



**7th & 8th Grade**

**Course Elective**

**Descriptions**



## 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade, then decides not to take French 2 in 8<sup>th</sup> 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 middle school and high school, students MUST start Chinese in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and progress into Chinese 2 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Chinese 3 in high school. There is no option to start Chinese in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or at the high school. For this reason, it is important to consider your child's interest in this language carefully in 6<sup>th</sup> 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 of 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



## **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**

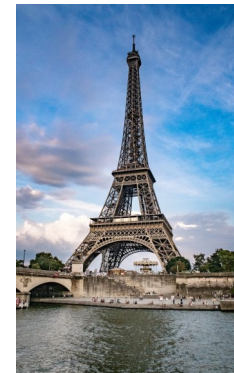
Prerequisites: Successful completion of French 1 or equivalent.

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.



## **Spanish 1**

No prerequisites required, however strong study skills are recommended.

This academic elective is 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

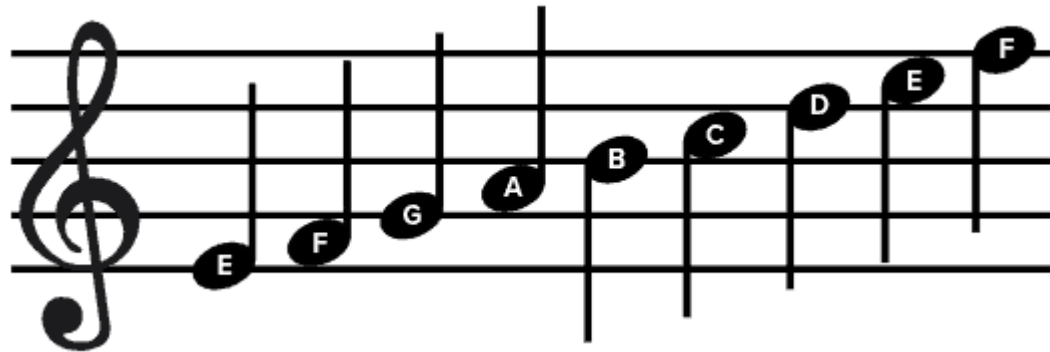
Students will learn the fundamentals of music and how to play an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or string bass). Students will perform music from various musical periods and styles. Performances will be given in each trimester. Attendance and participation in the performances are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

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.***

### 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.***





## 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***

### Silent Academic Study Hall

Are you enrolled in our Music Program, Foreign Language, or play two or more school sports? Enrollment in a study hall class can help, but you have to apply and meet at least one of the following requirements:

Enrollment in the CMS Music Program



## **Drama**

Drama offers participants the chance to experience the excitement and rewards of theatre arts while developing poise, social skills, confidence, and the ability to work with others. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theatre arts. The drama class is designed to accommodate students who have no experience or may have previously been involved in theatre. Students will use various creative drama techniques to build confidence and trust, stimulate imagination, movement, and role-play. Through theatre games and activities, students will learn to lose inhibitions and will gain trust in themselves as well as others in their groups. Students will learn and use drama and theatre vocabulary in class discussions, and the activities will specifically address the promotion and reinforcement of students' listening and speaking skills. Students will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group presentations, performances, movement and voice, character building, and script writing. *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*

## **Peer Buddy Program**

Would you like to spend one period each day helping to make a positive difference in the lives of CMS students who have disabilities? The Peer Buddy Program facilitates friendships, builds leadership skills and promotes acceptance, understanding and awareness of differences among students. Each day, Peer Buddies will engage with students in the CMS Special Day Class where they will play games, mentor, tutor, and engage with our SDC students in a positive way. Students enrolling in this program should be patient, kind, and willing to connect with students who have disabilities. If this sounds like you, sign up to make lifelong friendships with the students in our SDC program!

**Office Aide Must have approval from Office (8<sup>th</sup> Grade ONLY)**



## Robotics

This is a beginning course in robotics. In this course students will learn basic robotic programming skills and problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of LEGO and Vex Robots. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, propulsion systems and binary number systems. Student designed robots will be programmed to compete in various courses and challenges.



## Video Productions

Interested in making movies, videos, newscasts and more? In this class students develop skills in video, film, and television production. Fundamentals of video production, including the techniques of shooting, lighting, and editing will be covered. Students will create a variety of projects including CMS news stories/newscasts, short highlight videos for CMS events, and as a culminating project, students will create and enter a feature film in the CMS film festival.



## Thrive

Formerly known as OpEd, the CMS **Thrive** program features a unique approach to improving both the mental and physical health of students while offering academic support in all subjects. Thrive is a two period class, taking the place of general education PE and one elective. The class meets 1st period and 7th period in an effort to keep students motivated and supported every day. 1st period is generally used as a PE class, but instructors include positive self affirmations, motivational prompts, and group conversations as part of the regular routine. 7th period focuses on academic management, study skills, and academic improvement, helping build the skills necessary for future success. A final component of this program is the opportunity to participate in a variety of unique outdoor adventures and activities both locally and throughout our state. If you feel that Thrive would be a benefit to you, please sign up on your elective selection sheet.

\*Spaces in this class are limited.

You are meant  
to thrive,  
not just survive.



## Domestic Arts

Home Economics meets Pinterest in a new and exciting elective course updated for the 21st century while paying homage to traditional Home Ec curriculum. Sharpen your cooking and baking skills. Learn how to preserve and pickle food. Make seasonal crafts and home decor. Create recycled artwork, and learn sewing techniques for everyday needs. This class will offer a variety of engaging lessons and activities that students are sure to love.

Though this class students will learn valuable tips and tricks for being a successful, creative, and home-enriching human being.





## **Songwriting**

This creative writing course will allow students opportunities for self– expression through songwriting. After learning the Fundamentals of song structure and basic guitar accompaniment, students will write lyrics and music for original songs. Through individual and group practice, students will develop their poetic and musical abilities and have opportunities to showcase their talents in performance.





CMS Counseling Team

Student last name begins with A-K Sarah Greco [sgreco@carmelunified.org](mailto:sgreco@carmelunified.org)

Student last name begins with L-Z [mmagreta@carmelunified.org](mailto:mmagreta@carmelunified.org)

