

Welcome to Castle Rock Middle School

Each seventh grade student will be assigned to one of three teams for the following core class instruction: **Communication Arts (English), Geography, Life Science, Math, and Health Enhancement**. In addition, each student is required to participate in the following **Exploratory Classes** which rotate each quarter: **Connections, World Languages, Technology Education, and Computer Applications in the Workplace (CAPPS)**. Elective selections include either a full-year option of **Band, Chorus, or Orchestra**; or the semester option of **Art and Family and Consumer Sciences**. **SSR (Sustained Silent Reading)** provides each student, either before or after lunch, a time for study or reading. Students may be required to take a Reading class for the full year based on their NWEA and ITBS scores.

Students can gain leadership skills, academic experience, and service learning in **Student Council, Knowledge Master Open (KMO), Math Counts, Math Club, Drama, Beta Club, Honor Roll, Fly Fishing Club, Student P.R.I.D.E., Builder's Club, and S.O.A.R. (Students Organized Against Risks)** and much more! Students can earn Castle Rock letters and pins for participation in extra-curricular activities, as well as athletics, music and academics.

Athletics

Athletic activities during the year for seventh grade include **Cross Country, Basketball, Wrestling, Volleyball, and Track**.

Reading

Reading for Middle School students is designed to provide guidance and support for students enrolled in this class. The goals of the course are to increase comprehension, fluency, word study, and writing skills. Students are given reading strategies and tools to assist them in the content areas. Reading is required for all students scoring at or below the 40 percentile on the NWEA test. (Reading RIT of 213 or below on the 6th grade Spring NWEA.) Students will be placed in "Language", "Read 180", or the "Fast Track" program, depending on Reading scores in the 5th and 6th grade.

Grade 7 Semester Elective

Art

This one semester course is designed to provide activities and opportunities for students to experience art in its historical, cultural, and personal contexts as well as develop and strengthen each student's skill level and artistic vocabulary. Some of the experiences provided will be in drawing, painting, clay, paper mache, and printmaking.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) is a one semester class designed to provide hands-on experiences of the "basics" as they relate to home and family. One quarter of the semester the students are in the foods lab. In the foods lab, the students explore food preparation, nutrition, and safety in the kitchen. The second quarter of the semester students are in the sewing lab. In the sewing lab, students learn to operate a sewing machine and complete several sewing projects. Students also learn about childcare and first-aid.

7th Grade Full-Year Electives

Band

Castle Rock bands offer students the opportunity to perform and develop an appreciation for a wide variety of music. Concerts, school assemblies, outreach concerts, jazz bands, and small group ensembles are part of this active band program. Band is available to all interested students.

Orchestra

Orchestra is a course which is designed to provide experience in and to develop an appreciation for a wide variety of music through the playing of the Violin, Viola, Cello, or Double Bass. Students find the class exciting and challenging. A student participating in orchestra will have the opportunity to perform concerts at school, a Middle School Gala Concert at Lincoln Center, a concert tour of Elementary Schools, chamber music groups, and optionally in the Billings Honor Orchestra program and Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival. Attendance at four evening concerts is required. Orchestra is open to all interested students beginning through advanced.

Chorus

The student has the opportunity to vocally perform as well as develop an appreciation for a wide range of choral music. Special emphasis is placed on improving vocal technique and music reading skills. School concerts are performed each semester.

Castle Rock Middle School 7th Grade Core Classes

English

Communication Arts involve a variety of language based activities designed to develop each student's reading, writing, speaking, listening, and demonstrating skills. Literature includes both factual essays and fictional works (short stories, novels, poetry, and drama.) Writing involves paragraphs of description, narration and exposition. Individual expression is encouraged with acting, illustrating and 6-trait writing activities.

Geography

Seventh grade geography provides basic knowledge of the earth and its people. Students study three major areas of importance: maps and globes, the eastern hemisphere, and Montana geography and history.

Life Science

Seventh grade life science involves an introduction to simple chemistry which includes the study of atoms, elements, and chemical compounds. Students study living things from viruses to humans. The class also discusses heredity and how genes are passed from one generation to the next. Various laboratory activities complement the units of study, and during these activities, students will learn to use microscopes, balances, and other equipment. Two dissections are included in their lab activities to aid in the human

Mathematics

7 Math is the first year of a two-year course which weaves themes by consolidating arithmetic of previous grades and at the same time prepares students for algebra and geometry. These students will take 8 Prep Algebra and Algebra in the 9th Grade. Students are placed based on their 6th grade Spring NWEA scores in Math and Reading.

7 Pre Algebra weaves three themes (applied arithmetic, pre-algebra and pre-geometry) by focusing on arithmetic operations in mathematics and the real world. Variables are used as pattern generalizers, abbreviations in formulas and unknowns in problems, and are represented on the number line and graphed in the coordinate plane. Basic arithmetic and algebraic skills are connected to corresponding geometry topics. These students will take Algebra in the 8th Grade, Geometry in the 9th Grade. Students are placed based on their 6th grade Spring NWEA scores in Math and Reading.

Health Enhancement

Health Enhancement combines alternating weeks of physical education activities and classroom health topics. The purpose of this class is to provide each student with “skills to make responsible decisions that will enhance the wellness of the individual” as well as promote lifetime sport activities.

SSR

Fifth period for all seventh grade students will combine lunch and **Silent Sustained Reading**. SSR provides students with the opportunity to read and/or work on

Exploratory Class Rotation

Connections

Connections is based on a need for a school-wide effort to improve self-discipline, student achievement, organizational skills, and school climate. It teaches the language and skills of personal, social, and academic responsibility.

Introduction to World Languages

World Languages is a part of the four quarter rotation for seventh graders. The main goal of the course is to develop an understanding of different cultures through a study of language and related differences.

Technology Education

Students will spend time creating their own designs and exploring how technology works. It has no textbooks, homework, or tests. The entire class time is spent exploring design, creativity, and problem solving directed at such activities as: exploration into the use of tools and machines, drafting, carbon dioxide dragsters, flight, paper race cars, careers, and much more!

Computer Applications In The Workplace (CAPPS)

CAPPS is a laboratory class in which students explore how computers are used in our everyday work as well as how they can be used to make learning easier and more fun. It provides action-based activities such as CD-Rom, telecommunication and the Internet, desktop publishing, presentation graphics, 3-D animation, digital photography, video production, computer design, marketing and advertising, keyboarding, graphic design, and computer

***CASTLE ROCK
MIDDLE SCHOOL***

**7TH GRADE
COURSE DESCRIPTION
BOOKLET**