



2017-2018 Seventh Grade Course Catalog

Any information parents want to give the school which would be helpful for the student's educational placement needs to be addressed to the grade level counselor.

District 20 Middle School Policy Statement

Learners between the ages of 10-14 years (grades six, seven, and eight) experience greater changes in their physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development than at almost any other time in their lives. These preadolescents vary dramatically in their time and rate of development. As learners, they are moving from the neighborhood-focused elementary environment to the more sophisticated, departmentalized world of the secondary school. It is the intent, therefore, of District 20 to design an environment to address the unique needs of these learners in transition.

The foundation for this dynamic educational program will emphasize the basic skills, or levels of performance, students should be performing at as identified by the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). Focus will also be placed on strategies, which allow learners to develop thinking, learning, and problem solving skills. The developmental needs of the learners require flexible organizational arrangements. Attention will be paid to learner interest through participation in expressive arts, practical arts, and co-curricular enrichment and remediation. This approach will provide for optimum intellectual development and prepare learners for future society.

Opportunities will be provided for learners to develop self-awareness, a positive self-concept, and productive interpersonal relationships. Emphasis will be placed on developing a safe and respectful school climate, which will foster that growth.

Essential to the success of middle level education will be a staff committed to the caring, knowledge, and support of these learners in their quest for growth. Such a staff must possess the unique combination of subject matter competency, capability in multiple instruction strategies, and a thorough knowledge of emerging adolescents.

Challenger Middle School Mission Statement

In partnership with family and community, dedicated to the development of the whole child, we educate each unique middle level learner in a safe, nurturing technologically enhanced environment and prepare them for ethical, responsible participation in the ever-changing world.

To Our Patrons

This packet contains an overview of our seventh grade curriculum as well as information about middle school philosophy and the overall program at Challenger Middle School. If you have any questions about any part of the program, please contact a counselor or administrator at 234-3000. We will be glad to help you.

Introduction to Challenger

At Challenger, we believe that most middle level students no longer need to remain in a single classroom with one teacher all day. They do, however, benefit from a more personal teacher-student relationship than they are likely to find in a traditional junior high school. Therefore, our academic teachers will work in teams to integrate the curriculum and to help our students move gradually from the dependence of elementary school to the independence of high school. Team members act as facilitators and advisors, providing a supportive learning environment and the personal contact necessary to meet individual student needs. Because teaming is an integral part of middle school philosophy, cross team teacher changes are not permitted.

One of our goals is to provide a meaningful, comprehensive curriculum as the foundation upon which students are encouraged to build for future success. We fulfill this responsibility by emphasizing development of appropriate skills in all disciplines. We also present students with unique perspectives and information from each of the academic disciplines. We provide opportunities for students to develop their critical thinking and problem solving abilities. Across the curriculum, students learn the importance of accessing, evaluating, and communicating information, as they become skilled in using print, non-print, electronic, and human resources. While our students are learning how to learn, it is imperative that they continue to add to that personal knowledge base which allows them to understand the world around them.

In addition to helping our students grow academically, we also encourage them to explore and pursue their own creative, vocational, and leisure-time interests through our exploratory and co-curricular activity programs. In the exploratory program, students have experiences in a variety of areas including expressive arts, art, technology usage, physical education, general music and world language. Students are also afforded the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities including intramural and interscholastic sports.

Challenger is a "School of Innovative Learning and Technology" (SILT). Instruction is delivered through one to one iPad implementation with all students receiving an iPad for their use in school and at home.

GRADE 7: ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

All students in seventh grade are required to take a full year of mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies. Literacy instruction and skill development are provided as an integral part of the seventh grade program. Homework for these core subjects should average 70 minutes nightly.

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra B (Grade level curriculum which follows Pre-Algebra A)

Instructional time will focus on five critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; (4) working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (5) developing understanding of probability and random sampling. Students who are mathematically proficient will demonstrate characteristics defined by the Standards for Mathematical Practice. (CAS 7)

Compacted Linear Algebra (by recommendation only)

Instructional time will focus on five critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; (4) working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (5) developing understanding of probability and random sampling. Students who are mathematically proficient will demonstrate characteristics defined by the Standards for Mathematical Practice. (CAS 7)

Language Arts 7

The seventh grade language arts curriculum at Challenger Middle School serves as a bridge leading students as they move from concrete to abstract thought in literature, grammar, and writing. Students practice writing prompts and writing in the three modes, which are defined as narratives, descriptive, and expository. Students study literary elements found in literature and poetry. Research skills are developed as students are guided through the many steps involved when conducting research.

Science 7

Seventh grade science develops an understanding of the nature of science and the basic processes and skills used by scientists. Students investigate topics including mixtures of substances; organisms in their environment; human body; cells; photosynthesis and cellular respiration; changes in organisms over geologic time; geologic events; and geologic time, history and changing life forms. Students are provided with opportunities to apply the processes of science to real-world problems and to investigate issues of personal interest. Technology is integrated throughout the curriculum, including the use of electronic textbooks, streaming video and other techniques, to support the concepts being developed. An optional unit in human sexuality is also offered.

Social Studies 7

Students in seventh grade social studies continue to develop the foundation of geography skills. Awareness is developed of distinct cultural elements and perspectives of historical events. Students establish an understanding of the interconnections between history, geography, government, and economic systems through the study of the Eastern Hemisphere.

Literacy

The focus of literacy, whether it is reading or math, is an emphasis on fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Reading Literacy will build on the foundation of phonics and phonemic awareness while utilizing the seven reading strategies which are: connecting and applying meaning to the text, building on prior knowledge, previewing the text to promote understanding, creating and revising predictions, monitoring and clarifying thinking, and summarizing text. Math Literacy (also known as numeracy) means having the ability to problem-solve, reason and analyze information. Math literacy is the second key step for all students, beyond language literacy. It is the ability to use numbers to help solve real-world problems. Both literacy classes will have a focus on vocabulary development, emphasized by locating meanings, pronunciations, and derivations of words using written sources and context clues.

Cheetah Time

Cheetah Time is a 45-minute academic block at the end of each day when students can organize themselves, use a pass to check with an academic teacher about assignments, and receive additional instruction in the core standards. During Cheetah Time, the Challenger Learning Model, Rachel's Challenge and Second Step (two character education programs), Sexual Harassment Awareness, and the Bully Prevention curriculum is taught.

EXPLORATORY CURRICULUM

All students in seventh grade are required to take physical education for one semester. Students selecting the regular exploratory program will rotate through Art, Vocal Music, Drama, World Language, Gateway to Technology, and Technology. Students who select the band exploratory will be placed in PE and will be randomly placed in one or two exploratory classes to fill the remaining two quarters.

CMS Schedule Change Policy for Exploratory Classes

Students may request a schedule change up to two weeks into a quarter. Students who request a schedule change after the second week requires administrative approval and may receive a WF (withdrawal fail) as a grade for the course they are requesting to drop.

Performing Arts

Band - Intermediate (Year)

Seventh Grade Intermediate band is available to any student. Those without one year experience playing a band instrument must confer with the band director before enrolling. Students will expand their musical knowledge through advance study of sheet music and various method books. Students are expected to perform in one evening performance per quarter. There are also opportunities to perform in a number of festivals.

Drama (Quarter)

The CMS Drama program is thrilled to offer this engaging and interactive class for our 7th grade Cheetahs. This class will chart a course through drama by creating, performing, and responding to our imaginations. Students will master the ancient craft of puppetry, the process of writing a play, and the skills to perform the created piece with the elements of drama!

Vocal Music (Quarter)

Seventh grade vocal music is a continuation and extension of sixth grade general music. Students will continue their study of vocal technique, music notation, rhythms, terms, music listening samples and other basic music reading skills. Students will be required to perform at one evening choir concert toward the end of the quarter.

Physical Education (Semester)

Physical education class meets 45 minutes, 5 days a week for one semester. The emphasis is on activity – taking the students through 20 different units. Students will learn game strategies, problem solving, and teambuilding along with fundamental skills necessary for each activity. Seventh grade standards also include safety skills, effective communication, and acceptance of diverse personalities and talents. Health topics include healthy eating, drug education, and stress management.

Fitnessgram fitness testing assesses each student's flexibility, strength, endurance and cardiovascular fitness at the beginning and end of the semester. Grades are based on effort, attitude and participation.

Technology 7 (Quarter)

Students learn new applications in technology with an emphasis in coding and the design process. Students learn how to use computers to research and create. Programs and applications used teach students critical thinking and are aligned with state and national standards. During the course, students also learn how to save files and keyboard shortcuts. This course is designed to help students learn how to be more independent and operate technology safely.

Gateway to Technology (Quarter)

The purpose of Gateway to Technology is to expose students to a broad overview in the field of technology, engineering, and its related processes. The course has been designed to be activity oriented incorporating math, science, and technology to solve problems. Middle school modules include Design and Modeling, The Magic of Electrons, The Science of Technology, Automation and Robotics, and Flight and Space.

Art (quarter)

Art students will be introduced to elements and principles of art. They will further develop drawing and painting skills, portraits, origami, cartooning, printmaking, clay, recycled materials, and other sculptural mediums. All students have an art supply list which is located on the CMS web site.

World Language

Conversational French (Semester):

A semester-length course in French is available to students in seventh grade as an elective. Each course emphasizes the development of the basic speaking, reading and writing skills of the language. In addition, students will be exposed to grammar and the culture and geography of the country. Students will use technology to create travel brochures. Dialogues and role-playing activities are frequently used with students to achieve language mastery. Successful completion of this course will enable students to move to a yearlong French course in eighth grade.

Conversational Spanish (Semester):

A semester-length course in Spanish is available to students in seventh grade as an elective. We will develop our listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in the language. Each week we study a different Spanish-speaking country and discuss its unique characteristics, geography, cuisine and customs. We will cover a variety of grammar and vocab topics such as physical descriptions, clothing, feelings and weather (among others.) We will do fun student selected projects every 4-6 weeks which focus on the countries we have studied. Students who plan to take Spanish I in eighth grade should strongly consider taking this course first.

Conversational Mandarin Chinese (Semester)

A semester-length course in Mandarin Chinese is available to students in seventh grade as an exploratory. This course emphasizes the development of the basic speaking, reading, writing skills of the Chinese language. In addition, students will be exposed various elements of Chinese culture, including Chinese food, traditions, arts, music, geography and Chinese games.

TAG

Participation in the talented and gifted (TAG) electives is open to D20 TAG identified students.

ALM Enrichment (Quarter) *D-20 TAG identified only*

Topics include understanding giftedness, learning styles, problem solving, futuristic thinking, and investigations. The first project is the "Vacation of Your Dreams" activity that challenges the adventurous mind by planning a unique vacation. An independent investigation follows, where students carefully research a topic that is of particular interest to them in order to learn about the topic and share the information at an evening ALM presentation event.

Engineering Challenge (Quarter) *D-20 TAG identified only*

This elective will follow the criteria similar to the future city engineering competition held during the national Engineers' Week. The students will plan and design a future city on a computer program, research and write a paper on a futuristic engineering topic, create a design of the city using a 3D application program, and present their project to a panel of judges. This class is open for TAG students who did NOT have this class in 6th grade.

TAG Law (Quarter) *D-20 TAG identified only*

This elective is a mock trial activity wherein the students will have the opportunity to act as an attorney, possibly even as a witness or part of a jury, as they prepare for fictitious cases constructed around common situations. The objectives of the class are to gain a basic understanding of the legal process while developing critical analysis of problems, strategic thinking, questioning skills, oral presentation skills, and skills in preparing and organizing written arguments.

**Challenger Middle School
7th Grade Course Selection Form
2017-2018**

Student Name: _____

Please complete this form with your parents and return it to your Cheetah Time teacher **by March 22, 2017.**

_____ I will attend Challenger _____ I will attend another D20 School _____ I will be leaving D20

- All Challenger students will be automatically enrolled in Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Literacy, and Cheetah Time.
- The two remaining periods of the day are for exploratory classes (see choices below).
- Students with an IEP or academic need may be enrolled in a support class in place of an exploratory.
- Students are randomly assigned to teams to provide balance between gender and academic placement considerations.
- Following the middle school philosophy of academic teams, there will be no cross-teaming for 2017-2018. Counseling will make every effort to honor your requests; however, team balance is the first priority.

Exploratories

Unless students are in Band and/or are TAG identified, students will be:

- ***Randomly*** enrolled in 4 of the following quarter classes: Gateway to Technology, Vocal Music, Art, Drama, or Technology,
- 1 semester of required Physical Education, and
- At least 1 semester of a foreign language.

Please circle preferred classes:

Semester Courses (you may choose more than one):

7th Conv Spanish (060096)

7th Conv French (060066)

7th Conv Chinese (062100)

Yearlong Courses:

7th Grade Band (125118A and 123118B)

**D20 TAG identified students only -
(Quarter Classes)**

7th TAG ALM (191180Q)

7th TAG Law (191190Q)

7th TAG Engineering (191185Q)
(only if not taken in 6th grade)

Interested in being a Student Assistant?
(Circle one below. ***This is not guaranteed placement.***)

Front Office

Library

I have read and understand all of the information about these courses, including prerequisites, commitment to yearlong courses, and fee requirements found in the course catalog. I understand the courses selected are not necessarily the courses my student will receive. I understand that courses will be offered *only* if enough interest is indicated. I agree with and support my student's choices as indicated above. I understand that late registration may limit my student's selections.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Home Phone

Date