

# **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**2023-2024**



**COLUMBUS CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**710 S Columbus Avenue  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
Central Office – (715) 387-1177**

# *Mission Statement*

*Columbus Catholic Schools are dedicated to excellence in Catholic education, founded in the love of Jesus Christ, and designed to instill in our students faith, knowledge, and a desire to serve others.*

## *Philosophy*

Columbus Catholic Schools are committed to the education, development, and spiritual formation of our students. Within the context of the Gospels and the teachings of the Catholic Church, **we believe we are called to....**

1. Faithfully teach Catholic doctrine and nurture in our students an abiding love of the Catholic faith through participation in religious instruction, prayer, devotions, and the Sacraments, particularly the celebration of the Liturgy, preparing each to take his/her place as the Church leaders of tomorrow.
2. Carry out the educational ministry of the Catholic Church by providing a quality, affordable Catholic education to all those children entrusted to our care, regardless of race, creed, or socio-economic status.
3. Fulfill the academic needs of each individual student through a curriculum and through teaching methods that encourage and enable each student to reach his or her maximum potential in all areas, placing an emphasis on nurturing a sense of responsibility to develop God-given gifts to their fullest.
4. Prepare our students to meet the academic, spiritual, and moral challenges of the future by providing opportunities to develop Christian values and the skills of critical thinking that will be the basis for future decision-making, growth, and development.
5. Provide an atmosphere of love and compassion for each individual student, offering them a sense of belonging and respect in order to foster their growth as caring, responsible, and confident Christians inspired to loving service of God and neighbor.
6. Help each student learn to appreciate and respect the rights and differences of others so that at school, at home, and in the community, they might act as true Christians who nobly grace our society with peace.
7. Provide a safe, nurturing environment with clear expectations for behavior and decorum, based on the Christian model of peace and respect, and compassionate to the developmental, social, and emotional needs of each student.
8. Provide a variety of opportunities in athletics and other extra-curricular and co-curricular activities in order to allow our students to explore diverse areas of personal interest and fulfillment.

# EXPECTATIONS

## **... of our students**

to give a 100% effort in all their activities and classes

to behave in a Christian manner toward their peers and all adults

to be respectful of the school's property and the property of their classmates

to be on time and prepared for all classes

to have all homework done on time

to ask questions and seek help when needed

## **... of our parents**

to encourage their children to do their very best

to provide a learning atmosphere at home when homework is being done

to volunteer to help with school activities

to help the child understand the importance of a good education

to support the school's mission

to be supportive of school rules

## **... of the staff**

to be models of Christ in the classroom and hallways

to have a high level of competency in the subjects taught

to provide a safe and welcoming atmosphere in which to learn

to treat all students with fairness and justice

to provide what is needed to meet the individual needs of the students

to provide a variety of learning activities so all modalities of learning can be enhanced

to have high but reasonable expectations of our students

to provide opportunities for the students to step outside the comfort zone

to communicate with parents on a regular basis regarding the progress of their children

to meet with parents to discuss any academic issues

to support the rules of CCMS and the Columbus Catholic Schools system

# SIXTH GRADE COURSES

## Core Classes

Earth and Space Science	(year)
Mathematics	(year)
Social Studies	(year)
Language Arts	(year)
Religion	(year)
Physical Education	(year) alternates with Computer
Business	(year) alternates with Phy-Ed

## Elective Classes

Band	(year)
Choir	(year)

## \*Exploratory Classes

Art	(qtr)
Family & Consumer Ed (FACE)	(qtr)
Hope Squad	(qtr)
STEM	(qtr)
Intro to Tech Ed (TE)	(qtr)

\* Exploratory classes are subject to change

# SEVENTH GRADE COURSES

## Core Classes

Life Science	(year)
Mathematics	(year)
Social Studies	(year)
Language Arts	(year)
Religion	(year)
Physical Education	(year) alternates with Health
Health	(year) alternates with Phy-Ed

## Elective Classes

Band	(year)
Choir	(year)
Music Appreciation	(year)

## \*Exploratory Classes

Art	(qtr)
Book Club	(qtr)
Crochet	(qtr)
Drama (Mini Musical)	(qtr)
Family & Consumer Ed (FACE)	(qtr)
Hope Squad	(qtr)
Metals (TE)	(qtr)
Micro-STEM	(qtr)
Mini-Madrigals	(qtr)
Yearbook	(4th qtr only)
Wood Working (TE)	(qtr)

\* Exploratory classes are subject to change

# EIGHTH GRADE COURSES

## Core Classes

Physical Science	(year)
General Math	(year)
Social Studies	(year)
Language Arts	(year)
Religion	(year)
Physical Education	(year) alternates with Computer
Business	(year) alternates with Phy-Ed

## Elective Classes

Band	(year)
Choir	(year)
Music Appreciation	(year)

## \*Exploratory Classes

Art	(qtr)
Book Club	(qtr)
Crochet	(qtr)
Drama (Mini Musical)	(qtr)
Family & Consumer Ed (FACE)	(qtr)
Hope Squad	(qtr)
Metals (TE)	(qtr)
Micro-STEM	(qtr)
Mini-Madrigals	(qtr)
Yearbook	(4th qtr only)
Wood Working (TE)	(qtr)

\*Exploratory classes are subject to change

## \*\*CCHS Classes

Spanish I	(year)
Algebra I Honors	(year)

\*\*CCHS classes are subject to CCHS rules.

# **SIXTH GRADE COURSES**

## **Earth and Space Science**

The investigation of Earth and Space, including Geology, Geologic Change, Weather, and the Solar System are covered. Projects and lab experimentation are used to further critical thinking skills.

## **Math**

This course covers Decimals, Fractions, Estimation, Measurement, Ratios, Proportions, Percents, Introductory Geometry, and Introduction to Data Analysis. There will be a lot of review throughout the year, and students will also get a lot of repetition with their math facts. Students will spend a considerable amount of time working with problem solving, and relating math to real life.

## **Social Studies: Western Hemisphere**

This course covers the geography, history, economies, governments, and cultures of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Latin America, and the Caribbean, as well as the countries of South America. There is a greater emphasis on general geography skills, and appreciation for other peoples and cultures. Special attention to social studies skills including the use of maps and globes, charts, graphs, and a variety of resource materials.

## **Language Arts**

Language Arts consists of four components: literature, grammar, spelling and vocabulary. In the sixth grade, the highest emphasis is on grammar; in particular, the sentence, parts of speech and proper mechanics. The goal of grammar instruction at this level is to enhance communication skills and mastery of the English language in both the written and oral forms. Spelling and vocabulary are infused in daily reinforcement lessons and tests. The literature component will expose students to a variety of authors, writing styles, literature textbook and novels.

## **Religion**

Sixth grade will emphasize the major areas of the Catholic faith: what Catholics believe, how Catholics pray, how Catholics worship, and how Catholics live. Sixth grade will begin the year with the Theology of the Body Program. There is a review of the major feasts of the Liturgical Year, the seasons of the Liturgical Year, our Catholic heritage, Catholic prayers, the Ten Commandments and the Mass. The Diocesan Curriculum will be followed as it relates to these topics.

## **Physical Education**

This is a comprehensive program involving the knowledge and the experiences to provide opportunities to enhance motor skills, social development, and physical development of the individual. This will be done through team sports, outdoor recreation, individual self-testing, and activities. Appropriate footwear is required.

## **Business**

What makes a middle school student successful? Middle school can bring many exciting changes to a young person and this class provides all 6th grade students the necessary skills to make success happen! Additional support is given as it digs deeper into the Google Suite, Drive, Classroom and FACT's. This class will teach students how to safely use a Chromebook for basic schoolwork and strengthen keyboarding, organization, and communication skills. Students will then be introduced to coding. Students will be engaged in project based learning that introduces topics such as professionalism, personal finance, careers, and business marketing. Students will meet two or three days a week for this class (alternating with physical education).

## **Band**

Students will grow in their knowledge of music through participation in the large group band setting. Music of different styles and time periods will be explored and performed at various concerts throughout the year. Lessons are also a possibility depending on time in the middle school schedule. Additionally, all students will have the opportunity to participate in Solo/Ensemble Festivals. This class has a \$75 course fee.

## **Choral Music**

Choir is a performing class in which the emphasis is placed on developing basic singing skills. In class rehearsals, performances and other music literacy practice games are used to achieve music fluency. Matching pitch, sight-singing, breath support, posture, embouchure, Kodaly hand signs, music theory, terminology and ear training are other topics we explore. No previous vocal experience is necessary. All other materials are provided. Students are encouraged to participate in Solo & Ensemble Festivals. For a choir to achieve success, everyone must be a team player. Although becoming a team/choir member requires patience, hard work and motivation, the rewards and experiences are well worth the effort.

## **Art**

This course introduces the student to the basics of art techniques in drawing, painting, and sculpture. The projects used to teach these techniques will vary each year, but basic projects will include pencil and/or ink drawings, watercolor painting, and both slab and coil pottery. An understanding of perspective, shading and color values will also be included. It is designed to allow every student to grow in his/her artistic ability.

## **Family and Consumer Education (FACE)**

This course will provide students with experiences in textiles (simple sewing, no-sew projects (tie blankets) or simple stitchery), nutrition and food preparation, cooking labs, housing (interior design). The class is taught stressing the importance of these areas in family life. Other units may be added as time allows. Students will be responsible to supply material for the textile unit.

## **Hope Squad**

Each year, students who model the ideals of friendship and good-listening skills will be elected to represent their grade level. With advisor and parental permission, these students will be nominated as our school's Hope Squad and provide support to their friends and fellow students of CCMS. This is a course offered **only** for those students who have been nominated as Hope Squad members. As we learn about what it takes to support others who are struggling, our members will also focus on how to care for ourselves well. Topics that will be covered throughout our time together include, but are not limited to: safety, connectedness, bullying prevention, mental wellness, reducing stigmas, and substance abuse prevention.

## **STEM**

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to solve tough problems, gather and evaluate evidence and make sense of information.

## **Intro to Tech Ed (TE)**

The purpose of the class is to provide students with a basic understanding of woodworking technology (the practical application of hand tools) and introduction to metals if time allows. Students will become familiar with the characteristics of technology and its relationship to people and the environment. Hands-on projects that help develop these skills will be included.

# **SEVENTH GRADE COURSES**

## **Life Science**

Emphasis is placed on the study of the structure and function of life, from the cellular to organism level, as well as interactions of life. Some topics covered are Classification, Cell Biology, Reproduction, Genetics, Biomes, Ecosystems, and Natural Resources. Projects and labs will reinforce text concepts. Scientific journal article reviews by students throughout the year broaden Science perspective, knowledge, and writing skills.

## **Mathematics**

This course helps students learn about math in their own world and develop problem-solving skills that will work for them in everyday life. Topics covered include Mean, Median and Mode, Introductory Algebra, Decimals, Fractions, Introductory Geometry, Ratios, Rates, Proportions, Scale, Similarity, Percentages, Integers, and Probability.

## **Social Studies: Eastern Hemisphere**

This course covers the geography, history, economies, governments, different cultures, and religions of Oceania, Africa, Asia, and Europe creating a multicultural appreciation. Special attention to social studies skills including global citizenship; historical inquiry including the use of primary and secondary resources; and the use of maps, graphs and charts.

## **Language Arts**

Language Arts consists of five components: English grammar, literature, speaking, word roots, and vocabulary. Emphasis will be placed on literature and the application of these skills to the real world. Students will read literature from a variety of eras and genres, including realistic fiction, science fiction, and folktales. Communication skills will be developed in both written and oral forms. Opportunities to use creative expression will also be provided.

## **Religion**

The purpose of this course is to assist the student in his/her own faith journey and spiritual growth. Students will engage in prayer experiences, a study of sacraments, and the planning of liturgical events. They will be given the opportunity to examine and explore their personal relationships with God. Emphasis will be placed on the lives of the saints and the understanding of the Psalms. The seasons of the Liturgical Year will be defined and practiced as they occur. The Diocesan Curriculum will be followed as it relates to these topics.

## **Physical Education**

This is a comprehensive program involving the knowledge and the experiences to provide opportunities to enhance motor skills, social development, and physical development of the individual. This will be done through team sports, outdoor recreation, individual self-testing, and activities. Appropriate footwear is required. This class alternates with Logic & Computer Essentials.

## **Health**

This class, through the Diocesan Health Curriculum, will provide students with knowledge and skills to live a healthy life grounded in faith. Students will begin to learn about the uniqueness of their own personal health and wellness, the dimensions of wellness, and the many influences on their overall well-being. Students will also begin to develop the skills of accessing valid information, practicing health-enhancing behaviors, goal-setting, effective communication, stress management, decision-making, and advocating for overall well-being. Theology of the Body will be used to guide instruction on the topic of healthy relationships.

## **Band: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

Students will grow in their knowledge of music through participation in the large group band setting. Music of different styles and time periods will be explored and performed at various concerts throughout the year. Lessons are also a possibility depending on time in the middle school schedule. Additionally, all students will have the opportunity to participate in Jazz Band and Solo/Ensemble Festivals. This is a combined 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade course. This class has a \$75 course fee.

## **Choral Music: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Choir is a combined performing class in which the emphasis is placed on developing basic singing skills. In class rehearsals, performances and other music literacy practice games are used to achieve music fluency. Matching pitch, sight-singing, breath support, posture, embouchure, Kodaly hand signs, music theory, terminology and ear training are other topics we explore. Requirements for choir include an interest in singing. No previous vocal experience is necessary. Students are encouraged to participate in Solo & Ensemble Festival. For a choir to achieve success, everyone must be a team player. Although becoming a team/choir member requires patience, hard work and motivation, the rewards and experiences are well worth the effort.

## **Music Appreciation: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

Music Appreciation is a course that takes the students through the conception and evolution of music. This class is run as a fully academic class. Through lectures, projects, quizzes and tests the students of Intro to Music will dive into the inner workings of music itself. Requirements for this class are a folder and notebook.

## **Art**

This course will develop the student's skills in art production, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. The focus will be on various artistic styles using "the Masters" as templates. It is geared to give every student an opportunity to develop basic art skills. This is a combined 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade course.

## **Book Club**

Love to read? Wish you had more time to read? This exploratory class will introduce you to the Literature Circle as we explore different genres of books. Literature circles provide students an opportunity to discuss literature in-depth, to develop critical thinking skills, as well as collaborate and construct meaning with other readers. All reading levels are welcome!

## **Crochet**

Students will be introduced to the basic stitches and types of crochet. They will use those stitches to make simple projects, including small stuffed animals, potholders, dishcloths, afghan squares and bags. The afghan squares will be assembled into afghans to be given to community organizations who can use them.

## **Drama (Mini Musical)**

Students will rehearse and perform a short musical (performance given at the end of the term). They will learn about what makes a compelling performance, set design and construction, basic acting (including character development) and singing. Most of all, they will have fun learning and improving their skills.

## **Family and Consumer Education(FACE)**

This course will provide students with experiences in money management, textiles (simple stitchery, fashion, etc.), nutrition, food preparation and basic child care skills. This course is taught stressing the importance of these areas in family life. Other units may be added as time allows. Students will be responsible to supply material for the textile unit. This is a combined 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade course.

## **Hope Squad**

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## **Introduction to Metals (TE)**

This class is designed to expose the student with basic areas in the metals trade. This course introduces students to the qualities and applications of various metals and tools used to manipulate and form metal into products. Through one or more projects involving metal, students develop planning, layout, and measurement skills while gaining experience in cutting, bending, and fastening metal. Students complete projects according to specifications. Correct use of metalworking tools are integrated into all instructional opportunities.

## **Mini-Madrigals**

Students will form a small singing group (Madrigal singers) that will learn songs for a short performance at the end of the term. They may, depending on funds and health concerns, give small run-out concerts to local nursing homes, and other locations around Marshfield. We will work on singing independent parts and practicing music listening and reading skills. We will learn different styles (genres) of music--both Classical (aka "art music") and Popular/Show styles. Students who take this class should be ready to sing and perform!

## **Micro-STEM**

Micro-STEM furthers lessons presented in 6th micro-STEM and challenges students to apply current knowledge to gather information, sort it, and use it to solve complex problems or propose solutions. Problems faced will involve all of the content areas that comprise STEM. The scientific method will be utilized to predict and analyze results which will further enhance their critical thinking skills. Throughout the course, students will work independently and also collaborate with others which will facilitate and encourage the ability to adapt to different exploration scenarios.

## **Wood Working (TE)**

The purpose of the class is to provide students with a basic understanding of woodworking technology (the practical application of hand tools). Students will become familiar with the characteristics of technology and its relationship to people and the environment. Students will also be introduced to the areas of transportation, manufacturing, communication, and biotechnology. Emphasis will be placed on terminology, adjusting to

changes, better decision making, and safety. Hands-on projects that help develop these skills will be included. Students will work on different projects as compared to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Yearbook**

Create the layouts and texts for this year's Columbus Middle School Yearbook. Work as a staff writer, editor, and designer. This class will be a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter class only.

## **EIGHTH GRADE COURSES**

### **Physical Science**

Concepts of physics and chemistry, as well as scientific measuring are investigated. Topics covered include Laws of Motion, Machines, Forces, Foundations of Chemistry, and Properties of Matter. Projects and frequent labs reinforce text concepts. Scientific journal article reviews by students throughout the year broaden Science perspective, knowledge, and writing skills.

### **Mathematics**

This course helps students gain an understanding of the everyday use of math in life. Students will be prepared for High School Algebra. Topics covered are as follows: Data Analysis, Integers, Algebra (variables, equations, expressions, linear equations, functions, graphing and relationships), Ratios, Proportions, Percentages, Rational/Irrational Numbers, Geometry and Measurement, Area and Volume, Similarity, Congruence, Counting, and probability.

### **Social Studies: The United States Part I**

This course is a survey of United States history. Students will investigate, analyze, and interpret historical concepts and events that shaped early American history. This course covers Colonialism, the American Revolution, Westward Expansion, Indian Removal, the Civil War, and Immigration. The goal is to get as far as possible, but will highlight Civil Rights and Major Conflicts. Students focus on varying perspectives while using historical inquiry and primary and secondary resources to fully understand the history of the United States. Students will develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. There will also be a co-curricular project of writing a formal research paper with the Language Arts class.

### **Language Arts**

This course will include the study of grammatical structure, but emphasis will be placed on the utilization of learned grammatical skills and writing techniques to compose several finished compositions and creative writing. This course will also develop life-long reading skills, plus literal and critical thinking skills. Novels read will be classics and a variety of authors are studied through short stories and literature textbooks. Literary components will emphasize foreshadowing, irony, symbolism and theme. There will also be a third quarter co-curricular project of writing a formal research paper with the social studies class.

## **Religion**

This class, through the guidance of the Diocesan Curriculum, will expand student knowledge on the history and composition of the Catholic Church. Specific areas of focus will include: the visible hierarchy and authority of the Church, the first 1000, and second 1000 years of Church history, the Communion of Saints and the Last Things. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to grow in their own faith lives through knowledge of how to live a virtuous life, vocations, and practice of different prayer strategies, as well as participate in student Masses and other activities relevant to each liturgical season of the year.

## **Physical Education**

This course is a continuation of the development of the students' understanding of the importance of living a healthful life, as well as individual motor skills, sportsmanship, and physical fitness. Team sports, outdoor recreations, and individual activities are offered as well as an emphasis on introducing lifetime recreational activities. Appropriate footwear is required.

## **Business**

This course is meant to introduce business language, concepts, and skills. Students will rigorously explore finance, careers, and will then be introduced to Entrepreneurship and Professional Ethics. Use of technology will be used frequently, which will reinforce typing and other skills needed for High School. While engaged in these topics, 8th grade students will practice skills such as interviewing, professional writing, professionalism, recordkeeping, communication, and face the "Shark Tank" experience in a project based learning environment. Students will meet two or three days a week for this class (alternating with physical education).

## **Band: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

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## **Family and Consumer Education (FACE)**

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This class is designed to expose the student with basic areas in the metals trade. This course introduces students to the qualities and applications of various metals and tools used to manipulate and form metal into products. Through one or more projects involving metal, students develop planning, layout, and measurement skills while gaining experience in cutting, bending, and fastening metal. Students complete projects according to specifications. Correct use of metalworking tools are integrated into all instructional opportunities.

## **Mini-Madrigals**

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## **Micro-STEM**

Micro-STEM furthers lessons presented in 6th micro-STEM and challenges students to apply current knowledge to gather information, sort it, and use it to solve complex problems or propose solutions. Problems faced will involve all of the content areas that comprise STEM. The scientific method will be utilized to predict and analyze results which will further enhance their critical thinking skills. Throughout the course, students will work independently and also collaborate with others which will facilitate and encourage the ability to adapt to different exploration scenarios.

## **Wood Working (TE)**

The purpose of the class is to provide students with a basic understanding of woodworking technology (the practical application of hand tools). Students will become familiar with the characteristics of technology and its relationship to people and the environment. Students will also be introduced to the areas of transportation, manufacturing, communication, and biotechnology. Emphasis will be placed on terminology, adjusting to changes, better decision making, and safety. Hands-on projects that help develop these skills will be included. Students will work on different projects as compared to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Yearbook**

Create the layouts and texts for this year's Columbus Middle School Yearbook. Work as a staff writer, editor, and designer. This class will be a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter class only.

## **HIGH SCHOOL COURSES**

(Teacher recommendations required)

### **World Language - Spanish I**

(CCHS class which means that this grade shows up on HS transcripts and follows HS rules)

This is the high school introduction to Spanish centered on the language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed on communication skills. The cultures of Spanish-speaking countries are explored. This class will greatly complement your elementary Spanish experience, but previous knowledge isn't required. Taking a high school course as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader will give you a head start for your high school career. Final exam at the end of each semester.

### **Algebra I Honors**

(CCHS class which means that this grade shows up on HS transcripts and follows HS rules)

This course may cover probability and statistics, ratios and proportions, linear equations, linear and quadratic functions, exponents, multiplying and factoring polynomials, direct and inverse variation, and graphing and solving linear equations/inequalities/linear systems, all in greater depth and intensity than the regular level class. Good note-taking and studying skills are presumed. Students must maintain a B- or higher to remain in this class. Final exam is given at the end of each semester.

## **Co-Curricular Activities**

Student Council  
Jazz Band  
Brains Team  
Mission Club  
Baseball  
Basketball  
Cheer (6th only)  
Cross Country  
Football  
Soccer  
Softball  
Track  
Volleyball  
Wrestling

## **Service Projects**

Cards to the Homebound  
Meals on Wheels  
Thanksgiving Community Meal  
Food Collections Throughout the Year  
Monthly Dress Down Fundraisers

## **Field Trips**

Annual Ski Trip  
Annual Religious Retreat  
Annual READ at St. John's  
Annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade Reality Store  
Annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade Heavy Metal Tour  
Annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Valley Fair  
Science Museum (every 3 years)  
Theatrical Performance (every 3 years)  
The Mead (every 3 years)

\*Co-Curricular Activities, Service Projects, and Field Trips are subject to change.