



Wayne Carle Course Description 8th Grade

CORE COURSES: FULL YEAR

8th Grade Science

This course provides students with an understanding of the study of matter and energy and the interactions between them as they relate to physical, life, and earth science concepts. In addition to the core content, science learning will be supported by students developing skills in the scientific processes of gathering, recording, and analyzing data, as well as drawing valid conclusions. Throughout this course students will acquire good lab skills and learn to work cooperatively with others to solve a problem.

Materials Fee: \$2.50 science notebook

Language Arts 8

This course supports in developing written communication skills through genre study writing. Students will read and analyze a variety of mentor texts to identify the traits of that particular genre, analyze the writing techniques used, and develop their own writing skills. District-wide writing rubrics are used to assess all writing assignments. In addition, reading comprehension and analysis skills are taught through the reading workshop structure with both fiction and non-fiction texts. In both reading and writing units, students will work to develop their listening, speaking, and collaboration skills in order to become critical readers, writers, and thinkers.

Materials Fee: Language Arts novel \$8.00

Strategic Reading

The content of this elective course depends upon students' abilities and/or diagnosed reading needs. Strategic Reading is intended to improve a student's comprehension level, fluency rate, critical thinking and analysis skills, and/or word knowledge and vocabulary. This course is paired with 8th grade Language Arts to provide a double dose of reading instruction.

American History

Students study Westward Expansion, Sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction, Immigration. Emphasis on understanding cause and effect of events in our nation's past, interpreting historical maps, critically analyzing primary sources for historical value and bias, and learning individual civic responsibilities. To promote conceptual understanding and enhance students' abilities to connect historical events to current issues, we address each topic through the lenses of the themes of civilization that they learn in 7th grade social studies; government, economy, writing, social structure, stable food supply, specialization of labor and arts/culture/technology.

Math 8

This course is aligned to the National Standards and follows the 8th grade Jeffco curriculum. Math 8 course emphasizes proficiency in skills needed to solve multi-step equations, graphing and solving linear equations, operating using rules of exponential notation, and comparing & describing statistical data. Students will also use equation solving skills when finding missing values in geometric situations (angles, triangles, Pythagorean theorem, volume, surface area).

Materials fee: Big Ideas Workbook & Math Spiral \$5.00

Math Intervention

A variety of materials are used to help students improve numeracy and other math skills. Instruction is provided through individualized and small group lessons. A variety of student performance data plus teacher input are used to determine placement in Math Intervention, and this course is paired with Math 7 to create a double dose of Math instruction.

Algebra 1

This course follows Jeffco's 8th grade Algebra 1 curriculum, which addresses the same content as the High School Algebra I course, with some additional 8th grade content. Math 7/8 is generally the prerequisite for this course. Algebra I includes the study of properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first degree equations and inequalities; and translate word problems into equations. The content of this course deepens and extends understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions to model and solve problems. To meet 21st century learning, students will use mathematical practices to investigate and explore mathematical ideas and relationships and develop multiple strategies for analyzing complex situations.

Material Fee: Big Ideas Workbook & Math Spiral \$5.00

Geometry (Taken online through Jeffco Virtual)

This course follows Jeffco's 10th grade geometry curriculum. Mathematical reasoning, modelling, problem solving and communication are developed throughout the following units of study: Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations, Congruence, Similarity, Right triangles and Trig, Quadrilaterals and Polygons, Probability and Statistics, Circles, Geometric Measurement and Dimension.

ELECTIVES: FULL YEAR

Orchestra 7/8

If you enjoy string instruments or would like to learn how to play one, join the orchestra. Students in this course learn about string performance technique through classical and contemporary literature. This course will have at least four evening concerts. Additional performance opportunities are available.

Symphonic Band 7/8

This is a fun-filled continuation of 7th Grade Band. We will work on more challenging music as well as start small performing ensembles and have at least four evening concerts. Additional performance opportunities will be available. Beginning students should see Mr. Gates.

Spanish 1

Spanish I provides students with a general introduction to Spanish language and culture, including sound system, pronunciation, functional vocabulary, cultural information and norms, and basic grammatical structures. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to provide basic information, understand simple statements and questions, and interact with and be understood with difficulty by someone accustomed to a language learner (novice-mid proficiency). This course meets criteria for Colorado and Jeffco Seals of Biliteracy and is recommended for students with no previous study or knowledge of the language.

This is a high school level course. NOTE: Enrollment in Spanish may be limited. If so, priority will be based on 7th grade GPA.

Productions (Yearbook)

Productions is made up of a select group of 8th grade students via an application process. Students in class are responsible for creating the Wayne Carle Yearbook and the Eagle's Nest Video News. Yearbook responsibilities include photographing classrooms and school events, creating a theme and building yearbook pages. Video news responsibilities include filming and being on the news, creating school stories, and editing and uploading the news. We also work on additional video, photography and Photoshop projects as well as help to create sets for the 8th grade musical. Responsibility and being self-directed are musts for this class. Interested students must fill out the Productions Application Form, [linked here](#).

ELECTIVES: SEMESTERS

Art 8

This course offers the chance to create and explore many areas of art through different mediums, techniques and materials. A semester of Art 8 will provide students the opportunity to engage in both two dimensional and three dimensional projects. Areas of 2-D exploration may include; drawing, painting, fibers, mobiles, and set design.

Materials fee: \$15

Creative Art: Ceramics 7/8

Creative Art—Ceramics/Pottery courses cover the same topics as Visual Arts Level 1-3 courses, but focus on creating three-dimensional works out of clay and ceramic material. Particular attention is paid to the characteristics of the raw materials, their transformation under heat, and the various methods used to create and finish objects. Prerequisite: Art 6 or Art 7

Materials fee: \$15

Advanced Art 7/8

In Advanced Art, students will explore professional mediums and unique topics through in-depth portfolio creation. Students will be required to keep an art journal and/or portfolio. This course is available to students who have taken art in 6th or 7th grade, who have demonstrated advanced skills in art, and with teacher recommendation.

Materials fee: \$15

Audio/Visual Production

Audio/Visual Production courses provide to students the knowledge and skills necessary for television, video, film, photography and/or radio production. Writing scripts, camera operation, use of graphics and other visuals, lighting, audio techniques, editing, production principles, and career opportunities are typical topics covered within production courses. Students are usually required to produce their own program, segment, public service announcement, or the like. Students will also learn the basics of digital photography and photo editing techniques.

Family & Consumer Science 8

If you are interested in advancing your nutritional or food preparation knowledge, this course is for you. FACS 8 provides advanced exploration in managing individual, family, career, and community roles and responsibilities. Students gain life skills in a hands-on learning environment as they explore and practice various food preparation methods and techniques, healthy nutritional practices, kitchen and food safety, money management, career exploration, advanced sewing skills (including using the sewing machine), and advanced textile/fashion design.

One time materials fee: \$15

Physical Education 8

Students will expand upon concepts to learn in 7th grade PE. With lifelong fitness and the foundation, students will engage in a variety of individual and team sport activities. Students will also explore the social, emotional and nutritional factors of a healthy lifestyle. Students will expand knowledge and use of heart rate monitors, health club, Fitnessgram, and more. Students are required to wear a WCMS PE shirt and shorts.

Uniform fee: PE Shirt \$5.50

Weight Training 7/8

Weight Training courses help students develop knowledge and skills with free weights and universal stations while emphasizing safety and proper body positioning; they may include other components such as anatomy and conditioning.

Uniform fee: PE Shirt \$5.50

Team Sports 7/8

Team sports courses provide students with the knowledge, experience, and opportunity to develop skills in more than one team sport (such as volleyball, basketball, soccer, and so on).

Fitness and Conditioning 7/8

Fitness/Conditioning courses emphasize conditioning activities that help develop muscular strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular fitness.

Uniform fee: PE Shirt \$5.50

Science Elective

Calling all science enthusiasts, join us for a semester of exploring science! Throughout this semester-long course, we will explore many areas of science including the following: the scientific method, legendary scientists, bugs, marine biology, and forensic science. Each topic will be covered and explored for about 3 weeks and will contain labs and hands-on activities.

Technology Education 8

Using the current curriculum, which is based on pre-engineering studies, students will design projects through computer-aided drafting and then build those projects in the adjoining shop. This is an excellent opportunity for all students interested in learning new technology skills and applying those skills by creating a project from an original design. This class allows students the opportunity for hands-on-learning and active involvement in the building process. Students will use the Ozobot and Lego EV3 system to build and code robots to perform different tasks. Final projects will include a mag-lev vehicle which floats and a track and is propelled by a motor, a wooden puzzle, and a choice project! Skateboard blanks are an optional project and will require an extra fee of \$20.00 for the blank. A strong emphasis is also placed on safety and proper use of tools.

Materials fee: \$20

Robotics 7/8

Robotics courses develop and expand students' skills and knowledge so that they can design and develop robotic devices. Topics covered in the course may include mechanics, electrical and motor controls, pneumatics, computer basics, and programmable logic controllers.

Creative Writing 7/8

Creative Writing courses offer students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose. The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft.

Book Club

Book club is an elective class created for students who love to read (and some students who "want" to love to read). This course is designed to capture the attention of young readers and engage them with young adult literature. Students receive effective strategy instruction, write in response to literature, and learn to take part in meaningful peer discussions. While this class is designed for the pure joy of reading, it will also provide students opportunities to interact with complexity to texts.

Theater Arts/Drama 7/8 (semester 1)

Do you enjoy performing on stage? Are you a class clown? Theatre Arts courses focus on the study and performance of drama, including musical theatre. In addition, students work collaboratively on performances, important life skills in the areas of teamwork! Being in Drama creates the opportunity to build self-confidence and learn about how to work with others.

Musical Theater 7/8 (semester 2)

If singing and acting is your passion, this is the class for you! We will be putting together a full length musical this semester with costumes, sets and all! Join us for the fun! This class will be an awesome opportunity for you to be in a performance on the Wayne Carle stage. During the spring semester, we will work on and create a complete musical theater production. This is your opportunity, no matter what activities or group that you are in, to participate in a musical production.

Choir (semester or full year)

Choir courses provide the opportunity to sing a variety of choral literature styles for mixed voices and are designed to develop vocal techniques and the ability to sing parts. If you like to sing and want to learn how to read music, this is the course for you. You will have at least two concerts as well as other performance opportunities. Through singing, you will learn proper breathing, posture and vocal production.

Leadership

Leadership is an 8th grade elective designed to help students build essential leadership and life skills, begin to discover who they are and how they fit into the context of our big world, and contribute to the WC and surrounding community. There will be many opportunities to work collaboratively with classmates and also many opportunities to do some self-exploration. Students will learn about leadership styles and traits, goal-setting, communication skills, and will be able to demonstrate the skills and behaviors of effective leaders. This class is different from others, as it focuses on personal growth and safe social risk-taking, all with social/emotional support. It requires that students show up with an open mind and curiosity.

Materials Fee: \$12 "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens"

GT Enrichment (Grades 7/8)

This class is designed for students with Advanced Learning Plans who are self-directed, self-motivated learners. Students choose projects, which may take many forms, and complete them under the supervision of a teacher. Projects involve planning, research, and a high degree of personal reflection. This class provides opportunities for independent, high achieving learners to explore areas of interest. This is a participatory class, for the highly motivated learner, where students will be engaged in higher level thinking and autonomous learning. The research process, project design and development, and presentation techniques go beyond the scope of conventional learning. Students will be selected based on an application process ([click here](#)) and teacher recommendation.

Teacher Aide

Teacher Aide courses offer the opportunity for students to assist instructors in preparing, organizing, or delivering course curricula or to assist other staff members in fulfilling their duties. Students may provide tutorial or instructional assistance to other students, clerical/organizational to staff, deliver passes to classrooms, or other. TAs are selected by counselors based on student maturity, leadership, grades, and behavior.

Note: Depending on student numbers and staffing, all elective course offerings and fees are subject to change.