors that have caused the rise in global temperatures over the past century. • Various solutions for minimizing human impact on climate change.
<p>Throughout the year, students will engage in Science and Engineering Practices to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate solutions to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem. • Ask questions and develop investigations. • Analyze data from investigations to engage in argument from evidence. • Develop a model of a proposed object, tool, or process to complete a task. 	

7th Grade Integrated Science

Our 7th grade Science students will focus on the three-dimensional learning model of the Next Generation Science Standards using the integrated model of Earth, Life and Physical Science. The year will be divided into five main units: **Chemistry and Matter, Metabolic Reactions, Earth's Natural Processes, Photosynthesis, Ecology and Biodiversity**. Seventh grade students will be required to collaborate with their peers, as well as use scientific equipment and technology as tools for learning throughout the school year to build on skills learned during the 6th grade.

1st Semester	2nd Semester
<p>During the Chemical Reactions - Matter & Energy unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The pure substances vs. mixtures.• Each substance has properties that do not change.• There are physical and chemical properties of substances, such as color, smell and density flammability.• There are chemical properties of substances, such as rusting and flammability.• The difference between chemical and physical changes and the properties of substance before and after these changes.• Energy flow and Transformation through a system <p>During the Earth's Natural Processes & Resource Distribution unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cycling of Earth's materials.• How geoscience processes have changed Earth's surface.• The distribution of fossils and rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of the past plate motions.	<p>During the Metabolic Reactions unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How things inside our bodies make us feel the way we do.• How food is rearranged through chemical reactions forming new molecules that support growth and/or release energy as this matter moves through an organism• Organization, structure and function of the human body system• How body systems connect <p>During the Matter Cycling & Photosynthesis unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and flow of energy into and out of organisms.• The role of decomposers in the cycling of matter and flow of energy into and out of organisms. <p>During the Ecology and Biodiversity unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The effects of resource availability on organisms and populations.• Patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.• The cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem.• How changes to an ecosystem affect populations.• Solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.
<p>Throughout the year, students will engage in Science and Engineering Practices to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate solutions to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.• Ask questions and develop investigations.• Analyze data from investigations to engage in argument from evidence.• Develop a model of a proposed object, tool, or process to complete a task.• Develop a model of an system, tool or process	

8th Grade Integrated Science

Our 8th grade Science students will focus on the three-dimensional learning model of the Next Generation Science Standards using the Interdisciplinary model of Earth, Life and Physical Science. The year will be divided into 6 main units: **Contact Forces, Sound Waves, Forces at a Distance, Earth in Space, Genetics and Natural Selection.** Eighth grade students will be required to collaborate with their peers, as well as use scientific equipment and technology as tools for learning throughout the school year to build on skills learned during the 6th and 7th grades.

1st Semester	2nd Semester
<p>During the Contact Forces unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How the change in an object’s motion depends on the sum of the forces on the object and the mass of the object. ● The relationships of kinetic energy to the mass of an object and to the speed of an object. ● Objects interacting at a distance change, different amounts of potential energy are stored in the system. <p>During the Sound Waves unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How the frequency and amplitude of a wave are related to the energy in a wave. ● Explain how sounds are produced, how they travel and how they are heard <p>During the Forces at a Distance unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate how a magnet can move an object without touching it. ● Evidence that fields exist between objects exerting forces on each other even though the objects are not in contact. ● Identify the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces. ● Why digitized signals are a more reliable way to encode and transmit information than analog signals. 	<p>During the Earth in Space unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How gravitational interactions are attractive and depend on the masses of interacting objects. ● Earth’s 4.6-billion-year-old history. ● The Earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons. ● The role of gravity in the motions within galaxies and the solar system. ● The scale properties of objects in the solar system. <p>During the Genetics unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why structural changes to genes may result in harmful, beneficial, or neutral effects to an organism. ● How asexual reproduction results in offspring with identical genetic information and sexual reproduction results in offspring with genetic variation. ● Environmental and genetic factors that influence the growth of organisms. <p>During the Natural Selection unit, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uncover patterns in the fossil record throughout the history of life on Earth. ● Gather data about the embryological, genetic, and anatomical evidence of modern and fossil organisms to infer evolutionary relationships. ● Explain how genetic variations of traits can increase some individuals’ probability of surviving and reproducing. ● Research technologies that have changed the way humans influence the inheritance of desired traits in organisms.
<p>Throughout the year, students will engage in Science and Engineering Practices to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate solutions to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem. ● Ask questions and develop investigations. ● Analyze data from investigations to engage in argument from evidence. ● Develop a model of a proposed object, tool, or process to complete a task. 	

History

6th Grade History: World History and Geography: Ancient Civilizations

This course covers the California History/ Social Science standards for grade 6. The student experience begins with the study of early man and concludes with the fall of the Western Roman Empire. Civilizations and peoples from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Kush, India, China, Greece and the Hebrews will also be explored. Students will be asked to consider why civilizations developed where they did, how they became powerful and why they declined. Additional emphasis will be placed on the everyday lives, problems, and accomplishments of people, as well as their role in developing political, social, economic, and religious structures. Students will analyze interactions between these cultures and the spread of ideas, goods and culture through vast trade networks. Emphasis will be placed on geography, and its special significance in the development of the human story. Throughout their studies, students will engage in the historical thinking practices of sourcing, corroborating, and contextualizing. This course will include multiple formative and summative assessments, Document Based Questions (DBQ's), essays, inquiry-based research projects, as well as collaborative group activities.

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Early Humans & Societies<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Stone Ages & Early Cultures● River Valley Civilizations I<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mesopotamia○ Egypt● Foundations of Western Ideas<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Hebrews & Judaism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● River Valley Civilizations II<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ India○ China● Foundations of Western Ideas II<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Greek World● The Roman World<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Roman Empire○ Rome & Christianity

7th Grade History: World History and Geography: Medieval and Early Modern Times

This course covers the California History/Social Science standards for grade seven. Students in grade seven will study the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia in the years A.D. 500–1789. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which archeologists and historians uncover the past, students study the history and geography of great civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout the world during medieval and early modern times. They examine the growing economic interaction among these civilizations, as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. They learn about the resulting growth of Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings and the divine right of kings, the Scientific Method, and the beliefs of multiple religions. Finally, students assess the political forces let loose by the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today. Multiple formative and summative assessments will be given throughout the year to determine students' mastery of content and literacy standards. These assessments may include Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Paragraphs (CER), Document Based Questions (DBQ's), classroom assignments, digital and media activities, quizzes and examinations, and practice of research skill.

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Fall of the Roman Empire● Byzantine Empire● Islam● Early Middle Ages● Late Middle Ages● West Africa● China● India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Japan and Korea● Maya, Inca, and Aztecs● West Africa● Renaissance● Reformation● Scientific Revolution● Exploration● Enlightenment

8th Grade History: United States History

This course covers the California History/Social Science standards for grade eight. Students will study the ideas, issues, and events from the Colonial and Revolutionary periods in the 17th and 18th centuries to the turn of the 20th century, just prior to World War I. After a careful study of the formation of our government, the Constitution and other founding documents, students will trace the development of American politics, society, culture, and economy and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences that developed in the Northeast, South, and West during the 19th century. They will also learn about the challenges facing the new nation and the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. Finally, they will make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions. This course will allow students to read, write, and think in collaborative groups as they analyze many and varied historical sources in order to compose well-researched academic responses to central historical questions. Multiple formative and summative assessments will be given throughout the year to determine students' mastery of content and literacy standards. These assessments may include performance tasks or Document Based Questions (DBQ's), classroom assignments, digital and media activities, quizzes and examinations, and practice of research skills.

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colonial and Revolutionary Periods• The Constitution and the American Political System• The Ideals of the New Nation• Foreign Policy in the Early 1800s• Westward Expansion from 1800 to 1860	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The North and South from 1800 to 1860• An Era of Reform and the Struggles over Slavery• The Civil War• The Reconstruction Era• The Industrial Revolution and Progressive Era