



**CRESTED BUTTE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

2020 – 2021

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Students complete a total of 21 classes in middle school as delineated below.

English: 3 classes

- 6th grade Language Arts
- 7th grade Language Arts
- 8th grade Language Arts

Social Studies: 3 classes

- 6th grade Social Studies: Ancient History
- 7th grade Social Studies: World History
- 8th grade Social Studies: United States History

Math: 3 classes

- 6th grade Math
- 7th grade Math
- 8th grade Math or Algebra I

Please note: Algebra I is a high school course and carries high school math credit; it is officially recorded in the G.P.A. and on transcripts. All math placement is based on NWEA Test Scores and teacher recommendation.

Science: 3 classes

- 6th grade Science: Physical Science
- 7th grade Science: Life Science
- 8th grade Science: Earth Science

Essentials: 2 semesters in sixth grade, 2 semesters in seventh grade, 1 semester in eighth grade

- 6th Essentials: Tech, Guidance, Health, Physical Education, Music, Art
- 7th Essentials: Tech, Guidance, Health, Physical Education, Music, Art
- 8th Essentials: Tech, Guidance, Health

Electives: 4 semesters in sixth grade, 4 semesters in seventh grade and 5 semesters in eighth grade

See complete course descriptions on the following pages.

Homework Expectations

Our school guidelines state that middle school students will have one to two hours of homework four or five nights a week.

Academic Support

Teacher Access Time is every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:45 to 8:25 a.m. Feel free to call to set up an appointment with any of our faculty members.

Free tutoring for middle school and high school students is Monday – Thursday after school. Tutoring is available for math, science, social studies, language arts, and Spanish. Check in the office for a complete schedule.

View current grade information at PowerSchool Online. Go to www.gunnisonschools.net, choose For Students, and then PowerSchool. Your child's username and password will be provided in mid September. The parent link for PowerSchool will be activated after the first three weeks of each semester. Also, to view upcoming large assignments, go to www.gunnisonschools.net, choose Schools, select CBCS, choose Guidance, and select Calendars and Homework. This information is updated each Monday by noon.

Scheduling Information

Students choose classes for the fall semester in April, and they choose classes for the spring semester in November. If a student does not submit a course registration form, classes will be selected for him/her by the counseling office. Every attempt is made to schedule students into their requested courses. If a student is placed in a course he/she requests, the student may not make changes. Schedule changes will only be considered in extreme circumstances. The drop/add period ends on the Friday of the second week of each semester. All schedule changes must be made by that date. Certain elective courses are year-long commitments. Students who request a year-long elective may not drop this course at semester except in extreme circumstances.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSENTIALS WHEEL

Students spend six weeks in each of the Essentials Wheel content areas. Sixth and seventh graders complete six content areas during the course of the year (two full semesters). Eighth graders complete three content areas during the course of the year (one semester). Students earn letter grades in each essentials class, and these grades are included in honor roll calculation.

Sixth Grade

Technology

- Keyboarding skills
- Computer vocabulary, troubleshooting
- Internet safety
- Online research
- Google applications and email
- Media Balance and Well-Being
- Privacy and Security

Guidance

- Executive Functioning Skills
- Second Step: skills for emotion management, problem solving, empathy
- Conflict resolution, bullying
- Safe2Tell
- Digital Footprint and Identity
- Relationship and Communication (digital citizenship)
- Cyberbullying, Digital Drama, & Hate Speech
- News & Media Literacy

Health

- Substance use/abuse resistance skills
- Nutrition: meal planning, cooking, kitchen safety, healthy choices
- First aid
- Signs of Suicide

Physical Education

- Five components of physical fitness
- Team dynamics
- Tournament style team games: teamwork, sportsmanship, and strategy
- Net sports

Music

- Exposure to and understanding of wide variety of instruments
- Basics of playing concert band instruments
- Tone and playing posture

Art

- Studio art projects
- Art skills/technique development
- Personal expression through visual art
- Art critiques, vocabulary and history

Seventh Grade

Technology

- Keyboarding skills
- Cyber ethics/internet safety
- Google applications and email
- Career research and ICAP
- Personal economics
- Media Balance and Well-Being
- Privacy and Security

Guidance

- Executive Functioning Skills
- Stress management and coping skills
- Empathy/self-awareness
- Conflict resolution, bullying education
- Safe2Tell
- Digital Footprint and Identity
- Relationship and Communication (digital citizenship)
- Cyberbullying, Digital Drama, & Hate Speech
- News & Media Literacy

Health

- Healthy relationships
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Communication skills
- Stress management
- Substance use and resistance skills

Physical Education

- Safety of play and fitness benefits
- Movement sequence: analyze timing and balance
- Verbal and non-verbal behavior as they relate to peer influence and impact
- Tournament style team games: teamwork, sportsmanship, and strategy

Music

- Relationships between music notation and chords
- Proper ukulele playing technique
- Basic improvisation
- Classroom concert

Art

- Studio art projects
- Art skills/technique development
- Personal expression through visual art
- Art critiques, vocabulary and history

Eighth Grade

Technology

- Keyboarding skills
- Academic research and website evaluation
- Proper source citation
- Website creation
- Google applications
- Technology tools for academic success in high school
- Media Balance and Well-Being
- Privacy and Security

Guidance

- Individual Career and Academic Plans
- Goal setting
- Career research
- High school planning
- College and postsecondary exploration
- Digital Footprint and Identity
- Relationship and Communication (digital citizenship)
- Cyberbullying, Digital Drama, & Hate Speech
- News & Media Literacy

Health

- Resistance to peer pressure
- Disease prevention
- Mental and emotional health
- Substance use/abuse resistance skills
- Violent and nonviolent behavior
- Signs and symptoms of STIs and HIV/AIDS

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Art and Music Course Descriptions

Art (grades 7 – 8)

semester

Students are exposed to a variety of media, skills and subject matter. This is a foundational course that is focused on studio art creation, but also incorporates art history, art vocabulary, critique and analysis. Drawing, painting and sculpture projects will be our primary focus in this class; however, we often flex to utilize community art opportunities like painting the Celebrate the Beat banners, designing Rubber Duckie Race posters or drawing Romp ski designs.

Electronic Music Composition (grades 6 – 8)

second semester only

Students will explore composing electronic music using Apple's Garageband software program. No previous musical training is necessary and iPads will be provided for student use. Concepts explored will include making beats, recording songs, remixing, MIDI and basic recording practice.

Industrial Arts (grades 6 – 8)

semester

Industrial Arts introduces the student to the basics of shop activities and wood crafting. The proper and safe usage of hand and power hand tools will be emphasized. Upon completion of instruction on hand and power tool safety and usage, each student will construct a variety of projects. Projects include a hand-carved spoon, wooden box, book-ends, and more!

Performing Arts (grades 6 – 8)

semester

This class is a combination of band, choir and musical theater. Coursework for all students will include singing, playing instruments, rhythmic training, improvisation, acting and composition. No previous musical experience required.

Spanish Course Descriptions

Students may choose to enter the Spanish program in sixth grade or in ninth grade. By entering Spanish I as a sixth grader, students will progress to High School Spanish II in eighth grade, a course which carries high school credit and is officially calculated into the GPA and recorded on transcripts. Students will then be on track to take High School Spanish III as a freshman and complete our foreign language curriculum in their junior year with AP Spanish. Alternatively, students can wait and begin High School Spanish I in ninth grade, with the possibility to continue through High School Spanish IV as a senior.

Spanish I (grade 6)

year

Spanish I is an introduction to the Spanish language and the culture of the Spanish speaking world. In Spanish I students will learn to listen, speak, read and write at a basic level, using present tense structures. Students will learn to understand and produce language about such topics as likes/dislikes, school, friends, family, food, and home.

Spanish 2 (grade 7)

year

Spanish 2 will continue to build on the elements introduced in Spanish 1. There will be review of all grammar and conversational skills and then those concepts will be further developed. Additional grammar topics, as well as vocabulary and conversational themes, will be covered. Material will be delivered through a variety of mediums (written, audio, video, music) and curriculum will be delivered through a combination of textbook materials and project-based assignments. The cultural focus in Spanish 2 will be on Central and South America.

Spanish II (grade 8)

year

Prerequisite: Middle school Spanish 1 and 2. In Spanish II, students will refine skills used in Spanish 1 and 2 and further their knowledge of grammatical concepts and vocabulary. Students will also learn to listen, speak, read and write using past tense structures. Students will learn to understand and produce language about such topics as health, chores, childhood, sports, professions, and locations.

Engineering Course Descriptions

Automation and Robotics (grades 6 – 8)

second semester only

Students 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.

Design and Modeling (grades 6 – 8)

first semester only

Students are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions.

Drones, Gliders, Motors & Magnets (grades 7 – 8)

second semester only

Students will explore the mechanics of flight by building drones, hovercrafts and gliders. They will explore electricity by building a morse code machine, a DC motor, and an airplane motor.

Other Elective Course Descriptions**Computer Science for Innovators (grades 6 – 7)**

second semester only

This class teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use inputs and outputs to develop computing systems that interact with their environments. Students code and download programs to a microcontroller to perform a variety of authentic tasks. This course broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications.

Medical Detectives (grades 7 – 8)

first semester only

In this course, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

Physical Education (grades 6 – 8)

semester

This course is designed to introduce students to concepts related to team games, nutrition, basic strategy for invasion games, and refining ball skills such as throwing, catching, and kicking. The class will also include a fitness component in which students will learn how to properly warm up, cool down, and perform basic exercises. Infused into the above topics will be a theme of sportsmanship and teamwork.

Skills Workshop (grades 6 – 8)

semester

Skills Workshop is designed to give students extra support in reading or math. In a small group setting, students will work on skill building and classroom content. Skills Workshop is by teacher recommendation. Please contact your child's teacher for more information.

Tutorial (grades 6 – 8)

semester

Tutorial is a supervised, quiet study time for students to complete homework. Teachers will check grades weekly with students and provide homework support as needed. CBCS school guidelines state that middle school students will have one to two hours of homework four or five nights a week. Eighth graders are encouraged to not take tutorial second semester as they prepare to transition to high school.