

Carmel Middle School

Elective Course Descriptions

Student / Parent Guide

2020 - 2021

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World Language Information

CMS uses a one-for-one model of delivery for all of its world language classes. In a one-for-one model, each year of language taken at CMS is equivalent to a year of high school world language. Because of this, a CMS student can potentially take two years of a world language and, upon successful completion, begin with the third year of the world language as a freshman.

Students who start a world language in middle school, must take and pass at least one year of the same world language as a freshman in order to 'validate' the middle school courses.

Failure to do so will disqualify the middle school world language courses. It is critical that parents and students understand both the advantages and implications of starting a world language in middle school.

There are many paths to college, including waiting until high school to start the required course of study, or what is known as the A-G requirements. However, for motivated students who want to challenge themselves, there are advantages to beginning their world language classes at CMS. By taking one or two years of world language at CMS, students free up space in a crowded high school schedule. But please consider that CSU and UC require that the three years of world language be consecutive. For instance, if a student takes French 1 in 7th grade, then decides not to take French 2 in 8th grade, the student would need to start again with French 1 or another first year world language in high school.

Chinese is a unique world language offering at CMS and CHS. For motivated students, the class offers the opportunity to learn a challenging yet interesting language that will clearly become an important language as China's role on the international stage grows. However, because we have only one Chinese teacher for the middle school and high school, students MUST start Chinese in 7th grade and progress into Chinese 2 in 8th grade and Chinese 3 in high school. There is no option to start Chinese in 8th grade or at the high school. For this reason, it is important to consider your child's interest in this language carefully in 6th grade.

Because CSU and UC do not accept D or F grades in college prep classes, students will only be recommended to move to the next language course if they receive a grade of C or higher in all trimesters, and it is highly recommended that a student repeat the course if they earn less than a B-

For our motivated learners, world language courses offer a wonderful challenge that also prepares them for college entry. However, it is important to understand fully the implications of starting high school level classes in middle school. If you have questions about whether world language is right for your child, please don't hesitate to contact your child's counselor.

World Language

World language must be taken in consecutive years at the middle school level.

Chinese 1

No prerequisites required, however strong study skills are recommended.

This academic elective introduces Chinese phonetic system (Pinyin), radicals of Chinese characters, basic grammatical structures, and functional daily language use. Using Chinese word processor to create texts and doing online research are also integrated parts of the language use. Students will increase their awareness of Chinese culture through guest speakers, field trips, art, cuisines and various hands-on activities. By the end the year, students are expected to be able to comprehend simple passages and read texts that cover various simple daily topics, to express themselves in the Chinese language with appropriate social manners, as well as to develop comprehension of everyday topics.

*Successful Completion:
Meets the World Language graduation requirement for CHS*

Chinese 2

Prerequisites: successful completion of Chinese 1.

Students earning a C+ or lower in Chinese 1 are recommended to repeat the Chinese 1 course. Students who successfully completed Chinese 2 are required to continue with Chinese 3 in order to meet CSU/UC requirements.

This academic elective builds on the communicative-based competencies, vocabulary, grammatical structures and language proficiencies acquired in Chinese 1. Students will continue to improve four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and further the understanding of Chinese culture through guest speakers, field trips, art and cuisine.

*Successful Completion:
Meets the World Language graduation requirement for CHS*

World Language

World language must be taken in consecutive years at the middle school level.

French 1

No prerequisites, however strong study skills are recommended.

French 1 is an introductory course designed to give students a strong background in conversational French and to prepare them for success in French 2. Students will learn how to introduce themselves, to talk about what they like to do, to describe themselves and others, to talk about school and compare the French and American education system and to order food and drink in a French café. They will be able to have short conversations and read and write basic paragraphs. They will also explore the history and culture of French-speaking countries throughout the world. Games, music, French cooking in the Habitat, and a field trip to a French café make this a “fun” academic class!

*Successful Completion:
Meets the World Language graduation requirement for CHS.
Meets one year of the World Language requirement for CSU / UC admissions.*

French 2

Prerequisites: Successful completion of French 1 or equivalent.

Students earning a C+ or lower in French 1 are recommended to repeat the French 1 course. Students who successfully completed French 2 are required to continue with French 3 in order to meet CSU/UC requirements.

French 2 builds on and enriches vocabulary from French 1 and prepares students for success in French 3. Students will review how to introduce themselves and others and how to talk about their likes and dislikes. They will learn how to talk about the past, how to ask for and give advice and help, how to talk about recipes and go food shopping in grocery stores, how to ask for information online, how to describe their daily routines, and how to talk about what they used to do when they were children. They will be able to have longer conversations and read and write with more precision. They will continue to explore the history and culture of French-speaking countries throughout the world. Games, music, French cooking in the Habitat, and a field trip to a French restaurant make this a ‘fun’ academic class!

*Successful Completion:
Meets the World Language graduation requirement for CHS.
Meets one year of the World Language requirement for CSU / UC admissions.*

World Language

World Language must be taken in consecutive years at the middle school level.

Spanish 1

No prerequisites required, however strong study skills are recommended.

This academic elective designed to give students a strong background in the vocabulary, grammar, written and verbal skills required for success in Spanish 2. By the end of the course, students will be able to have short conversations, and read and write basic paragraphs in Spanish about various topics like school, family, weather, free-time activities, shopping, going out and eating in a restaurant. Students will be introduced to the peoples and cultures of Spanish speaking countries through videos, music and cultural activities.

Successful Completion:
Meets the World Language graduation requirement for Carmel High School.
Meets one year of the World Language requirement for CSU / UC admissions.

Spanish 2

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish 1 or equivalent.

Students earning a C+ or lower in Spanish 1 are recommended to repeat the Spanish 1 course. Students who successfully completed Spanish 2 are required to continue with Spanish 3 in order to meet CSU/UC requirements.

This academic elective builds on the foundational skills from Spanish 1 and deepens them in order to prepare students for success in Spanish 3. Students will learn how to use several verb tenses in order to talk and write about events in the present, past and future tenses. Fluency and verbal communication will be emphasized in an almost entirely Spanish learning environment. Topics include travel, cuisine, communications and the media, shopping and leisure time activities. Students will continue to learn about the people and cultures of Spanish speaking countries through videos, music and cultural activities.

Successful Completion:
Meets the World Language graduation requirement for Carmel High School. Meets one year of the World Language requirement for CSU / UC admissions.

Music

Cougar Cub Strings

Students will learn the fundamentals of music and how to play an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or string bass). Students will perform music from various musical periods and styles. Performances will be given in each trimester. Attendance and participation in the performances are a required part of the class.

For 6th-8th grade students who have never played a string instrument.

This is a full-year class.

String Orchestra

Students will perform music from various musical periods and styles. Performances will be given in each trimester. Attendance and participation in the performances are a required part of the class.

For 7th and 8th grade violin, viola, cello, and string bass students who have played for a minimum of 1 year in a Middle School string program, or by instructor approval.

This is a full-year class.

Boys' Choir

No prerequisites required.

Boys' Choir is open to all CMS male students who are interested in learning how to improve their singing tone, expand their vocal range, and sing expressively. The goal is to provide a comfortable atmosphere for guys to explore their voices regardless of whether they have an unchanged, a transitional, or a settled voice. Music reading skills will be developed through training in the

moveable-do solfège technique and songs in a variety of musical styles. In-school and after-school performances are a required part of this course and take place at least once a trimester. *This is a full-year class.*

Cougar Cub Band

Students will learn the fundamentals of music and how to play an instrument. Students will perform music from various musical periods and styles. Performances will be given in each trimester. Attendance and participation in the performances are a required part of the class.

For 6th grade band students and 7/8th grade students who have never played an instrument or have not been in a band program at middle school level.

This is a full-year class.

Concert Choir

No prerequisites required

Concert Choir is open to all CMS female students who are interested in learning how to improve their singing tone, expand their vocal range, and sing expressively. The goal is to provide a comfortable atmosphere for girls to explore their voices regardless of whether they are a beginning or intermediate singer. Music reading skills will be developed through training in moveable-do solfège technique and songs in a variety of musical styles. In-school and after-school performances are a required part of this course and take place at least once a trimester.

This is a full-year class.

Chamber Choir

Prerequisites: successful completion of one year of Concert Choir and/or complete a live audition for Mr. Lehmkuhl.

Chamber Choir is an advanced vocal ensemble open to girls in grades 7 & 8 who have fulfilled the prerequisites for the class and who are interested in continuing the work of building their vocal range, tonal beauty, and projecting power

while singing more advanced songs in three and four part harmonies. Music reading skills will be developed through further training in moveable-do solfège technique and songs in a variety of musical styles. In-school and after-school performances are a required part of this course and take place at least once a trimester.

This is a full-year class.

Arts & More

Art

This course is designed to increase the student's creative abilities, technical skills, and awareness of art. In alignment with the California State Standards for Visual Arts, the class reviews the Elements and Principles of Design, art concepts and history, and multicultural connections. Students will learn techniques such as shading, observational drawing, and color use, and apply them to a wide variety of projects in drawing, painting, collage, clay, printing and papier-mâché.

This is a full year class

Computer Applications

This class will cover a variety of tech topics. Students will develop their own video games, create apps, build and program robots, design & publish websites, build and design electronic circuits, and work with Flash animation and Photoshop. Students will direct and edit movies and be introduced to computer programming covering various languages, such as Python, JavaScript, ActionScript and C++.

Through the year, the experience is broadened with different kinds of simulations and team building activities, such as MineCraft.

This is a full year class

Industrial Arts

This course is designed to teach students about the tools, processes, and materials that are commonly used while fabricating as well as craftsmanship industries. These classes focus on working with a variety of woods and metals. Students are instructed how to design, draw, fabricate, and finish several projects in each medium. Students are shown and demonstrate the correct and safe use of many types of hand tools and power machines in the building of their projects. Higher-level thinking skills, problem solving and engineering strategies are stressed in the production of each student's project when they personalize their design with their own ideas.

This is a full year class

Study Hall

This course is designed for students who would like to get a jumpstart on completing homework during the school day. Students work in a quiet environment with a credentialed teacher who is available to answer questions.

This is a full year class

Drama 7/8

Students learn the fundamentals of drama through pantomime, scenes, monologues, play production, playwriting, performance, and technical theatre.

This is a full year class

Nature Study

Bird-watching! Lizards! Wildflowers! Planting Natives! Sea Shore life! Bug collecting! Mammals! Frogs! CMS has many cool critters for students to discover and learn about by watching, collecting, and photographing. We focus on local plants and animals and combine scientific study with fun nature crafts such as solar etching, embroidery, book making, and field sketching. Designed for students who like wildlife and being outside in the Habitat. Join us as we continue to find interesting new wildlife and see beautiful old friends such as Western Bluebirds, Gopher snakes and bumblebees.

This is a full year class

Yearbook

This class chronicles the school year in a book that will be admired by the whole school and treasured into the future. With user-friendly online software, each yearbook staffer selects and creates their pages, acquiring valuable computer

and graphic design experience in the process. Additionally, students come up with contributions for editions of the school newspaper, The Cougar Chronicle. Yearbook staffers must be creative, responsible and work well as part of a team.

This is a full year class

ASB Leadership

The CMS Leadership Program is an elective that serves the school by providing communication and exciting activities for the entire student body. Leadership students also serve as mentors to our 6th grade students. This program's purpose is to provide, promote, and look for ways to improve CMS. Enrollment in this class means that students are willing to devote time and energy to making our campus a place where students feel excited about being at school. Students will also learn skills to allow them to become more effective leaders, organizers, and role models.

This is a full year class.

Application process required during the preceding spring

Library Aide

(8th Grade ONLY)

Office Aide

(8th Grade ONLY)

Teacher's Aide

8th Grade ONLY)