



# **WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **COMMUNITY • ACHIEVEMENT • RESPECT • EQUITY**

### **Notification of Nondiscrimination**

Cherry Creek School District No. 5 (“District”) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations. West Middle School does not discriminate in enrollment or access to any of its available programs. The lack of English language skills shall not be a barrier to admission or participation in District activities and programs. The District also does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.

This notice is provided as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding these laws may be forwarded to the designated compliance coordinator, Ms. Davies, District Compliance Officer, Educational Services Center, 4700 S. Yosemite St., Greenwood Village, CO 80111, telephone (720) 554-4471, or directly to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Region VIII, Federal Office Building, 1244 North Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204.

### **Mission Statement**

**By design, we are excellence and opportunity,  
support and collaboration, sincerity and inspiration.**

**Main Line (720)554-5100**  
**Main Office (720)554-5180**  
**Counseling Office (720)554-5156**  
**Attendance A-L (720)554-5110**  
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**5151 South Holly Street**  
**Greenwood Village, Colorado 80121**  
<http://west.cherrycreekschools.org>

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\*Please note—Students in all levels of band and orchestra must provide their own instruments, available through music store rental programs. A limited number of school instruments are available for those in need. Students enrolled in band, choir, and orchestra are encouraged to join West’s after-school instrumental program.

# Schedule

While each grade level follows their own schedule, students are enrolled in the following courses:

- **Core:** Students are enrolled in an English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies class, each aligned to Colorado Academic Standards.  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/coloradostandards>
- **Electives:** Students are enrolled in two elective class periods to learn about a variety of topics like physical education, health, music, visual art, technology, and/or world language.
- **Lunch:** Students eat and socialize for up to 20 minutes in the cafeteria and have an additional minimum of 10 minutes to spend socializing and playing outside, weather permitting.
- **ACCESS:** Students are enrolled in an ACCESS class, which meets for 30 minutes each day to engage in social emotional learning, review grades, practice core values, and build relationships with their peers and teachers.

# Academic Calendar

The academic calendar is broken into four quarters. Grades are calculated at the end of each quarter.

Adopted by the Board of Education  
December 13, 2021  
Revised – March 1, 2023

## Cherry Creek School District 2024-2025 School Year Calendar ALL SCHOOLS

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

  

NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28		

  

MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

- No School for Students and Staff
- School Starts
- Last day of School

- Days marked with colors below are non-pupil contact days:
- Teacher Work Days Prior to Start of School
  - K-12 Non-contact
  - K-8 Non-contact/conferences

If for any reason the school district must close schools for more than two days, this 2024-2025 calendar will be amended by the Board of Education to provide additional school days.

# Core Academics

## ● Co-Taught Courses

- Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) may be enrolled in a co-taught course when the student needs direct and specialized instruction during Mathematics and/or English Language Arts to support their annual goals. Special Education Co-taught classes are taught by a general education teacher and a special education teacher.
- Students who are learning English may be enrolled in a co-taught course when the student needs direct and explicit instruction during Language Arts, Social Studies and/or to support their language goals. Multi-Language Learner Co-taught classes are taught by a general education teacher and a Multilingual Language Specialist.

## ● English Language Arts

### ○ 6th Grade offers the following courses:

- **LA 6:** Students read and analyze a variety of texts including novels, short stories, poems, plays, and informational texts. The primary focus is improving comprehension through literary analysis so that students can build knowledge and begin to develop an understanding of the human experience. Writers in 6th grade focus on four specific types of writing: response to literature, argument, narrative, and informational/explanatory. We encourage students to take risks with their writing by trying new words or organizational patterns, model their writing after published authors, and recognize that writing is a process that requires deep thinking and multiple revisions. In addition, collaboration with others in a group is essential for learning. Students will be encouraged to share their ideas, and listen to others. We teach students the skills to collaborate effectively as group members or leaders who listen actively and respectfully; pose thoughtful questions, acknowledge the ideas of others; and contribute ideas to further the group's attainment of an objective. The instructional framework of the course will be structured around the 6th Grade Literacy Scope & Sequence. <https://www.ccsdframework.com/literacy.html#standards>
- **Advanced LA 6:** Same as above, but students work at an accelerated pace, with more complex texts, and more extensive writing tasks. Enrollment in this course is determined by Spring Placement Tests, CMAS, and/or STAR scores.

### ○ 7th Grade offers the following courses:

- **LA 7:** Students read classic and contemporary literature as well as challenging informational texts covering a range of subjects. English Language Arts content includes stories, poetry, video, and articles that present the complexity of human nature and identity, including diverse works of literature. Students write in a variety of modes and for multiple purposes, emphasizing narrative writing, argumentative analyses with supporting evidence, informational articles derived from research, and writing to learn and reflect. Listening and speaking skills are taught and practiced. An instructional workshop model puts the onus of learning and practicing on the students, who benefit from the active engagement and teacher feedback. A year-long study of language and grammar will enhance both reading and writing performances as well. The instructional framework of the course will be structured around the 7th Grade Literacy Scope & Sequence. <https://www.ccsdframework.com/literacy.html#standards>
- **Advanced LA 7:** Same as above, but students work at an accelerated pace, with more complex texts, and more extensive writing tasks. Enrollment in this course is determined by writing samples, CMAS, and/or STAR scores.

- **8th Grade offers the following courses:**
  - **LA 8:** Students access a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum includes independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. Opportunities are provided for students to develop questioning and research strategies that assist them in organizing and presenting information in oral, visual, and written formats. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and build the skills necessary for the transition to high school. The instructional framework of the course will be structured around the 8th Grade Literacy Scope & Sequence.  
<https://www.ccsdframework.com/literacy.html#standards>
  - **Advanced LA 8:** Same as above, but students work at an accelerated pace, with more complex texts, and more extensive writing tasks. Enrollment in this course is determined by writing samples, CMAS, and/or STAR scores.

- **Mathematics**

- **6th Grade offers the following courses:**

- **Math 6:** Students begin to learn the abstract components of mathematics. Math students use a problem-solving based curriculum to develop content that will focus on four critical areas, including:
  - Connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division
  - Completing understanding of division of fractions and extending to rational numbers, which includes learning about negative numbers
  - Writing, interpreting and using expressions and one-step equations and inequalities
  - Developing understanding of statistical thinking
- **Accelerated 6:** Students study all concepts from Math 6 and most of Math 7. Students will extend the concepts of ratio and rate to include proportional relationships. They will also perform operations with integers and rational numbers, including writing and solving 2-step equations. Enrollment in this course is determined by Spring Placement Tests, CMAS, and/or STAR scores.
- **Accelerated 7:** Students will complete their study of Math 7 concepts, including working with expressions and linear equations and the geometric study of two- and three-dimensional shapes. These concepts will be extended to the Math 8 concepts of linear equations, linear systems, geometric transformations, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Enrollment in this course is determined by Spring Placement Tests, CMAS, and/or STAR scores.

- **7th Grade offers the following courses:**

- **Math 7:** Students will build on their work with rational numbers and algebraic thinking as they move into deeper and more complex math concepts. Math students use a problem-solving based curriculum to develop content that will focus on four critical areas, including:
  - Developing understanding of and application of proportional relationships
  - Developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations
  - Solving problems involving geometric ideas of scale, area, surface area and volume with two- and three-dimensional shapes
  - Drawing inference about populations based on samples
- **Accelerated 7:** Students will complete their study of Math 7 concepts, including working with expressions and linear equations and the geometric study of two- and three-dimensional shapes. These concepts will be extended to the Math 8 concepts of linear equations, linear systems, geometric transformations, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Enrollment in this course is determined by previous math course completion, Jump Up completion, CMAS, and/or STAR scores.
- **Algebra I:** Algebra I formalizes and extends the mathematics that students mastered in previous coursework. Enrollment in this course is determined by previous math course completion, Jump Up completion, CMAS, and/or STAR scores. The major components of study include:
  - Using equations and inequalities to model real-life quantities and manipulating them to highlight quantities of interest while focusing on the underlying structures of equations and inequalities

- Understanding of the concept of a function, the use of function notation, and the structures of exponential functions and how they compare and contrast with linear functions
  - Working with quadratic functions through a structural perspective and in comparison to linear and exponential functions, along with factoring quadratics.
- **8th Grade offers the following courses:**
- **Math 8:** Students use a problem-solving based curriculum to develop a serious study of algebra with the learning of linear functions. This work will lay the foundation for success in Algebra I. Content will focus on three critical areas, including:
    - Formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling bivariate data with a linear equation, solving linear equations, and working with systems of linear equations
    - Developing an understanding of the concept of a function, and using functions to describe quantitative relationships
    - Analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and
    - Understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem
  - **Algebra I:** Algebra I formalizes and extends the mathematics that students mastered in previous coursework. Enrollment in this course is determined by previous math course completion, Jump Up completion, CMAS, and/or STAR scores. The major components of study include:
    - Using equations and inequalities to model real-life quantities and manipulating them to highlight quantities of interest while focusing on the underlying structures of equations and inequalities
    - Understanding of the concept of a function, the use of function notation, and the structures of exponential functions and how they compare and contrast with linear functions
    - Working with quadratic functions through a structural perspective and in comparison to linear and exponential functions, along with factoring quadratics.
  - **Geometry:** This geometry course follows the same curriculum used by Cherry Creek High School and formalizes and extends students' geometric experiences from previous coursework. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving toward formal mathematical arguments and proof. In this course, rigid and non-rigid transformations (including translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations) are the frame through which students build and prove the concepts of congruence and similarity. Students apply similar reasoning to geometric constructions. Previous experiences with proportional reasoning and the Pythagorean Theorem lead students to understand the trigonometry of right triangles and develop the Laws of Sines and Cosines to find unknown measures in general triangles. The geometry of two- and three-dimensional figures is the focus, including work and analysis in the coordinate plane. The Mathematical Practice Standards are applied to the content of this course, allowing students to experience geometry as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. Enrollment in this course is determined by previous math course completion, Jump Up completion, CMAS, and/or STAR scores.

- **Science**

- Science students undergo a comprehensive learning experience that cultivates their abilities to articulate, comprehend, express, analyze, and substantiate arguments much like professional scientists and engineers. Through rigorous investigations into real-world challenges and scientific phenomena, our students become adept at observation, connecting their acquired knowledge to their surroundings, and contemplating their influence and capacity to devise innovative solutions for global issues. Our aspiring scientists participate in a diverse array of educational activities, ranging from hands-on laboratory experiments and the study of scientific articles to collaborative group projects, student-to-student discussions, digital simulations, interactive media, and the examination of physical and digital models. This multifaceted approach ensures a holistic and dynamic learning environment, equipping our students with the skills and mindset needed for success in the realm of science and engineering. Throughout the year, the Science Department integrates Next Generation Science and Engineering Practices into coursework through various modalities:

- Asking questions and defining problems
- Developing and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Using Mathematics and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions
- Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

- **Science 6** covers the following topics:

- Light & Matter
- Thermal Energy
- Weather, Climate, & Water Cycling
- Plate Tectonics & Rock Cycling
- Natural Hazards
- Cells & Systems

- **Science 7** covers the following topics:

- Chemical Reactions & Matter Transformations
- Chemical Reactions & Energy
- Metabolic Reactions
- Matter Cycling & Photosynthesis
- Ecosystem Dynamics
- Natural Resources & Human Impact

- **Science 8** covers the following topics:

- Forces and energy
- Sound Waves
- Forces at a Distance
- Earth in Space
- Genetics
- Natural Selection & Common Ancestry



- **Social Studies**

- All social studies classes seek to expand skills and knowledge with regard to critical thinking, literacy and historical investigation. In order to achieve this, teachers utilize the following pedagogical tools and strategies: Document Based Questions (DBQ) incorporating both primary and secondary sources, hands-on activities, research projects, complex text, Socratic Seminars, Thinking Maps, geographical tools, charts and graphs, as well as debates.

Colorado’s Social Studies Academic Standards cover the following domains.

- **History**—History develops moral understanding, defines identity, and creates an appreciation of how things change while building skills in judgment and decision-making. History enhances the ability to read varied sources and develop the skills to analyze, interpret, and communicate.
- **Geography**—Geography provides students with an understanding of spatial perspectives and technologies for spatial analysis, awareness of interdependence of world regions and resources, and how places are connected at local, national, and global scales.
- **Economics**—Economics teaches how society manages its scarce resources, how people make decisions, how people interact in the domestic and international markets, and how forces and trends affect the economy as a whole. Personal financial literacy applies the economic way of thinking to help individuals understand how to manage their own scarce resources using a logical decision-making process of prioritization based on analysis of the costs and benefits of every choice.
- **Civics**—Civics teaches the complexity of the origins, structure, and functions of governments; the rights, roles and responsibilities of ethical citizenship; the importance of law; and the skills necessary to participate in all levels of government.

- **Social Studies 6** covers the following topics:

- The impact of physical and cultural geography on cultures such as the Inuit of the Canadian Arctic.
- Ancient civilizations of the Americas: Maya, Aztec, and Inca.
- Conquest of the Americas, the Columbian Exchange and the emergence of Globalization - the effects on the Americas both in the past and present societies around the world today and how people, products, cultures, ideas interact and are interconnected in the western hemisphere and how they have impacted modern times.
- Independence Movements in Latin America and analysis of the relationships and systems of governments in different nations in the Western Hemisphere.
- Investigate the role of consumers within the Western Hemisphere and how societies create different economic systems in the Western Hemisphere in relation to Haiti, Cuba, and Guatemala.
- Throughout the course, students will be able to interpret history so that they can make connections to how the past affects the present. For example, students will identify how events from the past are still relevant and continue to affect people, governments, religions, and global society.

- **Social Studies 7** covers the following topics:

- River civilizations: ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Ancient China and India
- Ancient Greece and Rome
- Sub-Saharan African empires and kingdoms

- The feudal worlds of Europe and Japan
- Major religions of the eastern hemisphere
- Geography Skills
- **Social Studies 8** covers the following topics:
  - Colonization and the Road to Revolution (1607-1776)
  - A More Perfect Union: the U.S. Constitution and the Early Nation (1776-1800)
  - Western Expansion (1803-1850)
  - Civil War: A Nation Divided (1850-1876)

## Elective Options

- There are two elective periods each day, and students may choose from yearlong and semester class options. (The graphic below provides an example of each scheduling option.) Availability of elective classes is subject to change based on staffing, enrollment, and student need. Student preference is not guaranteed. (See “Schedule Change Policy” on page 18.)

<b>Option A</b>	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>Elective Period</b>	Semester Elective	Semester Elective
<b>Elective Period</b>	Semester Elective	Semester Elective
<b>Option B</b>	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>Elective Period</b>	Yearlong Music or World Language	
<b>Elective Period</b>	Semester Elective	Semester Elective
<b>Option C</b>	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>Elective Period</b>	Yearlong World Language	
<b>Elective Period</b>	Yearlong Music	

## 6th Grade Electives

### • Year Long Electives

- **Band 6:** This class is for students who would like to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods, and learn the basic skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Basic musicianship skills and techniques will be developed. This class requires a full-year commitment. At least two concerts will be performed throughout the school year. Students with a year or more of experience playing a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument will be placed in *Band 6*. Students with less than one year of experience will be placed in *Beginning Band*. No experience is required for Beginning Band. There is a materials fee for this class.
- **Choir 6:** This class is for students who would like to sing and learn how to develop their singing technique. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods, and learn the basic skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Basic singing skills and techniques will be developed. At least two concerts will be performed throughout the school year. No experience is required for choir.
- **Orchestra 6:** This class is for students who would like to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods, and learn the basic skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Basic string skills and techniques will be developed. This class requires a full-year commitment. At least two concerts will be performed throughout the school year. Students with a year or more of experience playing the violin, viola, cello, or string bass will be placed in *Orchestra 6*. Students with less than one year of experience will be placed in *Beginning Orchestra*. No experience is required for Beginning Orchestra. There is a materials fee for this class.
- **World Language:** Students begin learning the fundamentals of Level 1 World Language. Students will be able to develop basic conversations, describe people and activities, and learn elements of culture. This is an academic elective and students can expect a level of commitment similar to their core classes.
  - **Spanish 1A:** This course will cover the first half of the Level 1 curriculum and will prepare the student for Spanish 1B.

### • Semester Electives

- **AVID 6 (Advancement Via Individual Determination):** AVID 6 is a daily, semester course. AVID is a class for students who desire to challenge themselves to be more successful and confident in and out of school. AVID students show academic potential with a desire and determination to leverage necessary strategies to be college-ready. AVID helps students develop tools to engage in cooperative learning, goal setting, higher level questioning and study skills, writing, note taking, time management, as well as, character development.
- **Studio Art 6:** In studio Art 6, Students will work with a variety of art media and techniques which include Posca paint pens, acrylic and watercolor painting, drawing, printmaking, oil pastels, Prismacolor, ceramics, collage, papier mâché, digital photography, and Canva for graphic design. Students will have the choice to work both individually and collaboratively. Students will explore their personal art style, and

incorporate their interests into their art all while having fun! There is a \$10 materials fee for this class.

- **Choir 6:** This class is for students who would like to sing and learn how to develop their singing technique. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods, and learn the basic skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Basic singing skills and techniques will be developed. At least two concerts will be performed throughout the school year. No experience is required for choir.
- **Drama 6:** Students in this introductory class explore and develop an understanding of their own creative resources. Through improvisation games and rehearsed performances, students use props, costumes, movement, and blocking to express imagination, setting, story, and characters. They learn audience etiquette and basic stage terminology as they collaborate to plan and perform creative dramatizations. Students participate in mock auditions, small group scenes, and readers' theatre pieces. Additionally, students learn about theatre history and its influence on contemporary culture. There is a \$5 materials fee for this class.
- **PE 6:** Students participate together in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, cooperative games, team sports, individual sports, and physical fitness activities. Students will receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with a wide variety of sports and fitness activities in order to develop the confidence for a lifetime of physical activity. The Physical Education program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition. Selected sports and fitness activities vary by grade level. Students are required to wear athletic clothing and shoes to class each day.
- **Tech—Graphics 6:** Students learn graphic design, printing, and other forms of media distribution. Topics include art and copy preparation, image creation and editing, desktop publishing, advertising, and promotion. Students will explore Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator to create advertisements, T-shirt design, merchandising, and other desktop media. This course is team-oriented, allowing students to develop critical thinking skills while producing unique and artistic projects. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class.
- **Tech—Robotics 6:** The first part of this class will introduce students to how we make technology work for us. We will examine simple machines, the basics of electrical circuits and programming in order to understand robots. Using the Lego EV3 Mindstorm robotics platform, students will be introduced to the basics of robotics. This part of the class will explore what makes robots different from machines, and investigate robotics design and programming. This course is team-oriented, allowing students to develop critical thinking skills while producing unique projects. No previous experience in design or programming is required. It is not a requirement of this class to join Robotics Club or vice versa. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class.

# 7th Grade Electives

- **Year Long Electives**

- ***AVID 7 (Advancement Via Individual Determination)***: AVID is a daily, year-long academic elective offered to 7th and 8th graders. AVID teaches students how to foster a Growth Mindset, how to work towards their goals, how to manage stress through mindfulness, and successful student strategies. AVID students learn and practice intentional academic strategies that prepare them to take Honors and Advanced Placement courses in high school. AVID students are encouraged and expected to take ownership of their learning, ask questions to deepen their understanding, and be willing to put in the effort to grow academically and personally and work hard to achieve these goals. AVID students are required to maintain an organizational system, keep track of assignments in a student planner, participate in student-led tutorials, and monitor their academic progress throughout the year. Students who have determination and motivation to work hard toward their goals in order to succeed are good candidates for AVID.  
\*Students in 7th and 8th must fill out an application and interview to participate in AVID.
- ***Band 7 (Concert Band)***: This class is open to all seventh grade students who have played a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument for at least one year. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods, and will learn the basic skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Basic musicianship skills will continue to be developed and more advanced skills in music theory, air support, articulation, and technique will be studied. This class requires a full-year commitment. At least two concerts will be performed throughout the school year. There is a materials fee for this class.
- ***Choir 7***: This class is for students who would like to continue singing and learning how to develop their singing technique. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods at a higher level of complexity, and learn the intermediate skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Basic singing skills and techniques from the previous year will be developed, as well as more advanced singing techniques and more advanced music. Typically four concerts will be performed throughout the school year.
- ***Orchestra 7***: This class is open to all seventh grade students who would like to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods, and will learn the basic skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Basic string skills will be developed and advanced skills such as vibrato, positions, and bowing techniques will also be studied. This class requires a full-year commitment. At least two concerts will be performed throughout the school year. There is a materials fee for this class.
- ***World Language***: Students begin learning the fundamentals of Level 1 World Language. Students will be able to develop basic conversations, describe people and activities, and learn elements of culture. This is an academic elective and students can expect a level of commitment similar to their core classes.
  - ***Spanish 1A or French 1A***: These courses cover the first half of the Level 1 curriculum and will prepare the student for Spanish 1B or French 1B.
  - ***Spanish 1B***: This course covers the second half of the Level 1 curriculum and will

prepare the student for Spanish 2. Spanish 1A is a prerequisite, and world language teacher approval is required. There is a \$30 workbook fee for this class.

- **Semester Electives**

- **Studio Art 7:** In Studio Art 7, students will create projects that include their personal interests, using art media such as Posca paint pens, acrylic paint, watercolor paint, basic digital art and digital photography, printmaking, collage, oil pastels, sculpture, and ceramics. Students will strengthen their drawing skills and their overall knowledge of art techniques. Students will explore their personal art style and critique and analyze the artwork of others. There is a \$10 materials fee for this class.
- **Choir 7:** This class is for students who would like to continue singing and learning how to develop their singing technique. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods at a higher level of complexity, and learn the intermediate skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Basic singing skills and techniques from the previous year will be developed, as well as more advanced singing techniques and more advanced music. Typically four concerts will be performed throughout the school year.
- **Drama 7:** Students in this class explore and develop an understanding of their own creative resources. Students in this course develop skills in scene work and improv. Students experiment with pantomime, blocking, character development, and radio drama. They learn audience etiquette and basic stage terminology as they collaborate to plan and perform creative dramatizations. There is a \$5 materials fee for this class.
- **Beginning Guitar 7:** This class is designed to be a beginning guitar class. Students will learn the basics of playing including chord reading, tablature reading, and note reading. Styles of music studied will include folk, blues, rock and roll, pop, jazz, and classical. Students will work independently and in small groups. Guitars will be provided by the school. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class.
- **Health Teen Topics:** This health education course teaches students the content and skills that apply to real-world situations and life. This course emphasizes the following topics: stress management, self-esteem, goal setting, communication and social skills, conflict resolution, fitness and nutrition, basic first aid, drug education, personal safety and human growth and development. Physical, emotional and social wellness are all key skills within the health curriculum.
- **PE 7:** Students participate together in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, cooperative games, team sports, individual sports, and physical fitness activities. Students will receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with a wide variety of sports and fitness activities in order to develop the confidence for a lifetime of physical activity. The Physical Education program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition. Selected sports and fitness activities vary by grade level. Students are required to wear athletic clothing and shoes to class each day.
- **Tech—Digital/Multimedia 7:** Students explore video production: camera operation, audio control, basic directing, lighting, and editing. Students will learn skills and terminology required to produce media artwork such as short films, animations, stop motion, and other projects that convey purpose, meaning, and artistic quality. Students will learn filming and editing techniques using Adobe Premier Video editing software as well as how to create digital animations using Adobe Animate software. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class.

- ***Tech- STEAM Exploration 7:*** Students will learn and actively use the Engineering Design Process to bring their designs to life. From fabrication tools to CAD and 3D printing, students are exposed to basic software, tools, and equipment found at the foundation of any CTE STEM pathway. Students will utilize design software (Onshape), Arduinos, coding, and other tools to manufacture new products. The course will end with students using all course skills to collaboratively create a final project. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class.
- ***Tech—Video Game Design 7:*** This class combines problem-solving techniques with computer game design and implementation to introduce the student to basic coding and video game design. Students will use Python (the official coding language of Google) to learn basic coding techniques and code their own game. After learning basic coding, creating a character, and writing a storyline, students will create their own side scrolling game. This is an excellent way to learn to code whether you love to play video games or not. No prior programming experience is required. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class.

## 8th Grade Electives

- **Year Long Electives**

- **AVID 8 (*Advancement Via Individual Determination*):** AVID is a daily, year-long academic elective offered to 7th and 8th graders. AVID teaches students how to foster a Growth Mindset, how to work towards their goals, how to manage stress through mindfulness, and successful student strategies. AVID students learn and practice intentional academic strategies that prepare them to take Honors and Advanced Placement courses in high school. AVID students are encouraged and expected to take ownership of their learning, ask questions to deepen their understanding, and be willing to put in the effort to grow academically and personally and work hard to achieve these goals. AVID students are required to maintain an organizational system, keep track of assignments in a student planner, participate in student-led tutorials, and monitor their academic progress throughout the year. Students who have the determination and motivation to work hard toward their goals in order to succeed are good candidates for AVID.  
\*Students in 7th and 8th must fill out an application and interview to participate in AVID.
- **Band 8 (*Symphonic Band*):** This class is open to students who are experienced on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods, and will learn the basic skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Advanced skills in scales, increased range, and instrumental techniques will continue to be developed. This class requires a full-year commitment. At least two evening concerts, two school assemblies, an evening concert at Cherry Creek High School, an elementary recruitment performance, and a contest performance will occur throughout the school year. There is a materials fee for this class.
- **Choir 8:** This class is for students who would like to continue singing and learning how to develop their singing technique at a more advanced level. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods, and continue developing intermediate and advanced skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Intermediate singing skills and techniques from the previous year will be developed further, as well as more advanced singing techniques and more advanced music than what was learned in 7th grade. Typically four concerts will be performed throughout the school year, in addition to other performances for festivals and throughout the district and state.
- **Orchestra 8:** This class is open to students who have experience on the violin, viola, cello, or bass. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods, and will learn the basic skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Advanced skills such as scales, vibrato, positions, and bowing techniques will also be studied. This class requires a full-year commitment. At least two evening concerts, two school assemblies, an evening concert at Cherry Creek High School, an elementary recruitment performance, and a contest performance will occur throughout the school year. Previous experience is required. There is a materials fee for this class.
- **World Language:** Students will learn the fundamentals of Level 1 or move into intermediate learning in Level 2 World Language. Students will be able to develop basic conversations, describe people and activities, and learn elements of culture. This is an academic elective and students can expect a level of commitment similar to their core classes.



- **Spanish 1B or French 1B :** These courses cover the second half of the Level 1 curriculum and will prepare the student for Spanish 2 or French 2. Spanish 1A or French 1A are prerequisites, and world language teacher approval is required. There is a \$30 workbook fee for this class.
- **French 2:** French 2 consists of the entire Level 2 world language high school curriculum. Using Integrated Performance Assessments (IPAs), students will demonstrate proficiency through interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communicative speaking, reading, writing and listening tasks within the Novice-Mid range. The curriculum will be divided into thematic units, which will include entertainment, daily routine, and childhood. Upon successful completion of French 2 students are eligible to take the Level 3 course. There is a \$30 workbook fee for this class.
- **Spanish 2:** This course covers the entire Level 2 curriculum and will prepare the student for Spanish 3. This is a high school level course spoken primarily in the target language and therefore will be fast paced and extremely demanding. Spanish 1B is the prerequisite, and world language teacher approval is required. There is a \$30 workbook fee for this class.

## ● Semester Electives

- **Studio Art 8:** Studio Art 8 is an eighth-grade only art class that provides exciting, hands-on studio art with or without prior art experience. Students will explore various types of art media, including ink, chalk & oil pastels, acrylic paint, watercolors, charcoal, Prisma colored pencils, ceramics, Posca paint pens, printmaking, paper mâché, digital photography, and Canva for graphic design. Students will also learn about famous artists. This class allows students to collaborate with their peers and develop a greater understanding and appreciation of visual arts, for a lifetime of enjoyment. There is a \$10 materials fee for this class.
- **Choir 8:** This class is for students who would like to continue singing and learning how to develop their singing technique. In this class, students will be exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, explore music of different cultures and historical periods, and learn the basic skills of music composition and improvisation through the aid of music technology. Basic singing skills and techniques will be developed, as well as more advanced singing techniques and more advanced music. At least two concerts will be performed throughout the school year, in addition to other performances for festivals and throughout the community.
- **Drama 8:** Students in this class explore and develop an understanding of their own creative resources. The class will perform scenes in various styles with a focus on creating original scenes and developing characters. Topics may include Commedia Dell'arte, Shakespeare, playwriting, technical theatre, monologue and improv. There is a \$5 materials fee for this class.
- **Theatre Advanced:** This class is designed for students who are passionate about theatre and plan to pursue theatre after middle school. Students will work extensively on monologue and auditioning techniques. They will explore advanced scene work and analysis. Other topics may include creating original scenes and monologues, exploring classical and contemporary drama, Shakespeare, and musical theatre. Priority will be given to students who have successfully completed a previous semester of Drama. There is a \$5 materials fee for this class.
- **Beginning Guitar 8:** This class is designed to be a beginning guitar class. Students will

learn the basics of playing including chord reading, tablature reading, and note reading. Styles of music studied will include folk, blues, rock and roll, pop, jazz, and classical. Students will work independently and in small groups. Guitars will be provided by the school. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class.

- **PE 8:** Students participate together in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, cooperative games, team sports, individual sports, and physical fitness activities. Students will receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with a wide variety of sports and fitness activities in order to develop the confidence for a lifetime of physical activity. The Physical Education program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition. Selected sports and fitness activities vary by grade level. Students are required to wear athletic clothing and shoes to class each day.
- **Health 8:** This 8<sup>th</sup> grade health course teaches students the content and skills that apply to real-world situations and life. This course emphasizes the following units: mental and emotional health (self-esteem, eating disorders, depression, and suicide prevention), communication, empathy, conflict resolution, sexuality education, personal safety, social aggression and violence prevention, drug education, fitness and nutrition. Physical, emotional and social wellness are all key skills within the health curriculum.
- **Tech—Video Production 8:** Video Production class invites students to explore their creativity by learning and practicing hands-on skills needed to design meaningful videos. Skills include: camera operation, audio control, basic directing, lighting, and editing. Students will have the opportunity to independently and collaboratively produce creative media artwork such as: short films, animations, stop motion, green screen, trick photography and other projects that convey purpose, meaning, and artistic quality. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class.
- **Tech—Applied Technology 8:** Students design and engineer prototypes using Computer-aided Design (CAD) software, 3D printing, and Arduino projects, which include building a Bluetooth RC battle bot. Students will build prototypes for original products and innovations using the design engineering process. Students will learn and actively use the design process: development of the team, drawing and documentation, reverse engineering, generating and development of ideas, testing evaluation, and manufacturing design. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class.
- **Tech—Industrial Technology 8:** Students learn to safely use woodshop tools including the band saw, drill press, lathe, and hand tools to build unique projects. They will utilize computer applications to design CO2-powered dragsters, plexiglass LED signs, and other projects. Most projects are completed in cooperative teams, so students will be developing collaboration skills. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class.

# Extracurriculars

- **Athletics**

- West participates in the following sports: Coed Track, Boys' and Girls' Basketball, Coed Wrestling, and Girls' Volleyball. All athletes need to complete an Athletics Emergency Card, pay the athletic fee associated with the sport\*, and adhere to the athletic code of conduct. For more information about tryouts, fees, and schedules, please visit the [WMS Athletic Website \(https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/domain/5177\)](https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/domain/5177).

\*Scholarships are available to families in need. Contact the Athletic Director for more information.

- **Clubs and Activities**

- Clubs and afterschool activities are offered Monday through Friday from 3:40 pm - 4:45 pm. Late buses are available to students who are eligible for CCSD transportation. For more information on offerings and schedules, visit the [Clubs and Activities page \(https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/domain/5104\)](https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/domain/5104)

## Schedule Change Requests

- Our course schedule is based on student enrollment choices and space available. Schedule changes are rare. Adjustments are done under specific conditions and generally occur at quarter or semester breaks. There is a process through our Counseling Office to initiate a conversation for a schedule change. We will not accommodate requests to change lunches (7th and 8th grade) based on preference. Each request is evaluated on a case by case basis.
  - Reasons to consider a schedule change may include:
    - If a student has a specialized plan and the interdisciplinary decision-making team determines the student would benefit from a class in one of those programs
    - You have a medical issue that requires a schedule change
    - There is a course change initiated by the school to reduce class size or to solve a schedule conflict
    - There is a need to adjust academic level
  - Requests will not be granted
    - For a certain teacher
    - To be with certain students
    - To have a certain class during a certain period
    - For an off period or study hall

# Special Programs

- **Gifted and Talented**

- Gifted and talented students have unique academic and affective needs. West provides a challenging learning environment that focuses on high achievement for every gifted and talented student, as well as meeting their unique social and emotional needs.
- Gifted and talented (GT) service at the middle school level is addressed through matching the student’s instructional needs with the appropriate level class in English Language Arts and/or Mathematics. Advanced and/or accelerated academic classes offered at West are rich in rigor and are academically challenging for the GT student as well as other high-achieving students.

WMS Gifted and Talented Continuum of Services	
Indirect Services	Direct Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advanced Learning Plan development and progress monitoring of academic and affective goals</li> <li>● Consultation and collaboration between gifted specialists and general education teachers, counselors, and special service providers to provide a variety of support including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Affective and academic needs of GT learners</li> <li>● Differentiation support</li> <li>● Co-planning opportunities</li> <li>● Facilitation of CCSD gifted identification process</li> <li>● Talent development support via electives courses</li> <li>● Communication of enrichment and extracurricular opportunities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Affective Programming Model - Autonomous Learner Model               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scope and sequence of implementation throughout 6th - 8th grade</li> </ul> </li> <li>● GT Affective support workshops during ACCESS class period               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Variety of workshop offerings each quarter</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Cluster grouping in Social Studies and Science courses</li> </ul>

- **English Language Support**

- Students who enroll with a language other than English as their first language receive services through the English Language Support program, including co-taught support. The purpose of this program is to help students improve their understanding and use of the English language, become familiar with American culture, and develop a sense of how American schools operate. New to English Language Learners practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing English. Intermediate/Advanced English Language Learners focus on academic vocabulary acquisition as well as reading and writing skills needed to succeed in core classes.

- **Student Achievement Services and Special Education**

- West prepares our students with special needs for positive post-secondary outcomes by ensuring access, alignment, achievement, advocacy and accountability. Excellence and Equity is at the forefront of our decision-making. Programming includes push in support through co-taught classes, pull out support through ACCESS and/or extended core classes, and co-planning with general education teachers to meet the needs of each student. Case managers meet with students and families to ensure IEP services are implemented effectively and with integrity.