



**SEDONA RED ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**SCORPIONS**

# COURSE CATALOG

**2025 - 2026**



**SEDONA-OAK CREEK  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

995 Upper Red Rock Loop Rd.  
Sedona, AZ 86336

# **FOREWORD**

Sedona Red Rock Jr. /Sr. High School is a seven-year public school, dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence in a culturally diverse community.

Analytical and creative thinking skills equip students to draw upon the knowledge of the past, to weigh the questions of the present, and to envision the possibilities of the future. We believe that academic achievement is intrinsically valuable in a democratic atmosphere of mutual respect, social equity, and personal responsibility.

Involvement in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities provides additional opportunities for pursuing academic, social, and athletic goals.

Selecting courses will be one of the most important tasks you will perform during your school career. The coursework you choose will prepare you for further educational and career opportunities.

# **OBJECTIVES**

1. To set and maintain high academic standards while providing each student with the opportunity for a structured, yet individualized, seven-year sequence of courses; thereby preparing students for post-secondary educational opportunities.
2. To offer a rigorous college and career preparatory program, enabling students to graduate with 21st-century skills and opportunities to fulfill their goals for the future.
3. To maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect in a culturally diverse community and to promote a responsible exchange of ideas among students and other members of the Sedona Red Rock Middle/ High School community.
4. To serve as a model of excellence in the educational community.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ELECTIVES

### *Art*

Level: 6-8

Beginning Art is a course that presents the basics of drawing, painting, design, and sculpture. Students are introduced to two- and three-dimensional design through studio projects, art history, and art criticism. Students create original work in media such as collage, tempera, and clay. The course also requires short writing assignments.

### *Intro to Photography*

Level: 6-8

This is an introductory course in digital photography and editing. Students will learn the various functions of photography hardware, software, and digital applications. Students will learn to analyze a photograph for quality as well as how to produce high-quality photographs.

### *Orchestra*

Level: 6-8

Junior High Orchestra is a non-auditioned, string orchestra class. Students in the class will be expected to participate in multiple high-level concert performances, in-school and out-of-school. Experiences include but are not limited to, improvising, conducting, playing by ear, and sight-reading. Students develop the ability to understand and convey the composer's intent to connect the performer with the audience. Students are also provided with opportunities to experience professional live performances during and outside of the school day that support and extend learning in the classroom.

### *Physical Education*

Level: 6-8

In PE students will learn the importance of lifetime fitness and will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve it. Students will experience various workout routines, weight training, cardiovascular workouts, and activities such as yoga. Students will have the opportunity to learn the rules and playing strategies of various athletic activities including soccer, flag football, disc golf, basketball, badminton, volleyball, and softball. Required (6<sup>th</sup> grade).

### *Unified Physical Education*

Level: 6-12

This course provides opportunities for our students with and without disabilities to work together in preparation for competition in Unified Special Olympics (a variety of sports, including bocce, basketball, softball, track and field, etc.). General education students learn to be Unified Partners to provide support and encouragement for their peers with disabilities. This course has limited availability. Students without disabilities who enroll will earn standard PE credit for the course.

## ***Theatre***

Level 6-12

Theatre is an engaging, performance-based course that introduces students to the fundamentals of acting, stagecraft, and storytelling. Through improvisation, scene work, and ensemble activities, students will develop confidence, creativity, and collaboration skills. This course explores voice and movement, character development, and script analysis while fostering an appreciation for theatre as an art form. Students will have opportunities to participate in performances, both scripted and original, and to explore technical theatre elements such as set design, costumes, and lighting.

## ***Creative Writing***

Level 6-8

Middle School Creative Writing is an engaging elective designed for students who love storytelling, self-expression, and exploring their imagination through writing. This course introduces students to various forms of creative writing, including short stories, poetry, personal narratives, and scriptwriting.

Through fun and interactive writing exercises, students will develop their voices, strengthen their descriptive language, and learn essential storytelling techniques such as character development, plot structure, and dialogue. Peer collaboration, constructive feedback, and revision will be key components of the class, fostering a supportive writing community.

# **LANGUAGE ARTS**

## ***English Language Development (ELD)***

Prerequisites: Language Acquisition Assessment (AZELLA)

Level: 6-8

This full-year Language Arts program will focus on English Language Acquisition for second language learners who have not reached proficiency in English reading, writing, listening, and/or speaking. The class will implement the Arizona English Language Proficiency Standards through direct instruction, small group instruction, and modeling of effective language acquisition strategies. Some areas of instruction may include word recognition, vocabulary building, critical thinking, study skills, making inferences, drawing conclusions, sequencing, interpretation of facts, etc. Students will be assessed and evaluated throughout the year to monitor progress.

## ***Language Arts 6***

Level: 6

This course is designed to develop students' reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking abilities through integrated Language Arts consistent with the State of Arizona College & Career Ready Standards. Students will study vocabulary including context clues, connotation, denotation, roots, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms. Students will read and analyze a variety of literature and informational texts. Students will write argumentative and explanatory pieces that include evidence to support ideas, linking words, precise vocabulary, and a conclusion. Students will also conduct short research projects to build knowledge through investigation. Required.

## ***Language Arts 7***

Level: 7

This course is designed to develop students' reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking abilities through integrated Language Arts consistent with the State of Arizona College & Career Ready Standards. Students will study vocabulary including context clues, connotation, denotation, roots, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms. Students will read and analyze a variety of literature and informational texts. Students will write argumentative and explanatory pieces that include evidence to support ideas, linking words, precise vocabulary, and a conclusion. Students will also conduct short research projects to build knowledge through investigation. Required.

## ***Language Arts 8***

Level: 8

This course is designed to develop students' reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking abilities through integrated Language Arts consistent with the State of Arizona College & Career Ready Standards. Students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. They will analyze the central ideas or themes of a text, including analyzing the roles of dialogue or incidents in developing the depth of the plot. Students will analyze the intentional choices authors make by comparing modern works of literature to traditional pieces and citing their evidence to support their analysis. Students will develop arguments supported by reasoning and evidence gathered from multiple, credible print and digital sources. Students will also study vocabulary including context clues, connotation, denotation, roots, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms. Students will read and analyze a variety of forms of literature and informational text. Required.

## ***Honors Language Arts (all levels)***

Level: 6-8

This honors-level course is designed for motivated students seeking to develop advanced proficiency in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking. The course offers a rigorous, in-depth exploration of literary and informational texts, fostering analytical and interpretive skills essential for academic excellence. Students will engage in advanced vocabulary study, including context clues, connotation and denotation, roots and affixes, and nuanced word relationships. Through close reading and literary analysis, students will critically examine a diverse range of texts, exploring themes, rhetorical strategies, and authorial intent with depth and complexity. Writing instruction focuses on sophisticated argumentative and explanatory compositions, emphasizing strong thesis development, textual evidence integration, logical reasoning, and precise diction. Students will also engage in short and extended research projects, strengthening their ability to synthesize information, evaluate sources, and construct well-supported arguments. This course features Socratic discussions, independent inquiry, and project-based learning, encouraging students to articulate and defend their ideas with clarity and confidence.

## MATHEMATICS

### ***Middle School Mathematics 6***

Level: 6

Students will focus on developing competency in foundational mathematics: number sense, understanding of positive and negative integers, fractions, and geometric concepts. Students will apply basic computation functions to solve mathematics problems in a real-world context. Enrollment is based on the middle school mathematics placement test. Required.

### ***Middle School Mathematics 7***

Level: 7

Students will focus on developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers; working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume. Enrollment is based on the middle school mathematics placement test. Required.

### ***Pre-Algebra***

Level: 8

Students will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence; and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Enrollment is based on the middle school mathematics placement test. Required.

### ***Algebra I***

***Credit: 1.0***

Prerequisite: Exceeding the standards on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade AASA Math Test and/or recommendation by 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math Teacher

Level: 8-12

Eighth-grade students who meet the prerequisite requirements will be able to take Algebra I for high school credit. Algebra I is the first course of a 4-year high school mathematics program of study. The major emphasis of Algebra I is on the fundamental skills of algebra and the various algebraic strategies that can be applied to solving mathematical equations. This course is required for high school graduation. The TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

## SCIENCE

### ***Science 6***

Level: 6

This engaging and inquiry-based 6th-grade science course aligns with Arizona's Science Standards and introduces students to foundational scientific concepts through exploration, experimentation, and problem-solving. Students will develop critical thinking and analytical

skills as they investigate key topics in physical, life, and earth sciences. Major areas of study include:

- **Earth and Space Science:** Earth's systems, weather and climate, the solar system, and how human activities impact our planet.
- **Life Science:** Cell structure and function, ecosystems, food webs, and the interdependence of living organisms.
- **Physical Science:** Properties of matter, forces and motion, energy transformations, and basic chemistry concepts.

Students will engage in hands-on activities, lab investigations, and STEM projects to apply scientific principles to real-world problems. Emphasis will be placed on the scientific method, data analysis, and effective communication of findings. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary for continued success in middle school science. Required.

## ***Science 7***

Level: 7

Seventh-grade science is an inquiry-driven course aligned with the Arizona Science Standards, designed to build on students' foundational knowledge while deepening their understanding of the natural world. Through hands-on experiments, data analysis, and STEM-based investigations, students will develop scientific reasoning and problem-solving skills. Major areas of study include:

- **Earth and Space Science:** Earth's geologic processes, plate tectonics, natural disasters, and how Earth's history is recorded in rock layers.
- **Life Science:** Cells and heredity, body systems, genetics, natural selection, and the diversity of life.
- **Physical Science:** Chemical and physical changes, energy transfer, thermal energy, and the interactions between matter and energy.

Students will engage in real-world problem-solving through engineering challenges, laboratory investigations, and collaborative projects. The course emphasizes the scientific method, argumentation based on evidence, and cross-cutting concepts that connect various fields of science. By the end of the course, students will be well-prepared for the rigors of 8th-grade science and beyond.

## ***Science 8***

Level: 8

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade science, students will describe how stability and change and the process of cause and effect influence changes in the natural world. Students will apply energy principles to chemical reactions, explore changes within Earth, and understand how genetic information is passed down to produce variation among the populations. Student investigations focus on collecting and making sense of observational data, asking questions, defining problems, and developing and using models. They will plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, use mathematics and computational thinking, construct explanations and design solutions, engage in arguments from evidence, and obtain, evaluate, and communicate information. Required.

## SOCIAL STUDIES (Middle School)

### *Social Studies 6/7*

Level: 6-7

This curriculum is structured over **two years**, allowing for an in-depth, chronological exploration of world history while integrating **United States history as it intersects with global developments**. Sixth and seventh-grade students will understand the cultural, religious, economic, and political systems of selected societies in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Students will study the beginnings of human society such as early hominid development and the Neolithic Revolution, early river civilizations (including Mesopotamia and the Nile River Valley), world religions, classical civilizations (including Greek, Roman, Persian, and Chinese), the rise and fall of empires, growth of trade networks, development of feudal systems in medieval Europe and Japan, and the origins and diffusion of the Renaissance and the Reformation. United States history will also be taught as it intersects with global issues. Students will study the influence of the Scientific Revolution on innovation and the Enlightenment on the concept of rights; revolutions around the world; global imperialism and its lasting consequences on regional conflict, stability, indigenous peoples, and human movement, including slavery and involuntary migrations; the impact of industrialization and the rise of organized labor; global depressions; and global conflicts. This is an **inquiry-driven course** that emphasizes **primary source analysis, historical debates, research projects, and rigorous writing assignments**. Students will develop skills in **argumentative writing, historical interpretation, and evidence-based reasoning**, preparing them for future honors courses.

### *Social Studies 8*

Level: 8

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies, citizenship and civic engagement will be taught through inquiry. Students will make connections between historical and current/recent issues as a base for implementing change in society. Students will recognize and practice their roles and responsibilities as both American and global citizens. United States History will focus on the major events that have their roots in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments. Students will study the foundations of the United States government stemming from historical events such as the American Revolution and Civil War; the Constitution including its structure, function, and principles; formal institutions such as Congress, the courts, and the presidency; historical and current legislation and landmark Supreme Court cases; Civil Rights movements throughout American; immigration; Amendments to the Constitution that have expanded the right to vote and equal protection under the law; human rights and genocides; environmental issues; information and media age including digital citizenship and media literacy; and terrorism both domestic and international. Required.



## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

### ***Spanish I***

Level: 6-8

In Spanish I, students establish and build a foundation for communicating using basic grammar, verbs, essential vocabulary, and useful expressions. Students build on thematic vocabulary and basic verbs and gain the skills necessary to greet one another and talk about topics such as weather, favorite activities, foods, and many other common themes. Grammatical structures presented in Level 1 include the present tense of regular and irregular verbs, articles, nouns, and adjectives and how they function in the language.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### ***Consumer Math***

Level: 6-12

In this course, students learn how to use basic math skills in real-life situations such as buying a car, budgeting your money, investing, and paying taxes. This is an applied mathematics course that focuses on using the content to enhance life skills.

### ***Life Skills***

Level: 6-12

This course focuses on social skills, workplace skills, and independence skills. Students work on career exploration and learning how to socialize in different social situations. There is an emphasis on building problem-solving skills and learning self-management. Students are engaged in a variety of tasks including learning to clean, cook, do laundry, and complete assigned tasks. It is a goal-focused course that has special requirements for enrollment.

### ***Study Skills***

Level: 6-12

This course focuses on learning workplace skills, basic mathematics, and English skills to expand student knowledge to better prepare for other courses and future employment. It is a goal-focused course that has special requirements for enrollment.