



## DPMS Course Description 2026-27

### Required classes

Required class descriptions can be found on the Canyon School District website:

<https://coursecatalog.canyondistrict.org/#/CourseCatalogHome>

Additional curriculum information can be found in the Instructional Guides:

<https://www.canyondistrict.org/manuals/middle-school-instructional-guides/>

### Elective Classes

#### **A capella (year)**

*Prerequisite: Audition*

Audition class designed with wider vocal ranges using advanced choral literature and techniques of singing. Some evening performances are required.

#### **Advanced Orchestra (year)**

*Prerequisite: Orchestra 2 or Instructor approval*

Advanced-level orchestra class. Instruments, practice, rehearsals, and evening performances required.

#### **Advanced Theatre (semester or full-year)**

*Prerequisite Intermediate Theatre*

Students learn advanced acting skills and techniques as well as scriptwriting and analysis.

#### **Art 1 (semester)**

Designed to provide an overview of visual arts while studying a variety of art tools and materials. BEGINNER level

#### **Art 2 (semester)**

*Prerequisite: Art 1*

Designed to provide an overview of visual arts while studying a variety of art tools & materials. INTERMEDIATE level

#### **Art 3 (semester)**

*Prerequisite: Art 1 & 2 or Teacher Approval*

Designed to provide an overview of visual arts while studying a variety of art tools & materials. ADVANCED level

#### **Band 1 Brass (year)**

Beginning band class focuses on the trumpet, horn, trombone, or tuba. Practice, evening concerts & instrument are required. French horns, baritones, and tubas may be rented from the school at a nominal fee.

#### **Band 1 Percussion (year)**

*Prerequisite: Band 1, piano experience or Teacher Approval*  
Intermediate-level course designed to improve skills for students with drum or mallet percussion experience (i.e., marimba, xylophone, and bells). Practice, rehearsal and evening performances required.

#### **Band 1 Woodwinds (year)**

Beginning woodwinds class focuses on the flute, oboe, clarinet, or saxophone. Practice, evening concerts, and instruments are required.

#### **Beginning Choir (semester or year)**

Emphasis will be placed on quality vocal production, part-singing, and music reading skills. Some evening performances are required.

#### **Beginning Orchestra (year)**

Beginning-level class focuses on the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. No experience necessary. Instruments, practice, rehearsals, and evening concerts required. Violas, cellos, and basses may be rented from the school at a nominal fee.

#### **Beginning Theatre (semester)**

Beginning course in theatre with an emphasis on performance.

#### **Ceramics 1**

*Prerequisite: Art 1*

Focuses on creation of 3-D forms and pottery from clay. Techniques in hand building, basic glazing, and firing.

#### **College & Career Awareness (year)**

##### **6th grade required class**

Students explore high school, college, & career options based on individual student interests, abilities, & skills. Specific middle school transition skills such as organization, study skills, friendship, advocacy and coping skills will be taught.

#### **Computer Basics/Google Workspace (semester) 6th only**

Students create a variety of documents, increase efficiency, productivity, quality, and creativity through the use of basic and advanced software features. Instruction on proper keyboarding technique, google workspace and recommended styles for business documents will coincide with their software training.

#### **Concert Band (year)**

*Prerequisite: Band 1 or Audition*

Intermediate level band course increases musical proficiency through performance and study of music. Practice, rehearsals, and evening concerts required.

#### **Concert Choir (semester or year)**

Intermediate vocal music group designed for all voices using choral literature and vocal techniques. Evening concerts required.

#### **Dance 1, Non-Performance (semester)**

This beginner-level semester course offers instruction in the basic fundamentals of dance techniques and composition and introduces the elements of dance.

#### **Dance 1, Hip Hop Emphasis (semester)**

Beginning instruction in a variety of old and new urban, street

and pop hip hop dance styles. After-school rehearsal and evening performance required.

### **Dance 1, Yoga Emphasis (semester)**

Beginning instruction in yoga postures for strength and flexibility in the body. Breathing techniques and meditation integrated.

### **Dance 2 (semester)**

*Prerequisite: Dance 1 or Teacher Approval*

Intermediate course emphasizing techniques in improvisation and choreography. After-school rehearsal and evening performance required.

### **Dance 3 (semester 1 or year)**

*Prerequisite: Dance 2 and/or Teacher Approval*

Advanced course focusing on dance technique, choreography, and performance. After-school rehearsal and evening performance required.

### **Dance Company (year)**

*By Audition Only ([sarah.christensen@canyonsdistrict.org](mailto:sarah.christensen@canyonsdistrict.org))*

Audition advanced dance course focuses on choreography and performance. After-school rehearsals and evening performances required.

### **Digital Literacy (semester)**

#### **8<sup>th</sup> grade required class**

Introduces computers, internet, and digital citizenship. Teaches keyboarding efficiency, word processing, spreadsheet creation, presentation development, photo editing, & coding.

### **Drawing (semester)**

*Prerequisite: Art 1*

Focus on black and white or monochromatic rendering from life, pictures, masterworks, & imagination with an emphasis on studio production.

### **Exploring Technology (semester or full year), 7th only**

*Semester* - Students EXPLORE different TECHNOLOGIES (Computer software and hardware, CAD programs, Animation, Photoshop, 3D Printing, and Woodshop)

*Full Year* – Students do everything above plus MORE, because there is an additional time to focus in depth with technologies that are current and engaging.

### **Family & Consumer Science (FCS) (semester), 6th only**

Introduces students to career and life literacy skills in all areas of Family and Consumer Sciences. Students will receive instruction in career exploration, nutrition and food preparation, family life, childcare, interpersonal relationships, housing and interior design, sewing production and fashion, consumerism, and career-related tasks. Careers in the Family and Consumer Sciences CTE pathways will be explored.

### **Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) A (semester)**

Explores the subjects of interior design, fashion and sewing. Students make many projects including a room in a box, 3-look fashion collection, reversible apron and pajama pants.

### **Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) B (semester)**

Explores Personal Development, Kitchen Safety and Nutrition,

Childcare, and Entrepreneurship. Students will gain practical experience in life skills such as communication and teamwork, basic food preparation and safety, child development and caregiving, and will conclude the semester by creating their own restaurant concept.

### **French 1a and 1b (semester or year)**

Teaches using storytelling in a fun & engaging way. Students understand & communicate about likes and dislikes, activities, families, & events both in writing & speech.

### **French 2 (year)**

*Prerequisite: French 1 or Teacher Approval*

Students can understand & use simple sentences in the present tense. Students begin participating in conversations, & ask a broader range of questions. Focus on French culture.

### **Health (semester)**

#### **State required 7th grade class**

Students will develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for practicing lifelong, health-enhancing behaviors.

### **Intermediate Orchestra (year)**

*Prerequisite: One year or more playing string instrument or Instructor approval*

Intermediate-level orchestra class. Instruments, practice, rehearsals, and evening performances required

### **Intermediate Theatre (semester)**

*Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre*

Intermediate course in theatre with an emphasis on performance. Includes: dramatic/humorous readings, mono acts, scenes from plays, pantomime, & theatre history.

### **Intro to World Languages (semester), 6th Grade only**

This class provides study skills and tips for learning a new language. It introduces sixth graders to French, Spanish, ASL and Chinese. In addition, students will learn skills of including others, welcoming all students, and building soft skills.

### **Journalism (semester), 7th and 8th only**

This course is designed to train students in multiple genres of writing. Drafting, editing, and publishing are emphasized. Students will produce writing for school publications as well as explore creative writing. Units in this class include interviewing, informational presentations, editorials, photojournalism, yearbook, and school news.

### **Latinos in Action (semester or year), 7th & 8th only**

*Application required*

Service-based learning class open to all students. Provides asset-based approach to bridging the graduation and opportunity gap for Latino students, working from within the educational system to create positive change.

### **Literacy 1 and 2 (semester)**

Designed for students who have been identified as requiring intensive instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reading skills. Administrative approval required.

### **Literacy ELD (semester)**

Designed for students who have been identified as requiring intensive instruction in English speaking, reading

comprehension, vocabulary and reading skills. Administrative approval required.

### **Manufacturing Technology, (semester or full year) 8th only**

*Semester* - Students learn how to be SAFE as they use power tools and materials found in a WOODSHOP. This is done by making several different projects on different power tools.

*Full Year* – Students do everything above plus MORE, because there is an additional time to focus in detail technologies that are current and engaging.

### **Math Lab (semester)**

Designed for students who have been *identified as requiring intensive instruction* for math, focuses on pre-teaching and reviewing math principles and concept mastery. Administrative approval required.

### **Music Connection (semester)**

Includes concepts and skills to integrate music into everyday life. Focus on singing, playing ukulele and reading music.

### **Musical Theatre (full year)**

### **Office/Teacher Aide (semester) 8th grade only**

*Prerequisite: Application*

Students sign up on the DPMS website to participate as a student aide. Students are selected by faculty to work with them as a helper during the semester.

### **Painting 1 (semester) 8th grade only**

*Prerequisite: Art 1*

Designed to provide understanding of the elements & principles of design and apply them to paintings through a variety of mediums. Art history and art critiques will be integrated into the course

### **Percussion (year), 7th and 8th grade only**

*Prerequisite: Piano experience or teacher permission*

Beginning band class offered for students with an emphasis on mallet keyboard instruments, snare drum and other percussion-related instruments. Practice outside of class time is required. Students must have a percussion kit. Some kits may be rented from the school at a nominal fee.

### **Peer Tutoring (semester)**

Peer tutors will support students with disabilities by helping them engage with the curriculum in both core and elective classes. They will receive training to ensure they interact with and assist the students in a thoughtful and effective manner.

### **Physical Education (PE) 6 (semester)**

Activity-based class designed to promote student knowledge of and positive disposition toward physical activity, fitness, and nutrition. Students will participate in competitive and cooperative activities.

### **Robotics (semester), 7th and 8th grade only**

Beginning coding through the development of games, apps, and robotics. Focus on active learning & exploration, combining electrical, mechanical, & engineering design principles.

### **Robotics 2 (year), 8th grade only**

Prerequisite: Robotics 1 and/or Teacher Approval

Students will continue with their Robotics 1 skills. Students will participate in competitions and cooperative activities held after-school.

### **Spanish 1(year)**

Students will understand, speak, read and write in Spanish using basic lists of memorized phrases. High school curriculum used.

### **Spanish 2 (year)**

*Prerequisite: Spanish 1a and 1b and/or Teacher Approval*

Focus on basic Spanish in the present tense by participating in conversations. Additional cultural experiences will be shared.

### **STEM Concepts 6 (semester)**

A hands-on, project-based course that aids students in developing the ability to apply understanding of how the world works within and across the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), promoting abilities to better problem-solve, analyze, communicate, and understand technology.

### **Study Skills (semester)**

Designed for students who have been *identified as requiring intensive instruction* in executive functioning. Administrative approval required.

### **Team Sports (semester), 7th & 8th only**

Sports involving and requiring group participation and cooperation.

### **For Teacher Permission, please see the following:**

Band/Orchestra

- [mathew.weidner@canyonsdistrict.org](mailto:mathew.weidner@canyonsdistrict.org)

Vocal Music

- [carl.tensmeyer@canyonsdistrict.org](mailto:carl.tensmeyer@canyonsdistrict.org)

Dance

- [sarah.christensen@canyonsdistrict.org](mailto:sarah.christensen@canyonsdistrict.org)

Art

- [meghan.schott@canyonsdistrict.org](mailto:meghan.schott@canyonsdistrict.org)

Robotics

- [jenifer.hall@canyonsdistrict.org](mailto:jenifer.hall@canyonsdistrict.org)

**For further questions, please contact the Student Center secretary who will forward your question to the correct individual.**

- [cassandra.wilkins@canyonsdistrict.org](mailto:cassandra.wilkins@canyonsdistrict.org)

### **Canyons School District Course Catalog**

<https://coursecatalog.canyonsdistrict.org/#/CourseCatalogHome>