

DIEGUENO SDUHSD COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2026-2027

REQUIRED COURSES – 7th GR:

ENGLISH
MATHEMATICS
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
WORLD HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY
7th GRADE SCIENCE
ELECTIVE

REQUIRED COURSES – 8th GR

ENGLISH
MATHEMATICS
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
UNITED STATES HISTORY
8th GRADE SCIENCE
ELECTIVE

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 7 Grade Level: 7

English 7 is a course that is designed to guide students to proficiency of the *7th Grade Common Core California Standards for English Language Arts*. Students are required to read grade level texts with guidance and support, and identify their structural and literary components. They will be guided to interpret themes and make inferences and support them with textual references. An emphasis on 21st Century Learning Skills, the Four Cs: critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication, will be incorporated through whole class and group discussions, activities, and projects. This course also requires students to write explanatory (analytical and informational), argumentative, and narrative pieces that demonstrate critical thinking, cohesive ideas, and a command of the English language.

ENGLISH 7 HONORS Grade Level: 7

English 7 Honors is a course intended for students who are at or above 7th grade reading level, have demonstrated mastery of the 6th Grade Standards, welcome the challenge of complex thinking opportunities, and can master concepts quickly with minimal assistance. It moves at an accelerated pace and is designed to challenge students while mastering the *7th Grade Common Core California Standards for English Language Arts*. Furthermore, students are encouraged to explore standards for subsequent grade levels. They are required to independently read at and above grade-level texts at an accelerated pace. They are given opportunities to delve more

deeply into this literature searching for complex themes and relationships and to support their assertions with textual references, as well as to make text-to-world, text-to-text, and text-to-self connections, using 21st Century Learning Skills, the Four Cs: critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication. This course also requires students to write explanatory (analytical and informational), argumentative, and narrative pieces that demonstrate critical thinking, synthesis of ideas, cohesion, sophisticated style, and a command of the English language. Students are expected to show a high level of independence and motivation in this honors class.

ENGLISH 8 Grade Level: 8

English 8 is a course that is designed to guide students to proficiency of the *7th Grade Common Core California Standards for English Language Arts*. Students are required to read grade level texts, with guidance and support, and identify their structural and literary components. They will be guided to interpret themes and arguments in these and make inferences and support them with solid textual references. An emphasis on 21st Century Learning Skills, the Four Cs: critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication, will be incorporated through whole class and group discussions, activities, and projects. This course also requires students to write explanatory (analytical and informational), argumentative, and narrative pieces that demonstrate critical thinking, cohesive ideas, and a command of the English language.

ENGLISH 8 HONORS Grade Level: 8

English 8 Honors is a course intended for students who are at or above 7th grade reading level, have demonstrated mastery of the 7th Grade Standards, welcome the challenge of complex thinking opportunities, and can master concepts quickly with minimal assistance. It moves at an accelerated pace and is designed to challenge students to master and surpass the *8th Grade Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts* in reading, writing, listening and speaking, and English language conventions. In addition, students are being prepared for the rigorous standards of high school honors and AP courses. They are required to independently read and analyze at and above grade-level texts at an accelerated pace. They are expected to delve deeply into literature searching for complex themes and relationships and to support their assertions with textual references, as well as to make text-to-world, text- to-text, and text-to-self connections, using 21st Century Learning Skills, the Four Cs: critical thinking, collaboration,

creativity, and communication. To succeed in this class, students will need a high level of independence and motivation.

English Language Development (ELD) 1 Grade Level: 7 & 8

This course is a year-long course providing accelerated and explicit English language instruction correlated to ELPAC 1 in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will develop emergent literacy skills and produce short written and oral communication. The course is aligned with the grade 7-8 CA ELD Standards at the emerging level, providing designated ELD to all students. ELD 1 is designed to build skills necessary for transition into ELD 2 and core grade-level coursework. This course is written to be repeatable to correspond to student level and ELPAC score and students will learn additional skills and strategies if taking the course a second time.

English Language Development (ELD) 2 Grade Level: 7 & 8

This course is a year-long course providing accelerated and explicit English language instruction to students at the emerging level in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing correlated to ELPAC 2. Students will expand their development of literacy skills and produce written and oral communication. The course is aligned with the grade 7-8 CA ELD Standards at the exit emerging level, providing designed ELD to all students. ELD 2 is designed to build skills necessary for transition into ELD 3, success in core grade level coursework, and reclassification. This course is taken concurrently with a student's grade-level English class.

English Language Development (ELD) 3 Grade Level: 7 & 8

This course is a year-long course providing accelerated and explicit English language instruction to students at expanding (correlated to ELPAC 3) OR BRIDGING (correlated to ELPAC 4) level, in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will expand their development of literacy skills and produce written and oral communication. The course is aligned with the grade 7-8 CA ELD Standards at the entry expanding level, providing designed ELD to all students. ELD 3 is designed to build skills necessary for transition into high school ELD 4, success in core grade level coursework, and reclassification. This course is taken concurrently with a student's grade-level English class. This course is written to be repeatable to correspond to student level and ELPAC score and students will learn additional skills and strategies if taking the course a second time.

MATHEMATICS

INTEGRATED MATH A ESSENTIALS Grade Level: 7

This course is for students who have had exposure to, but have not mastered the following 6th grade topics: connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division; using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; operations with positive and negative rational numbers; writing, interpreting, and using expressions, equations, and inequalities; statistical thinking representing and analyzing quantitative relationships between dependent and independent; developing an understanding of statistical variability; describing distributions; finding common factors and multiple; solve real-world problems involving area, surface area, and volume. This course is a below grade level course which will have an individualized remediation component, as well as cover essential Math A standards. Essential Math A standards will include: analyzing proportional relationships; drawing, constructing and describing geometrical figures; finding angle measure, area, surface area, and volume, evaluating probability models. Students will be expected to work collaboratively, individually and demonstrate their learning through the Standards of Mathematical Practice. Students successful in this

course will be enrolled in Integrated Math B Essentials the following year; a bridge course will be available for students interested in enrolling in Integrated Math B.

INTEGRATED MATH A Grade Level: 7

In Integrated Math A, students will develop an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; operations with rational numbers; expressions and linear equations; problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; problems involving area, surface area and volume of two and three dimensional shapes; random sampling to generate data sets and learn the importance of representative samples for drawing inferences. Students will be expected to work collaboratively, individually and demonstrate their learning through the Standards of Mathematical Practice. Students will be exposed to rich instruction that develops their conceptual understanding, procedural skill, math fluency and application. Students successful in this course will be enrolled in Integrated Math B the following year.

INTEGRATED MATH A HONORS Grade Level: 7

Integrated Math A Honors is a challenging course designed for students who excel in math. Students in this course easily grasp higher level concepts and embrace rigorous curriculum. In Integrated Math A Honors, students will develop an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; operations with rational numbers; expressions and linear equations; problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; problems involving area, surface area and volume of two and three dimensional shapes; random sampling to generate data sets and learn the importance of representative samples for drawing inferences. Students in this course will extend their learning of the standards with greater depth and rigor. Students will be expected to work collaboratively, individually and demonstrate their learning through the Standards of Mathematical Practice. Students will be exposed to rich instruction that develops their conceptual understanding, procedural skill, math fluency and application. Students successful in this course will be enrolled in Integrated Math B Honors the following year.

INTEGRATED MATH B ESSENTIALS Grade Level: 8

This course is for students who have had exposure to, but have not mastered the following 7th grade topics: analyzing proportional relationships; drawing, constructing and describing geometrical figures; finding angle measure, area, surface area, and volume; evaluating probability models. This course is a below grade level course which will have an individualized remediation component, as well as covering essential Math B standards. Essential Math B standards will include: working with radicals and integer exponents; understanding the connection between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations; solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; using functions to model relationships between quantities; understanding congruence and similarity; applying the Pythagorean Theorem; investigate patterns of association in bivariate data. Students will be expected to work collaboratively, individually and demonstrate their learning through the Standards of Mathematical Practice. Students successful in this course will be enrolled in Integrated Math 1 Readiness the following year; a bridge course will be available for students interested in enrolling in Integrated Math

INTEGRATED MATH B Grade Level: 8

Integrated Math B, students will develop an understanding of formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations; modeling an association in bivariate data with linear equations; solving linear equations; solving systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; analyzing two- and three-dimensional figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence; understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will be expected to work collaboratively, individually and demonstrate their learning through the Standards of Mathematical Practice. Students will be exposed to rich instruction that develops their conceptual understanding, procedural skill, math fluency and application. Students successful in this course will be enrolled in Integrated Math 1 the following year.

INTEGRATED MATH B HONORS Grade Level: 7 & 8

Integrated Math B Honors is a challenging course designed for students who excel in math. Students in this course easily grasp higher level concepts and embrace rigorous curriculum. In Integrated Math B Honors, students will develop an understanding of formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations; modeling an association in bivariate data with linear equations; solving linear equations; solving systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; analyzing two- and three-dimensional figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence; understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Students in this course will extend their learning of the standards with greater depth and rigor. Students will be expected to work collaboratively, individually and demonstrate their learning through the Standards of Mathematical Practice. Students will be exposed to rich instruction that develops their conceptual understanding, procedural skill, math fluency and application. Students successful in this course will be enrolled in Integrated Math 1 Honors the following year.

INTEGRATED MATH 1 HONORS/ACCELERATED Grade Level: 8

Integrated Math 1 Honors is a challenging course designed for students who excel in math. Students in this course easily grasp higher level concepts and embrace rigorous curriculum. Integrated Math 1 Honors is the first course of an accelerated three-year integrated math sequence that also includes Pre-Calculus. This course is a college prep course that meets the minimum graduation requirement for

the state of California and follows the Integrated Pathway in the Common Core State Standards.

Integrated Math 1 Honors will explore in greater depth and rigor the standards of Integrated Math 1 as well as additional Integrated Math 2 and Pre-Calculus topics. Students will extend their understanding of numerical manipulation to algebraic manipulation; synthesize understanding of function; deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships and systems of linear equations; explore arithmetic and geometric sequences; apply linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend; establish criteria for congruence based on rigid motions; apply the Pythagorean Theorem to the coordinate plane; represent and model with vectors and perform operations on vectors; perform operations on 2x2 and 3x3 matrices, matrix arithmetic, finding inverse matrices, and use matrices in applications. Students will also begin working with quadratic functions, quadratic equations and rational exponents. Students will be expected to work collaboratively, individually and demonstrate their learning through the Standards of Mathematical Practice. Students will be exposed to rich

instruction that develops their conceptual understanding, procedural skill, problem solving skills, critical thinking abilities, and strengthens situational analysis abilities.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Grade Levels: 7 & 8

This course provides students with the opportunity to participate in an engaging and comprehensive program of cardiovascular, strength and skill development through participation in team sports and physical education activities. Students will receive instruction in rules, skills and strategies associated with different sports as well as training in physical conditioning activities. The goal of this class is to promote lifelong fitness as well as values such as the spirit of cooperation, leadership, sportsmanship and friendly competition.

PERSONAL FITNESS Grade Levels: 7 & 8

This physical education course will educate students about the physiology of the human body, and how physical activities affect the body. With the guidance of the teacher, students will be exposed to a

variety of workout styles including but not limited to circuit training, barre, medicine balls, tabata, as well as exposure to some traditional sports. The goal of the class is to inspire lifelong fitness by increasing engagement in activities that further personal strength and/or conditioning. Students will also have the opportunity to see how their learning and efforts carry over into other activities and aspects of life.

BASKETBALL PE Grade Levels: 7 & 8

This course is designed to develop and understand the sport of basketball. The class provides the rules, strategies, and basic fundamentals, physical awareness and court awareness for participating in the sport.

INDEPENDENT STUDY PE (ISPE) Grade levels: 7 & 8

Must apply and meet criteria for enrollment [ISPE INFORMATION](#)

[SDUHSD Online ISPE Contract & Paperwork required \(AVAILABLE ONLINE AFTER 2/9/26\)](#)

This course is designed for the athlete who competes in an individual sport. Students are off campus during period 6 to participate in their sport.

SCIENCE

7th GRADE SCIENCE Grade Level: 7

7th Grade Science is a year-long, inquiry-oriented and integrated science course for 7th graders. This course explores the relationships between natural processes and human activities that cause energy to flow and matter to cycle through Earth's systems. Students will develop conceptual understanding and use science and engineering practices to acquire skills related to the following topics: matter, thermal energy transfer, chemical reactions, Earth's natural resources, Earth's cycling of matter and energy, plate tectonics, ecosystems, biodiversity, and engineering as outlined for 7th grade by the California Next Generation Science Standards.

8th GRADE SCIENCE Grade Level: 8

8th Grade Science is a year-long, inquiry-oriented and integrated science course for 8th graders. This course builds on the ideas of stability and change introduced at the end of grade seven with the guiding

concept that the processes that change Earth's systems at different spatial scales today also caused changes in the past. Students will develop conceptual understanding and skills related to the following topics: forces and motion, gravity, electricity, magnetism, waves, solar system, eclipses, evolution, fossil record, biodiversity, and engineering as outlined for 8th grade by the California Next Generation Science Standards.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

WORLD HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY Grade Level: 7

This course examines the political, social, cultural and economic developments around the world from approximately 500 A.D. through the 1700's. Students examine the history and cultures of Africa, the Middle East, Asia, the Americas, and medieval Europe through the Age of Enlightenment. This course is the second in a World History sequence that began with the sixth grade Ancient Civilizations course and continues in the tenth grade course on the Modern World.

WORLD HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION Grade Level: 7 In this required DLI Program course, which meets all state standards and follows the state curriculum, World History DLI students will learn Medieval history while using and developing their Spanish skills. All course materials and all interaction will be in Spanish. Students from Dual Language Immersion programs and students with a native-like proficiency in Spanish are welcome.

UNITED STATES HISTORY Grade Level: 8

This course examines the political, economic and social developments in the United States from colonial times through 1914. Particular emphasis is placed on examining the political values on which our nation was based, as well as issues and events that affected their continued development.

UNITED STATES HISTORY DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION Grade Level: 8

In this required DLI Program course, which meets all state standards and follows the state curriculum, students will learn the history of the United States while using and developing their Spanish skills. All course materials and all interaction will be in Spanish. Students from Dual Language Immersion programs and students with a native-like proficiency in Spanish are welcome.

ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND Grade Levels: 7 & 8

[Application Required \(Additional Information\)](#)

Beginning Band is an introduction to learning a musical instrument. It is a performance-based class where students will demonstrate proficiency on a wind or percussion instrument alone, in small groups, and as a whole band for public performances. Students will have a basic understanding of staff notation, tone production, key terms, and proper technique and execution. The purpose of this class is to develop a lifelong appreciation for music through reading and performing on an instrument, and foster a teamwork environment where they collaborate to create a final product.

CONCERT BAND Grade Levels: 7 & 8

[Application Required \(Additional Information\)](#)

This course offers students the opportunity to continue their study of standard woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, and to participate in band performances. Students play music that includes arrangements of popular and classical compositions. The course is designed so students may repeat it for credit because they are exposed to new content, musical techniques and pieces each year.

COLLEGE READINESS Grade Levels: 7 & 8

College Readiness is aimed at helping students in the academic “middle” be successful in the most rigorous curriculum possible, and to prepare them for success in a college environment after graduation. This course will:

- Develop organizational and study skills in order to prepare students for high school and college.
- Support students in core subject areas through collaboration with peers and tutors.
- Provide enrichment and motivational activities that make college attainable for all students.
- Provide 21st century learning opportunities to promote digital literacy, communication skills, and collaboration.

DRAMA Grade Levels: 7 & 8

This class focuses on building student self-confidence, creative expression, and cooperative learning.

This is a performance-based class where students will build on basic acting skills. Students will have the opportunity for participation in a variety of drama activities, such as: monologues, character analysis, improvisation, and scene work. Many opportunities will be provided for students to take part in all aspects of theater, such as: acting, directing, lighting and sound, costume/make-up, and publicity.

GENERAL STUDIO ART Grade Levels: 7 & 8

A course that will expose the student to varied art forms, media, and techniques. This exposure will create a common core of knowledge, develop and refine his/her sensibilities toward the arts and enable the student to express his/her own creativity and increase his/her capacity for problem solving.

JOURNALISM/YEARBOOK Grade Levels: 7 & 8

This course will focus on the production of the school yearbook and the school newspaper. Interviews required for editor and staff positions. The focus is on coverage of all school activities through the final yearbook deadline in late March or April.

ASB/LEADERSHIP Grade Levels: 7 & 8

This course will provide learning experiences in areas of planning, implementation and evaluation of programs and events. Plan school-wide events and activities such as school dances, Cougar Pride Parties, Kindness Weeks, Spirit Days and more. Stress improved time management, goal setting, communication and organizational skills. Give insight into parliamentary procedure, California State law, the education code and school finance. Nurture student appreciation of the democratic process. Promote student connections with peers, staff and community around campus through school-wide events, Character Counts, and community outreach.

MULTIMEDIA VIDEO PRODUCTION Grade Levels: 7 & 8

In this course the students design and create original media-rich websites and interactive multimedia presentations that include animation, digital video, photography, graphics, sound, and music. Students will learn to use digital cameras, scan and edit photographs. They will shoot and edit video, including a weekly news broadcast for the campus. Students will create animation and dynamic web content.

STEAM EXPLORATIONS Grade Levels: 7 & 8

The STEAM Explorations course provides a variety of engineering and technology activities for middle school students that introduce students to design thinking through hands-on activities and projects. Students work both independently and with peers in challenges that require collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Projects introduce a variety of skills including technology to solve problems. Throughout the course students will participate in a variety of units including production of scale models, exploration of simple machines, designing bridges and structures, robotics, coding, digital art and more.

SPANISH I Grade Levels: 7 & 8

This year-long course consists of a series of linguistic activities and cultural topics which enables students to communicate about daily activities at a survival level. Curriculum is based on the California World Languages Framework, and activities are chosen for their personal significance to the students, thereby providing an aspect of spontaneity to communication. At the end of this course, students will be able to understand, speak, read, and write about high frequency expressions and phrases and make him/herself understood by the teacher.

SPANISH II Grade Level: 8

This year-long course consists of a series of linguistic activities and cultural topics which enable the students to communicate about daily activities at a functional level. Curriculum is based on the California World Languages Framework, and activities are chosen for their personal significance to the students, thereby providing an aspect of spontaneity to the communication. At the end of the course, the student will be able to understand, speak, read, and write about basic daily activities, high frequency expression, and make him/herself understood by a sympathetic native speaker.

SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS 2 Grade Level: 8

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2 is specifically designed for students who have participated in a dual-language immersion program, heritage speakers of Spanish, or students who have developed fluency and comprehension in Spanish through other avenues. This class adheres to the high school CA World Language Standards and Framework and Common Core State Standards for Spanish Language

Arts in all four of the areas regarding language acquisition: Reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students will improve their understanding of Spanish grammar, vocabulary, culture and fluency in all areas of language acquisition. Assignments involving the use of technology will foster students' competence in skills that are essential in today's work environment. Students in this course will further develop their formal and academic Spanish language. This is achieved by introducing students to literary works, different writing genres, intermediate grammar analysis and formal speaking contexts. Students will develop reading strategies that will enable them to understand texts better and that can be applied in different contexts and across disciplines in their studies. This class is in alignment with national standards at the intermediate-mid level

SUPPORT COURSES

MATH SKILLS 7 (replaces elective) Grade Level: 7

This elective course provides additional support to lower level Integrated Math A students and is designed to help prepare them for Integrated Math B in 8th grade. This course is for students who have barely achieved or are in the lower end of proficiency in their math standards and on the District Diagnostic Test (MDTP). This course is taken as an elective in conjunction with Integrated Math A.

MATH SKILLS 8 (replaces elective) Grade Level: 8

This elective course provides additional support to lower level Integrated Math B students and is designed to help prepare them for Integrated Math 1 in 9th grade. This course is for students who have barely achieved or are in the lower end of proficiency in their math standards and on the District Diagnostic Test (MDTP). This course is taken as an elective in conjunction with Integrated Math B.

ACADEMIC LAB (replaces elective) Grade Levels: 7 & 8

This course is designed to remediate students' individual weaknesses relating to the California Content Standards for English Language Arts and/or Mathematics. Students will be identified and recruited for the class based upon their grades and scores in Math and/or English. The course curriculum will be individualized with students being formally assessed at enrollment to identify areas of weakness. Based upon this assessment, each student will engage in an individualized curriculum with instruction

delivered through whole class, small group, and computer-based instruction. Students will be assessed periodically to measure growth and to refine the curriculum for each student. Prerequisites: Students are identified by their teachers as needing additional academic support. Students work with the intervention coordinator and/or another support program for several weeks and are only enrolled if sufficient progress is not made. Placement into the course is subject to the recommendation of the SST team and or the Intervention team.

NOTE: Please refer to the Course Selection Form for the elective courses currently offered at Diegueño Middle School. Final elective courses offered are based on student sign-ups and staffing availability.