



COLORADO
Early Colleges
— Fort Collins —

COLORADO EARLY COLLEGES
FORT COLLINS MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTION HANDBOOK
2023-2024*

*Course descriptions are accurate as of March 2023. Elective offerings and upper-level math and honors classes may vary based on interest and availability. Grade level, core classes (Elevate, English, Math, Science, and Social Science) are consistently offered at CECFC MS; however, content and curriculum are often revised and modified during the summer.

INDEX

INTRODUCTION.....	2
PERFORMING ARTS/ MUSIC (Elective Classes).....	3
VISUAL ARTS (Elective Classes).....	3
COMPUTER SCIENCE (Elective Classes)	4
CREATIVE WRITING (Elective Class).....	4
ELEVATE	5
ENGLISH LITERATURE CLASSES	5
JOURNALISM (Elective Class).....	5
LEADERSHIP CLASS (Elective Class).....	5
MATH CLASSES	6
PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Elective Class).....	6
ROBOTICS (Elective Classes)	7
SCIENCE	7
S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) (Elective Classes)	8
SOCIAL SCIENCES	8
STUDY HALL (Elective Class)	9
WORLD LANGUAGES (Elective Classes) French, Latin, Mandarin, or Spanish	9
YEARBOOK AND MULTIMEDIA (Elective Class)	9

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 a math placement test. Any schedule changes or course requests are handled by middle school staff within the first two-three weeks of school.

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

PERFORMING ARTS/ MUSIC (Elective Classes)

Beginning Band

Students will learn music reading & theory skills. New 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).

Drama

Drama is an elective course which will explore the creativity, imagination, and self-expression that make up the art of acting. We will discuss many aspects of theater, but will focus on group games, memorized scene work, monologues, improvisation, and class plays. This class will contribute to the development of 21st Century Learning Skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration. There will be a performance in the spring, which will occur one evening, and one weekend afternoon.

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)

Art I

Students will study the Elements of Art & Principles of Design through art making. Fundamental skills in drawing, painting, and sculpting will be taught while using a variety of mediums. Art history from a multicultural perspective and art careers will be integrated throughout the curriculum. Students will also work on their observation skills to become better artists.

Art II

Building on previous knowledge and skills from Visual Art I, students will continue to develop skills in drawing, painting, and sculpting skills while using a variety of mediums. They will also continue to learn art history from a multicultural perspective. Students will begin to critique works of art and learn how society influences artists to create art for social change.

Art III

In this course, students will explore advanced technical and conceptual art skills and processes. Students may choose more art competition and exhibition opportunities and explore 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.

3-D Art and Design

Students will further their creativity in three-dimensional form by working with media such as clay, wire, cardboard, papier-mâché, foam core, and recycled materials. Students will be expected to show a high level of quality, craftsmanship, and complexity in their artwork. There will be a focus on the Elements of Art and Principles of Design while also learning about famous sculptors.

COMPUTER SCIENCE (Elective Classes)

Computer Science I

This elective course introduces students to Computer Science. This course is suitable for students with little to no knowledge of Computer Science. Students will utilize the block-base code of Scratch and create games to: Work with 2D movement and positioning on an XY axis, learn about the concept of variables and data tracking, utilize conditionals and loops to track and control the flow of a program, and learn about project management and pacing.

Computer Science II

This elective course teaches students about Computer Science on a more in-depth level. This course is suitable for students who have an intermediate amount of knowledge of Computer Science. Students will develop projects in the coding language Python to: Practice using project management and pacing skills, receive and manage user input and data, utilize conditionals and loops to manage the flow of more complex programs, and learn how to use libraries in Python including, but not limited to: Turtle, Random, and Time.

CREATIVE WRITING (Elective Class)

This semester-long elective course explores imaginative uses of language, structure, and style by giving students authentic opportunities to experiment with their own writing, as well as to study the written work of the masters in various genres. Students will begin by mirroring the moves and techniques of other writers as they begin to discover their own unique style and voice. The culminating product of this class is a published literary magazine featuring the works of students in the class.

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

6th 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, research papers, and group work to promote understanding and engage students.

7th 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. The texts we study in 7th grade cover a wide range of time periods, themes, and lessons. Through each text, students will reflect on the impact that others can have on us.

8th 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?"

8th grade Honors English

Enrollment in this course is based on teacher recommendation, successful and exemplary completion of 6th and 7th grade English, MAPs skills and CMAS testing data, and a writing sample. This course requires higher level critical thinking and significantly above-average writing skills. The curriculum for this course mirrors that of Literature & Composition 090 (the equivalent of freshman English) at CECFC. Students may earn high school credit and be recommended for enrollment in L&C 095 in the first semester of their freshmen year upon successful completion of 8th grade Honors English.

JOURNALISM (Elective Class)

This semester-long elective course offers a relevant experience in decision-making, gathering information, writing, and editing. Students will explore the purpose for a free press and the shift from print journalism to other mediums. They will discern fact from opinion; create thoughtful questions for an interview, but also be able to adapt by asking follow-up questions; and accurately synthesize information they have gathered into a coherent report of an event, incident, or issue. As part of this course, students will publish a school news product that reflects the needs of the school community and its stakeholders.

LEADERSHIP CLASS (Elective Class)

This elective course will develop leadership skills in students, providing them with opportunities to demonstrate leadership to their peers, their school, and their community. This is a proposed course which has not been taught previously; the curriculum will be developed this summer.

MATH CLASSES

Math Course 1

In this course, students will be learning, practicing, applying, and mastering foundational mathematics skills and understandings, including fractions, decimals, percentages, and introductory integers. 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 Course 2

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 Course 3

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.

Geometry

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. Successful students may earn HS credit.

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. Successful students may earn HS credit.

Math 099 (Algebra II)

This semester-long course is taught at CECFC High School. Students will need to qualify for this course with the ACCUPLACER test.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Elective Class)

PE

This course will teach skills in a variety of sports to create lifelong fitness. Content units will include soccer, football, handball, nutrition, kickball, volleyball, speedball, ultimate frisbee, basketball and fitness. The class will incorporate hands on activities, fitness, and group work to promote understanding and engage students in physical education.

Wellness

Wellness class is designed to teach students about the various aspects of health and fitness. Throughout the course, students learn about all the components that go into being healthy

including the different types of exercise as well as their benefits, nutrition, mental health, and so much more.

Team Sports

This course is designed to teach fundamentals of a variety of team sports. We will work on specific aspects of each game, such as passing, shooting, dribbling, and moving to open space. We will learn rules and strategies for each sport. Sports may include and are not limited to: Basketball, Volleyball, Floor Hockey, Soccer, Flag Football, Kickball, and Handball.

Functional Fitness

This course is designed to teach fundamentals of a variety of fitness activities. The goal of functional fitness is to prepare our bodies and minds for life activities through training. Students will learn techniques to improve muscular endurance, speed/agility, core strength, flexibility, and balance.

ROBOTICS (Elective Classes)

Introduction to Robotics

This elective class will allow students to develop skills in the robotics field by studying programming, electronics, hydraulics, and mechanical systems. Students will apply Physical Science, Mathematics, and Technology while getting hands on experience designing, constructing, and testing robots.

Competitive Robotics

This elective class will allow students to develop skills in the robotics field by studying programming, electronics, hydraulics, and mechanical systems. Students will apply Physical Science, Mathematics, and Technology while getting hands on experience designing, constructing, and testing robots. This class will lead to REQUIRED competitions on weekends. *Parents will be responsible for transporting their students to Saturday competitions from December through–April, normally 2-3 competitions per month.*

**Students must successfully complete Intro to Robotics and submit to an application process. **

SCIENCE

6th 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.

7th 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.

8th 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.

8th 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.

Animal Studies

This elective class is intended for students interested in exploring veterinary medicine, wildlife biology, zoology, or other natural sciences. Students will learn about the animal kingdom including physiology, natural history, behavior, epidemiology, and environmental interactions. The course delivery will be based on student-driven research, group projects, and hands-on activities.

S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) (Elective Classes)

INTRO to STEM

This elective class is open to 6th graders or anyone who has little to no experience with STEM. 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, Rube Goldberg machines, solar energy, 3D design / Tinkercad, coding with Microbits, and forensics.

STEM 1

This elective course is open to students who've taken Intro to Stem or 7th and 8th graders with some STEM experience. 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, electricity, flight, hydraulics, 3D design / Tinkercad, and coding with Wink robots.

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, bridge history / toothpick bridges, soldering, coding and electrical wiring with the SparkFun redboard and bread board, physics of roller coasters, and small-scale woodworking.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

6th Grade Ancient World History

Students will explore the world through the eyes of archaeologists, 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.

7th 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.

8th 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.

STUDY HALL (Elective Class)

Study hall is offered as an elective for students who need additional time for academic instruction (READ plans, etc.) or for those who cannot enroll in an 8th period class all year due to sports schedules. Study hall students do not earn a grade.

WORLD LANGUAGES (Elective Classes)

French, Latin, Mandarin, or Spanish

These are introductory elective language courses. These courses will include spoken and written language. Students must have earned a B or better in English the previous semester to be enrolled in a world language. Students will take the HS final exam to possibly earn HS credit.

YEARBOOK AND MULTIMEDIA (Elective Class)

This year-long elective course begins with the organization and creation of the school yearbook. Students will make decisions on theme and design while also setting goals and meeting multiple deadlines, so the annual yearbook is printed and distributed in a timely manner. Students will engage in photography, copy writing, editing, and layout in the production of the yearbook. Once the yearbook has been sent to the printers, students in this course will explore and experiment with digital media applications to create graphics, animation, videos, podcasts, and more as they discover new and exciting ways to promote their school community.