



Castle Rock Middle School 2020 - 2021 Course Guide

Mission Statement

We take PRIDE in building critical thinkers who have the knowledge and skills to be responsible citizens.

At Castle Rock Middle School, we have built our school on the foundations of middle school philosophy. This places every student on an academic team comprised of Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes. This team of teachers for these classes have the same 135 students for all of their core classes. The teaming model allows teachers to get to know the students very well, both educationally and personally. Our course offerings reflect this middle school philosophy through the required courses.

We pride ourselves on having a variety of elective offerings. This variety allows us to expose students to many different classes and interests before they embark on their high school journey. We also offer options to students that allow them to move to more advanced level courses when they begin high school, including advanced math, English, world languages, and computer classes.

Table of Contents

- Schoolwide Required Courses
- 7th Grade Required Courses
- 8th Grade Required Courses
- Elective Offerings
 - Academic Enrichment
 - Fitness
 - Visual and Performing Arts
 - Practical Arts
 - World Languages

Schoolwide Required Courses

Extended Learning Time (ELT) (year)

Extended Learning Time is included during the school week for all students. This class is designed to focus on cross content skills, provide remediation in all academic areas, and offer enrichment activities which benefit all students.

InnoV8 - Innovation & Design Lab (year) \$30 materials fee

InnoV8 is a school-wide dedicated time for both students and teachers to engage in Design Thinking, which is the instructional philosophy CRMS is committed to on our quest for true and meaningful learning. During InnoV8, students will have a voice and choice in projects that are meaningful in their own lives. Students will engage in Empathy, Need finding, Ideation, Prototyping, Testing and Reflection. As a result of this schedule time, our hope is that our students see that they do, in fact, have a voice in change, the future, and its many possibilities. We believe the mindsets embedded in the Design Thinking process will make our students better and more compassionate people while teaching the skills that will allow them to tackle future unknown challenges. InnoV8 is on Wednesdays only for 90 minutes.

PRIDE (year)

PRIDE is the advisement program at CRMS. Two days a week, on our block days, students work together with their PRIDE teacher in activities and curriculum that help develop the social, emotional, academic and career aspects of their education. It is also an opportunity for students to get to know a teacher in a non-academic setting, where they may feel more comfortable going to an adult for advice. It is our goal for students to feel welcome and comfortable at CRMS. Some of the activities in PRIDE include off-campus walks which require a parent signed permission form.

7th Grade Required Courses

Language Arts Courses

Students will receive one required language arts course per year. Placement for these courses takes place through our language arts placement process. Please see the language arts section of our website for placement information.

Language Arts 7 (year)

This course will emphasize the writing process to achieve writing fluency. Students will concentrate on achievement of competency in revision and editing. Grammar and mechanics will be addressed in the context of student writing. Students will define and distinguish among literary genres by reading a variety of them as well as writing in these genres. Students will learn a variety of comprehension strategies for fiction and nonfiction.

Advanced Language Arts (year)

The advanced curriculum focuses on building literacy skills: reading, writing, and communicating. These skills will be addressed through the study of fiction and nonfiction readings; composing narrative, informative, and argumentative pieces; and engaging in a variety of large and small group discussions. Students are expected to read and write beyond the level of the typical 7th grade student and will read and write more than Language Arts 7 students.

Math Courses

Students will receive one required math course per year. Placement for these courses takes place through our math placement process. Please see the math section of our website for placement information.

Math 7 (year)

Most seventh grade students will be heavily challenged by this course. The students will master four critical areas; (1) proportional relationships; (2) operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) 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; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Accelerated Math 7 (year)

This course includes the critical areas contained in Mathematics Grade 7 course and contains content from 8th grade. This course demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. The students will master these critical areas: (1) applying proportional relationships; (2) define order and compare rational and irrational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) 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; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples considering probability concepts; (5) using linear equations and systems of linear equations to represent, analyze, and solve a variety of problems; (6) solving problems involving the area and circumference of a circle and surface area of three-dimensional objects and reasoning about relationships among two-dimensional figures using scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and (7) work with non-linear relationships and exponents.

Algebra I (year)

This course builds from Accelerated Mathematics Grade 7. It includes the critical areas from High School Algebra and contains content from Mathematics Grade 8. Algebra I demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. The students will master the following critical areas: (1) quantities and rates, including simple linear expressions and equations; (2) interpreting linear and exponential functions given graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally, translate between representations, exploring systems of equations involving quadratic expressions; (5) solving quadratic equations; graphing of quadratic functions; comparing the key characteristics of quadratic functions to those of linear and exponential, specialized functions to include; absolute value, step functions, and piecewise-defined functions.

Science 7 (year)

This year long science course is designed to explore a variety of different life, earth and physical science concepts and ideas as outlined by the Colorado Academic Standards for middle school. We focus on the application of the scientific method while infusing essential problem solving skills into activities, labs and topics. The specific topics and concepts addressed during 7th grade are:

- living organisms, their systems and their interrelationships with each other and their environment
- Forces and motion
- geologic time, rock strata and plate tectonics

Social Studies 7 (year)

Seventh grade social studies focuses on the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will look at how geography affects human life from early civilization to present day. We look at why governments formed and how to be an informed citizen. With economics, we look at different systems and how to manage our own money. Other topics we cover include:

- Maps to work with mapping skills
- Understand how population impacts resources
- Examine how culture shapes society
- Explore rights under different forms of government
- Meet exchange students from around the world in the International Teen Chat
- Personal Finance Literacy

Wellness 7 (semester)

This course combines the themes of our Health Education and Physical Education programs and puts them into one class. This class will rotate between the classroom and the gym every 3 weeks to ensure that students are staying active throughout the semester while staying consistent with themes and content that improve their overall health.

The Physical Education course gives the student the opportunity to participate in a variety of individual and group physical activities. The program will focus on physical fitness, skill development, and sportsmanship. Integrated Health is a planned, sequential curriculum of health topics specific to today's adolescent. The information presented to students is age appropriate, district approved and is designed around the district's health standards to promote positive attitudes and behaviors in students in order to avoid life habits which are detrimental to their health.

Topics Covered:

- Healthy Eating
- Personal Wellness & Relationships
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Emotional and Social Wellness
- Drug Prevention & Risk Management
- Injury Prevention and Risk Management
- Movement Competence & Understanding

Skills Taught

- Setting goals for healthy living
- Critical thinking/decision making and choices
- Refusal/self protection
- Analyzing influences and communication skills

We also have specific programming for students on IEPs (Individualized Education Plan), ELLPs (English Language Learner Plan) and ALPs (Advanced Learning Plan). If you would like more information, please call Student Services at 303-387-1320.

8th Grade Required Courses

Language Arts Courses

Students will receive one required language arts course per year. Placement for these courses takes place through our language arts placement process. Please see the language arts section of our website for placement information.

Language Arts 8 (year)

This course will use the writing process to increase writing competency in all areas. Students will write a variety of paragraphs and multi-paragraph compositions and research projects. Grammar and usage will be taught in relation to the students' writing. The appreciation and understanding of literary genres will be addressed. Literary elements will be taught through novels, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction.

Advanced Language Arts (year)

Curriculum focuses on improving reading, writing, and communication skills. Students will gain further experience with reading fiction and nonfiction; writing narrative, informative, and argumentative pieces; and evaluating written and spoken communication through small and large group discussion. Advanced students are expected to perform at an accelerated pace and at a level comparable to that of a high school freshman.

Math Courses

Students will receive one required math course per year. Placement for these courses takes place through our math placement process. Please see the math section of our website for placement information.

Math 8 (year)

The students will master three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Algebra I (year)

This course builds from Accelerated Mathematics Grade 7. It includes the critical areas from High School Algebra and contains content from Mathematics Grade 8. Algebra I demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. The students will master the following critical areas: (1) quantities and rates, including simple linear expressions and equations; (2) interpreting linear and exponential functions given graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally, translate between representations, exploring systems of equations involving quadratic expressions; (5) solving quadratic equations; graphing of quadratic functions; comparing the key characteristics of quadratic functions to those of linear and exponential, specialized functions to include; absolute value, step functions, and piecewise-defined functions.

Geometry (year)

This course builds from Accelerated Algebra. It includes critical areas from High School Courses 1 and 2 and contains content from Algebra. Geometry demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. The students will master the following critical areas: (1) congruence; (2) similarity; (3) symmetry; (4) rigid transformations,

translations, rotations and reflections; (5) triangle congruence criteria; (6) proofs about triangles and quadrilaterals; (7) right triangle trigonometry; (8) Pythagorean Theorem; (9) laws of sines and cosines; (10) constructions; (11) angle relationships; (12) angles and areas of polygons; and (13) surface area and volume of solids.

Science 8 (year)

This year long science course is designed to explore a variety of different life, earth and physical science concepts and ideas as outlined by the Colorado Academic Standards for middle school. We focus on the application of the scientific method while infusing essential problem solving skills into activities, labs and topics. The specific topics and concepts introduced and taught during 8th grade are:

- Geology
- Astronomy
- Meteorology
- Physics
- Chemistry

Social Studies 8 (year)

Eighth grade social studies focuses on early American History. Students will be exploring how our country, against all odds, persevered to become one of the greatest and most powerful nations in the world. In class students will:

- Define citizenship and its role in the local and national community
- Inspect our current government, how it was developed, and the foundational documents
- Analyze how the physical geography determined the economy and culture of early settlers
- Explore perspectives that challenge their perceptions of the American Revolution
- Examine the challenges faced during westward expansion
- Understand our rights and how they change and are interpreted over time
- Create a prototype to help the dangers our colonial ancestors faced.
- Explore careers and balance a financial budget for their future selves
- Debate and explore controversial historical issues
- Explore their role in our government and their ability to influence it

Wellness 8 (semester)

Wellness combines the themes of our Health Education and Physical Education programs and puts them into one class. This class will rotate between the classroom and the gym every 3 weeks to ensure that students are staying active throughout the semester while staying consistent with themes and content that improve their overall health.

Physical Education time in class, students will combine both the themes of fitness ("growth mindset" to improve) and our outstanding adventure/experiential education program. During our

Health Education time students will work through a planned, sequential curriculum of health topics specific to today's adolescent. The information presented to students is age appropriate, district approved and is designed around the district's health standards to promote positive attitudes and behaviors in students in order to avoid life habits which are detrimental to their health.

Topics Covered

- Drug Prevention and Risk Management
- Emotional and Social Wellness
- Violence Prevention and Risk Management
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Movement Competence & Understanding

Skills Taught

- Accessing valid and reliable health information
- Setting goals for healthy living
- Critical thinking/decision making and choices
- Refusal/self protection
- Analyzing influences and communication skills

We also have specific programming for students on IEPs (Individualized Education Plan), ELLPs (English Language Learner Plan) and ALPs (Advanced Learning Plan). If you would like more information, please call Student Services at 303-387-1320.

Elective Offerings

Academic Enrichment

We offer several options for students to bolster their academic skills. The Dimensions classes offer students opportunities to enhance their reading and math skills while working on individualized plans for their needs.

Dimensions in Literacy 7/8 (semester)

This course is designed to increase students' confidence, interest, and growth mindset in reading and writing through the use of a variety of literacy strategies. Grades in this class are growth based. Students will use a reading program to improve their fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. This course will include student-selected reading and creative writing. Instruction is completely differentiated, providing opportunities for literacy growth for every level of student. This course is highly recommended for all students on a READ plan and all students reading above grade level.

Dimensions in Mathematics 7/8 (semester)

This is a semester long journey into the many dimensions of mathematics. This course was designed to enrich and instruct students in math who might need a little extra guidance and support. During our semester together students will be developing a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts that are particularly puzzling to them. Students will work on problem solving and real-world math skills; they will think like a mathematician and work to build good math communication skills while actively seeking to gain a positive mindset, and hopefully learning to see math in a whole new light. Students will utilize a variety of resources to help fill any "holes and gaps" they might have in math.

Fitness

Physical Fitness and healthy choices are critical to a student's health and well-being. Our fitness class teaches students key skills for their own health and wellness.

Conditioning and Wellness (7/8) (semester)

This course is offered as an elective class that gives students an opportunity to enhance their physical conditioning and overall well being. Students can use this class to achieve their personal fitness goals and/or as a foundation for sports conditioning. All activities in the class will focus on health-related components of physical fitness (cardiovascular endurance, strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility) and skill-related components of physical fitness (power, speed, balance, coordination, reaction time and agility). This course can be taken in addition to the required Integrated Health/PE course.

Visual and Performing Arts

The arts are a key component for many of our students. We offer a variety of options to meet our students' creative and expressive needs. These courses are designed to build a love of arts for beginners as well as advanced students.

Art 7/8 (semester) \$20 materials fee

This semester long course will focus on art elements and principles of design as well as a historical, contemporary and cultural aspects of visual arts. Students will work in both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional mediums. Units will include drawing and design, sculpture, painting, ceramics, and printmaking, writing about art and their art process, art history and aesthetics. A variety of art mediums, techniques, tools, and genres will be explored with a goal of developing and refining skills to aid in personal growth and self-expression.

Band 7/8 (year)

****Prerequisite:** At least 1 year of previous band experience and band teacher/private lesson teacher signature required. Students moving into 8th grade band need their current teacher's signature.

Band is for students who have taken a previous band class for a year or more. Classes will study from a method book and learn to read and perform quality band literature. Some of the larger instruments are available for rental through the school. A rental fee will be charged for those students who use school instruments including percussion. Smaller instruments must be provided by the students.

Participation in evening concerts is required. Purchase of Performance Attire will be required and not provided by the school.

Beginning Guitar 7/8 (semester)

This is an introductory course to acoustic guitar for beginning learners. Topics will include tuning, note reading, basic chords and playing techniques. Students will need to provide their own acoustic guitar and purchase the method book. This class may only be taken for one semester during the middle school years. Performances are within the school day.

Choir 7/8 (year)

Performance Choir is for students who want to develop and practice singing skills. Students will sing all styles and forms of music. Emphasis is placed on a quality music education experience and performance.

Participation in evening performances is required. Purchase of Performance Attire will be required and not provided by the school.

Orchestra 7/8 (year)

****Prerequisite:** At least 1 year of previous band experience and band teacher/private lesson teacher signature required. Students moving into 8th grade band need their current teacher's signature.

Orchestra class is for students who already play an orchestral string instrument. Classes will study from a method book and learn to read and perform quality music. Students must provide their own instruments and supplies or make arrangements with the director before registering for the class. A rental fee will be charged for those students using a school instrument.

Participation in evening concerts is required. Purchase of Performance Attire will be required and not provided by the school.

World Music 7/8 (semester)

Students will explore rhythm, melody, and harmony derived from cultures rich in percussive music. Students will play a variety of world drumming instruments in an ensemble setting. No experience is required. This class

may only be taken for one semester during the middle school years.

An evening performance will be presented and student attendance is required. Purchase of Performance Attire will be required and not provided by the school.

Drama 7/8 (semester)

The drama course will emphasize dramatic activities. Students will build an appreciation for the Theatre Arts and enhance their self-concept by developing an awareness of and use of imagination, focusing and concentration, movement, and voice. Activities will include an emphasis on the acting skills and theatre games with learning experiences in improvisation, characterization, vocal exercises and interpretations, and class performances using skits, scenes, and short plays. Students should be prepared for daily physical and vocal activities.

Practical Arts

The practical arts offerings give students many different opportunities to explore the worlds of culinary arts, computer technology, graphic design and video production. Students use current technology to learn core skills in a variety of areas. These courses provide a strong foundational skills that can then lead to informed decisions in these areas for high school.

Consumer Family Studies 7/8 (semester) \$30 materials fee

“FACS” provides a comprehensive foundation for managing individual, family, career and community roles and responsibilities. Students will explore and practice career Exploration, Child development, Foods/Nutrition, Interior Design, Personal Development, Personal Financial Literacy/Consumerism and Sewing/Textiles/Fashion. Students will acquire knowledge and essential skills necessary for success in career pathways. They will also apply 21st century and academic core knowledge as they learn about real life skills.

Digital Design 7/8 (semester) \$20 materials fee

Digital Design is intended for middle level students to gain an understanding of digital print media. Students will learn the principal concepts of photography and graphic design while designing and creating original works using industry ready software. This course will focus on the use of the Adobe Suite for the creation of digital print media. Students will demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and processes using digital photography and computer technology. Students will communicate information and ideas effectively using a variety of digital print media.

e-Media 7/8 (year) \$20 materials fee

Would you like to be considered for the CRMS e-Media Class? This class makes the school newscast where we tell stories using video, movie making software, and writing. We decide the stories that will most engage our school, its students and staff and learn how to tell them in a journalistic style. This means you have LOTS of freedom to look for great stories to tell and capture your video.. We also create the content for the entryway tv and our eMedia Twitter account. Lots of fun for those that like to use video combined with writing to tell fun and engaging stories.

Application Required: Submit application at <https://tinyurl.com/CRMSeMedApp> Deadline for application is 2/28/20

Electronic Publications (e-Pub) 7/8 (year) \$20 materials fee

e-Pub focuses on capturing and telling the story of our community journalistically for our yearbook publication. The award-winning Crusader staff learns elements of publishing (page layout, graphic design, digital photography and journalism) and is trained to use the Adobe Creative Suites. Students who apply for this course should have the ability to work independently as well as part of a team. Those who apply and are accepted to the yearbook staff have an opportunity to travel and attend both the state convention in Ft. Collins and National convention.. **An application will be used to determine enrollment in the class.**

Application Required: Submit application at www.tinyurl.com/YrbKCRMS Deadline for application is 2/28/20

Exploring Computer Science 7/8 (semester) \$35 materials fee

This is an inclusive class for all students and is intended to provide an avenue where students can be creative using technologies that shape our world. The course inspires students as they design their own websites, code games, stories and scenes, and explore coding physical computing devices including circuit boards and robots. Student projects may include html art and photography portfolios and websites to showcase their passions. The "hack-a-pumpkin" project has students carve real pumpkins and "light 'em up" with circuit board LEDs and

buzzer sounds. In the coding and animation unit, students create full interactive games, choose an adventure stories, and interactive greeting cards that can be shared with their family.

IT Applications & Design 7/8 (formerly Tech-Ed) (semester) \$30 materials fee

The Innovation and Design Lab will focus on developing student creativity, design, inventive, and technical skills. Students will be provided authentic experiences and design challenges in which they will interact with the Design Thinking process. Through authentic experiences, students will individually and collaboratively learn to: Define, identify, communicate, and test a problem. Explore, empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test their innovative solutions. Determine the importance of perspective. Learn to be resilient learners. Utilize the design process to enhance critical thinking and problem solving skills. Enhance the development of modern technological skills. Students will be provided a multitude of interest-based experiences through programming, graphic design, leadership, robotics, woodworking, rocketry, flight, architecture, engineering, and a variety of other mediums.

Multimedia Productions 7/8 (semester) \$20 materials fee

This course will focus on producing media such as short films, commercials, animation and more. Students will use Premier Pro, GarageBand, video & DSLR cameras to create innovative Videos. Students will use Design Thinking to communicate information and ideas effectively to successfully demonstrate audio and video production techniques.

World Language

Students are able to foster their love of learning a new language through our World Language classes. Students are able to learn languages at an introductory level and then take their newly learned skills to high school where they have the option to enter higher level language courses.

Exploring World Cultures 7/8 (semester)

This exploratory class is designed to expose students to many different world cultures. There will be hands on projects and fun activities related to these cultures. There will be an emphasis on French, Spanish and German so the students will have a little background if they choose to take a full year course of any of these languages.

French 1A 7/8 (year)

The level 1A course will prepare students to speak, read, write and listen in the chosen language as well as learning cultural information that will help them to get along if they are visiting foreign countries or are meeting foreign visitors. Students will study simple grammatical structure, which include the present tense verb conjugations, gender of nouns, adjective use and sentence structure. Vocabulary study is an integral part of language learning and students are expected to continually practice their vocabulary words so that they will be able to communicate on a variety of topics. All skills will be practiced through speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Students must pass this class with a B or higher to move onto French 1B and pass.

Students taking French 1A in 8th grade should note there is NO French 1B in high school; you will have to take French 1. Please note: taking a foreign language class is equivalent to the academic rigor of a high school core class.

French 1B 7/8 (year)

***Prerequisite - satisfactory completion of French 1A or previous French course with recommendation.*

In level 1B, students will continue to learn the grammatical structures, which will allow them to communicate on a simple level in the foreign language. The students will begin to use the past tense and talk and write about events that have already happened. The study of vocabulary continues to be of utmost importance through all levels of language study. Students will practice all skills through speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Students must pass this class with a B or higher to move onto French II at the high school and pass an end of year exam. Teachers will not sign a recommendation for high school if they do not maintain a passing grade.

Please note: Taking a foreign language class is equivalent to the academic rigor of a high school core class.

Spanish 1A 7/8 (year)

The level 1A course will prepare students to speak, read, write and listen in the chosen language as well as learning cultural information that will help them to get along if they are visiting foreign countries or are meeting foreign visitors. Students will study simple grammatical structure, which include the present tense verb conjugations, gender of nouns, adjective use and sentence structure. Vocabulary study is an integral part of language learning and students are expected to continually practice speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Students must pass this class with a B or higher to move onto Spanish 1B and pass an end of year exam.

Students taking Spanish 1A in 8th grade should note there is NO Spanish 1B in high school; you will have to take Spanish 1. Please note: taking a foreign language class is equivalent to the academic rigor of a high school core class.

Spanish 1B 7/8 (year)

***Prerequisite - satisfactory completion of Spanish 1A or previous Spanish course with recommendation*

In level 1B, students will continue to learn the grammatical structures, which will allow them to communicate on a simple level in the foreign language. The students will begin to use the past tense and talk and write about events that have already happened. The study of vocabulary continues to be of utmost importance through all levels of language study. Students will practice all skills through speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Students must pass this class with a B or higher to move onto Spanish II at the high school and pass an end of year exam. Teachers will not sign a recommendation for high school if they do not maintain a passing grade.

Please note: Taking a foreign language class is equivalent to the academic rigor of a high school core class.