



2017-2018 Eighth 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 eighth 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 an 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 these 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 activities programs. In the exploratory program, students have experiences in a variety of areas including performing arts, industrial arts, art, technology usage, physical education, festival band, 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 8: ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

All students in eighth grade are required to take a full year of mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies. In addition, instruction and skill development in reading, writing, and computer usage are provided as an integral part of the eighth grade program. Homework for these core subjects should average 80 minutes nightly.

Mathematics 8

Linear Algebra (Grade level curriculum which follows Pre-Algebra B) - Instructional time will focus on six critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations; (2) modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation; (3) solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (4) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (5) analyzing two-and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence; and (6) understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Students who are mathematically proficient will demonstrate characteristics defined by the Standards for Mathematical Practice.

Algebra 1 (by permission only) - Topics consisting of analyzing and solving linear equations, pairs of simultaneous linear equations and functions will be further developed. Students will construct, compare, solve, and analyze linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and inequalities as well as perform arithmetic operations on polynomials. Students will also summarize, represent, and interpret data, including Personal Financial Literacy topics. Students who are mathematically proficient will demonstrate characteristics defined by the Standards for Mathematical Practice. This course will cover the same standards and rigor of a high school Algebra 1 course.

Language Arts 8

The eighth grade language arts curriculum at Challenger Middle School is dedicated to providing students with the necessary tools to become successful in a high school environment. Students have opportunities for success and scholarship in all areas of language arts including an in-depth research unit, reviewing the research process, and writing a complete research paper which is part of an interdisciplinary unit.

Science 8

Eighth grade science develops an understanding of the nature of science and the basic processes and skills used by scientists. Students investigate topics in forces and motion; energy; physical and chemical changes; electromagnetic, sound, seismic, and water waves; humans and ecosystems; genetics; weather; and solar system. 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 8

Eighth grade social studies develops a foundation of geography skills, awareness of distinct cultural elements and a perspective of historical events. Students establish an understanding of the interconnections between history, geography, government, and economics through the study of the United States from the American Revolution to Reconstruction.

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.

ELECTIVE CURRICULUM

Students in eighth grade will have two elective periods to fill from the following course offerings. Students may choose four semester electives, one full year and two semester classes, or two yearlong classes. Class size will determine whether or not the class will be held.

CMS Schedule Change Policy for Elective 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. Students choosing a yearlong course or a course that requires auditions/teacher approval will have to make a yearlong commitment and will not be able to drop the course.

Broadcast Journalism: CHTA TV (Semester – *Application*)

This class is offered at the eighth grade level and is designed to introduce broadcast journalism skills to the students. This class will develop and broadcast the Cheetah Channel (CHTA TV) daily announcements. The students will operate a news room studio and will anchor, write scripts, and edit the Cheetah TV newscast. This class requires responsibility and dedication to the program. Each student will be required to complete the application packet and parent approval form prior to being accepted into the class. Application available on *Showbie* with Showbie Code 5V2J2, for printed material see Mr. Tippie.

Gateway to Technology (Semester)

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.

Yearbook (Year- *Application*)

Students in this elective class create Challenger's yearbook. Students will be selected by the teacher based on grades and a student application. Anyone who chooses to apply must be a good writer (with good punctuation and spelling skills), creative, hard working, attentive to detail, works well independently and within a group, meets deadlines and is willing and able to stay after school on occasion. Each student will be required to complete the application packet and parent approval form prior to being accepted into this class. Application is available on *Showbie* with Showbie Code P9VBK, for printed material see Mr. Tippie.

Performing Arts

Acoustic Guitar for Beginners (Semester):

Open to all 8th graders, this class introduces the acoustic (non-electric) steel string guitar. Students will learn the basics of playing the acoustic guitar, including reading the musical staff and playing chords. This class provides a foundation for expanding individual learning of guitar music. Guitars are available for use at CMS.

Band - Advanced (Year)

Eighth Grade Advanced Band is available to motivated instrumentalists with previous band experience. The primary focus of this course is advanced instrumental performance in preparation for high school band. Students will study more intricate sheet music and develop higher level technical skills on their instruments. Students are expected to perform at one evening concert per quarter. There are also opportunities to perform in a number of festivals.

One Act (Semester)

The CMS Drama program is thrilled to offer this intensive acting and performance class for our 8th grade Cheetahs. This class will look at the art of acting by creating, performing, and responding to our imaginations. Students will spend the first quarter of the class learning in depth knowledge about the practice and principles of acting. The second quarter of the class, students will bring their knowledge to life in a one act production by collaborating with the 8th grade Stage Tech class.

Stage Technology (Semester)

The CMS Drama program is thrilled to offer this theater design and backstage technology class for our 8th grade Cheetahs. This class will look behind the scenes by creating, performing, and responding to our imaginations. Students will spend the first quarter of the class learning about backstage careers including: set, costume, makeup, and lighting design. The second quarter of the class, students will watch their knowledge in action by designing a production in collaboration with the 8th grade One Act class.

Blue Notes (Semester)

Students sing music from a wide variety of contemporary styles, review vocal technique, and expand on basic music reading skills learned in sixth and seventh grade. They will also be prepared for auditions and participation in high school choirs. Students will be required to perform two or three times each semester. Any student is welcome to join. No experience is necessary.

Music Appreciation (Semester)

This class is designed to expose you to skills in music reading, writing, analysis, and will allow you to create your own music using a variety of sources. This will include genres such as opera, blues, jazz, and rock. Designed for all students, regardless of previous experience.

Silver Tones (Year – *audition*)

Students sing music from a wide variety of styles and periods, with an emphasis on classical music. Emphasis will be put on using advanced vocal technique and reading music. Students will be prepared for auditions and participation in high school choirs. Students will be required to perform numerous times each semester and are required to purchase a performance outfit. Any student is welcome to audition; no experience is necessary. Auditions take place in spring prior to the class beginning. After school commitments are a requirement of this course.

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.

Eighth grade standards also include identifying preference for lifetime physical activity and developing personal responsibility for achieving fitness. Health topics include mental and emotional health, drug education, and violence prevention.

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.

Art (Semester)

This advanced course will have students explore a wide range of art techniques. Students will learn to appreciate, talk about and write about art they see and make. They will continue to explore art-making using different materials in 2D and 3D as well as applying the fundamental principles and elements of art. Students will be required to submit an artist statement (a paragraph) talking about their art and what they are interested in along with a picture of two pieces of artworks they have done in the past. This class has a \$15 fee.

Advanced Art (semester)

Students will create a portfolio of artwork throughout the semester. Students will learn to appreciate, talk about, and write about art they see and make. They will continue to explore art-making using different materials in 2D and 3D as well as applying the fundamental principles and elements of art. The *Showbie* Code for the Advanced Art Course is TT2QM. Please fill everything out to be eligible for the class. See Mrs. Hays if you have any questions.

World Language (Academic)

French 1 (Year)

The beginning French student will be introduced to the romantically beautiful and diplomatic language of French through the introduction of the four basic skills of language acquisition: listening, speaking, reading and writing. A cultural exploration of the francophone world will take students on a colorful and exciting journey. Students should expect daily homework and should be prepared to participate in a variety of meaningful language activities and will be evaluated frequently in all skill areas.

Spanish 1 (Year):

This course is designed for the novice level learner who is motivated to learn Spanish. We will develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills that allow us to communicate effectively in the target language. Students will be introduced to the practices, products and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries. We will study grammar and vocabulary topics both through guided practice and through class stories that we develop together so that we can see the language and its structures in context. You should expect oral participation in class stories, partner dialogues, student-selected projects, written homework and reading assignments. These activities will encourage actual language acquisition, not just memorized grammar rules.

TAG

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

ALM Seminar (Semester) *D-20 TAG identified only*

The curriculum develops the skills to become an independent, autonomous, learner. The students will complete three projects. First, The Radical Evening Talk Show activity challenges each student to use their futuristic imagination to host their own talk show. The second project is a debate on a topic facilitated by the teacher. The final project is an in-depth study about a prominent individual who has made a positive influence on society. Each student chooses a person to investigate from an area that they are passionate about and then presents their individual, in character, to an audience.

NEW: CHALLENGER EXPLORATORY REGISTRATION PROCESS: 2017-2018

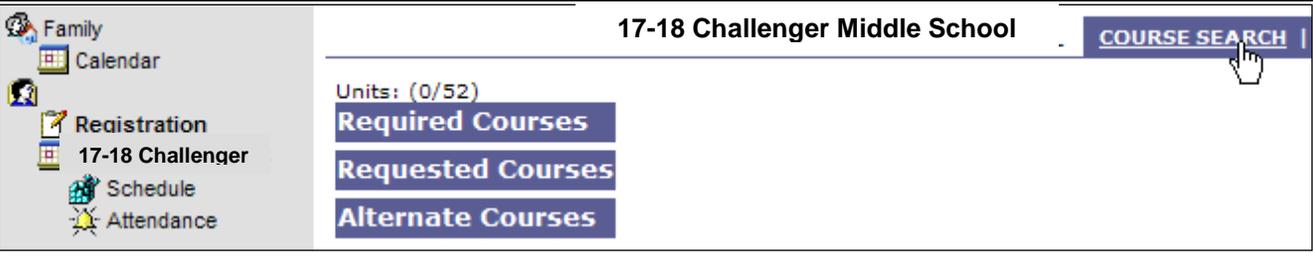
Parents and students will register for exploratory classes online from home, either on your Ipad or home computer.

STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Course Catalog**
2. **Registration Form:** please follow the instructions listed on the registration form.
3. Return signed Course Selection form (remove from back of course catalog) and a printed copy of your request summary form to your **classroom teacher by Wednesday, March 22, 2017.**

If requests are not submitted and we do not receive the above forms, the computer will randomly assign your classes.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1.	Have your student sign into Infinite Campus portal using their student number and password.	
2. 3.	Select Registration: 17-18 Challenger Middle School. Click on Course Search Located on the right.	
4.	To enter an Exploratory course you must type the course number exactly as the course curriculum reads to prompt an auto fill. Search results will appear on the right side of the screen.	

5. Select from the offered list (**note: please make sure to notice the grade level offered and match course name to your student's grade level course curriculum guide**).

****You must add A and B requests for year-long courses****

Units: (0/52)

[Required Courses](#)
[Requested Courses](#)
[Alternate Courses](#)

Search By:
 Course Name
 Course Number

Select to view
132006A Biology
132006B Biology
132007A AP Biology
132007B AP Biology
132008A Honors Biology
132008B Honors Biology

132006A Biology

Scheduling Units: 1

6. Once selected, a description will appear. Please view the bottom of the screen, and select **REQUEST THIS COURSE**. If you do not select **REQUEST THIS COURSE** you have **NOT** registered for the class.



7. Please select two alternate exploratory courses in case your first selection is full. Click on **REQUEST AN ALTERNATE** when making these alternate choices.

Units: (0/52)

[Required Courses](#)
[Requested Courses](#)
[Alternate Courses](#)

Search By:
 Course Name
 Course Number

Select to view
132006A Biology
132006B Biology
132007A AP Biology
132007B AP Biology
132008A Honors Biology
132008B Honors Biology

132006A Biology

Scheduling Units: 1

8.	Print and sign the request summary page and staple to exploratory form and turn them into your classroom teacher.	<div style="text-align: right;"> 17-18 Challenger Middle School </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> COURSE SEARCH PRINT REQUEST SUMMARY  </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> Units: (2/52) </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> Required Courses </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> Requested Courses </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> 132006A Biology </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> 132006B Biology </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> Alternate Courses </div>
	Log off Infinite Campus when you are finished.	

The Infinite Campus registration window will be open **March 14-March 22nd** . After March 22nd , the registration window will close. If you need assistance or have questions please call counseling at 234-3030.

Thank you!

**Challenger Middle School
8th Grade Course Selection Form
2017-2018**

Student Name: _____

Please complete this form with your parents and return it to your Cheetah Time teacher along with a copy of your request summary print out by March 16th, 2016.

_____ 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 elective classes (see choices below).
- Students with an IEP or academic need may be enrolled in a support class in place of an elective.
- Students are randomly assigned to academic 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.

8th grade students' elective schedules can be composed of:

2 full year courses
OR
1 full year course and 2 semester courses (one must be PE)
OR
4 semester courses (1 semester must be PE)

Please number in order (1-8) of preference with 1 being your first choice!

Please be aware that not all classes are offered each quarter, semester, or period.

**Yearlong
Courses:**

- ___ Advanced Band (125131A and 125131B-- enroll in both)
- ___ Yearbook (054900A and 054900B- enroll in both)
- ___ Silver Tones/ Audition (124045A and 124045B- enroll in both)
- ___ French I (062000A and 062000B- enroll in both)
- ___ Spanish I (062063A and 062063B- enroll in both)

**Semester
Courses:**

- ___ PE (Required -083020)
- ___ One Act (056640)
- ___ Gateway to Tech (169003)
- ___ Acoustic Guitar (125855)
- ___ Stage Technology(056620)
- ___ Blue Notes (124040)
- ___ Art (020017)
- ___ Advanced Art (020025)
- ___ Music Appreciation (122001)
- ___ Broadcast Journalism (054300)

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

Front Office Library

Peer Helper (Ms. Finn or Ms. Wheeler?)

D20 TAG identified students only:

___ 8th TAG ALM (191195)

I have read and understand all of the information about these courses, including prerequisites, audition information, commitment to yearlong courses, and fee requirements. 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 late registration may limit my student's registration.