SDUHSD
MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Pacific Trails Middle School

REQUIRED COURSES - 7TH GRADE:
ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, WORLD HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY AND 7TH GRADE SCIENCE.

REQUIRED COURSES – 8TH GRADE:
ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, UNITED STATES HISTORY, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND 8TH GRDE SCIENCE.

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 7 **Grade Level: 7**
A year-long course organized around the theme of "A Quest for Identity", students will read a central core of literature including The Giver by Lois Lowry, selections from Literature and Language Arts First Course (Holt Rinehart Winston), and A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare. Students will read and analyze fiction and nonfiction to discover meaning; they use and improve writing, listening, speaking, and thinking skills to ensure understanding, application, and appreciation. Writing types are standards-based and focus on responding to literature, persuasive essays, personal and fictional narratives, summaries, and research papers.

ENGLISH 7 HONORS **Grade Level: 7**
This course uses the English 7 core curriculum but is designed for the student who loves the challenges of complex, critical-thinking opportunities; can achieve this without assistance and often takes ideas to a higher level; thrives on non-routine strategies. Masters concepts quickly; requires faster-paced, rigorous curriculum. Additional higher-level literature selections are read and analyzed, and the writing assignments reflect greater depth, complexity, and independence.

ENGLISH 8 **Grade Level: 8**
In a year-long course organized around the theme of "A Search for Justice," students will read from a central core of literature including "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes, fiction and nonfiction selections from Literature and Language Arts Second Course (Holt Rinehart Winston), "I Have a Dream" by Martin Luther King, The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank, and To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. Students will read and analyze fiction and nonfiction to discover meaning; they use and improve writing, listening, speaking and thinking skills to ensure understanding, application, and appreciation. Writing types are standards-based and focus on responding to literature, persuasive essays, biographical and fictional narratives, research reports, and business, career and technical writing.

ENGLISH 8 HONORS **Grade Level: 8**
This course uses the English 8 core curriculum but is designed for the student who loves the challenge of complex, critical-thinking opportunities; can achieve this without assistance and often takes ideas to a higher level; thrives on non-routine strategies. Masters concepts quickly; requires faster-paced, rigorous curriculum. Additional higher-level literature selections are read and analyzed, and the writing assignments reflect greater depth, complexity, and independence.

ENGLISH - SPECIAL EDUCATION

ENGLISH Grade 7
English 7 Fundamentals

ENGLISH Grade 8
English 8 Fundamentals

MATHEMATICS

INTEGRATED MATH A READINESS **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 remediation-focused 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 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 either Integrated Math A or B as their next math course.

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 or Integrated Math B Honors as their next math course.

INTEGRATED MATH A HONORS **Grade Level: 7**

Integrated Math A Honors is a challenging course designed for students who excel in and are passionate about 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 as their next math course.

Not all courses are available at all sites each semester/year.

INTEGRATED MATH B READINESS **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 remediation-focused 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 exposed to rich instruction that develops their conceptual understanding, procedural skill, math fluency and application. 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 as their next math course.

INTEGRATED MATH B **Grade Level: 8**

In 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 or Integrated Math 1 Honors as their next math course.

INTEGRATED MATH B HONORS **Grade Level: 7 & 8**

Integrated Math B Honors is a challenging course designed for students who excel in and are passionate about 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/Accelerated as their next math course.

INTEGRATED MATH 1 HONORS/ACCELERATED (P) **Grade Level: 8**

Integrated Math 1 Honors/Accelerated is a challenging course designed for students who excel in and are passionate about math. Students in this course easily grasp higher level concepts and embrace rigorous curriculum. Integrated Math 1 Honors/Accelerated is the first course of a three year college preparatory integrated math sequence that also includes Pre-Calculus. This course meets the minimum graduation requirement for the state of California, is UC/CSU approved, and follows the Integrated Pathway in the Common Core State Standards. Integrated Math 1 Honors/Accelerated will

explore in greater depth and rigor the standards of Integrated Math 1 as well as additional Pre-Calculus topics. Students will extend understanding of numerical manipulation to algebraic manipulation; synthesize understanding of function; deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships; apply linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend; establish criteria for congruence based on rigid motions; and apply the Pythagorean Theorem to the coordinate plane; represent and model with vectors and perform operations on vectors; perform operations on matrices and use matrices in applications. 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 strengthen situational analysis abilities. Students successful in this course will be enrolled in Integrated Math 2 Honors/Accelerated as their next math course.

MATH - SPECIAL EDUCATION

MATH Grade 7
Math 7 Fundamentals

MATH Grade 8
Math 8 Fundamentals

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION **Grade Level: 7 & 8**
This course is designed to be part of a continuous process to meet the following goals of physical education: physical activity, physical fitness, wellness, movement skills and knowledge; social development and interaction; self-image and self-realization and individual excellence.

INDEPENDENT STUDY PE **Grade Level: 7 & 8**
(SDUHSD Online ISPE Contract & Paperwork required; *must apply and meet criteria for enrollment.)*
This course is designed for the athlete who competes in an individual sport. Students are off campus during period 1 or 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 skills related to life, physical, and Earth-space science topics as well as engineering as outlined for 7th grade by the newly adopted 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. In addition to addressing portions of physical science content from outgoing California State Standards, some engineering, life, and Earth-space science content will also be included as SDUHSD transitions to the new California-adopted Next Generation Science Standards assigned to 8th grade.

Not all courses are available at all sites each semester/year.

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.

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.

ELECTIVES

SPANISH I **(P)** – College Prep **Grade Level: 7 & 8**

Fulfills UC/CSU Requirements

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 (P) – College Prep **Grade Level: 8**

Fulfills UC/CSU Requirements

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.

ARTS EXPLORATIONS **Grade Level: 7 & 8**

This year-long course is designed to give students the opportunity to experience and learn a vast selection of Visual Arts. The majority of art making includes the crossover and interplay between digital and traditional art forms. Students will utilize the Elements of Art and Principles of Design, and personal expression to complete art work assignments. Studio Arts will consist of drawing, painting, collage and other forms of "mark making". In addition, Art Explorations covers Ceramic hand building projects as well as wheel-throwing. Digital Art and Video Film will include learning how to use programs such as Photoshop and WeVideo so that students can complete projects using techniques learned in the Digital Lab to create their own digital portfolios. Art history is included in every stage of study, and upon completion of this course, students will have created a complete fine arts portfolio in alignment with the Common Core Standards for Fine Art. This course may be repeated. Pupils are exposed to new curriculum year to year.

Not all courses are available at all sites each semester/year.

YEARBOOK **Grade Level: 7 & 8**

(Yearbook Application required)

This class is responsible for creating the school's yearbook and is driven by production deadlines. Learn how to take quality photos, design spreads, and improve your journalism and revision skills; work independently, and in small groups, to meet deadlines. Attention to details and organizational skills are a must. Taking photos of sports, clubs, and events outside the regular school day is an expectation. This class is a great stepping stone for high school yearbook production. After the yearbook is completed, the class focuses on digital photography and Photoshop in the spring. An application must be submitted to take this elective. An application can be downloaded from the PTMS website on the registration page. This course may be repeated. Pupils are exposed to new curriculum year to year.

CONCERT BAND **Grade Level: 7 & 8**

(Music Intent Form required)

This course offers students the opportunity to begin or 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. This course may be repeated. Pupils are exposed to new curriculum year to year.

ORCHESTRA **Grade Level: 7 & 8**

(Music Intent Form required)

This course offers students the opportunity to begin or continue their study of wind, string, and percussion instruments. This course may be repeated. Pupils are exposed to new curriculum year to year.

VOCAL PERFORMANCE **Grade Level: 7 & 8**

Vocal Performance is designed for students who want to sing in large and small performing groups. Students will learn to sing in a variety of musical styles and languages while learning to read notes, rhythms, and common musical concepts and terminology. Students will have opportunities to incorporate other musical instruments into the vocal performance, such as piano, ukulele, and percussion instruments. This course may be repeated. Pupils are exposed to new curriculum year to year.

LEADERSHIP (ASB) **Grade Level: 7 & 8**

(Leadership Application required)

Students are provided learning experiences in areas of planning, implementation and evaluation of programs. Improved time management, goal setting, communication & organization skills are stressed. The class participates in planning and organizing campus activities. In addition, students will use journalistic techniques to present news to the PT student body regarding current events on campus or in the community. This course may be repeated. Pupils are exposed to new curriculum year to year.

STEM EXPLORATIONS **Grade Level: 7 & 8**

This course will provide students with an exploratory experience in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM). Students will be exposed to a variety of STEM experiences through project based learning and will have opportunities to participate in various engineering design challenges while exploring their creativity through the various concepts covered. These concepts may include coding, robotics and automation, design and modeling, among other topics.

Not all courses are available at all sites each semester/year.

ADVANCED STEM **Grade Level: 8**

Prerequisite: STEM Explorations

The Advanced STEM course provides a variety of engineering and technology activities for middle school students that expand on what they learned in the STEM Explorations course. Students acquire rigorous and relevant experiences through activity, project, and problem-based learning. Students use industry-leading technology to solve problems while gaining skills in communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, and creativity. Throughout the course students will participate in a variety of engineering challenge involving renewable energy and pneumatics and will continue to develop their understanding of computer programming and robotics.

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

All students in the San Dieguito Union High School District shall be accorded equality of consideration for program offerings without discrimination or abridgement on account of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or handicap.