



7th & 8th Grade Course Elective Descriptions



World Language Information

CMS uses a one-for-one model of delivery for all of its world language classes. In a one-for-one model, each year of language taken at CMS is equivalent to a year of high school world language. Because of this, a CMS student can potentially take two years of a world language and, upon successful completion, begin with the third year of the world language as a freshman. **Students who start a world language in middle school, must take and pass at least one year of the same world language as a freshman in order to ‘validate’ the middle school courses.** Failure to do so will disqualify the middle school world language courses. It is critical that parents and students understand both the advantages and implications of starting a world language in middle school.

There are many paths to college, including waiting until high school to start the required course of study, or what is known as the A-G requirements. However, for motivated students who want to challenge themselves, there are advantages to beginning their world language classes at CMS. By taking one or two years of world language at CMS, students free up space in a crowded high school schedule. But please consider that CSU and UC require that the three years of world language be consecutive. For instance, if a student takes French 1 in 7th grade, then decides not to take French 2 in 8th grade, the student would need to start again with French 1 or another first year world language in high school.

Because CSU and UC do not accept D or F grades in college prep classes, students will only be recommended to move to the next language course if they receive a grade of C or higher in all quarters and it is highly recommended that a student repeat the course if they earn less than a B-.

For our motivated learners, world language courses offer a wonderful challenge that also prepares them for college entry. However, it is important to understand fully the implications of starting high school level classes in middle school. If you have questions about whether world language is right for your child, please don't hesitate to contact your child's counselor.

World Language

French 1

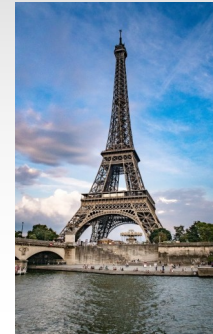
No prerequisites, however strong study skills are recommended.

French 1 is an introductory course designed to give students a strong background in conversational French and to prepare them for success in French 2. Students will learn how to introduce themselves, to talk about what they like to do, to describe themselves and others, to talk about school and compare the French and American education system and to order food and drink in a French café. They will be able to have short conversations and read and write basic paragraphs.

French 2

Prerequisites: Successful completion of French 1 or equivalent. Students earning a C+ or lower in French 1 are recommended to repeat the French 1 course.

French 2 builds on and enriches vocabulary from French 1 and prepares students for success in French 3. Students will review how to introduce themselves and others and how to talk about their likes and dislikes. They will learn how to talk about the past, how to ask for and give advice and help, how to talk about recipes and go food shopping in grocery stores, how to ask for information online, how to describe their daily routines, and how to talk about what they used to do when they were children. They will be able to have longer conversations and read and write with more precision. They will continue to explore the history and culture of French-speaking countries throughout the world. Games, music, French cooking in the Habitat, and a field trip to a French restaurant make this a 'fun' academic class!



Spanish 1

No prerequisites required, however strong study skills are recommended.

This academic elective is designed to give students a strong background in the vocabulary, grammar, written and verbal skills required for success in Spanish 2. By the end of the course, students will be able to have short conversations, and read and write basic paragraphs in Spanish about various topics like school, family, weather, free-time activities, shopping, going out and eating in a restaurant. Students will be introduced to the peoples and cultures of Spanish speaking countries through videos, music and cultural activities.

Spanish 2

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish 1 or equivalent.

Students earning a C+ or lower in Spanish 1 are recommended to repeat the Spanish 1 course.

This academic elective builds on the foundational skills from Spanish 1 and deepens them in order to prepare students for success in Spanish 3. Students will learn how to use several verb tenses in order to talk and write about events in the present, past and future tenses. Fluency and verbal communication will be emphasized in an almost entirely Spanish learning environment. Topics include travel, cuisine, communications and the media, shopping and leisure time activities. Students will continue to learn about the people and cultures of Spanish speaking countries through videos, music and cultural activities.



Music

Cougar Cub Strings

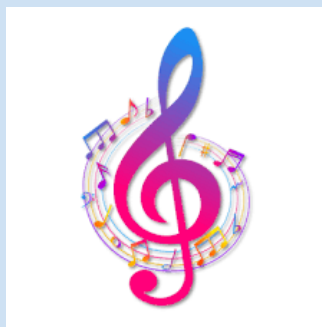
Students will learn the fundamentals of music and how to play an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or string bass). Students will perform music from various musical periods and styles. Performances will be given in each trimester. Attendance and participation in the performances are a required part of the class. For 6th-8th grade students who have never played a string instrument.

String Orchestra

Students will perform music from various musical periods and styles. Performances will be given in each trimester. Attendance and participation in the performances are a required part of the class. For 7th and 8th grade violin, viola, cello, and string bass students who have played for a minimum of 1 year in a Middle School string program, or by instructor approval.

Cougar Cub Band

Students will learn the fundamentals of music and how to play an instrument. Students will perform music from various musical periods and styles. Performances will be given in each trimester. Attendance and participation in the performances are a required part of the class. For 6th grade band students and 7/8th grade students who have never played an instrument or have not been in a band program at middle school level.





Choir

In-school and after-school performances are a required part of these courses and take place at least three times a year.

Girls Choir

Girls Choir is open to all CMS female students who are interested in learning how to improve their singing tone, expand their vocal range, and sing expressively. The goal is to provide a comfortable atmosphere for girls to explore their voices regardless of whether they are a beginning or intermediate singer. Music reading skills will be developed through training in moveable-do solfège technique and songs in a variety of musical styles.

Boys Choir

Boys Choir is open to all CMS male students who are interested in learning how to improve their singing tone, expand their vocal range, and sing expressively. The goal is to provide a comfortable atmosphere for guys to explore their voices regardless of whether they have an unchanged, a transitional, or a settled voice. Music reading skills will be developed through training in the moveable-do solfège technique and songs in a variety of musical styles.

Arts & More

Art



This course is designed to increase the student's creative abilities, technical skills, and awareness of art. In alignment with the California State Standards for Visual Arts, the class reviews the Elements and Principles of Design, art concepts and history, and multicultural connections. Students will learn techniques such as shading, observational drawing, and color use, and apply them to a wide variety of projects in drawing, painting, collage, clay, printing and papier-mâché

Industrial Arts

This course is designed to teach students about the tools, processes, and materials that are commonly used while fabricating as well as craftsmanship industries. These classes focus on working with a variety of woods and metals. Students are instructed how to design, draw, fabricate, and finish several projects in each medium. Students are shown and demonstrate the correct and safe use of many types of hand tools and power machines in the building of their projects. Higher-level thinking skills, problem solving and engineering strategies are stressed in the production of each student's project when they personalize their design with their own ideas.

Domestic Arts

Home Economics meets Pinterest in a new and exciting elective course updated for the 21st century while paying homage to traditional Home Ec curriculum. Sharpen your cooking and baking skills. Learn how to preserve and pickle food. Make seasonal crafts and home decor. Create recycled artwork, and learn sewing techniques for everyday needs. This class will offer a variety of engaging lessons and activities that students are sure to love.

Though this class students will learn valuable tips and tricks for being a successful, creative, and home-enriching human being.

Video Productions

Interested in making movies, videos, newscasts and more? In this class students develop skills in video, film, and television production. Fundamentals of video production, including the techniques of shooting, lighting, and editing will be covered. Students will create a variety of projects including CMS news stories/newscasts, short highlight videos for CMS events, and as a culminating project, students will create and enter a feature film in the CMS film festival.

Robotics

This is a beginning course in robotics. In this course students will learn basic robotic programming skills and problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of LEGO and Vex Robots. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, propulsion systems and binary number systems. Student designed robots will be programmed to compete in various courses and challenges.

Game Theory & Design

Students are introduced to game theory & design through many daily game play experiences. The goal of these experiences will be the analysis of game mechanics and strategies which will be developed and tested. Students will play a variety of video games, simulations, board games, card games, chess, checkers, etc. Students will design and code games and simulations, analyze the beneficial and/or detrimental effects of games, and constantly define what a good game is. The daily game play will develop social skills, cognitive abilities, and emotional well-being.

Silent Academic Study Hall

Enrollment in study hall will involve an application process and space will be limited to those who demonstrate the greatest need based on academic and extracurricular workload.

Office Aide (8th grade only)

Responsibilities will include delivering messages, filing and alphabetizing, operating various pieces of office equipment, working on bulletin board displays and running errands for students and staff members. Confidentiality is very important when you work in the school office, office aides are required to view procedures and sign the office aide contract. Students must have approval from office staff.

Drama

Drama offers participants the chance to experience the excitement and rewards of theatre arts while developing poise, social skills, confidence, and the ability to work with others. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theatre arts. The drama class is designed to accommodate students who have no experience or may have previously been involved in theatre. Students will use various creative drama techniques to build confidence and trust, stimulate imagination, movement, and role-play. Through theatre games and activities, students will learn to lose inhibitions and will gain trust in themselves as well as others in their groups. Students will learn and use drama and theatre vocabulary in class discussions, and the activities will specifically address the promotion and reinforcement of students' listening and speaking skills. Students will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group presentations, performances, movement and voice, character building, and script writing.

Yearbook

This class chronicles the school year in a book that will be admired by the whole school and treasured into the future. With user-friendly online software, each yearbook staffer selects and creates their pages, acquiring valuable computer and graphic design experience in the process. Additionally, students come up with contributions for editions of the school newspaper, The Cougar Chronicle. Yearbook staffers must be creative, responsible and work well as part of a team.

ASB Leadership *Application process required during the preceding spring*

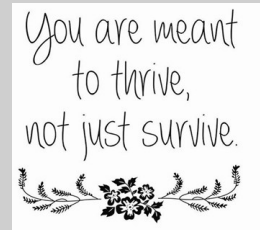
The CMS Leadership Program is an elective that serves the school by providing communication and exciting activities for the entire student body. Leadership students also serve as mentors to our 6th grade students. This program's purpose is to provide, promote, and look for ways to improve CMS. Enrollment in this class means that students are willing to devote time and energy to making our campus a place where students feel excited about being at school. Students will also learn skills to allow them to become more effective leaders, organizers, and role models.



Thrive

Formerly known as OpEd, the CMS **Thrive** program features a unique approach to improving both the mental and physical health of students while offering academic support in all subjects. Thrive is a two period class, taking the place of general education PE and one elective. The class meets 1st period and 7th period in an effort to keep students motivated and supported every day. 1st period is generally used as a PE class, but instructors include positive self affirmations, motivational prompts, and group conversations as part of the regular routine. 7th period focuses on academic management, study skills, and academic improvement, helping build the skills necessary for future success. A final component of this program is the opportunity to participate in a variety of unique outdoor adventures and activities both locally and throughout our state.

*Spaces in this class are limited.





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