

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Registration Information

At Mountainside Middle School, students will be required to take courses in all of the eight IB MYP Subject Areas.

### **IB MYP Language and Literature** (formerly English Language Arts)

Students identified Gifted are encouraged to register for HONORS Language and Literature. Students who score the highest on specific indicators for success such as AzMERIT scores, district benchmark data and teacher assessment of student work habits will be scheduled first into Honors Language and Literature. Please refer to the Honors Criteria Rubric. Honor selection is not guaranteed.

### **IB MYP Mathematics**

In an effort to ensure the most appropriate placement in middle level math, multiple criteria are used to identify students that may benefit from acceleration. Criteria used include previous a diagnostic test, previous state assessment results and teacher input to indicate student readiness to think conceptually about math beyond their current math placement. These indicators produce an aggregate score to identify the most appropriate math placement for middle school students. For more information about student readiness indicators and math placement processes at the middle level in SUSD, please refer to the FAQ for parents in the Information Backpack.

### **IB MYP World Language Acquisition**

The ability to communicate in more than one language is essential to the concept of an international education that promotes intercultural understanding and is central to the IB MYP's mission. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take World Language Exploratory. This introductory course allows students to acquire a basic knowledge of Latin, Spanish, French and Mandarin. Students will investigate concepts from the target cultures and engage in process-based learning to examine essential questions. Students may also gain the ability to understand basic vocabulary such as greetings, colors, and numbers.

### **IB MYP Sciences**

### **IB MYP Individuals and Societies** (formerly Social Studies)

### **IB MYP Arts**

Mountainside students may choose from a variety of semester and year-long Arts courses.

### **IB MYP Design**

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be scheduled into the semester-long IB MYP Design course called *Designing My Future*. Students may also have the opportunity to take other courses in the Design subject area.

### **IB MYP Physical and Health Education**

All 6<sup>th</sup> grades students will be scheduled into the semester-long course: IB MYP Physical and Health Education – 6<sup>th</sup> PE.

Mountainside does its best to honor the course requests of each student, however, course requests are not guaranteed.

**Please complete the Course Registration Form found at the back of this packet.**

# Course Descriptions for IB MYP Arts, IB MYP Design, IB MYP Physical and Health Education

**IB MYP Arts – Band** (Year-Long) At varying levels, students will learn to create and perform music through a band instrument. The concepts of musical collaboration, history, intonation, notation, rhythm, and theory will be explored. In Band, as in all IB MYP Arts courses, students function as artists as well as learners of the arts. Development in the arts is a dynamic process, and not necessarily linear. Students move freely through a creative process towards a deeper understanding of the arts. The process of creating, as well as the product, demonstrates what students have experienced, learned and attempted to convey. Arts in the IB MYP stimulate young imaginations, challenge perceptions, and develop creative and analytical skills (International Baccalaureate Subject Brief 2015).

**IB MYP Arts – Strings** (Year-Long) A varying levels, students will learn to create and perform music through a string instrument. The concepts of musical collaboration, history, intonation, notation, rhythm, and theory will be explored. In Strings, as in all IB MYP Arts courses, students function as artists as well as learners of the arts. Development in the arts is a dynamic process, and not necessarily linear. Students move freely through a creative process towards a deeper understanding of the arts. The process of creating, as well as the product, demonstrates what students have experienced, learned and attempted to convey. Arts in the IB MYP stimulate young imaginations, challenge perceptions, and develop creative and analytical skills (International Baccalaureate Subject Brief 2015).

**IB MYP Arts – Vocal** (Semester-Long) At varying levels, students will learn to create and perform music through the vocal instrument. The concepts of musical collaboration, history, intonation, notation, rhythm, and theory will be explored. In Vocal courses, as well as all IB MYP Arts courses, students function as artists as well as learners of the arts. Development in the arts is a dynamic process, and not necessarily linear. Students move freely through a creative process towards a deeper understanding of the arts. The process of creating artwork, as well as the product, demonstrates what students have experienced, learned and attempted to convey. Arts in the IB MYP stimulate young imaginations, challenge perceptions, and develop creative and analytical skills (International Baccalaureate Subject Brief 2015).

**IB MYP Arts – Visual Arts** (Semester-Long) At varying levels, students will learn to create and present art in a 2D environment. The concepts of drawing, painting, and printmaking will be explored. In Visual Arts, as in all IB MYP Arts courses, students function as artists as well as learners of the arts. Development in the arts is a dynamic process, and not necessarily linear. Students move freely through a creative process towards a deeper understanding of the arts. The process of creating artwork, as well as the product, demonstrates what students have experienced, learned and attempted to convey. Arts in the IB MYP stimulate young imaginations, challenge perceptions, and develop creative and analytical skills (International Baccalaureate Subject Brief 2015).

**IB MYP Arts – Theatre** (Semester-Long) This introduction course provides students an opportunity to express their creative and playful selves in a purposeful environment. The concepts of public speaking, basic acting, and stage presence will be explored. In Theatre courses, as well as all IB MYP Arts courses, students function as artists as well as learners of the arts. Development in the arts is a dynamic process, and not necessarily linear. Students move freely through a creative process towards a deeper understanding of the arts. The process of creating artwork, as well as the product, demonstrates what students have experienced, learned and attempted to convey. Arts in the IB MYP stimulate young imaginations, challenge perceptions, and develop creative and analytical skills (International Baccalaureate Subject Brief 2015).

**IB MYP Arts – Speech and Debate** (Semester-Long) Students will learn the practice of effective public speaking, including how to analyze the speeches of others, build a strong argument, and speak with confidence and flair. By the end of this course, students will know what makes a truly successful speech and will be able to put that knowledge to practical use.

**IB MYP Design – Designing My Future** (Semester-Long) IB MYP Design courses enable students to develop not only practical skills but also strategies for creative and critical thinking (International Baccalaureate Subject Brief 2015). In this course, students will learn the importance of planning and designing one's future through personal exploration. Students will inventory interests, strengths, skills and goals, culminating into an aligned career investigation. Students will build awareness and aspirations about post-secondary options, including college and careers. Students will recognize the roles of social, emotional and cultural factors that affect their planning. Students will design a preliminary personal career pathway plan to help guide future choices.

**IB MYP Design – Discovering STEM** (Semester-Long) MYP design courses enable students to develop not only practical skills but also strategies for creative and critical thinking (International Baccalaureate Subject Brief 2015). IB MYP Discovering STEM prepares students to develop and reinforce critical thinking and problem solving skills. The engaging curriculum is based on Arizona and National Technology and Engineering Standards. Units of study may include: Alternative Energy, Architecture, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Physics, Robotics, and Video Production.

**IB MYP Design – Exploring Computer Science** (Semester-Long) MYP design courses enable students to develop not only practical skills but also strategies for creative and critical thinking (International Baccalaureate Subject Brief 2015). 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 and be engaged in project-based learning. The curriculum is aligned with the Arizona State Technology Standards and builds on students' basic computer knowledge to ensure proficient digital learners.

**IB MYP Physical and Health Education - PE** (Semester-Long) In the IB MYP framework, physical and health education are of central importance to human identity and global communities, creating meaningful connections among people, nations, cultures, and the natural world. Through physical and health education, students learn to appreciate and respect the ideas of others and develop effective collaboration and communication skills (International Baccalaureate Subject Brief 2015). Physical Education students learn the value of exercise, proper nutrition, sun safety, cardiovascular fitness, health physiology, and how to incorporate fitness in their everyday lifestyles. A strong emphasis is placed on promoting a positive self-image for all students. Our objective is to assist each student to develop physically, emotionally, and mentally. Character and fair play are incorporated into all activities, including individual, team and lifetime sports, and fitness activities. 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.

**Student Government** (Semester-Long) The purpose of this class is to train student leaders in leadership skills, group dynamics, planning and evaluating, constitutional government, fiscal responsibility and service. Class time will be divided among regular business meetings, work projects and committee assignments.