

DORAL



A C A D E M Y  

---

NORTHERN NEVADA

**Middle School Course Catalog  
2025-2026**

# WELCOME FROM DORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Students & Families,

At Doral Academy you are surrounded by a team of dedicated educators. The administration, teachers, parents, and students collaborate to develop young leaders who have a passion for and success in learning that has been fostered by practice with and appreciation for the arts.

At Doral student scholars exemplify high social and emotional intelligence and are exceedingly prepared for life beyond Doral. In our middle school grades, we focus on explicitly teaching and fostering leadership and citizenship skills. One way in which we do this is through explicit instruction using the 8 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.

This course catalog gives us a chance to utilize Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind. We want our students to learn to plan ahead and set goals, as well as take actions that have meaning and make a positive difference in their community. You are an important part of our school and contribute to our entire mission and vision.

All 6th through 8th graders will have coursework in mathematics, science, English language arts and social studies. In addition to the rigorous curriculum of the core classes, you will also be choosing elective classes which support student interest and passions beyond the core content.

We cannot wait to watch you soar this year!

Sincerely,

Doral Leadership Team

# **DORAL ACADEMY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

## **Vision**

As a beacon of educational practice, Doral Academy will foster student efficiency in critical thinking, confident decision-making, creative problem-solving, purposeful collaboration, and leading with kindness and compassion.

## **Mission**

Doral Academy of Northern Nevada (DANN) is dedicated to creating an enhanced and engaging whole-child educational experience. DANN will provide an academically rigorous learning environment with a strong emphasis on problem-based learning, arts integration, and social and emotional development. A collaborative effort, with all students, parents, and staff, will be devoted to establishing, achieving, and celebrating individual goals to prepare every student for college, career, and civic life.

## **Description**

At Doral Academy our Middle School students will have eight classes to include four core classes and four electives. Core classes include: ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students will have the opportunity to choose one General/STEM elective, one Visual Arts elective, one Performing Arts elective and one Physical Education elective. Please note that all courses are year-long. Our goal is for students to participate in their top choice electives. If demand exceeds enrollment capacity, preference will be given to students in 8th grade. We hope you will be excited about the choices available to you!

## **Appreciation**

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to our amazing middle school teachers and specialists who honor our curriculum with their talent and create these rich and vibrant courses for our Doral students! We are beyond blessed to have a community of enthusiastic and visionary educators pouring into our students at Doral Academy.

DORAL ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL

# SCIENCE

*“For the future, primarily, we must educate people in  
science, engineering, technology and math.”*

~ Buzz Aldrin

## 6th Grade Science

### Course Description:

This course assists students in becoming lifelong learners who grow in their understanding of the world. The nature of science includes the concepts that scientific explanations are based on logical thinking; are subject to rules of evidence; are consistent with observational, inferential, and experimental evidence; are open to rational critique; and are subject to refinement and change with the addition of new scientific evidence. The nature of science includes the concept that science can provide explanations about nature, can predict potential consequences of actions, but cannot be used to answer all questions. Students will be conducting investigations, designing solutions, thinking mathematically, using information, and engaging in evidence-based arguments.

Topics that this course focuses on include:

Structure, Function, and Information Processing of Living Organisms

Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms

Thermal and Kinetic Energy

Earth's Weather and Climate

## 7th Grade Science

### Course Description:

This course assists students in becoming lifelong learners who grow in their understanding of the world. The nature of science includes the concepts that scientific explanations are based on logical thinking; are subject to rules of evidence; are consistent with observational, inferential, and experimental evidence; are open to rational critique; and are subject to refinement and change with the addition of new scientific evidence. The nature of science includes the concept that science can provide explanations about nature, can predict potential consequences of actions, but cannot be used to answer all questions. Students will be conducting investigations, designing solutions, thinking mathematically, using information, and engaging in evidence-based arguments.

Topics that this course focuses on include:

Matter and Energy in Organisms and Nonliving Things

Matter Cycles and Energy Flows in Organisms and Rocks

Natural Processes and Human Activities Shape Earth's Resources and Ecosystems

Sustaining Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing World

## 8th Grade Science

### Course Description:

This course assists students in becoming lifelong learners who grow in their understanding of the world. The nature of science includes the concepts that scientific explanations are based on logical thinking; are subject to rules of evidence; are consistent with observational, inferential, and experimental evidence; are open to rational critique; and are subject to refinement and change with the addition of new scientific evidence. The nature of science includes the concept that science can provide explanations about nature, can predict potential consequences of actions, but cannot be used to answer all questions. Students will be conducting investigations, designing solutions, thinking mathematically, using information, and engaging in evidence-based arguments.

### Topics that this course focuses on include:

Evolution: Life's Unity and Diversity

Objects Move and Collide

Noncontact Forces Influence Phenomena Locally and in the Solar System

Human Activities Help Sustain Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing World

### Community Partnerships:

All classes partner with community and government organizations to help students learn how classroom standards translate into careers in our state and community. Some partnerships include Nevada Department of Wildlife, Sierra Nevada Journeys, Society of Women Engineers, Tesla, the UNR Engineering Department and local agricultural groups.

## 8th Grade Biology

### Course Description:

Biology is offered as an 8th grade elective at Doral Academy. This course investigates the composition, diversity, complexity and interconnectedness of life on Earth. Fundamental concepts of cells, heredity, evolution and ecology provide a framework to explore and understand the living world, the physical environment and the interactions within and between them. This elective will give students an engaging opportunity to begin exploring the standards of Biology through a preparatory curriculum on a path to higher education. This elective will be rigorous and is for high achievers who are interested in taking Honors Biology or Chemistry their Freshman year. All WCSD High Schools reserve the right to place students in the classes they deem appropriate. Students are required to take four years of Science in High School. If you have specific questions regarding course requirements, please reach out directly to your high school of choice.

### Topics that this course focuses on include:

- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems
- Structure and Function
- Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Natural Selection and Evolution

DORAL ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL

# MATHEMATICS

*“Pure Mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.”*  
~ Albert Einstein

## 6th Grade Mathematics

### Course Description:

This course is designed to focus on four critical areas: 1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; 2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; 3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and 4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including arts integration.

The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the mathematics requirement for sixth grade students.

## 7th Grade Mathematics

### Course Description:

7th Grade Mathematics extends students' understanding of numbers and computation to include integers and proportional reasoning. All concepts and skills are presented in the context of problem solving that requires the use of reasoning and communication. Areas of focus include: data analysis and probability; algebraic foundations such as equations and inequalities; functional relationships; arithmetic and geometric sequences; geometric precision, and measurement. The use of technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including arts integration. This course fulfills the mathematics requirement for seventh grade students.

## 8th Grade Mathematics (Pre-Algebra)

### Course Description:

Students begin grade 8 with transformational geometry. They study rigid transformations and congruence, then dilations and similarity (this provides background for understanding the slope of a line in the coordinate plane). Next, they build on their understanding of proportional relationships from grade 7 to study linear relationships. They express linear relationships using equations, tables, and graphs, and make connections across these representations. They expand their ability to work with linear equations in one and two variables. Building on their understanding of a solution to an equation in one or two variables, they understand what is meant by a solution to a system of equations in two variables. They learn that linear relationships are an example of a special kind of relationship called a function. They apply their understanding of linear relationships and functions to contexts involving data with variability. They extend the definition of exponents to include all integers, and in the process codify the properties of exponents. They learn about orders of magnitude and scientific notation in order to represent and compute with very large and very small quantities. They encounter irrational numbers for the first time and informally extend the rational number system to the real number system, motivated by their work with the Pythagorean Theorem.

## 8th Grade Algebra

### Course Description:

Algebra 1 examines the basic structure of real numbers, algebraic expressions, and functions. The topics studied are linear equations, inequalities, functions and systems, quadratic equations and functions, polynomial expressions, data analysis, probability, and properties of functions. Mathematical modeling of real-life problems and problem solving are major themes of the course. This course satisfies the high school Algebra I requirement. The use of technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including arts integration.



## **Math Academy**

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed for students who need support in mathematics for learning and understanding. Students are recommended for this course based upon multiple criteria including grade level, iReady diagnostic results, and teacher recommendation. The course focuses on number sense, problem solving, mathematical connections, and representations. Multiple strategies, manipulative materials, and technology will be utilized to support student learning. The course will include work with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, ratios, proportions, geometry, measurement, probability, and statistics. Results from assessments at the end of each semester will be used to determine whether students will exit or continue this course.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

*“I am a part of everything that I have read.”*

~ Theodore Roosevelt

## 6th Grade English Language Arts

### Course Description:

This one-year course is designed to ensure that all students read, understand and express their understanding around complex, grade level texts. We will utilize the EL education curriculum for writing and literary analysis along with selected novels to supplement our inquiry. At the heart of the curriculum is a commitment to literacy instruction through engaging and authentic books. Each of the four modules in the 6th grade curriculum is built around a fiction or nonfiction books that guide the learning and helps students connect to the module topic. These books act as portals, giving students access to the perspectives of diverse characters and the academic challenges required for grade-level success. Despite the variety in the content of the literature included in this course, the central texts have this in common: rich, complex language, important and compelling themes; exciting plots with meaningful conflicts; and thoughtful characters or historical figures who, in their own ways, aim to be ethical people who contribute to a better world.

## 7th Grade English Language Arts

### Course Description:

This one-year course is designed to ensure that all students read, understand and express their understanding around complex, grade level texts. We will utilize the EL education curriculum for writing and literary analysis along with selected novels to supplement our inquiry. At the heart of the curriculum is a commitment to literacy instruction through engaging and authentic books. Each of the four modules is built around a fiction or nonfiction books that guides the learning and helps students connect to the module topic. These books act as portals, giving students access to the perspectives of diverse characters and the academic challenges required for grade-level success. Despite the variety in the content of the literature included in this course, the central texts have this in common: rich, complex language, important and compelling themes; exciting plots with meaningful conflicts; and thoughtful characters or historical figures who, in their own ways, aim to be ethical people who contribute to a better world.

## 8th Grade English Language Arts

### Course Description:

This one-year course is designed to ensure that all students read, understand and express their understanding around complex, grade level texts. We will utilize the EL education curriculum for writing and literary analysis along with selected novels to supplement our inquiry. At the heart of the 8th grade curriculum is a commitment to literacy instruction through engaging and authentic books. Each of the four modules is built around a fiction or nonfiction books that guides the learning and helps students connect to the module topic. These books act as portals, giving students access to the perspectives of diverse characters and the academic challenges required for grade-level success. Despite the variety in the content of the literature included in this course, the central texts have this in common: rich, complex language, important and compelling themes; exciting plots with meaningful conflicts; and thoughtful characters or historical figures who, in their own ways, aim to be ethical people who contribute to a better world.

**DORAL ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

# SOCIAL STUDIES

*“Observe good faith and justice toward all nations.  
Cultivate peace and harmony with all”  
~ George Washington*

## **6th Grade Ancient World History - Social Studies**

### **Course Description:**

In this one-year course, students will learn about ancient civilizations and how we still see the influence of their contributions today. By analyzing the geography, cultures, economies, social structure, and achievements of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome, students will gain a deeper understanding of the world and how the past affects the present. Each lesson will develop critical thinking skills, and cultivate reading and writing strategies through note taking, group work, oracy, vocabulary building and discovery activities.

## **7th Grade Social Studies**

### **Course Description:**

Students will be reading complex texts (primary sources when available) about important events and people in U.S. History. Students will use this information to participate in discussions and to write about their learning. We will begin with a review of Jamestown events and end the school year with the Civil War and Reconstruction Era. Over the course of the year, students will drive deep into the “We the People”. “We the People” is a program designed to help students better understand the basics of how our government works and functions. The program allows students to look at historical documents such as the U.S Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Articles of Confederation. As students work through the materials and with their new knowledge of government, students will participate in a simulated congressional hearing in the spring. An invitation for parents to attend this event will be sent out in spring. In the simulated congressional hearings, students will be able to showcase their knowledge and understanding of the U.S. government to local community members and staff.

## **8th Grade Social Studies**

### **Course Description:**

In this course students will be exploring the complexities of U.S. History. Students will explore the history of the United States from the Civil War to more modern times. Some topics that will be covered in this class are the following: Civil War, Immigration, Industrialization, World War I, and World War II. Students will be reading complex texts (primary sources when available) about important events and people in U.S History. They will use this information to participate in discussions and to write about their learning. During the second semester, students will analyze the impacts of globalization. Students will learn skills to understand multiple perspectives on complete issues that promote investigations that lead to civic discourse and informed action.

# GENERAL/STEM ELECTIVE COURSES

*“Tell me and I forget. Teach me  
and I remember. Involve me and I learn”*  
~ Benjamin Franklin

### **Project Lead the Way: Medical Detectives**

#### **Course Description:**

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose diseases. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks.

### **Project Lead the Way: Design & Modeling**

#### **Course Description:**

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

### **Project Lead the Way: Computer Science for Innovators and Makers**

#### **Course Description:**

Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.

### **Project Lead the Way: Flight & Space**

#### **Course Description:**

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil.

### **Project Lead the Way: App Creators**

#### **Course Description:**

App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. The unit provides students with opportunities for self-expression. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, community service; the options are endless!

### **Project Lead the Way: Robotics**

#### **Course Description:**

Design, Build, and Program a Robot! Students use tools such as the engineering design process, an engineering notebook, and VEX Robotics® programming software to invent and innovate. Learn how creative thinking and problem solving can change your world! Automation and Robotics (AR) allows students to trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

## **HOSA**

### **Course Description:**

As a student member of HOSA, you will learn about the health profession, enhance your teamwork skills, and develop your leadership skills. HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition. Along with interpersonal skills, HOSA helps students develop their hands-on healthcare skills through the HOSA Competitive Events Program. In class students will get an introduction to the human body systems through hands-on exploration of the integumentary, muscular, skeletal, nervous, digestive, and cardiovascular systems. Students will challenge themselves by learning several medical terminology terms and even learning how to spell and decode terms. Students will learn first aid basics through learning the hands-on skills for life-threatening competition situations. Some of these skills include responding to an unconscious victim and calling 911. Students will also get an opportunity to explore veterinary medicine through learning the hands-on skills for the foundations of veterinary science. Some of these skills include learning to pad a wound and remove a tick. HOSA offers something for everyone. Our class will explore only the basics of a few of the competitions. However, students can pick any competition they would like to compete in! HOSA is a global student-led organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services and several federal and state agencies. HOSA's mission is to empower HOSA-Future Health Professionals to become leaders in the global health community, through education, collaboration, and experience. HOSA actively promotes career opportunities in the health industry and enhances the delivery of quality health care to all people.

### **Cost**

- Member affiliation
- HOSA Uniform- HOSA blazer or Blue or black suit option.
- Conference (competition) OR assessment registration: \$200.

## **21st Century Wellness**

### **Course Description:**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Wellness will cover a comprehensive skill-based approach. Focusing on the elements of a person's life that impact personal wellbeing. Students will be taught the necessary health skills needed to actively and intentionally take ownership of all aspects of their well-being and nurture optimal health. During this course we will focus on "Wellness". This class will cover: Physical Health, Nutrition Basics, Emotions & Mental Health , Social Health , Core Values & Living With Purpose, Financial Literacy & Financial Health , Career Exploration & Occupational Health, Understanding Environmental Health, Boosting Intellectual Health, How to Make Healthy Decisions, Media, Civics and Goal Setting. Students will discover how each dimension of health is interrelated, impacting, and influencing each other. Some programs we will be using to cover these topics are: Project School Wellness, Next Gen Personal Finance, iCivics, Commonsense.edu and Pathways. Class projects: Ancestry.com, Disease research project, budget challenge, sleep study and career path

## **Yearbook/Journalism**

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to develop students' skills in becoming analytical media consumers and responsible producers of content. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is a digital one and students will learn how to be critical thinkers about the information available and ask questions about the content. They will learn how to corroborate information and detect misinformation, Students will also participate in the creation of a school newspaper and yearbook, learning to write copy, create engaging captions and headlines, and desktop publishing. The combination of media literacy skills and content creation are necessary to empower students in their future digital lives. This class will require some outside work, such as attending and photographing school events.



## Academic Skills

### Course Description:

The course gives students the opportunity to receive additional resources and support for organization, focus and applying their time; complete homework, iReady (Math/ELA), missing assignments, re-do assignment opportunities during class time. Students will be versed in school policy, late work and iReady standards. We will be discussing topics such as; How to reduce the effects of stress, the importance of sleep, healthy choices (fitness/nutrition), study skills, digital wellness and safety.

## Student Aide

### Course Description:

In the Student Leader elective course, students will gain valuable experience by assisting teachers and staff with classroom tasks including planning, preparation, working with students and practicing the 8 Habits in context. This is an ideal course for students who are thinking about education as a professional career or who enjoy working independently. Students may work in assisting in the office, or in a classroom

## GATE-Gifted and Talented

**Additional Requirements:** Students must be enrolled in the G/T program. Email Assistant Principal Nicolette Smith [Nicolette.Smith@doralnvn.org](mailto:Nicolette.Smith@doralnvn.org) for more information.

### Course Description:

Gifted and Talented Problem Based Learning Seminar is designed to extend student interests beyond general core content courses. Students develop a broad range of advanced-level skills in preparation for in-depth study and creation of a product on a chosen interest. Students may also participate in state and nationally recognized programs like National History Day, Project Citizen, Geography Bee, Science Olympiad, and Math Counts. Skill development might include written, oral, and visual communication skills, critical thinking skills, research skills, technology skills, media literacy, and skills in visual and performing arts. There will also be a focus on developing curiosity, creative mind, and individual emotional quotient.

## Spanish 1

### Course Description:

In this beginning language course students work to build a strong foundation in every facet of the target language. At this level, students develop listening skills and master new vocabulary in classes taught in the target language. Students practice the spoken language in multiple ways. They participate in TPR stories, speak in the target language in class, and create and present dialogues and short plays. In addition, they begin to read short passages in the target language to help them see the vocabulary and the formal language they study in context. Formal grammar and exploration into the cultures of the people who speak the language are also a part of the course.

## Spanish 2

### Course Description:

In this continuing language course students work to continue to build a strong foundation in every facet of the target language. At this level, students continue to develop listening skills and master new vocabulary in classes taught in the target language. Students practice the spoken language in multiple ways. They participate in TPR stories, speak in the target language in class, and create and present dialogues and short plays. In addition, they begin to read short stories in the target language to help them see the vocabulary and the formal language they study in context. Exploration into the cultures of the people who speak the language are also a part of the course.



# VISUAL ARTS ELECTIVES

*“Creativity takes courage”*  
~ Henri Matisse

## Painting

### Course Description:

This course will focus on a variety of painting techniques. Students will learn beginning color theory (color mixing, monochromatic, tints, shades) and how to apply such with watercolor and acrylic paint. Students will be introduced to a variety of artists, from different artists' styles and learn from their specific painting techniques and style. We will also focus on the elements and principles of design. Throughout this course we will develop individual styles of art making and end the year with a showcase of student art.

## Drawing

### Course Description:

This course will focus on a variety of drawing techniques. Students will learn how to create value which is key when learning to draw with realism. The class will cover observational drawing in the style of gesture and contour lines. We will explore perspective, surrealism, abstraction, realism and symbolic works of art. We will also focus on the elements and principles of design. Throughout this course we will develop individual styles of art making and end the year with a showcase of student art.

## 3D Sculpture and Design

### Course Description:

In this course, students will learn about the art of sculpture. Students will learn to translate their 2-dimensional drawings into an artwork that is 3 dimensional and can be seen from all sides. Materials used in this course will include Papier-mâché, cardboard, wire, paper, and found sculptures. Students will learn about contemporary sculptures and how their artworks developed from their original design into their final concept. We will also learn perspective drawing techniques when developing our concept designs. Analyze how art reflects changing times, traditions, resources, and cultural uses. Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.

## Ceramics/ Fiber Arts

### Course Description:

In this course, students will learn about the art of ceramics (clay) and fiber arts (weaving, needle felting, and sewing). The first semester will focus on clay and the second semester will focus on fiber arts. Students will learn techniques in hand-building with clay such as pinch, slab, and coil. Students will learn about the stages of clay, the many glazing and painting techniques available to artists, and safety related to the media. Students will also learn the basics in weaving, needle felting, and sewing. Inspiration will come from artists and cultures who use these mediums and students will be inspired to create their own artworks that express their thoughts, ideas, and emotions.

## Mixed Media

### Course Description:

Mixed media teaches the elements of art and the principles of design. Students will explore art media and techniques, such as drawing, painting, graphic design, collage, printmaking, sculpture and more! Students will apply to different media together to create visually rich artworks. Students will develop skills in technique and will engage in art criticism, building knowledge of aesthetics, and learning from art history.

## The Art of Storytelling

### Course Description:

The Art of Storytelling will be a class in which we will explore the different types of creative writing, along with other art mediums to tell original stories. We will combine things like poetry and painting, create graphic novels, use visual storytelling techniques, such as acting, puppets, etc., and much more. The class will explore the different types of creative writing in depth as we elevate our stories with alternative forms of media and art.

## **Art With A Purpose**

### **Course Description:**

This course will focus on three dimensional projects that have a functional purpose (meaning a use). We will explore many art mediums such as plaster, clay, paper, and fiber arts to make these functional creations. Some examples of projects we would make are clay tic tac toe boards, mugs, paper beads, and plaster animal plant holders. These are only a few of the many projects we would explore. Think of this class as a sculpture class that's purpose is having projects that have a purpose (functional art). So, if you want to put the fun in functional art sign up for this class!

## **Beginner Computer Science - App Creators: from Blocks to Brilliance**

### **Course Description:**

This beginner-friendly course launches students into programming through real-world, interactive projects. They'll start with block-based coding, solving mazes, Karel challenges, and puzzles, applying math and logic while practicing Begin with the End in Mind to plan step-by-step solutions.

Moving to text-based coding, students will design learning games, educational interactives, and helpful apps, integrating art, history, and science while using Think Win-Win—creating programs that benefit teachers and classmates. In Survival of the Deepest, they'll explore biology by designing a custom deep-sea creature, coding movement, food-finding, or predator evasion. In Falling with Style, they'll apply physics and engineering to create a wacky method of transportation using motion and forces in code.

Every project connects to STEAM, making coding meaningful. Practicing Synergy, students will test, refine, and enhance their programs. They'll Put First Things First by debugging, improving user experience, and Seek First to Understand how people interact with their code.

By the end, students will confidently create and share programs, using coding as a tool for problem-solving, creativity, and innovation—while applying the 8 Habits and STEAM concepts.

## **3D Printing Course - Monstrous Makers: Designing, Printing, Creating**

### **Course Description:**

In this hands-on 3D printing course, students will start as beginners and leave as designers by solving real-world challenges with creativity and technical precision. They'll use the design process to create functional 3D models, applying "Begin with the End in Mind" to plan projects effectively. As they operate and maintain printers, they'll "Be Proactive" in troubleshooting adhesion, supports, and misaligned prints.

Each project is STEAM-powered, blending science, math, art, history, and engineering into practical designs. Students might explore negative space while making custom stencil art, experience rotational inertia with a Spinning Inertia Wheel, or merge form and function while designing wacky wearable gadgets. In the Fix the School Challenge, they'll "Think Win-Win" to design solutions for real campus problems, like better supply organizers or missing doorstops.

Students will "Put First Things First" by iterating on designs, "Seek First to Understand" through peer feedback, and "Synergize" in team projects. By the end, they'll have the skills to confidently design, print, troubleshoot, and present practical, innovative solutions—developing both technical expertise and leadership along the way.

# PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

*“Education in music is most sovereign because more than  
anything else rhythm and harmony find their way to the innermost soul  
and take strongest hold upon it”*

~ Plato

## **Choir**

### **Course Description:**

This is an introduction course to Performance Choir. This class will enhance the musical, creative, and expressive qualities of its students by experiences of the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. Through our commitment to listen, practice, create, and collaborate; the concepts and skills covered include singing technique, tone development, posture, counting and rhythmic development, reading and notation skills, solfege, harmony, musical interpretation, vocal care and maintenance, and effective practice habits. Students will learn classic and modern repertoire and will have a performance at the end of the year. All repertoires will be provided. Some practicing homework and memorization of lyrics will be assigned. A repertoire(s) are mandatory.

## **Beginning Band**

### **Course Description:**

This is an introduction course to Instrumental Performance Ensemble for wind and percussion instruments. This class will enhance the musical, creative, and expressive qualities of its students by experiences of the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. Through our commitment to listen, practice, create, and collaborate; the concepts and skills covered include embouchure and tone development, counting and rhythmic development, reading and notation skills, music vocabulary, introduction of scales, simple music theory, equipment care and maintenance, and effective practice habits. Students will learn classical and modern repertoire and will have a performance at the end of the year. Students are required to rent or purchase their own instrument and music workbook (all other repertoires will be provided). Some practicing homework will be assigned. All performance(s) are mandatory. Please email Mrs. Killough for list of approved instruments and workbook or any other questions at [Maggie.Killough@doralnnv.org](mailto:Maggie.Killough@doralnnv.org)

## **Symphony Orchestra & Symphony Band**

### **Course Description:**

This is a continuation course to Orchestra Performance Ensemble for string instruments and Band Performance Ensemble for wind and percussion instruments. This class will enhance the musical, creative, and expressive qualities of its students by experiences of the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. Through our commitment to listen, practice, create, and collaborate, the continued concepts and skills covered include embouchure and tone development, counting and rhythmic development, reading and notation skills, music vocabulary, scales, music theory, improvisation, equipment care and maintenance, and effective practice habits. Students should have some prior knowledge of these skills as this is a continuation course. Students will learn classic and modern repertoire and will have a performance at the end of each semester. Instructor approval required. Students are required to rent or purchase their own instrument and music workbook (all other repertoire will be provided). Some practicing homework will be assigned. All performance(s) are mandatory. Approved instruments for the Orchestra include Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass. Please email Mr. C for list of approved instruments and workbook or any other questions at [Tyler.Cravines@Doralnnv.org](mailto:Tyler.Cravines@Doralnnv.org)

## **Creative Communication & Public Speaking**

### **Course Description:**

This class explores a wide variety and range of public speaking skills, including Extemporaneous Speaking, Oral Interpretation (prose and poetry), and Storytelling at the novice level. Focusing on strong storytelling tools, preparation and confidence techniques, students will learn how to research, structure and present a Ted Talk and a radio style/podcast personal story. Students will achieve a greater understanding and experience of oration in the style of Poetry Out Loud and Dale Carnegie practices. Throughout this course students will develop tools that will build upon teamwork, the eight habits and their success as communicators, creators and potential leaders.



## Acoustic Guitar Ensemble

### Course Description:

This is an introduction course to the Guitar Performance Ensemble for acoustic guitar. This class will enhance the musical, creative, and expressive qualities of its students through experiences of the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. Through the commitment to listen, practice, create, and collaborate; the concepts and skills covered in the class include counting and rhythmic development, reading and notation skills, music vocabulary, guitar care and maintenance, introduction of scales, simple music theory, guitar history, guitar tablature, chord progressions, and improvising. Students will learn classic and modern repertoire and will have a performance at the end of each semester.

**Additional Requirements:** No previous guitar experience is needed. Students are required to rent or purchase their own instrument and music workbook (all other repertoires will be provided). Weekly practicing homework will be assigned. All performances are mandatory. Please email Mr. C for a list of approved instruments and workbook or any other questions at [Tyler.Cravines@doralnnv.org](mailto:Tyler.Cravines@doralnnv.org)

## Drama

### Course Description:

This drama course involves introducing students to the fundamentals of theatrical arts. In an encouraging, collaborative environment, students build confidence in speaking and acting. Students are introduced to acting techniques through improvisation exercises and games that enhance self-awareness, concentration and creative self-expression. We use drama to enrich communication and social interaction and to cultivate reading, writing and public speaking. Students write and perform their own skits and learn about the process of preparing for a drama production. A sample of the course content includes character acting, line memorization techniques and designing props and scenery for one-act plays. Students will gain an appreciation for the planning, practice and community that make the dramatic arts a cultural treasure.

## Drama Production

### Course Description:

Dig deeper into the production and creation side of theater and add skills to mount and support a production including producing, directing, stage managing, prop, costume and set design. Develop understanding of the role of arts integration with theater strategies and the creation of original work.

**Requirement:** Drama One.

## Stage/Performing Arts Production and Management

### Course Description:

This is a technical course. The purpose of this class is to enhance our already learned knowledge of the performing arts and support the performing arts through stage management. Students will dive into the technical aspects of the stage and learn to set up and operate sound and lighting for productions. We will learn about safety and the best function of the stage through prop creation and fabrication. Students will also focus on graphic design and learn promotion strategies through the making of flyers and program creation. As a final project, students will record and edit an original piece.

**Additional Requirements:** Students will sign up twice per semester for after school events to assist in running sound/lighting.



## **Musical Theater**

### **Course Description:**

Welcome to Musical Theater Magic, a vibrant and exciting class where you will explore the wonderful world of musical theater! In this class, you'll discover the art of storytelling through song, dance, and acting. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just curious about the stage, this class is for you!

What to Expect:

- Acting Skills: Learn the basics of acting through fun games and exercises that will boost your confidence and creativity. You'll work on character development and scene study, bringing characters to life!
- Vocal Training: Discover your singing voice! We'll warm up with vocal exercises, learn proper techniques, and practice singing a variety of songs from popular musicals. You'll improve your vocal skills and gain the confidence to perform in front of others.
- Dance Movements: Get ready to move! We'll explore different styles of dance used in musical theaters, from jazz to hip-hop. Don't worry if you've never danced before; we'll guide you every step of the way!
- Collaboration: Work together as a team to create an original performance. You'll learn how to collaborate with your classmates, share ideas, and support one another as you prepare for your big show.
- Performance Opportunities: At the end of the session, you'll have the chance to showcase your talents in a fun performance for friends and family. It's your time to shine on stage!

Join us for an unforgettable journey into the world of musical theater, where you can express yourself, make new friends, and create lasting memories. Get ready to sing, dance, and act your heart out in Musical Theater Magic!

DORAL ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

*“Exercise and recreation are as necessary as reading. I will rather  
say more necessary because health is worth more than learning.”  
~ Thomas Jefferson*

## **Dance Exploration**

### **Course Description:**

Dance exploration is an opportunity to learn a variety of different dance genres to include hip hop, contemporary, lyrical, jazz and theatrical.

## **Physical Education (PE)**

### **Course Description:**

The Physical Education Program for grades 6-8 is designed as a continuation of learning basic skills and rules of competitive sports, specifically those offered and commonly practiced in the community (football, field hockey, cross country, volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball, lacrosse, tennis, track and field, softball), along with the addition of Health Education. The program will also encourage lifetime fitness and recreational activities that can be essential for maintaining a healthy lifestyle (aerobic fitness, wall climbing, badminton, handball). This program will meet the needs of every student that participates, and they will learn the importance of physical activity for the body, mind and soul.

## **Yoga**

### **Course Description:**

In this course, students will learn different types of yoga along with meditation. The course will move through vinyasa yoga, yin yoga, breath work, and different types of meditation. During class we will spend extra time on proper alignment of poses and body awareness as to ensure the safety of students through class. Students will leave this class with a toolbox of knowledge around yoga that includes poses, the importance of breath work, and mindfulness tools.

## **Fitness**

### **Course Description:**

The newly developed fitness course at Doral Academy will encompass many different modalities of exercise and fitness. The course is designed for all fitness levels and is a safe place for students to improve and develop personal growth in their fitness journey throughout the course of the school year.

DORAL ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL

# LEADERSHIP/ SEL

*“In a high-IQ job pool, soft skills like discipline, drive,  
and empathy mark those who emerge as outstanding”*  
~ Daniel Goleman

## Arts Integrated Leadership 1 and 2

### Course Description:

Developing Leadership - This year-long introduction to leadership class is designed to help students learn about the principles of leadership and discover their leadership styles through engaging lessons, discussion, journaling/reflection, interactive projects, arts-integrated lessons, and school/community involvement. Developing Leadership Students will lead or co-lead a family during Family Friday and have an opportunity to plan school and community events and service projects. This class is a prerequisite to Advanced Leadership and prepares students for the even larger role that Advanced Leadership students play in planning and executing school-wide events.

Advanced Leadership - The year-long follow-up to Developing Leadership encourages students to put their leadership skills to work as they plan more involved school and community events and participate on various committees that seek to enhance their school experience. Advanced Leadership Students will lead a family during Family Friday and may mentor a Developing Leadership student. They are an integral part of our school, modeling the Doral Way, and engaging deeply with the school and broader community.

**Additional Requirements:** This course will involve going off campus to volunteer with organizations in our local community. Course Fee TBD

## Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

### Course Description:

With a focus on the 8 Habits, all Upper School students will participate in a daily Leadership and Social and Emotional Learning course. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is a process for helping students develop fundamental skills to be effective in life through relationships and self-awareness. This course focuses on the skills we all need to handle ourselves, our relationships, and do our work effectively and ethically. These skills include recognizing and managing our emotions, developing care and concern for others, establishing positive relationships, making responsible decisions, and handling challenging situations constructively and ethically. This course provides students with knowledge and vocabulary pertaining to our campus culture and interactions with others.