



COLORADO  
Early Colleges  
— Fort Collins —

COLORADO EARLY COLLEGES  
FORT COLLINS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
COURSE DESCRIPTION HANDBOOK  
2020-2021\*

\*Course descriptions are accurate as of July 16, 2020. Elective offerings may fluctuate based on interest and availability. Core classes (math, science, English, and social studies) are consistently a part of CECFC's offerings; however, content and curriculum is often reflected upon and revised during the summer.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This course description handbook is intended to provide general information about course offerings at Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins Middle School. Not every course will be offered each year. Curriculum at CECFC is aligned with the Colorado State Academic Standards.

Middle school students do not meet with an advisor. Returning students typically request electives through their Elevate classes. New students attend a Wolf Welcome session to complete a course request sheet and take the MAPS test if they haven't taken the text in the last six months. Any schedule changes or course requests are handled by middle school staff within the first two to three weeks of school.

Part-time students' schedules are finalized in late July or early August after the majority of full-time students are placed into classes and the master schedule is finalized.

## **PERFORMING ARTS (Elective Classes)**

### **Beginning Band**

Students will learn music reading & theory skills. Sixth grade students will be placed in beginning band but may test into the intermediate band. *Instruments:* flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, oboe, tuba, and percussion instruments; CECFC does not provide musical instruments for students. Band members must attend four mandatory evening performances (two each semester).

### **Intermediate Band**

Students will continue to develop their music reading & theory skills. *Instruments for band:* flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, oboe, tuba, and percussion instruments; CECFC does not provide musical instruments for students. Band members must attend four mandatory evening performances (two each semester).

### **Choir**

This class is for students who want to sing all styles of music. Participants will be singing two, three, and four-part harmony. Students will learn the foundations of music notation, sight reading, chord structure, and music composition. Chorus members must attend four mandatory evening performances (two each semester).

### **Beginning Orchestra**

Students in this class will learn music reading & theory skills. *Instruments for Orchestra:* violin, viola, cello, double bass; CECFC does not provide musical instruments for students. Orchestra members must attend four mandatory evening performances (two each semester).

### **Intermediate Orchestra**

This class is for students who know how to play their instrument and read music well. We will play Grade 2 – 3+ music. *Instruments for Orchestra:* violin, viola, cello, double bass; CECFC does not provide musical instruments for students. Orchestra members must attend four mandatory evening performances (two each semester).

## **VISUAL ARTS (Elective Classes)**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Art**

Students will study the fundamentals of visual arts. Skills such as drawing, painting, and sculpting in a variety of mediums will be taught, as well as art history from a multicultural perspective. Students are taught art terminology and how to interpret works of art. Technology and art careers are woven throughout the curriculum as well.

### **7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art**

Building on previous knowledge and skills, students will continue to develop drawing, painting, and sculpting skills in a variety of mediums. They will also learn art history from a multicultural perspective. Technology and art careers are woven throughout the curriculum. The motivations behind why artists create and how art influences the society we live in is integrated into the curriculum.

### **3-D Art and Design**

Students will design and construct realistic and abstract sculptural forms using a variety of materials, tools and techniques. They will examine, analyze, and interpret traditional and contemporary works of art using the elements of art and principles of design. Individual and group experiences will promote problem-solving, creative thinking, and formal expression. There will be more opportunities to work with clay, reduction carving, cardboard, modeling material and more.

### **Fiber Arts**

Students will explore many aspects of fiber arts including, but not limited, to soft sculpture, hand embroidery, installation art, fabric dyeing and weaving. Craft art history and art careers will be woven throughout the curriculum. Students will also be introduced to use of a sewing machine.

### **Honors Art**

In this invitation only course, students will explore advanced technical and conceptual skills and processes, incorporating more art competition and exhibition opportunities for students, as well as further creative-career exploration. This class is for students who have demonstrated advanced art readiness by earning at least an 88% on all projects in previous CEC middle school art courses and have historically shown maturity and respect in class. Instructor approval is needed to enroll in honors classes.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE (Elective Classes)**

### **Computer Science 1**

This course introduces students to computer programming. Sixth grade students will learn the Microsoft Suite of Products including Word, Excel, Power Point, and Access as well as use Tynker block coding to build programs.

### **Computer Science 2**

This course teaches students programming. Students will learn coding in Python through creating games and interactive applications.

### **Computer Science 3**

This elective course teaches students programming. Students will learn how to build websites using HTML and JavaScript as well as create Java applications.

## **EARLY RELEASE**

Students who need to leave school before 3:00 pm due to sports have two options. They can leave after 7<sup>th</sup> period in place of one elective, or they can opt for study hall last period. Study hall students do not earn a grade.

## **ELEVATE**

Elevate is a unique course designed specifically to teach middle schoolers executive functioning skills, as well as supplement and support the core curriculum. Students take a grade-level specific Elevate course every year.

## **ENGLISH LITERATURE CLASSES**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade English Literature**

This course will explore the English language and literature. Content units will explore different genres, including nonfiction, mythology, novels, grammar, and poetry. The class will incorporate hands on activities, reading strategies, writing opportunities, and group work to promote understanding and engage students.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Literature**

Students will practice reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will read a variety of novels, short stories, poems, plays, and nonfiction texts and write fiction and research papers. Throughout the year, 7<sup>th</sup> graders will reflect on the theme of bravery and how our perceptions change with each text we read.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Literature**

This course seeks to promote and develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This class will emphasize learning how to think in new and creative ways, how to effectively communicate our ideas both spoken and written, and how to gather relevant information from various text types. Students will pursue answering the question, "What does it mean to be human?"

### **7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade Honors English**

These are invitation only classes which requires higher level critical thinking and markedly above average writing skills as compared to the regular English classes. Instructor approval is needed to enroll in honors classes.

## **MATH CLASSES**

### **Math 030 (6<sup>th</sup> grade standards)**

In this course, students will be learning, practicing, applying, and mastering foundational mathematics skills and understandings, including fractions, decimals, percentages, and introductory integers.

### **Math 060 (7<sup>th</sup> grade standards)**

The units covered in this course will include algebraic reasoning, integers, rational numbers, proportions, graphs, percent, geometry, and probability. Students who test below grade level will also be assigned to computer-based Supplemental Math which allows students individualized instruction to master grade-level standards.

### **Math 075 (8<sup>th</sup> grade standards)**

The units covered in this course will include algebraic reasoning, order of operations, linear equations, systems of equations, basic exponent rules, proportions, graphs, geometry, and probability. Students who test below grade level will also be assigned to computer-based Supplemental Math, which allows students individualized instruction to master grade-level standards.

### **Math 090 (Algebra I)**

This course will mirror the content of Math 090 as taught at CECFC High School. The units covered in this course will include expressions, equations, inequalities, number operations, graphs, functions, functions, exponents, roots, statistics, probability, and polynomials.

## **Geometry and Stats**

This course will mirror the content of Geometry as taught at CECFC High School. The units covered in this course will include reasoning, proofs, lines, congruency, triangles, polygons, quadrilaterals, similarity, trigonometry, transformations, area, surface area, volume, and circles.

## **SCIENCE**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science (Earth and Space Science)**

This course will cover all Colorado State middle school Earth systems standards including natural resources, geology, weather, and space concepts. Students will investigate and evaluate the workings of our Earth and its place in the universe and master the fundamentals of using basic scientific measurement tools, the metric system and reading graphs to be prepared for future scientific explorations. They will also apply 21st century skills in critical thinking and reasoning, innovation, collaboration, information literacy, and self-direction.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science (Life Science)**

This course is largely based on life science that will include the fundamentals of biology. We will investigate, explore and discover various ideas using the scientific method throughout the year. The class will incorporate hands on activities, experiments, group work along with reading and writing for content and understanding.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science (Physical Science)**

This course is largely based on physical science that will include the fundamentals of physics and chemistry. We will investigate, explore and discover various ideas using the scientific process throughout the year. The class will incorporate hands on activities, experiments, and group work, along with reading and writing for content and understanding.

### **7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Science**

These are invitation only classes which will move at a faster pace than the regular science classes. Instructor approval is needed to enroll in honors courses.

## **S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)**

### **INTRO TO STEM**

This elective course is open to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is a hands-on, inquiry based, and project driven class. Students will learn to utilize the Engineering Design Process through project-based activities. This course will cover, but is not limited to, Simple Machines, Green Energy, Groundwater investigation, and Hydraulics.

### **STEM 1**

This elective course is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is a hands-on, inquiry based, and project driven class. Students will learn to utilize the Engineering Design Process throughout the year. This course will cover, but is not limited to, Intro to Electricity, Soldering, Flight, Environmental Science (Keystone Species), TinkerCad, 3D printing, Intro to Arduino Programming, and Solar Cars. Students will be given the opportunity to fine-tune some of their projects to compete in State Technology Student Association competitions (optional).

## **STEM 2**

This elective course is open to students that have completed STEM 1. This is a hands-on, inquiry based and project driven class. Students will learn to utilize the Engineering Design Process throughout the year. This course will cover, but is not limited to, Basic Structures, Bridge Building, 3-D Printing, Arduino wiring and programming, Physics of Roller Coasters, and CO2 Cars. Students will be given the opportunity to fine tune some of their projects to compete in state Technology Student Association competitions (optional).

## **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Ancient World History**

Students will explore the world through the eyes of archeologists, explorers, citizens and consumers. We will examine the origins of mankind and discover how the rise of civilizations have shaped the world we live in today. In addition, we will determine how geography, economics and civics contribute to the development of those civilizations. Content units include the fundamentals of history, geography, economics, and civics.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Modern World History**

This course will explore Modern World History from the Renaissance through World War II. Content units will be taught in accordance with Colorado State Academics Standards for Social Studies and will include an analysis of history, geography, economics, and civics at an intermediate level. The class will incorporate investigative and critical thinking skills, inquiry activities, hands-on opportunities, reading and writing, and group work to promote understanding of all cultures and engage students.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade US History**

This course examines the origins, key events, and themes of the United States. Content units will be taught in accordance with Colorado State Academics Standards for Social Studies and will include an analysis of history, geography, economics, and civics at an advanced level. Themes explored in this class include: regional issues, continuity and change, rule of law, diffusion, and trade.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES (Elective Classes)**

### **Spanish**

An introductory elective Spanish language course for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Students who are successful in this course should be able to test into Spanish II at the high school. Students must have earned a B or better in English the previous semester to be enrolled in Spanish.