

# Diamond Ranch Academy



## Course Descriptions

Updated for the 2020/2021 school year

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**All of the courses offered at Diamond Ranch Academy are aligned with the Utah State Core Curriculum as outlined by the Utah State Office of Education.**

# Language Arts

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English courses will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and viewing based on a student's current grade. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions.

Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The focus of writing will be on poetry, narrative, informational, and argumentative writing. The overall goal of the English classes is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students.

## **English 6, 7, & 8**

These are grade-level Language Arts classes. Students will read grade-level text including short stories, essays, poems and novels that test reading comprehension. Students will also research and write informative and argumentative essays as well as summaries, narratives, and other genres; and will practice speaking, listening, and language skills. We will explore significant pieces of literature, conduct several styles of writing, hold meaningful discussions, practice grammar, and expand vocabulary.

## **English 9**

English 9 is an introductory course that lays a foundation of skills that students will need throughout high school. It is a literature-based course with an emphasis on critical reading and composition skills. These skills include: literary analysis, writing expository essays, creative writing, grammar and usage, and vocabulary. Students are exposed to a variety of classical and contemporary genres: novels, short stories, plays, poetry and non-fiction.

## **English 10**

Students will read and analyze a variety of stories, essays, plays, novels and non-fiction, as well as gain experience in writing exposition (informational), narration (story), persuasion, description, and poetry. Grammar, vocabulary, research, and oral presentation skills will also be strengthened. The curriculum will build on what students learned in English 9.

## **English 11 American Literature**

Students will read and analyze a variety of stories, plays, and non-fiction written by American authors, as well as gain experience in writing exposition (informational), narration (story), persuasion, description, and poetry. Grammar, vocabulary, research, and oral presentation skills will also be strengthened. The curriculum will build on what students learned in English 10.

## **English 12 British Literature**

British Literature is a senior level course designed to give students an overview of England's literature from 750 C.E. to the twentieth century. Students will follow the development of England's literature chronologically, and demonstrate their understanding of the issues and themes of the

assigned reading through a variety of essays. Students will also expand their knowledge through writing exposition (informational), narration (story), persuasion, description, and poetry.

### **AP Literature & Composition**

An AP English Literature and Composition course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of literature. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone.

## **Social Studies**

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### **Economics**

This course is the study of how individuals and nations make choices about the use of scarce resources to fill their needs and wants. Students will study economic concepts of credit, saving and investing, supply and demand, business organizations, labor, money and banking, inflation, and international trade.

### **US Modern History**

Students will participate in exploratory activities in United States History from the Civil War era to the present. Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of concepts through reading, writing, and Document-Based Question analysis.

### **US Government**

This course introduces students to a study of ideas and philosophies of American government and law: a study of the Constitution, an understanding of the American political and legal system, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

### **World History**

World History addresses events and issues in world history from the earliest evidence of human existence to the present day. Students will be expected to make connections between historically significant events and current issues. These connections are intended to add personal relevance and deepen students' understanding of the world today. Topics include, but are not limited to, the Neolithic Revolution, the dawn of civilization, the development of world religions, patterns in world trade, contributions of classical civilizations, the diffusion of technology, colonization and imperialism, global conflict, modern revolutions and independence movements, and current trends in globalization.

## **Mathematics**

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### **Middle School Math 1**

This course covers: the number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportional relationships, geometry, statistics and probability.

Concepts include: Numerical Expressions and Factors, Fractions and Decimals, Algebraic Expressions and Properties, Areas of Polygons, Ratio and Rates, Integers and the Coordinate Plane, Equations and Inequalities, Surface Area and Volume, Statistical Measures, Data Display.

### **Middle School Math 2**

This course covers: The number system, expressions and equations, Ratios and proportional relationships, geometry, statistics and probability.

Concepts include: Integers, Rational Numbers, Expressions and Equations, Inequalities, Ratios and proportions, Percents, Constructions and Scale Drawings, Circles and areas, Surface Area and Volume, Probability and Statistics.

### **Pre-Algebra**

This course covers: The number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, statistics and probability.

Concepts include: Equations, Transformations, Angles and Triangles, Graphing and writing linear equations, Systems of Linear equations, Functions, Real Numbers and Pythagorean Theorem, Volume and Similar Solids, Data analysis and Displays, Exponents and Scientific Notation.

### **Algebra 1**

This course covers: Number and quantity, algebra, functions, geometry, statistics and probability.

Concepts include: Solving Linear Equations, Graphing and Writing Linear Equations, Solving Linear Inequalities, Solving systems of linear equations, Linear Functions, Exponential Equations and Functions, Polynomial Equations and Factoring, Graphing Quadratic functions, Solving Quadratic Equations, Square Root Functions and Geometry.

### **Geometry**

This course is designed to help students define, classify, and measure their world through visualizations and models. They will apply theorems and postulates to calculate perimeters, lengths, angle measures, areas, and volumes of geometric figures. They will be required to justify their work both orally and in written form. Students will review linear functions learned in Algebra 1 and then apply them to geometric concepts. Students will also develop formal written proofs and indirect proofs as well as review linear functions, circles, and quadratic functions to coordinate geometry.

Concepts include: Basics of Geometry, Reasoning and Proof, Perpendicular and Parallel Lines, Congruent Triangles, Properties of Triangles, Quadrilaterals, Transformations, Similarity, Right Triangles and Trigonometry, Circles, Area of Polygons and Circles, Surface Area and Volume.

### **Algebra 2**

This course is designed to build on concepts introduced in Algebra 1 and Geometry. It develops advanced algebra skills such as systems of equations, advanced polynomials, imaginary and complex numbers, quadratics, and concepts and includes the study of trigonometric functions. It

also introduces matrices and their properties. The contents of this course are important for students' success on both the ACT and college mathematics entrance exams. Students who complete Algebra II would be prepared to take Pre-Calculus next.

Concepts include: Equations and Inequalities, Linear Equations and Functions, Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities, Matrices and Determinants, Quadratic Functions, Polynomials and Polynomial Functions, Powers Roots and Radicals, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, Rational Equations and Functions, Quadratic relations and Conic Sections, Sequences and Series, Probability and Statistics, Trigonometric Ratios and Functions, Trigonometric Graphs Identities and Equations.

### **PreCalculus**

Advanced Mathematics fully integrates topics from algebra, geometry, trigonometry, discrete mathematics, and mathematical analysis. Word problems are developed throughout the problem sets and become progressively more elaborate. With this practice, high-school level students will be able to solve challenging problems such as rate problems and work problems involving abstract quantities. Conceptually oriented problems that help prepare students for college entrance exams (such as the ACT and SAT) are included in the problem sets.

## **Science**

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### **General Science**

This course is a middle-school level course, and teaches about three different areas of science: life science, physical science, and earth science at an introductory level. Concepts about living organisms, motion and forces and the features of the Earth are discussed to help students gain a better understanding of science on a broad level.

### **General Biology**

Biology is the science of living things. This middle-school level course focuses on our living world and the environment. Students will learn about their role in the care of the world around them and how that world provides them with life sustaining resources. This is an introductory biology course and concepts are interesting and presented at a general level.

### **Intermediate Science**

This course is an intermediate level course for students who have a general grasp of science concepts. Content begins with an introduction to matter and atoms in the basic chemistry unit. An introduction to physics is the next unit helping students to understand interactions of matter. Unit 3 involves some earth science, from rocks and minerals to the atmosphere. Students will explore space and our solar system in unit 4. Topics of the life sciences are found in the 5th unit. Students have had a taste of biology from earlier courses and the curriculum builds from this prior knowledge. Finally, students will have the basic understanding needed to move into the final unit of life and the environment.

### **Physical Science**

This is a challenging course for students entering high school. The curriculum begins with a review of matter and science. It moves quickly into an intermediate level of physics and understanding forces, energy, and waves. It ends with a focus on an intermediate understanding of chemistry, from reactions, chemical bonds, solutions, acids and bases, to organic compounds. Students will use math and analytical skills to address problems and deeper concepts.

### **Earth Science**

This is a deeper investigation of Earth, its composition, dynamic properties, surface processes, and the atmosphere. It discusses the earth's resources and the human impact on those resources. There is also a look at the universe, in the astronomy portion. Students will be able to understand our earth, how it fits into our solar system, and their role in its care.

### **Biology**

Biology is a comprehensive course involving a vast amount of vocabulary. Students will delve into the living earth to investigate the smallest units of life to investigate the interactions and functions of life in our biosphere. Topics range from ecology to biological chemistry, from the study of genetics to the concepts and foundations of evolution. This course will help students to build on concepts learned in previous courses.

### **Chemistry**

This is a challenging course. Students will have an opportunity to explore the composition of matter and the changes that matter undergoes. Chemistry affects all aspects of life and most natural events because matter makes up both living and nonliving things. Students will apply math and analytical skills to better comprehend the content covered in this course.

### **Physics**

Physics is the study of the physical world, involving energy and matter and how these relate to each other. It is the process of inquiry to help develop explanations about events in nature. The following topics will be covered in this course: Mechanics in one and two dimensions, Momentum and Energy, Waves and Light, Electricity and Magnetism, and Subatomic Physics. This course will be a difficult course but its content is interesting and useful.

### **Human Anatomy and Physiology**

This course is for students interested in the structures and functions of the human body. There are five units in this course involving an in depth look at cells and tissues, skeletal and muscular systems, the nervous and endocrine systems, the digestive, respiratory, circulatory, lymphatic and urinary systems, as well as the male and female reproductive systems. Students will analyze the complementary nature of human body systems, and how these systems maintain homeostasis through regulating mechanisms. Students will also learn about metabolic processes and how interactions between humans and their environment will affect the human body.

# Elective Classes

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## **Art Fundamentals**

This course is designed to introduce students to the essential processes of various forms of visual art presentation. Elements of line, shape, texture, light, value, color, and space will be studied. Mediums include pencil, pen, pastel, oil and watercolor, among others. Designed to be flexible enough for the beginner and the more skilled artist.

## **Careers and Living Skills**

This course is designed to assist students with exploring careers and developing skills necessary to make meaningful decisions about future career choice. This course will assist the students in assessing their personal strengths and weaknesses as they relate to career decisions. This course will aid the student in developing strategies to make an effective transition from school to work. This course also includes discussion on study skills and strategies for learning, as well as ACT Test prep, interest inventories, and college research.

Specific topics include: college essay prep, mock job interviews, filling out a job application, resume construction, job readiness skills.

Transition to independent living topics include: basic cooking skills, meal planning and prep, kitchen math, recipe reading, communication skills, peer pressure, money management, goal setting, first aid and basic safety.

## **Current Events**

This course is designed to get students engaged in and interacting critically with current events and issues in the news. They are encouraged to follow both national and local events issues. Students will observe trends and identify key elements, principles and ideas that relate to them.

## **Financial Literacy**

This Course helps youth prepare for the choices and challenges of today's financial markets. A better understanding of personal finance will help students move into adulthood making more informed monetary decisions, realizing a greater potential for personal wealth, and fostering a stronger state and national economy. This class will cover income, money management, spending & credit, savings & investing, consumer protection and risk management.

## **Health**

This course is designed to help students better understand the physical, mental, and social aspects of health. Main units of study will be physiology, emotions and personalities, disease, nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and other drug problems, safety and first aid.

## **PE/Fit for Life**

This course helps each student adopt a personal lifestyle that will achieve physical fitness. The student will participate in a variety of activities that encourage participation, sportsmanship, physical activity, and teamwork.

### **Personal Enrichment**

This course is an experiential learning course including the character development curriculum and hands-on activities of the Real Life Transition Program at Diamond Ranch Academy. The students will participate in self-discovery exercises designed to help them learn more about their own personalities and that of others and how they can work together through differences. Key points include learning to value self, identifying truth wherever it is, doing things for the right reasons, determining what is truly important, balancing life's demands, and serving others.

### **Sports Management**

This course is designed to provide students with the foundation and application of sports management as it applies to athletics, business and physical education. Students will also examine the relationship between sports media issues and the development of leadership issues for coaches and managers.

### **Drama**

Working individually or together with a partner, students will select a short (2-6 minutes) scene from a modern published play. Options for performance being: Dramatic Monologues, Humorous Monologues, Pantomime, Musical Theater, Classical Scenes from Plays, Contemporary Scenes from Plays, or One Acts. The students will work on character development, analysis, memorization while rehearsing stage business and interaction. Throughout the rehearsal period, students may workshop with the teacher and peers to revise and polish the scenes. Following the rehearsal period, students will perform for the class. Students will participate in the 1A Region and State Drama Competitions.

### **Speech and Debate**

Students will learn a variety of Speech and Debate events and disciplines. Students will choose from the following speech and debate events: Impromptu, Original Oratory, Extemporaneous, Congress, Spontaneous Argumentation (SPAR), Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate. Attention will be given to proper debating techniques and delivery styles. Students will participate in the 1A Region and State Speech and Debate Competition.

### **Choir**

Students will experience singing both in private and group settings. Students will learn proper techniques for projection, breath support, articulation, and performance. Performance opportunities for the students in front of their peers will present the student with valuable experiences to learn and grow as a singer. Students will have the opportunity to participate in the 1A Region and State Musical Theater Competition.

### **Ranch Hands Experience**

Ranch Hands provides the opportunity to receive school credit through experiential education. Students will experience both challenges and successes through direct livestock responsibilities and hands-on ranch projects. The ranch environment naturally fosters decision making, responding vs

reacting, and time management skills. Students should expect an increased appreciation for how their behavior and actions can have positive influences on both the animals and other Ranch Hand students.

### **Culinary Arts Experience**

The goal of Culinary Arts at Diamond Ranch Academy is to provide students with real-life experience working in a kitchen/restaurant environment. As such they are taught the following skillsets:

**Kitchen Prep Assistant:** Cleaning/ preparing various foods for cooking or serving according to state guidelines, creating new meal choices and recipes, and serving food to students, staff, and guests during dinner/theater productions (when applicable).

**Kitchen Cleaner/Dishwasher:** Maintaining kitchen work areas, equipment, or utensils in clean and orderly condition, stocking supplies, receiving and processing store shipment, washing dishes using dishwasher or by hand, sorting and removing trash, cleaning garbage cans, and busing tables during dinner/theater productions (when applicable).

### **Spanish 1**

Students will learn vocabulary based on a variety of themes and then they will learn the grammar necessary to turn the vocab into relevant real life conversations related to the theme. We will cover several different spanish speaking cultures from around the world in each chapter as pertaining to the theme. For example, in their respective chapters we will explore and discuss what buying groceries or preparing and eating meals looks like in different spanish speaking cultures such as Spain, Mexico, Argentina and Chile.

### **Spanish 2**

Spanish II emphasizes the Spanish language as a means of personal communication. Students will learn how to build the strong vocabulary and grammatical background needed for reading and writing the language. A knowledge of basic Spanish grammar is completed, including common verb tenses. Students will be encouraged to make short oral presentations and to write their first compositions, usually summaries or descriptions of situations. Students will have the opportunity to practice speaking and presenting to their peers weekly. Students will continue their study of the culture and customs of Spanish-speaking cultures.

### **Psychology**

During this course students will explore the influences of society on individuals behavior and group relationships. Students will also study the biological aspects of human behavior as they pull information from the course material to gain insight into their lives and those around them. Group projects will consist of analyzing problems, establishing goals, and choosing and implementing the best solutions for identified problems.

### **Sociology**

This class is designed to help students look at people and their way of life as well as studying social trends, cultural challenges, human development, social institutions and collecting behavior.

# Summer Elective Classes

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## **Novels**

This elective course is designed for students who enjoy reading and desire an opportunity to strengthen their skills in comprehension and literary analysis. Students will study character development, theme, symbolism, conflict, irony, setting, style, and point of view. Young adult novels will be used to increase students' ability to compare and contrast, and to understand the author's perspective.

Students will study young adult literature by genre, such as fantasy, science fiction, historical fiction, etc. Students will be assigned some novels and will be able to choose other novels from selected texts for each genre. We may study film adaptations of some young adult novels to further our study of genre and reinforce students' ability to compare and contrast.

## **Scientific Topics**

Throughout the course, students will be responsible for reading articles relating to various topics in science and keeping a science notebook on their summaries of the science articles. The science articles will focus on news, medicine, scientific research, inventions, careers, important events, etc. Graphic organizers will be used to highlight important components of the articles.

## **Photography**

The photography course is designed to open up the world of photography as an art medium to the students enrolled. This class is a general introduction to issues and techniques being addressed and used in contemporary and historical photography. By primarily focusing on visual literacy, students will gain insight into the operations of photographs in our culture. Learning is cultivated through the teaching of basic camera operations and completing assignments focused on technique. (For director level students and above only.)

## **Watercolor**

The watercolor course is designed to introduce students to the unique aesthetic qualities of the watercolor paint medium. Students are introduced to basic painting techniques before completing assignments that require the use of said techniques to create visually interesting and unique compositions.