

COPPER MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Freshman Course Descriptions

2025-2026

Credit Key:

(E = Elective, CTE = Career and Technical, FA = Fine Arts, LA = Language Arts, M = Mathematics, PST = Participation Skills and Technique, SS=Social Studies, ILA = Individual Lifetime Activity)

REQUIRED CLASSES

Biology: (Foundation/Core Science) The biology Science with Engineering Education (SEEd) standards explore the patterns, processes, relationships, and the environments of living organisms. Students analyze data on the role of matter cycles and energy flow when organisms interact with their environment to explain how the stability and change of an ecosystem and biodiversity can be affected. Students investigate the structures and functions of living organisms needed in order to support necessary life functions. Students explore the cause and effect relationships of heredity, the role of DNA in gene expression and protein synthesis, and how gene expression can be altered by environmental and genetic causes. Students investigate how the mechanisms of genetic variation can lead to diversity within and among species and explain how the unity among species as well as the great diversity of species is a result of evolution by natural selection. Additionally, students design and evaluate solutions to problems that exist in these areas.

Biology Honors: (Foundation/Core Science) Honors biology has an accelerated curriculum to allow for extra time to dig deeper into biology topics. Students will complete additional labs requiring deeper understanding and analysis of biological concepts. Students will also be expected to complete a self-directed biology experiment throughout the year. Honors biology is great preparation for AP biology at the high school level.

Earth Science: (Foundation/Core Science) The Earth and space science, Science with Engineering Education (SEEd) standards investigate processes and mechanisms that have resulted in the formation of our Earth, galaxy, and universe. Students develop models to illustrate the life span of the Sun and the role of nuclear fusion releasing energy in the Sun's core. Students analyze and interpret data to construct an explanation for Earth's 4.6 billion year history and explore changes to Earth's systems. Students develop and use a model of Earth's interior to describe the cycling of matter by thermal convection. Students plan and carry out an investigation on the properties of water to determine its effects on Earth materials. Students use computational thinking to explain sustainable and natural resources, focusing on responsible stewardship. Additionally, students design and evaluate solutions to problems that exist in these areas.

Earth Science Honors: (Foundation/Core Science) This class will explore further the topics listed above through additional lab work, projects, and readings. Research on scientific current events will be included.

Human Geography AP: (SS) **Recommended that students have a 3.8 cumulative GPA and an SRI of 1100.** This college-level course covers the nature and perspectives of geography, population, cultural patterns and processes, political organization of space, agricultural and rural land use, industrialization and economic development, and cities and urban land use. University credit can be earned with a successful performance on the AP exam.

Language Arts 9: (LA credit) This course, based on the 9th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for grade level instruction in reading comprehension, writing, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills and strategies for effective communication.

Language Arts 9 Honors: (LA credit) This course, based on the 9th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for students who qualify for more advanced instruction in reading comprehension, writing, and methods of inquiry as found in the core. The course will focus on the processes, skills, and strategies for effective communication in all its forms.

Participation Skills and Techniques: (PST credit) This course focuses on demonstrating the ability to plan and implement different types of personal fitness programs, demonstrate competency in lifetime activities, describe key concepts associated with successful participation in physical activity, model responsible behavior while engaged in physical activity, and fill a need for self-expression, challenge, social interaction and enjoyment. *This class is required for graduation.*

Secondary Mathematics 1: (M credit) Students in Secondary Mathematics 1 will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomenon, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas are tied together. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problems and situations.

Secondary Mathematics 1 Honors: (M credit) Students in Secondary Mathematics 1 Honors will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomenon, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas are tied together. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes sense of problem situations. Honors students will represent quantities, model, and perform operations using vectors and use matrices to perform operations and solve problems.

Secondary Mathematics 2 Honors: (M credit) Students in Secondary Mathematics 2 will focus on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions, extend the set of rational numbers to the set of complex numbers, link probability and data through conditional probability and counting methods, study similarity and right triangle trigonometry, and study circles with their quadratic algebraic representations. Honors students will also represent complex numbers and their operations on the complex plane, solve systems of equations, prove and apply trigonometric identities, express conic sections algebraically, and solve problems using volume measurements.

World Geography: (SS credit) Geography is the study of physical and human characteristics of the Earth's people, places, and environments. Students will develop geographic thinking skills by studying the "why of where" as they examine the interactions, interconnections, and implications of forces shaping our world today. They will apply geographic knowledge and geo-literacy skills to identify, locate, interpret, analyze, and evaluate geographic patterns and processes. These standards emphasize both human geography and physical geography, and students will explore the interconnections between the two.

World Geography Honors: (SS credit) Geography is the study of physical and human characteristics of the Earth's people, places, and environments. Students will develop geographic thinking skills by studying the "why of where" as they examine the interactions, interconnections, and implications of forces shaping our world today. They will apply geographic knowledge and geo-literacy skills to identify, locate, interpret, analyze, and evaluate geographic patterns and processes. These standards emphasize both human geography and physical geography, and students will explore the interconnections between the two.

FULL-YEAR ELECTIVE CLASSES

No Credit

Release Time (Religious Education): Students who are enrolled in the Release Time Religious Education Program must attend the class scheduled at the assigned time or they will be in the regular school program. No credit is received.

Fine Art Credit

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: Teacher approval required 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 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.

Dance Company: (FA OR ILA credit) Teacher approval/audition required. A course designed to enhance and develop all aspects of dance technique and composition, emphasizing creativity and artistic choreographic skills. Performances and rehearsals outside of the regular school day may be required and will constitute a portion of the course 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/audition 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 are 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.

Elective Credit

Spanish 1: 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. 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 3H: Prerequisite: Spanish 2. This course is designed to teach advanced 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 intermediate-low level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards.

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 Credit

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.

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 or Art 2. 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 (With an emphasis on studio production).

Guitar 1: Instrument required. 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 an 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.

Intro to Ceramics 2: Prerequisite: Intro to Ceramics 1. This is an intermediate course that builds upon the concepts and skills learned in Ceramics 1. Students will consistently produce quality pieces of ceramics.

Painting 1: Prerequisite: Art 1 or Art 2. 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.

CTE Credit

Business Office Specialist: (Digital Studies or CTE credit) This course applies advanced concepts and principles using word-processing, spreadsheets, databases and electronic presentation software. Students will integrate applications learned.

Child Development: This course covers the development of a child from conception through adolescence. The course includes the following topics: reproductive tracts, prenatal development and care, healthy lifestyles conducive to healthy pregnancies, birth defects, and the development and care of children throughout childhood. Guidance and discipline techniques and the physical, social, and emotional development of children will also be examined. The student learns both how and why a child grows and develops. This class is a prerequisite for any of the higher-level child development courses.

Designer Sewing: This course teaches basic construction and consumer skills. Choosing and using patterns, fabrics, and notions; using and caring for today's sewing machines and sergers; and basic clothing construction methods are included. Students may choose from a variety of projects based on individual skill level and preference.

Engineering Technology: This course shows students how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems. The units excite and motivate students to use their imaginations and teach them to be creative and innovative, while gaining the skills they need to develop, produce and use products and services. Gateway to Technology-PLTW is an approved curriculum for this course. Units may include: Design and Modeling, The Magic of Electrons, The Science of Technology, Automation and Robotics, as well as Flight and Space.

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.

Foods & Nutrition 1: This course is designed for students who are interested in understanding the principles of nutrition and food preparation. Attention will be given to the selection and preparation of food and personal health. Additional fees for materials may be required.

Elective Credit

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.

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.

Yoga: (E or ILA credit) 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.