

Copper Mountain Middle School

Eighth Grade Course Descriptions

2025-26

REQUIRED CLASSES

Fitness 8: This is a physical education course allowing students to continue participating in a variety of instructional physical activities. Experiences increase complexity in content, concept and skill development for a broad spectrum of activities. Students continue to practice skills in modified games, but increasingly participate in activities that are regulation games with more complex playing environments. This class incorporates more in-depth instruction training principles that can enhance health-related fitness as students' progress in achieving personal fitness goals.

Health: This course develops the skills needed to improve the quality of life by helping students to cope with and solve problems, develop positive self-image, and make better decisions. The students will explore positive lifestyles, disease prevention, emergency procedures, media literacy, and alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

Integrated Science 8: Eighth Grade Integrated Science focuses on the theme of "change". Physical, earth, and life sciences content are integrated in a core curriculum. The standards to be taught relate to observations of chemical and physical change, changes in biological energy, forces, energy and motion, constructing machines, and changes in the earth's crust and climate.

Integrated Science 8H: Eighth Grade Integrated Science focuses on the theme of "change". Physical, earth, and life sciences content are integrated in a core curriculum. The standards to be taught relate to observations of chemical and physical change, changes in biological energy, forces, energy and motion, constructing machines, and changes in the earth's crust and climate. These students will cover all the standards and assessments covered in regular Science courses, but in addition, will include extensions and applications of Science.

Language Arts 8: This course, based on the 8th grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for grade-level instruction reading comprehension, writing, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills and strategies for effective communication.

Language Arts 8H: This course, based on the 8th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for students who qualify for more advanced instruction in reading comprehension, writing, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills, and strategies for effective communication.

Mathematics 8: In 8th Grade Mathematics, students will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concepts of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and (3) analyzing two- and three- dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean theorem.

Mathematics 8H/Secondary Mathematics 1H:

This course is an accelerated course that will cover concepts from both Math 8 and Secondary Math 1. This course will prepare students to move into Secondary Math 2, as well as position students to take advanced math courses in high school. As such, students should prepare to complete weekly homework outside of class, as well as move at a faster pace than a regular honors class. Students will focus on how to identify and represent both linear and exponential functions as graphs, tables and equations, as well as predict solutions to both types of functions. Students will also explore systems of linear functions, representing those solutions on the coordinate plane as well as in order pair form. Students will continue to explore how to represent inequalities, including absolute values and systems of inequalities both graphically and as numeric representations. Additionally, students will work with simplifying expressions involving exponents and radicals. To extend their geometric knowledge, students will use theorems of congruent shapes to identify congruent triangles and solve for unknown values. This course will also involve a brief study of statistics and probability involving analyzing and comparing data sets in multiple representations to make determinations about data.

Reading 8: Required if below grade level in reading. This course, based on the 8th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for students requiring basic instruction with targeted intervention in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reading skills, to assist striving readers with literary, informational, and functional texts.

US History 8: United States History includes events and issues in United States history from the Age of Exploration through

Reconstruction, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics include, but are not limited to, American Indian life, European exploration and colonization, the Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation building, expansion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. The standards can be taught either chronologically or thematically, but are organized into chronological periods. Periodization is an organizational tool historians use to make connections and draw distinctions. Periods are flexible ways of making meaning, and may overlap chronologically. Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of each period's key historic, geographic, economic, and civic concepts by applying those concepts to complete cognitively rigorous tasks. Whenever possible, students will be expected to make connections between historically significant events and current issues, helping to deepen their understanding of the context and complexity of civic life and preparing them for civic engagement.

FULL-YEAR ELECTIVE CLASSES

Band 1 Brass: This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the cornet, trumpet, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, trombone, or tuba. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. An instrument is required. If available, a French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Band 1 Percussion: This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the drums, mallet keyboard instruments, and other percussion-related instruments. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. Drum sticks are required. A drum kit or mallets may also be required as per teacher request.

Band 1 Woodwinds: This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the flute, oboe, clarinet or saxophone. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. An instrument is required. If available, an oboe or tenor saxophone may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Band 2 Concert Band: Teacher approval required. This is an intermediate level band course that encourages increased technical and expressive musical proficiency through performance and study of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with an instrument is required. If available, an oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Band 3 Symphonic Band: Teacher approval required. This is an advanced course which performs varied, advanced-level music. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals and performances outside of class are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with an instrument is required. If available, an oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee.

Choir 2 Advanced Choir: Teacher approval/audition required. This is an advanced vocal group concerned with advanced choral literature and techniques of singing. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and will constitute a portion of the grade.

Orchestra 1: This class is for students who would like to learn to play a violin, viola, cello, or string bass. No experience necessary. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. Instruments are required. If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee.

Orchestra 2: Teacher approval required. This is an intermediate-level orchestra class focusing on intermediate-level literature for orchestra. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and will constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required. If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee.

Orchestra 3: Teacher approval/audition required. This is an orchestra class focusing on advanced-level literature for orchestra. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and will constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required.

Percussion Ensemble: Teacher approval required. This is an intermediate level band course that encourages increased technical and expressive musical proficiency through performance and study of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with an instrument is required. Drum sticks and required. A drum kit or mallets may also be required as per teacher request.

Pre-Dance Company: (FA OR ILA credit) **Teacher approval/audition required.** This is an advanced level course that builds off of Dance 2. This course builds dance knowledge in skills such as technique, choreography, and performance. This course will mostly focus on performance and creating student choreography while using such elements such as time, space, and energy. There are opportunities to perform outside of class time throughout the semester.

Spanish 1: **Grade level reading recommended.** This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Spanish 2: **Prerequisite: Spanish 1. Teacher approval required.** This course is designed to teach intermediate skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the End of this course, student skill level should be at novice-high level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Spanish for Native Speakers: This course is designed to teach elementary academic skills in reading and writing for the native speaker. The course content includes further development of reading and writing skills for students who already have a grasp of the spoken language. Opportunities to share cultural information from countries where Spanish is spoken will be available to students.

SEMESTER ELECTIVE CLASSES

Art Foundations 1: Art Foundations 1 provides an overview of visual arts while studying a broad variety of art tools and materials. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

Art Foundations 2: Art Foundation 2 provides an overview and introduction to visual arts through studying a variety of art tools and materials. This course builds on Foundation 1 with a more in-depth experience with fewer art forms. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skills, some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics, with an emphasis on studio production.

Beginning Theatre: This is an introductory course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. No previous experience is necessary. The course will include, but not be limited to, improvisation, monologues, characterization, movement, playwriting, and work with voice projection and diction. Other skills learned and developed include: critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading, writing, and cooperative group work.

Choir 1 Mixed: This class is open to all students. Emphasis will be placed on quality vocal production, part-singing, and music reading skills. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and will constitute a portion of the grade.

Creative Coding: A quality computer science curriculum not only engages students in interesting, collaborative learning activities using sound pedagogical strategies, but it also ensures that students are learning concepts vital to the deep and broad field of computer science. Creative Coding has been designed to achieve this goal by aligning with the CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards. This course is primarily an introductory programming course. Units are grounded in an array of standards from the strands of computational thinking, collaboration, computing practice and programming, computer and communication devices, and community, global and ethical impacts.

Creative Writing: This course, based on Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Writing Standards, is designed to introduce students to imaginative composition with the writing of personal experiences, character sketches, short fiction, and poetry. Students will have the opportunity to prepare manuscripts for publication, awards, and scholarships.

Dance 1A: A course offering basic dance technique, fitness fundamentals, movement qualities, and rhythm with an emphasis on creativity, sequencing, and problem solving. Dance 1a is for very beginner dancers.

Dance 1B: **Prerequisite: Dance 1A.** This course offers basic dance techniques, fitness fundamentals, movement qualities, and rhythm with an emphasis on creativity, sequencing, and problem solving.

Dance 2: Prerequisite: Dance 1A. A course designed to develop dance techniques, flexibility, and coordination, with an emphasis on creativity and artistic composition. There will be performances outside of class time that are part of the course requirements, and they will constitute a portion of the grade.

Drawing 1: Prerequisite: Art 1. Drawing focuses on black and white or monochromatic rendering from life, pictures, master works, and imagination. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills. Some experiences in art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Exploring Business and Marketing: Students will be exposed to the fundamental concepts of business and marketing. Skills include basic business concepts, organizational communication, human resources management, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance, and leadership.

Exploring Technology: Exploring Technology is an action-based course that introduces students to the technological systems of two or more of the following areas: energy: power technologies, information and communications technologies, transportation technologies, manufacturing technologies, and construction technologies. The course is designed around exploration in cooperative and individualized activities rather than project and skill development.

FACS Exploration: This Family and Consumer Science course provides students with essential life skills. The course allows students to develop skills in two or more of the following areas: food and nutrition, childcare and safety, interior design and care of a home, clothing construction and style, consumerism, family relationships, personal responsibility, and job-related skills.

Guitar 1 (Acoustic): This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a guitar. Emphasis will be placed on: playing position, tone production, fundamental technique, simultaneous playing and singing, reading music, and composing songs/lyrics. Knowledge and skills will include experiences in singing, playing, listening, and connecting to cultures. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required.

Intermediate Theatre: Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre. This is an intermediate course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. The course will include, but not be limited to, playwriting, characterization, monologues, scenes from plays, movement, voice projection and diction, and improvisation. Other skills learned and developed include: critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading writing, and cooperative group work.

Intro to Ceramics 1: Ceramics develops basic skills in the creation of 3-D forms and pottery from clay. Techniques in hand building, wheel throwing, basic glazing, and firing are taught. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills, some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Painting 1: Prerequisite: Art 1. Painting 1 includes wet and dry color media with processes such as transparent and opaque painting focusing on the properties of color. Techniques with color media mixing and application will be covered. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills. Some experiences in art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Student Aide: Students must have a 3.5 GPA and no N's or U's in citizenship. This is a course that offers a unique experience working with teachers and staff. This position provides an opportunity to observe and model an adult at work. It provides a wide range of learning opportunities in areas such as life skills, human development, and career exploration. In addition, they are given the chance to practice reliable citizenship as they interact with peers, school staff and the general public.

Ukulele: This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a ukulele. Emphasis will be placed on: playing position, tone production, fundamental technique, simultaneous playing and singing, reading music, and composing songs/lyrics. Knowledge and skills will include experiences in singing, playing, listening, and connecting to cultures. Practice outside of class time required.

Yoga: This class focuses on structural alignment, increase of strength and flexibility. It will deepen a student's awareness of breath and the role it has in generating energy and stamina in one's mind and body. The course will also incorporate techniques for stress relief, and enhance one's physical performance by teaching students how to connect breath, organ systems, physiology and anatomy all together.