

8th 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 8th grade students are required to take a World Language Acquisition course. Students successfully completing the course may earn high school credit. Students enrolled at Mountainside their 7th grade year: Students will automatically be enrolled in the corresponding 1B course for their chosen language. For example: a student enrolled in Mandarin 1A his/her 7th grade year will automatically be enrolled in Mandarin 1B his/her 8th grade year. Students successfully completing both the 1A and 1B language course may earn high school credit. Students NEW to Mountainside their 8th grade year will be enrolled in Spanish 1. Students successfully completing Spanish 1 may earn high school credit.

IB MYP Sciences

IB MYP Individuals and Societies

IB MYP Arts

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

IB MYP Design

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

IB MYP Physical and Health Education

Mountainside students may choose to take either PE or Total Fitness.

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 (Year-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 – Sculpture/3D Design (Semester-Long) This introduction course provides students an opportunity to create and present art in a 3D environment. The concepts of carving, casting, and modeling will be explored. In Sculpture/3D Design, 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 – 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 – Applied Engineering (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 apply engineering to solve complex, open-ended problems in a real-world context. The project-based curriculum emphasizes innovation/invention, critical thinking, oral and written communication, creativity, personal initiative and accountability. Units of study may include: Automotive Engineering, Aeronautics, Biotechnology, Business Start-up, College/Career Opportunities, Marine Engineering, and Structural Engineering.

IB MYP Design – Advanced Computers (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 IB MYP Advanced Computers, students will continue to apply the design cycle to computer sciences. Additionally, students will develop an appreciation of the impact of design innovations for life, global society and environments. The curriculum is aligned with the Arizona State Technology Standards and builds on students' basic computer knowledge to ensure proficient digital learners.

IB MYP Design – Media Production (Year-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 IB MYP Media Production, students will be introduced to the basic media techniques and terminology. This class will produce a live news broadcast daily to the school. Students study various aspects of video technologies including basic equipment operation, video composition, lighting and audio production, and visual storytelling. Students learn and practice pre-production, production and post-production skills to produce videos and practice learned skills throughout the course.

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.

IB MYP Physical and Health Education - Total Fitness (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). This course places an equal emphasis on aerobic activity for cardiovascular fitness and flexibility and resistance training for strength. The class is designed to alternate days in the two activities. This alternating builds all components of fitness: cardiovascular, muscular strength and endurance and flexibility.

Student Government (Year-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.