8th GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 8

Full Year - 1 Credit (Course number: #2005)

Students in this class will meet the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts in reading, writing, language, and communication. They will analyze classic and contemporary works of literature and nonfiction. Students will acquire vocabulary and practice grammar and usage skills in the context of their writing and reading. Writing assignments will include expository, persuasive, narrative, and research modes. 8th grade students will use Springboard, level 3, a nationally recognized Pre-Advanced Placement resource book, as the focus of this class. Springboard activities are aligned with the Nevada State English Standards as well as the critical content of Douglas County.

ADVANCED ENGLISH 8

Full Year - 1 Credit (Course number: #2008)

8th Grade Advanced English addresses the same Nevada Academic Core reading, writing, and speaking standards as regular English 8, but at an accelerated pace, with a focus on more sophisticated text complexity and intellectual discourse. This course goes beyond English 8 with extended learning activities that require students to increase their use of critical thinking skills to include analysis, synthesis, and problem solving. Students will be expected to become independent and close readers of complex text, and use creative projects such as short films, visual art, and multimedia presentations to respond to their reading.This course will help serious students prepare for future honors classes. **Advanced English placement is based on first semester grade of an A in English 7, teacher recommendation, and various assessment results.**

MATHEMATICS

MATH 8

Full Year - 1 Credit (Course number: #5013)

In Math 8, instructional time will focus on 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) grasping 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 Theory.

ACCELERATED MATH 8

Full Year - 1 Credit (Course number: #5014) **(Upon successful completion transcript will reflect Algebra I)**

This course combines elements of algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability in a setting that encourages creative and critical thinking, group cooperation, and the development of problem-solving skills. The Algebra I curriculum will formalize and extend the mathematics learned in the middle grades. The critical areas deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Algebra I use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades. **Pre-requisites include a B or better in both semesters of Accelerated Math-7 and a 76% or better on both semester 1 and semester 2 final exams. Note: This is a high school course for high school math credit. Students will participate in the Algebra I End Of Course Exam during May 2021.**

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 8

Full Year - 1 Credit (Course number: #4079)

This one-year course is designed to integrate science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas from the life sciences, the earth and space sciences, and the physical sciences. The topics covered in Science 8 include an emphasis on Gravity and Space Systems, Energy, Forces and Interactions, Waves and Information Transfer, and a further understanding of Heredity, Natural Selection and Adaptations. Demonstrations and lab experiences that employ proper safety techniques and support the scientific inquiry process are a component of this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

US HISTORY 8

Full Year - 1 Credit (Course number: #2315)

This course will begin with discovery, colonialism, American revolution, constitutional convention, westward expansion, civil war, and Reconstruction. Students will understand concepts, patterns, and interdependent relationships that shape our increasingly diverse world. Use of technology will be utilized throughout the year. Internet resources will be used to promote critical thinking.

8th Grade Electives

SEMESTER LONG COURSES

**Based on student enrollment and staff availability*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 **Semester - 1/2 Credit (Course number: #6003)**

Students will learn how to increase physical competence, physical fitness, self-esteem and joy through lifelong physical activity. The curriculum includes a balance of skills, concepts, game activities, physical fitness, and dance experiences designed to enhance the cognitive, motor, and affective development of every child. Opportunities will be provided for students to work together to improve social skills and to help develop a positive self-concept.

ART 8 **Semester - 1/2 Credit (Course number: #1090)**

Art 8 is a semester course designed to present the 8t^{h} grade student with the fundamentals of art. Art 8 teaches the Elements and Principles of Art, so that students have an understanding of media, and techniques used in their art assignments. Students will study the relation of visual arts and world cultures.

PLTW AUTOMATION/ROBOTICS FOUNDATIONS; **Semester - 1/2 Credit. (Course number: #1533)**

Students learn through problem-based learning (PBL), will acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, collaboration, and innovation while using complex robotics platform to design, build, and program solutions to solve existing problems. Students will trace the history, development, influence of automation/robotics, and explore associated careers. Students will learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. The course will stress students working together cooperatively, using information, resources, tools, equipment, and computers to design, engineer, test, and build. Emphasis will be placed on creativity, problem solving., and development of safe work habits. **This course cannot be repeated for credit.**

PLTW DESIGN/MODELING FOUNDATIONS; Semester - 1/2 Credit. (Course number: #1532)

Design and Modeling (DM) provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons of the unit. Students learn and use methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, dimensioning, solid models, and mathematical models. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research a topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for a child with cerebral palsy, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution. Instruction and learning activities are provided in a laboratory setting using hands-on experiences with the equipment, materials, and technology appropriate to the course content and in accordance with current practices. **This course cannot be repeated for credit.**

PLTW ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT; Semester - 1/2 Credit (Course number: #1530)

This is a semester class where students are challenged to think big and towards the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. Students' design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption. **This course cannot be repeated for credit.**

CS-8 DESIGN & DISCOVERY: Semester - 1/2 Credit (Course number: #1522)

This computer science class picks up where the 7th grade computer science class left off. Students will start off by designing and coding a phone app in Code.org's AppLab. Students will take a look at data and use it to create algorithms that help students make decisions (ex: which movie to watch or what kind of pizza to order). Finally, students will program a handheld computer (Circuit Playground) to play games and perform other functions. ***NOTE: NEW 8th GRADE ELECTIVE***

WORLD DRUMS; Semester - 1/2 Credit (Course number: #1232)

"World Drumming is an exploratory class in which students will experience the styles of drumming from the traditions of West Coast Africa and the Caribbean Islands. Students will learn music aurally ("by ear") as well as through imitation, as is done in the African and Caribbean cultures. Students will not be required to read music. Students will demonstrate techniques for playing various types of traditional African and Caribbean drums and other percussion instruments. Students will also be introduced to improvisation techniques though the use of active and critical listening skills. No musical experience is required. Come join the fun!" **This course cannot be repeated for credit.**

SPORTS MEDICINE Semester - 1/2 Credit (Course number: #9770)

This is a semester class for students interested in a possible career in the medical or professional sports field. This course introduces students to concepts of exercise science, such as: athletic injury prevention, anatomy, biomechanics, and exercise physiology, performance enhancing drugs, nutrition, exercise prescription, and CPR/First Aid certification. This course also prepares students who are interested in a Health Science related career in which advanced training and a college degree is necessary. **This course cannot be repeated for credit.**

FOOD & NUTRITION 8 Semester - 1/2 Credit (Course number: #4012)

This vocational education elective helps students explore the world of food from the farm to the table. Topics include: Food and Kitchen Safety; Nutrition; Foods and the Marketplace; Food Science; and Workforce Readiness Skills. A semester project is required. Please note: Students must maintain a "C" average to participate in food labs.

YEAR LONG COURSES

**Based on student enrollment and staff availability*

BAND(Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced): Full Year - 1 Credit (Course number: #6078):
Band open to anyone who plays an instrument or wants to learn to play an instrument. This is a co-curricular class that requires work during the school day, and some performances/rehearsals outside of the school day. Placement in the appropriate class will be determined by the Band Instructor.

CHORUS; Full Year - 1 Credit (Course number: #5602)
This group is open to anyone who enjoys singing or would like to learn to sing. This class is a co-curricular class that requires work during the school day, and performances/rehearsals outside of the school day.

SPANISH I; Full Year - 1 Credit (Course number: #3110)
This one-year course is designed to acquaint students with the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish within a limited scope. It provides practice in correct use of basic language structures and develops an appreciation of the customs and traditions of Spanish-speaking people. This is done in part by viewing slides, videos, hearing lectures, and reading in English and eventually the native language about the countries. Regular attendance and daily student practice outside the classroom are necessary for success in this course. This is a high school course that may earn high school credit with a grade of C or better.

JOURNALISM/YEARBOOK 8 Full Year – 1 credit (Course number: #9757)
This is a course covering the theory and practice of yearbook publication and production, as well as, other journalism assignments. This class requires creativity, responsibility, and dedication. Assignments include photography, news writing, reporting, interviewing, fundraising, and meeting deadlines. Students are expected to spend time after school to complete projects and deadlines.
If you are interested, please complete the application which can be found on the CVMS website. All applications are due by **APRIL 30, 2020.**

STUDENT LEADERSHIP-8; Full Year - 1 Credit (Course number: #8223)
Interested in joining CVMS Leadership? In this class, we focus on communication and team building, while promoting spirit and positivity throughout our campus. You will be an integral part of delivering the morning announcements; planning dances, spirit week dress days, pep rallies, staff appreciation activities, and community projects; school-wide recycling; and working the Tiger Shack during lunch and/or advisory. You will also be required to present a minimum of four speeches throughout the year as part of the public speaking component. Occasionally, time is required outside the scope of the regular classroom (either after school or on weekends) for dances or community events.
If you are interested, please complete the application which can be found on the CVMS website. **All applications are due by APRIL 30, 2020.**