



**CRESTED BUTTE  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**2025 – 2026**



# MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Students complete a total of 21 classes in middle school as delineated below.

## **English: 3 classes**

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts

## **Social Studies: 3 classes**

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies: Ancient History
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies: World History
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies: United States History

## **Math: 3 classes**

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math or Algebra I

Please note: Algebra I is a high school course and carries high school math credit; it is officially recorded in the G.P.A. and on transcripts. All math placement is based on standardized testing, classroom performance, and teacher recommendation.

## **Science: 3 classes**

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science: Physical Science
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science: Life Science
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science: Earth Science

## **Physical Education & Health: 3 classes**

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Education & Health
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Education & Health
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Education & Health

## **Essentials: 1 semester each year**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Essentials: Tech, Guidance, Music
- 7<sup>th</sup> Essentials: Tech, Guidance, Art
- 8<sup>th</sup> Essentials: Tech, Guidance, Design

## **Electives: 3 semesters each year**

See complete course descriptions on the following pages.

### Academic Support

Teacher Access Time is every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:45 to 8:25 a.m. Feel free to call to set up an appointment with any of our faculty members.

Free tutoring for middle school and high school students is after school. Check in the office for a complete schedule.

View current grade information at PowerSchool Online. Go to [www.gunnisonschools.net](http://www.gunnisonschools.net), choose For Students, and then PowerSchool. Your child's username and password will be provided in mid September. The parent link for PowerSchool will be activated after the first three weeks of each semester.

### Scheduling Information

Students choose classes for the fall semester in April, and they choose classes for the spring semester in November. If a student does not submit a course registration form, classes will be selected by the counseling office. Every attempt is made to schedule students into their requested courses. If a student is placed in a requested course, the student may not make changes. Schedule changes will only be considered in extreme circumstances. The drop/add period ends on the Friday of the second week of each semester. All schedule changes must be made by that date. Certain elective courses are year-long commitments. Students who request a year-long elective may not drop this course at semester except in extreme circumstances.

Students who wish to complete a core class online through Pathways must request to do so no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. All online course requests must be submitted to the counseling office. Because all in-person core classes are year-long commitments, students may not switch to core online classes at the semester.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSENTIALS WHEEL

Students spend six weeks in each of the Essentials Wheel content areas. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders complete three content areas during the course of the year (one semester). Students earn letter grades in each essentials class, and these grades are included in honor roll calculation.

## Sixth Grade

### Technology

- Keyboarding skills
- Computer vocabulary and troubleshooting
- Internet safety
- Online research
- Google applications and email
- Media balance and well-being
- Privacy and Security

### Guidance

- Executive functioning skills
- Stress management and coping skills
- Conflict resolution, bullying education
- Safe2Tell
- Suicide Prevention
- Digital citizenship

### Music

- Exposure to and understanding of wide variety of instruments
- Basics of playing concert band instruments
- Tone and playing posture

## Seventh Grade

### Technology

- Keyboarding skills
- Cyber ethics/internet safety
- Google applications and email
- Media balance and well-being
- Privacy and security

### Guidance

- Executive functioning skills
- Stress management and coping skills
- Empathy/self-awareness
- Conflict resolution, bullying education
- Safe2Tell
- Suicide Prevention
- Digital citizenship
- Career research and ICAP

### Art

- Studio art projects
- Art skills/technique development
- Personal expression through visual art
- Art critiques, vocabulary and history

## Eighth Grade

### Technology

- Keyboarding skills
- Website evaluation
- Google applications
- Technology tools for academic success in high school
- Media balance and well-being
- Privacy and security
- Digital citizenship

### Guidance

- Individual Career and Academic Plans
- Goal setting
- Career research
- High school planning
- College and postsecondary exploration

### Design

- Introduction to design thinking
- Innovation and design process practice
- Building and testing entertaining designs
- Connection to careers that use design

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **Art and Music Course Descriptions**

### **2D Art (grades 6 – 8)**

*semester*

This course is designed for students to explore and experience creative expression, critical evaluation and a greater appreciation of the Visual Arts. While learning about the elements and principles of designs students will develop their drawing and painting skills. Students will explore mediums like pencil, charcoal, chalk pastels, paint, ink and photography. A variety of famous artists and their styles throughout history will be studied.

### **3D Art (grades 6 – 7)**

*semester*

This course is designed for students to explore and experience creative expression, critical evaluation and a greater appreciation of the Visual Arts. Students will create 3D art using materials like clay, plaster, recycled materials, and wire. A variety of famous artists and their styles throughout history will be studied.

### **Industrial Arts (grades 6 – 8, not offered in 2025-2026 due to facilities expansion project)**

*semester*

Industrial Arts introduces the student to the basics of shop activities and wood crafting. The proper and safe usage of hand and power hand tools will be emphasized. Upon completion of instruction on hand and power tool safety and usage, each student will construct a variety of projects. Projects include a hand-carved spoon, wooden box, book-ends, and more!

### **Intro to Concert Band (grades 6 – 7)**

*year*

Have you ever wanted to learn an instrument? Want to play the music you hear in movies, TV and video games? Now's your chance! In band, students will choose a wind or brass instrument (saxophone, flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone). In addition to learning the fundamental skills on their chosen instrument, students will learn to read music and have fun playing together in an ensemble. By the end of the semester, the band will perform in an end of year concert. No previous instrumental experience or ability to read music is required!

### **Mixed String Ensemble (grades 6 – 8)**

*semester*

In this class, students will select a string instrument to learn (violin, mandolin, guitar, banjo or double bass). We will play a variety of music including folk, bluegrass, old-time, classical and popular music. Students will learn to play their instrument in an ensemble and the semester will culminate in a concert. The mixed string ensemble is open to students of all ability levels (including beginners!) as well as students who have previous experience on a string instrument!

## **Spanish Course Descriptions**

Students may choose to enter the Spanish program at the beginning of sixth grade or ninth grade. By entering Spanish 1 as a sixth grader, students will progress to High School Spanish II in eighth grade, a course which carries high school credit and is officially calculated into the GPA and recorded on transcripts. Students will then be on track to take High School Spanish III as a freshman and complete our foreign language curriculum in their junior year with AP Spanish. Alternatively, students can wait and begin High School Spanish I in ninth grade, with the possibility to continue through High School Spanish IV as a senior.

### **Spanish 1 (grade 6)**

*year*

Spanish 1 is an introduction to the Spanish language and the culture of the Spanish speaking world. In Spanish 1 students will learn to listen, speak, read and write at a basic level, using present tense structures. Students will learn to understand and produce language about such topics as likes/dislikes, school, friends, family, food, and home.

### **Spanish 2 (grade 7)**

*year*

Spanish 2 will continue to build on the elements introduced in Spanish 1. There will be review of all grammar and conversational skills and then those concepts will be further developed. Additional grammar topics, as well as vocabulary and conversational themes, will be covered. Material will be delivered through a variety of mediums (written, audio, video, music) and curriculum will be delivered through a combination of textbook materials and project-based assignments. The cultural focus in Spanish 2 will be on Central and South America.

### **Spanish II (grade 8)**

*year*

Prerequisite: Middle school Spanish 1 and 2. In Spanish II, students will refine skills used in Spanish 1 and 2 and further their knowledge of grammatical concepts and vocabulary. Students will also learn to listen, speak, read and write using past tense structures. Students will learn to understand and produce language about such topics as health, chores, childhood, sports, professions, and locations.

## **Other Elective Course Descriptions**

### **Automation and Robotics (grade 8)**

*semester*

Students learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, programming, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

### **Creative Writing (grades 7 – 8)**

*semester*

This class will focus on the “arts” aspect of Language Arts. Through a series of writing exercises, students will develop character, plot, dialogue, and world building. Our class will share writing and work toward three finished works including a short story, a one-act play, and a three stanza poem. Most importantly, we will find joy in creative writing.

### **Design and Modeling (grades 6 – 7)**

*second semester only*

Students are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions.

### **Flight and Space (grades 7 – 8)**

*first semester only*

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space travel.

### **The World in Motion (grades 7 – 8)**

*semester*

Students will explore the world through the lenses of geography, current events, and debate. By examining maps, cultures, and global issues, students will develop a deeper understanding of how geography shapes societies and influences current events. Each week, students will analyze news stories from around the world while learning to identify credible sources and understand different perspectives, as well as discuss the impact of global events on local communities. Participants will learn to construct well-reasoned arguments, respectfully challenge opposing viewpoints, and effectively communicate their ideas.

### **Skills Workshop (grades 6 – 8)**

*semester*

Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation. Skills Workshop is designed to give students extra support in math and/or reading. In a small group setting, students will work on skill building and classroom content. Skills Workshop is by teacher recommendation. Please contact your child’s teacher for more information.

### **Tutorial (grades 6 – 8)**

*semester*

Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation. Tutorial is a supervised, quiet study time for students to complete homework. Students will be required to complete i-Ready skill lessons each week, and teachers will provide direct instruction for executive functioning. Teachers will check grades weekly with students and provide homework support as needed. CBCS school guidelines state that middle school students will have one to two hours of homework four or five nights a week. Eighth graders are encouraged to not take tutorial second semester as they prepare to transition to high school.