

## Welcome to Centennial Middle School's 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade Course Description Book for 2011-12

This course description packet is meant to serve as an overview for course selections in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. If you would like more detailed information please visit the BVSD website at [www.bvsd.org](http://www.bvsd.org). On the Home Page click on the "About Us" tab and on the next screen choose "Curriculum".

### **Mission Statement**

*"Centennial Middle School is a neighborhood school that embraces all learners. We provide a rigorous academic curriculum and a broad elective program supported by technology that offers opportunity for all students to reach their fullest potential. Our goal is to develop a community of learners where individual responsibility is valued in order to create a safe and respectful learning environment."*

## **Centennial Middle School**

### *Where Kids Are First*

**SEVENTH GRADE** students are scheduled into a core academic block, two elective periods, 3 quarters of physical education and a quarter of health and lunch. The academic block will include language arts, regular or advanced, health and PE, world geography, life science and math. Students may choose their remaining two classes from the electives described in this booklet.

**SEVENTH GRADE REQUIRED SUBJECTS** are Language Arts or Language Arts Advanced, World Geography II, Math (Math 2S, 3S or Algebra), Life Science, Physical Education (3 quarters) and Health (1 quarter).

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** Language Arts in seventh grade builds upon skills application, academic sophistication, and intellectual reasoning. Students acquire and apply language arts skills in a variety of instructional settings with particular emphasis on reading and writing improvement.

**Advanced Language Arts:** Placement is by special application process only. Our advanced language arts program develops students' advanced communication skills; higher order and critical thinking skills; and creative thinking and problem solving skills. State standards are explored and concepts deconstructed at a higher level and at an accelerated pace. Students experience more sophisticated works of literature for study and analysis in the classroom. Through the creation of in-depth, authentic projects, students will use oral language, written language, media and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical and literary purposes. Strong emphasis is placed on students becoming not only critical consumers of culture, but critical *producers* of culture as well. Guiding questions may include: Do "monsters" help define our humanity? Is capitalism the best route to human happiness? Did Martin Luther King's Dream come true or has it been deferred?

**English as a Second Language:** We provide Limited English Proficient students with instruction in English language acquisition so that they are proficient on the state standards while valuing diversity by honoring and respecting the student and family and their diverse cultures. We strive to provide and promote effective instruction to develop English language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. ESL instruction is exclusively in English.

ESL students will read and understand a variety of materials and interpret literature as a record and expression of human experience. They will listen, observe, speak, and write for a variety of purposes and audiences, and to develop higher critical thinking skills. They will use grammatical and mechanical conventions of language in speaking and writing. They will apply research skills to locate, select, and make use of relevant information.

**Developmental Reading Workshop:** This course is designed for students in any grade who are struggling readers and are on an Individualized Literacy Plan ("ILP"). The focus is on the acquisition and consistent usage of the seven basic reading comprehension strategies. Through the use of graphic organizers and critical reading skills, students gain the ability to recognize main idea, author's purpose, and key information. Attention to vocabulary development is also a major focus. Students learn to adjust reading rate according to purpose and text form and are required to apply all strategies to a wide variety of texts.

**WORLD GEOGRAPHY II:** World Geography II provides students with the tools and skills necessary to analyze and interpret the world from a geographic perspective. The regions of the Eastern Hemisphere: Africa, Europe, South, East and Southwest Asia will be the focus of study. Students will develop an understanding of the physical and cultural processes that shape the Earth and its people and an appreciation for our roles and responsibilities as world citizens. Seventh grade students will additionally study the emergence of major religions in the Eastern Hemisphere and the origins of democratic thought through the study of Ancient Greece and Rome.

**MATH:** (Placement is by teacher recommendation).

**Math Support:** is designed to enhance student's experience in Math 2S and 3S and prepare student's for entry into Algebra. Students are enrolled in both courses. This course will pre-teach concepts as well as review concepts being taught in Math 2S and 3S. With a smaller class size, students have the opportunity to work more closely with their instructor and peers on topics that they are struggling with. Therefore, this course adapts to the needs and progression of the students in order to improve their understanding. This course will also work to strengthen basic mathematical concepts that are focused on in Math 2S and 3S and concepts that are crucial to know for Algebra.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math 2S:** Mathematics at the Seventh grade level focuses on fluently calculating positive and negative rational numbers, proportional reasoning, and linear equations and relationships. Problem solving, representations, reasoning, communication, and connections within and outside of mathematics underline all of the teaching and learning at seventh grade.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math 3S:** Mathematics at the eighth grade level focuses on representing numbers with exponents and in scientific notation, analyzing linear functions, calculating surface area and volume, and choosing appropriate samples from a population. Problem solving, representations, reasoning, communication, and connections within and outside of mathematics underline all of the teaching and learning at eighth grade.

**Algebra I Advanced:** Mathematics at the Algebra I level focuses on polynomial operations including absolute values, and exponents and the study of functions including linear and quadratic. Problem solving, representations, reasoning, communication, and connections within and outside of mathematics underline all of the teaching and learning at the Algebra I level. Placement is by teacher approval only.

**LIFE SCIENCE:** In middle level Life Science, students will be designing and conducting scientific investigations and constructing scientific explanations based on evidence. Students will make measurements using metric units and will organize their data using bar and line graphs. Students will learn about fundamental concepts in life science such as the characteristics of living things, cells, human body, basic patterns of inheritance, transport and levels of organization within organisms, ecosystem interactions and evolution. Students will also learn about the nature of science as a human endeavor.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** The Physical Education Program in the seventh grade concentrates on physical fitness and development of mature sports. Specific skills are developed through team, individual, and dual sports as well as rhythmic activities. Emphasis is placed on the introduction of basic fundamentals of sports; developing the knowledge of rules, building personal responsibility, good sportsmanship, and leadership.

**HEALTH:** Health Education in seventh grade is based on developing skills in relation to age appropriate health topics. By developing skills related to effectively accessing health resources, communicating, analyzing peer and media influences, goal setting, decision making, and health advocacy, students in BVSD will be able to achieve and maintain optimal wellness.

**EIGHTH GRADE** students are scheduled into four core academic subjects, two elective periods, physical education, health, and lunch. The four academic subjects include math, Earth science, Language Arts, regular or advanced, and American History I. Students may choose their remaining two classes from the electives described in this booklet.

**EIGHTH REQUIRED SUBJECTS** are Language Arts or Language Arts Advanced, American History I, Earth Science, Math (MATH 3S, Algebra I Advanced or Geometry Advanced), Physical Education (1 semester), and Health.

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** Eighth grade language arts concentrates on the six academic strands: language usage, writing, reading literature, speaking and listening, and critical thinking. Reading covers a variety of genres, is cross-curricular, allows guided choice, and encourages reading for life. Writing includes grammar and vocabulary and focuses on expository composition with opportunities for creative expression. Speaking and listening skills for academics and personal growth are encouraged and expanded. Critical observation is also further developed.

**Advanced Language Arts:** Placement is by special application process only. Please see the description under 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Language Arts.

**English as a Second Language:** We provide Limited English Proficient students with instruction in English language acquisition so that they are proficient on the state standards while valuing diversity by honoring and respecting the student and family and their diverse cultures. We strive to provide and promote effective instruction to develop English language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. ESL instruction is exclusively in English.

ESL students will read and understand a variety of materials and interpret literature as a record and expression of human experience. They will listen, observe, speak, and write for a variety of purposes and

audiences, and to develop higher critical thinking skills. They will use grammatical and mechanical conventions of language in speaking and writing. They will apply research skills to locate, select, and make use of relevant information.

**Developmental Reading Workshop:** This course is designed for students in any grade who are struggling readers and are on an Individualized Literacy Plan ("ILP"). The focus is on the acquisition and consistent usage of the seven basic reading comprehension strategies. Through the use of graphic organizers and critical reading skills, students gain the ability to recognize main idea, author's purpose, and key information. Attention to vocabulary development is also a major focus. Students learn to adjust reading rate according to purpose and text form and are required to apply all strategies to a wide variety of texts.

**AMERICAN HISTORY I:** The course presents the social impacts and multiple perspectives of people associated with significant events in pre-1890 American history. This study will expose students to the important contributions made by the many groups who shaped and continue to influence the American Experience. This will include an examination of the roles of typically underrepresented groups. The role of religion will also be discussed as a shaping ideal in the formation of the United States. Students will also be provided with a deep examination of the role of the Constitution in our government and our societal values.

**MATH:** (Placement is by teacher recommendation).

**Math Support:** See description on page 2.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math 3S:** Mathematics at the eighth grade level focuses on representing numbers with exponents and in scientific notation, analyzing linear functions, calculating surface area and volume, and choosing appropriate samples from a population. Problem solving, representations, reasoning, communication, and connections within and outside of mathematics underline all of the teaching and learning at eighth grade.

**Algebra I Advanced:** Mathematics at the Algebra I level focuses on polynomial operations including absolute values, and exponents and the study of functions including linear and quadratic. Problem solving, representations, reasoning, communication, and connections within and outside of mathematics underline all of the teaching and learning at the Algebra I level. Placement is by teacher approval only.

**Advanced Geometry:** Mathematics at the Geometry level focuses on geometric proofs, properties of circles and polygons, congruence, similarity, the Pythagorean theorem, and trigonometric ratios. Problem solving, representations, reasoning, communication, and connections within and outside of mathematics underline all of the teaching and learning at the Geometry level. Placement is by teacher approval only.

**EARTH SCIENCE:** In middle level Earth and Space Science, students will be designing and conducting scientific investigations and constructing scientific explanations based on evidence. Students will make measurements using metric units and will organize their data using bar and line graphs. Students will learn about fundamental concepts in earth and space science such as the rock cycle, processes that shape Earth's surface, fossils, atmospheric circulation, weather and climate, the water cycle, oceans and other water bodies, and the Earth in space. Students will also learn about the nature of science as a human endeavor.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** The eighth grade Physical Education Program emphasizes refinement of skills learned in the previous grade. A greater understanding of game strategies is developed. Continued emphasis is placed on good sportsmanship, personal responsibility, and attaining a higher level of personal fitness.

**HEALTH:** Health education in eighth grade is based on developing skills in relation to age appropriate health topics. By developing skills related to effectively accessing health resources, communicating, analyzing peer and media influences, goal setting, decision making, and health advocacy, students in BVSD will be able to achieve and maintain optimal wellness.

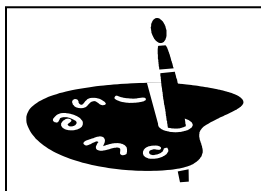
### SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

#### Year Long Electives

Band  
French 1A and 1B  
Guitar  
Orchestra  
Spanish 1A and 1B  
Spanish Language Arts

#### Semester Long Electives

American History and Film  
Applied Technology (Rip Tide)  
Art I  
Computer Power



Fitness and Dance  
Fitness and Conditioning  
Internet World  
Keyboarding

Food, Facts, and Fun

Creative Writing	Multimedia Productions
Desktop Publishing-Yearbook	Musical Theatre
Desktop Publishing- Digital Story Telling	Outdoor Education
Dramatic Arts	Physical Education (8 <sup>th</sup> grade only - in addition to required)
Drawing and Painting	Pottery and Sculpture (Ceramics)
Experiences in 3-D Design	Mixed Choir

**AMERICAN HISTORY and FILM:** This course traces the origin and development of American film over the past century. While generally perceived as mere entertainment, film has in fact reflected American society, altered and shaped our lives, created new art forms, and evolved into a global industry. With an emphasis on the 20<sup>th</sup> century, students will study the historical background of major events and movements and view and critique relevant Hollywood films. Students will also analyze these films as works of art, and learn the history of American film.

**APPLIED TECHNOLOGY (RIP TIDE: Technology-Innovation-Design-Engineering):** Applied Technology is a new and exciting class designed for hands-on learning. Students may select from a variety of projects in unique areas such as architecture, robotics, graphic arts/design, lasers, photography, engineering, CAD, inventions, microelectronics, or any of a dozen other fields of interest. A fee may be assessed for materials used.

**ART I:** Building on Exploratory Art learning experiences, students study and apply the elements of art and principles of design in compositions. Inspired by artists and art history, students learn about various materials, tools, techniques, processes and technology in both two and three - dimensional art. Students build and refine motor skills throughout this course. Personal expression is nurtured through an exploration of the creative process. Students understand the role of visual art in shaping historical and cultural traditions. Art history and cultural studies focus on regions within the seventh and eighth grade social studies curriculum. Additional artists and cultures that are not addressed in other middle level art courses may also be included.

**BAND:** Band is for seventh and eighth grade students and emphasizes a balance between technical development and performance skills. This course provides an introduction to band literature, ensemble involvement, note and rhythm reading and a broad range of instrumentation. Separate bands are provided for each grade level. Students in a continuing band should be prepared to commit themselves for one full year.

**COMPUTING POWER:** Students will experience a wide range of software and hardware, giving them the knowledge and technical background to be proficient users of technology. Students will be able to be power users of word processing, spreadsheet, graphics, page layout, research software, the Internet and digital media.

**CREATIVE WRITING:** Students will read models of outstanding poetry and prose. The major thrust will be an exploration of creative writing ability. Students will write poetry, stories, plays, descriptions, and other literary forms and are free to experiment with expressing ideas in various forms.

**DRAMATIC ARTS:** This elective is designed to begin equipping young people with the acting skills necessary to succeed in stage productions. Students will learn acting skills, stage directions, vocabulary, and prepare and perform pantomimes, improvisations, monologues and scenes during class. The final class project, presented during the class period, will be a performance, with an audience, of a mini one act play.

**DESKTOP PUBLISHING-Yearbook:** This class offers students the opportunity to use professional desktop publishing layout software to create reports, flyers, brochures, newsletters and our school yearbook. Students will use word processing, graphics, digital cameras, scanners and other tools to create professional looking products. First semester students build the Cyclone yearbook.

**DESKTOP PUBLISHING – Digital Story Telling:**

In this course, students will write and, produce a personal narrative using Final Cut, a powerful video editing program. We will focus on effective storytelling, gripping images, compelling soundtracks, and well paced video. Finished videos may be posted on the web or burned onto disks. Additional videos may be made to broadcast student announcements each week. Planning, responsibility, writing skills and technical knowledge are emphasized.

**DRAWING and PAINTING:** This one term Drawing and Painting course provides experiences in a wide range of media through the intentional application of elements of art and principles of design. Students build drawing and painting skills through exploration and practice with materials, tools, techniques, processes and technology. Observation, critical thinking and problem solving are stressed as important components of the

drawing process and discovering personal style. Students understand the role of visual art in shaping historical and cultural traditions. Art history and cultural studies will focus on regions within the seventh and eighth grade social studies curriculum. Additional artists and cultures that are not addressed in other middle level art courses may also be included.

**EXPERIENCES in THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGNS:** During this one term course, students learn about various materials, tools, techniques, processes and technology of three-dimensional design. Construction methods include casting, assemblage, carving and modeling. The students study a form from different points of view along with how it occupies the space. This interaction is the essence of three-dimensional design which makes it a unique art form. Emphasis is on building and refining motor skills throughout this course. Students understand the role of three-dimensional design in shaping historical and cultural traditions. Art history and cultural studies focus on regions within the seventh and eighth grade social studies curriculum. Additional artists and cultures that are not addressed in other middle level art courses may also be included.

**FITNESS AND CONDITIONING:** This course provides students with the opportunity to apply strength training and aerobic conditioning principles to a personalized training program. Students will align their program with personal sports/fitness goals.

**FITNESS AND DANCE:** In this one semester course, students will learn to execute and apply a variety of different physical activities through fitness and dance. Activities will include daily warm-ups and conditioning, participation in "across the floors" and routines taught and drilled, performing dances and stretching together and creating basic rhythmic movement patterns.

**FOOD, FACTS AND FUN:** This course provides students with the opportunity to research and prepare nutritious foods from the food guide pyramid for healthy lifestyle choices. Students will use recipes to plan, prepare (cook), serve and evaluate foods through the use of a variety of cooking techniques. Students will be required to demonstrate the use of appropriate safety, sanitation, and kitchen procedures. Food and nutrition topics may include herbs, spices, fast foods, convenience foods, snacks, multicultural foods, and guest chefs/speakers from the community.

**GUITAR ONE:** Guitar One is a course for students with limited musical training who are interested in learning to play the acoustic guitar. Expectations for students include acquiring proper performance skills and technique, music terminology and notation, and the relationship of the guitar in music history and music theory. This class includes after school hours for concerts and recitals.

**INTERNET WORLD:** Students will explore the exciting world of the Internet and understand how it works. They will also learn HTML and a variety of internet-related tools to build their own web pages. Internet and online related issues of copyright, privacy, virus protection, safe navigation and "netiquette" will also be discussed.

**KEYBOARDING:** Learn how to type faster than you can write! This class will help you work faster, save time on your homework, and make your papers look neater! Students will learn to use the computer keyboard using the touch method. Emphasis is placed on developing correct typing techniques and improving speed and accuracy when producing documents. Students will have an opportunity to use keyboarding software and will be able to create documents for other classes.

**MIXED CHOIR:** If you like to sing and perform, this is the class for you! This class is for both male and female voices. We will focus on vocal techniques, sing many styles of songs, and learn how to read music notation. Performances are held at school and in the community throughout the year.

**MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTIONS:** Students will design and produce multimedia presentations that incorporate text, graphics, sound, and animations. They will experience several software products, digital cameras, digital video cameras, CD, the Internet and possibly DVD technology.

**MUSICAL THEATRE:** If you love to act and sing, here's a class for you! This class will introduce you to the world of musical theatre through various styles of acting, using your speaking and singing voices, dancing and other skills needed to produce an "in class" mini musical. You will also learn some of the history of musical theatre and create your own vaudeville act. This class is very participation oriented with lots of "in class" performances.

**OUTDOOR EDUCATION:** In this one semester course students will participate in real outdoor activities where science, math, and language arts connections are emphasized. This course will provide new opportunities to create healthy exercise habits, leadership, and first aid training.

**ORCHESTRA:** Orchestra is a string-performing group where students experience technical training and opportunities for enrichment and development in individual and group musicianship. Students in continuing orchestra should be prepared to commit themselves for one full year.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION :** One semester of physical education is required of all 7th and 8th grade students. Eighth grade students may choose an additional semester as an elective. Physical education emphasizes fitness and development of basic movement skills. Emphasis is placed on building personal responsibility, good sportsmanship and leadership.

**POTTERY and SCULPTURE (CERAMICS):** In this one term course, students are introduced to the properties of ceramic clay. Inspired by artists and art history, students learn about various materials, tools, techniques, processes and technology of ceramics. The emphasis in this course is on hand building, however wheel throwing is introduced where facilities allow. Students will create functional and non functional pieces and finish them in a variety of ways while developing and refining motor skills. Students understand the role of ceramics in shaping historical and cultural traditions. Art history and cultural studies focus on regions within the seventh and eighth grade social studies curriculum. Additional artists and cultures that are not addressed in other middle level art courses may also be included.

**SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Spanish for Spanish Speakers):** This class is conducted in Spanish and is designed for students who speak Spanish as their first language or who have been in an immersion or bilingual program in the elementary school. Students will read excerpts from age appropriate literature and will write poetry, journals and short narratives. Most reading and writing will be done in class rather than assigned as homework. Spelling and the grammatical structure of the language will be practiced, preparing the students for placement in higher levels of high school Spanish classes. Students will examine, discuss and experience the foundations of Hispanic culture through its foods, celebrations and art. Placement is by interview only.

**WORLD LANGUAGES:** Proficiency in a world language is becoming increasingly important for all students in order to participate fully in a global community. While knowledge of a world language has traditionally been a part of college preparation, the multicultural experience gained through the study of another language greatly enriches all students. New techniques in second language acquisition make this study accessible to many students.

World language study may begin in grade six. Level 1A and Level 1B of a given language at the middle level are equivalent to Level I in high school. College preparatory students are encouraged to take a minimum of three levels in the same world language.

**SPANISH 1A, FRENCH 1A** – Sixth and Seventh graders only  
**SPANISH 1B, FRENCH 1B** - Eighth graders only (or by approval of principal)

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT (SPECIAL EDUCATION)**

Students who have Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will register for courses with the assistance of their special education case manager so that their educational program is consistent with the goals and objectives of their IEP. This program may consist of regular education courses with some instructional accommodations, courses provided in the regular education class with a modified curriculum, and/or courses provided by the special education teacher. **Please work with your academic support case manager to complete your course registration form.**

Please call the Centennial office at 720-561-5441 for further information.

**Principal**  
**Assistant Principal**  
**Counselors**

**Cheryl Scott**  
**Chris Meyer**  
**Debra Hershcof Kennedy**  
**Kristin Meyding-Westman**

**Centennial Middle School - Where Kids Are First**

**R<sup>2</sup>ise as Cyclones**

Respect  
Responsibility  
Integrity  
Safety  
Empathy