

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2010-2011



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

**710 S Columbus Avenue
Marshfield, WI 54449
Central Office – 715-387-1177
Development Office – 715-384-2444**



MISSION STATEMENT

Marshfield Area Catholic Schools

The Marshfield Area Catholic Schools System, with campuses serving students in grades Early Childhood through 12, exists to ensure a high quality, affordable, Catholic education in the greater Marshfield area.

In cooperation with the Diocese of La Crosse and sponsoring parishes, the Marshfield Area Catholic School System provides an outstanding program of studies. Our nurturing environment promotes a Christian philosophy driven by the Catholic faith. We shape noble and talented people who will grace our society peacefully and intelligently.

The Marshfield Area Catholic School System provides mutual and comprehensive support, future planning, and attraction of resources, for the benefit of each campus and the families they serve.

Columbus Catholic High School/Columbus Catholic Middle School

Columbus Catholic Middle and High Schools, as part of the Marshfield Area Catholic School system in the Diocese of LaCrosse, provide a quality Catholic education for students in grades 6-12.

Educating each individual within a tradition of intellectual excellence, our highly qualified and dedicated faculty, and staff equips students to think critically and achieve academic distinction.

Within a caring, Catholic environment, our students learn to unite faith and reason and are encouraged to become compassionate, responsible, respectful, and confident. As they grow in faith, they are inspired to loving service of God and neighbor.

Immersed in a Christ-centered educational atmosphere, our students are prepared to become leaders and to succeed in both college and life. They discover the value of active involvement in the Church, their parish and community.

PHILOSOPHY OF COLUMBUS CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

Columbus Catholic Middle School recognizes the multitude of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual changes that are taking place in the pre-teen and teen during their middle school years. With that in mind, we recognize our responsibility to meet those individual needs and foster growth in all those areas in the atmosphere of Catholicism.

CCMS also recognizes its responsibility to prepare students for their ultimate role as members of the global community. In the light of the Gospel mandate, students are encouraged to live out their faith as they involve themselves in service to their school, their Church, and their community.

The Columbus Catholic Middle School community dedicates itself to an education of each individual that facilitates the formation of the whole person: spiritually, intellectually, socially, culturally, and physically.

EXPECTATIONS

... of our students

- to give a 100% effort in all their activities and classes
- to behave in a Christian manner toward their peers and all adults
- to be respectful of the school's property and the property of their classmates
- to be on time and prepared for all classes
- to have all homework done on time
- to ask questions and seek help when needed

... of our parents

- to encourage their children to do their very best
- to provide a learning atmosphere at home when homework is being done
- to volunteer to help with school activities
- to help the child understand the importance of a good education
- to support the school's mission
- to be supportive of school rules

... of the staff

- to be models of Christ in the classroom and hallways
- to have a high level of competency in the subjects taught
- to provide a safe and welcoming atmosphere in which to learn
- to treat all students with fairness and justice
- to provide what is needed to meet the individual needs of the students
- to provide a variety of learning activities so all modalities of learning can be enhanced
- to have high but reasonable expectations of our students
- to provide opportunities for the students to step outside the comfort zone
- to communicate with parents on a regular basis regarding the progress of their children
- to meet with parents to discuss any academic issues
- to support the rules of CCMS and the MACS system

SIXTH GRADE COURSES

Core Classes

Science/Health	(year)
General Math	(year)
Social Studies	(year)
Language Arts	(year)
Religion	(year)
World Language- German	(semester)
World Language- Spanish	(semester)
Physical Education	(year)

Elective Classes

Band	(year)
Choir	(year)

*Exploratory Classes

Computer Keyboarding	(qtr)
Technical Education	(qtr)
Art Exploratory	(qtr)
Family & Consumer Ed	(qtr)
Introduction to Theater	(qtr)
Sign Language	(qtr)
Computer Publishing	(qtr)

* Exploratory classes are subject to change

SEVENTH GRADE COURSES

Core Classes

Science/Health	(year)
General Math	(year)
Advanced Math	(year)
Social Studies	(year)
Language Arts	(year)
Religion	(year)
World Language- German	(year)
Physical Education	(year)

Elective Classes

Band	(year)
Choir	(year)

*Exploratory Classes

Computer Keyboarding	(qtr)
Digital Photography	(qtr)
Art	(qtr)
Family & Consumer Ed	(qtr)
Introduction to Theater	(qtr)
Sign Language	(qtr)
Computer Publishing	(qtr)

* Exploratory classes are subject to change

EIGHTH GRADE COURSES

Core Classes

Science/Health	(year)
General Math	(year)
Social Studies	(year)
Language Arts	(year)
Religion	(year)
Physical Education	(year)

Elective Classes

Band	(year)
Choir	(year)

*Exploratory Classes

Family & Consumer Ed	(qtr)
Digital Photography	(qtr)
Introduction to Theater	(qtr)
Art	(qtr)
Computer Keyboarding	(qtr)
Sign Language	(qtr)
Computer Publishing	(qtr)

*Exploratory classes are subject to change

*CCHS Classes

German I	(year)
Spanish I	(year)
Algebra I Honors	(year)

*CCHS classes are subject to CCHS rules and fees.

SIXTH GRADE COURSES

World Languages-Multicultural: German

Fee - \$10

German will meet twice a week for one semester. You will explore the German language, culture and history. Topics covered may include the German speaking countries, greetings, numbers 0-100, shopping, food, clothes and freetime activities. Emphasis will be on exposure to vocabulary and communication. A variety of teaching techniques and activities will be used including games, written handouts and dramatizations.

World Languages-Multicultural: Spanish

Fee - \$5

Spanish will meet twice a week for one semester. You will continue to explore the Spanish language as you did in the elementary program but with more attention given to reading, writing and speaking the language. This class has a dual purpose. For students new to MACS, it will help them to sample the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. For the students who have experienced our elementary program, it will help you to use those old learning experiences in new and more advanced ways. We will use a variety of teaching styles as well as some video field trips to Spanish speaking countries.

Science / Health

The life science portion of study in the sixth grade includes cellular biology, heredity, and ecology. Topics covered in the physical sciences include physics, chemistry, astronomy, and geology. Quarterly projects and individual experimentation are introduced and further developed in succeeding middle school grades. The health aspect of the class explores current health issues at both the local and global levels. Emphasis in health will be on nutrition, substance abuse prevention, safety, wellness, and building healthy self-esteem.

Math

This course covers Data Analysis, Decimals, Fractions, Estimation, Measurement, Ratios, Proportions, Percents, and Introductory Geometry. There will be a lot of review throughout the year, and students will also get a lot of repetition with their math facts. Students will spend a considerable amount of time working with problem solving, and relating math to real life.

Social Studies- The World – People, Places and the Past

Students will study the history of different civilizations. They will focus on the diverse cultures and the important people who changed the world. Discussion will revolve around how one period in history affects the next, and how much of what happens in the world today is a result of past events. The physical world also affects how civilizations develop, so we will study both the physical and man-made characteristic of our world. Sixth grade will work on Africa, Asia and Australia.

Religion

Blest Are We is the book used in the sixth grade to emphasize the major areas of the Catholic faith: what Catholics believe, how Catholics pray, how Catholics worship, and how Catholics live. In sixth grade, there is a review of the major feasts of the Liturgical Year, the seasons of the Liturgical Year, our Catholic heritage, Catholic prayers, and the importance of Catholic schools. The Diocesan Curriculum will be followed as it relates to these topics.

Language Arts

Language Arts consists of four components: literature, grammar, spelling and vocabulary. In the sixth grade, the highest emphasis is on grammar; in particular, the sentence, parts of speech and proper mechanics. The goal of grammar instruction at this level is to enhance communication skills and mastery of the English language in both the written and oral forms. Spelling and vocabulary are infused in daily reinforcement lessons and weekly tests. The literature component will expose students to a variety of authors, writing styles, and genres of novels, literature textbook and novels.

Physical Education

This is a comprehensive program involving the knowledge and the experiences to provide opportunities to enhance motor skills, social development, and physical development of the individual. This will be done through team sports, outdoor recreation, individual self-testing, and activities.

Band – 6th Grade

Fee - \$75

This course is a continuation and completion of the concepts begun in 5th grade. In addition, the students will begin learning the concepts of intonation, dynamics and articulation in the playing of their instruments. Sixth graders may participate in Jazz Band and Solo/Ensemble festivals.

Choral Music – 6th & 7th

Sixth and Seventh Grade Choir is a combined performing class in which the emphasis is placed on developing the singing voice. This is done through small and large group rehearsals and performances which focus on matching pitch, sight-singing, breath support, posture, embouchure, Kodaly hand signs, music theory, terminology and ear training.

Requirements for choir include an interest for singing and a pencil for class. No previous vocal experience is necessary. Music folders and music will be provided with storage available in the Choir Room. Students are required to purchase their own music theory books. Students may participate in Solo & Ensemble Festival and the Large Group Festival.

For a Choir to achieve success, everyone must be a team player. Although becoming a team/choir member requires patience, hard work and motivation, the rewards and experiences are well worth the effort. I am very proud of the Choral Program, and I know students would be proud to be a part of it. This is a combined 6th and 7th grade course.

Computer Keyboarding

Computer keyboarding is traditionally taught at the elementary level. Therefore, students who are able to test out at the 5th grade level with at least 30 words per minute and 90% proficiency are not required to take this class. Those who have not reached that level of keyboarding must take this class in the first or second quarter of their 6th grade year.

Introduction to Theater

Drama is a group art form which involves human interaction. The purpose and goal of drama is to develop effective communication skills through the use of body, voice, mind, and feeling. Learning experiences include movement, pantomime, story dramatization, and theater games. Structured activities provide opportunities to develop skills in listening, following directions, cooperation, observation, body control, concentration, critical thinking, problem solving and imagination. Students need to understand the definition of drama, the general rules, the consequences and the criteria for evaluation soon after class begins.

Family and Consumer Education Exploratory

Fee - \$25

This course will provide students with experiences in money management, textiles (simple sewing, no-sew projects or simple stitchery), nutrition and food preparation. The class is taught stressing the importance of these areas in family life. Other units may be added as time allows. Students will be responsible to supply material for the textile unit.

Sign Language Exploratory

The basics of communicating with the hearing impaired will be the focus of the class. Students will learn the manual alphabet. Common words and phrases as well as normal conversations will be taught. As time permits, more extensive conversations will be learned. (This class is pending the availability of a teacher).

Technical Education Exploratory

Fee - \$25

The purpose of the class is to provide students with a basic understanding of technology (the practical application of tools and machines). Students will become familiar with the characteristics of technology and its relationship to people and the environment. Students will also be introduced to the areas of transportation, manufacturing, communication, and biotechnology. Emphasis will be placed on terminology, adjusting to changes, better decision making, and safety. Hands-on projects that help develop these skills will be included.

Computer Publishing Exploratory

Students will explore and learn the different programs associated with Microsoft Office. As time permits, students will be writing and publishing a periodical newsletter. This will depend upon the skill level of the students. Sixth graders will interview, record, and write articles about CCMS in general and the activities of the sixth graders in particular. Those articles will then be word-processed into a newspaper/newsletter format using Desktop Publishing software. (This class is pending the availability of a teacher).

Art Exploratory

This course introduces the student to the basics of art techniques in drawing, painting, and sculpture. The projects used to teach these techniques will vary each year, but basic projects will include pencil and/or ink drawings, watercolor painting, and both slab and coil pottery. An understanding of perspective, shading and color values will also be included. It is designed to allow every student to grow in his/her artistic ability.

SEVENTH GRADE COURSES

Science/Health

The life science portion of study in the seventh grade includes cellular processes, botany, human body systems, and ecology. Emphasis in the physical sciences is placed on geology, oceanography, chemistry, light, and sound. Quarterly projects and labs reinforce text concepts. The health portion of the class explores current health issues at both the local and global levels. Emphasis in health will be on nutrition, substance abuse prevention, safety, wellness, and building healthy self-esteem.

General Mathematics

This course helps students learn about math in their own world and develop problem-solving skills that will work for them in every day life. Topics covered include Data Analysis, Introductory Algebra, Decimals, Fractions, Introductory Geometry, Ratios, Rates, Proportions, Scale, Similarity, Percentages, Integers, and Probability.

Advanced Mathematics (requires math instructor recommendation)

This course helps students develop an understanding of uses of math in the real world and the use of problem solving skills. This class will prepare students for High School Algebra. Topics covered include Data Analysis, Linear Equations, Functions, Rational/Irrational Numbers, Geometry and Measurement, Area and Volume, Similarity/Congruence, and Transformations.

Social Studies- The World – People, Places and the Past

We will study the history of different civilizations. We will focus on the diverse cultures and the important people who changed the world. We discuss how one period in history affects the next, and how much of what happens in the world today is a result of past events. The physical world also affects how civilizations develop, so we will study both the physical and man-made characteristic of our world.

Seventh grade will work on Europe, South America and North America (up to the American Revolution).

Language Arts

Language Arts consists of four components: English grammar, literature, spelling, and vocabulary. Emphasis will be placed on literature and the application of these skills to the real world. Students will read literature from a variety of eras and genres, including realistic fiction, science fiction, and autobiography. Communication skills will be developed in both written and oral forms. Opportunities to use creative expression will also be provided.

Religion

The purpose of this course is to assist the student in his/her own faith journey and spiritual growth. Students will engage in prayer experiences, a study of sacraments, and the planning of liturgical events. They will be given the opportunity to examine and explore their personal relationships with God. Emphasis will be placed on the lives of the saints and the understanding of the Psalms. The seasons of the Liturgical Year will be defined and practiced as they occur. The Diocesan Curriculum will be followed as it relates to these topics.

Physical Education

This is a comprehensive program involving the knowledge and the experiences to provide opportunities to enhance motor skills, social development, and physical development of the individual. This will be done through team sports, outdoor recreation, individual self-testing, and activities.

World Language Multi-Cultural German

Fee - \$10

This class will meet alternate days during the entire school year. We will review and expand on what was covered in the 6th grade German, but the student who is new to the system should not be worried about catching up. We will look more deeply at the history and culture of the German-speaking countries and add in vocabulary units on music and literature, traveling in Europe, foods, and more. A variety of teaching techniques and activities will be used including games, written handouts and dramatizations.

Choral Music – 6th & 7th

Sixth and Seventh Grade Choir is a combined performing class in which the emphasis is placed on developing the singing voice. This is done through small and large group rehearsals and performances which focus on matching pitch, sight-singing, breath support, posture, embouchure, Kodaly hand signs, music theory, terminology and ear training.

Requirements for choir include an interest for singing and a pencil for class. No previous vocal experience is necessary. Music folders and music will be provided with storage available in the Choir Room. Students are required to purchase their own music theory books. Students may participate in Solo & Ensemble Festival and the Large Group Festival.

For a Choir to achieve success, everyone must be a team player. Although becoming a team/choir member requires patience, hard work and motivation, the rewards and experiences are well worth the effort. I am very proud of the Choral Program, and I know students would be proud to be a part of it. This is a combined 6th and 7th grade course.

Band – 7th Grade

Fee - \$75

Students will grow in their knowledge of music through participation in the large group band setting. Music of different styles and time periods will be explored and performed at various concerts throughout the year. Individual and/or small group lessons are a required part of the course. Additionally, all students will have the opportunity to participate in Jazz Band and Solo/Ensemble Festivals. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Art Exploratory

This course will develop the student's skills in art production, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. The focus will be on various artistic styles using "the Masters" as templates. It is geared to give every student an opportunity to develop basic art skills. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Digital Photography Exploratory

Students will learn the basics of capturing scenes with a camera, theory of light with relationship to photography, theory of cameras-traditional and digital. They will learn how to compose the picture before snapping the shutter and what makes a good photograph. They will learn the effects of getting up close, filling the frame, zooming, using flash, capturing action and contrast. They will learn the function of the most used features of cameras especially digital cameras. Also, they will learn how to get the most out of the pictures they take by downloading to computer, printing, emailing, etc. They will learn how to select a good camera, the accessories to go with it, and how to take care of these. Basically they will learn how to get the most out of those cameras that are all around the house already. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Sign Language Exploratory

The basics of communicating with the hearing impaired will be the focus of the class. Students will learn the manual alphabet. Common words and phrases as well as normal conversations will be taught. As time permits, more extensive conversations will be learned. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course. (This class is pending the availability of a teacher)

Computer Publishing Exploratory

Students will be writing and publishing a periodical newsletter. The frequency will depend upon the skill level of the students. Students will interview, record, and write articles about CCMS in general and the activities of the 7th and 8th graders in particular. Those articles will then be word-processed into a newspaper/newsletter format using Desktop Publishing software. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course. (This class is pending the availability of a teacher)

Computer Keyboarding

Computer keyboarding is traditionally taught at the elementary level. Therefore, students who are able to test out at the 6th grade level with at least 30 words per minute and 90% proficiency are not required to take this class. Those who have not reached that level of keyboarding must take this class in the first quarter of their 7th grade year. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Introduction to Theater

Drama is a group art form which involves human interaction. The purpose and goal of drama is to develop effective communication skills through the use of body, voice, mind, and feeling. Learning experiences include movement, pantomime, story dramatization, and theater games. Structured activities provide opportunities to develop skills in listening, following directions, cooperation, observation, body control, concentration, critical thinking, problem solving and imagination. Students need to understand the definition of drama, the general rules, the consequences and the criteria for evaluation soon after class begins. At this level, students will be tested and will assist with set construction for the high school musical. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Family and Consumer Education Exploratory

Fee - \$25

This course will provide students with experiences in money management, textiles (simple stitchery, fashion, etc.), nutrition, food preparation and basic child care skills. This course is taught stressing the importance of these areas in family life. Other units may be added as time allows. Students will be responsible to supply material for the textile unit. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

EIGHTH GRADE COURSES

Science/Health

The life science portion of study in the eighth grade includes human body systems, heredity, and ecology. Topics covered in the physical sciences include: astronomy, weather and climate, physics, and chemistry. Quarterly projects and frequent labs reinforce text concepts. World and community health issues will be studied. Emphasis will be placed on developing healthy relationships, substance abuse prevention, media awareness related to health issues, fitness and exercise, safety and activities for developing healthy self-esteem.

Mathematics

This course helps students gain an understanding of the every day use of math in life. Students will be prepared for High School Algebra. Topics covered are as follows: Data Analysis, Integers, Algebra, (variables, equations, expressions, linear equations, functions, and relationships), Ratios, Proportions, Percentages, Rational/Irrational Numbers, Geometry and Measurement, Area and Volume, Similarity, Congruence, Counting, and probability.

Social Studies- The United States – People, Places and the Past

We will study the history of our American civilization. We will focus on the diversity of our culture and the important people who changed our country. We discuss how one period in history affects the next, and how much of what happens in our country today is a result of past events. The physical world also affects how civilizations develop, so we will study both the physical and man-made characteristics of the United States.

Language Arts

This course will include the study of grammatical structure, but emphasis will be placed on the utilization of learned grammatical skills and writing techniques to compose several finished compositions and creative writing. Spelling and vocabulary are infused in weekly reinforcement lessons and assessments. This course will also develop life-long reading skills, plus literal and critical thinking skills. Novels read will be classics and a variety of authors are studied through short stories, literature textbooks and novel studies. Literary components will emphasize foreshadowing, irony, symbolism and theme.

Religion

This course will provide the students with opportunities to deepen their relationships with God in all three aspects of his personhood. Major areas of concentrations will be on the Catholic Creed, the history of the Church's development from the Apostolic Age to the present, a survey of the Bible, and an examination of morality in today's society. Students will be planning and participating in liturgies and prayer services. Activities relevant to the season of the year are included. The Diocesan Curriculum will be followed as well as it relates to all these listed topics.

Physical Education

This course is a continuation of the development of the students' understanding of the importance of living a healthful life, as well as individual motor skills, sportsmanship, and physical fitness. Team sports, outdoor recreations, and individual activities are offered as well as an emphasis on introducing lifetime recreational activities.

World Language - Spanish I

Fee - \$100
Work book fee \$12

This is the high school introduction to Spanish centered on the language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed on communication skills. The cultures of Spanish-speaking countries are explored. This class will greatly compliment your elementary Spanish experience, but previous knowledge isn't required. Taking a high school course as an 8th grader will give you a head start for your high school career.

*Limited to the first 20 students to hand in registration. There is \$12 workbook fee in addition to class fee.

(IS TAKEN IN PLACE OF 8TH GRADE EXPLORATORIES)

(CCHS class and subject to CCHS rules regarding attendance and grading)

World Language - German I

Fee - \$100

As 8th graders, you have the option of taking the German I course that is offered at the HS level. No previous knowledge or exposure to German is required. This course is an introduction to German with emphasis on communication involving the four language skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. German culture is introduced in a variety of ways through short readings, movies, a soap opera to go with our book, partner work, and discussion. By taking German I as an 8th grader, you have the possibility of taking 5 years of German by the end of your HS career.

(IS TAKEN IN PLACE OF 8TH GRADE EXPLORATORIES)

(CCHS class and subject to CCHS rules regarding attendance and grading)

Algebra I Honors (requires math instructor recommendation) **Fee - \$100 CCHS**

Topics of study include number sets and their notation, properties/conditions/operations of real numbers, integral powers, operations and factoring of polynomials, operations on rational expressions, formulae, the Cartesian plane, distance and direction in a plane, variation, linear and quadratic functions, systems of conditions, special functions, and a discussion of probability and statistics.

Band – 8th Grade

Fee - \$75

Students will grow in their knowledge of music through participation in the large group band setting. Music of different styles and time periods will be explored and performed at various concerts throughout the year. Individual and/or small group lessons are a required part of the course. Additionally, all students will have the opportunity to participate in Jazz Band and Solo/Ensemble Festivals. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Choral Music – 8th

The emphasis on 8th Grade Choir is placed on developing the singing voice through performance. Your child will be provided with a full, comprehensive music education in choir in which they will encounter, experience and gain understanding of each of the standards listed below:

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of choral music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
3. Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to, analyzing and describing music
7. Evaluating music and music performances
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts and disciplines outside the arts
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture

Requirements for choir include an interest for singing and a pencil for class. No previous vocal experience is necessary. Music folders and music will be provided and storage available in the Choir Room. Students are required to purchase their own music theory books. Students will be participating in Solo & Ensemble Festival and Large Group Festival.

For a choir to achieve success, everyone must be a team player. Although, becoming a team/choir member requires patience, hard work and motivation, the rewards and experiences are well worth the effort. I am very proud of the Choral Program and I know students would be proud to be a part of it.

Art Exploratory

Students develop skill in art production, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. The focus will be on three-dimensional design using a variety of media. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Family and Consumer Education Exploratory

Fee - \$25

This course will provide students with experiences in child development, textile skills, nutrition, food preparation, consumer decision making, and housing. This is taught stressing the importance of these areas in family life. Other units may be added as time allows. Students will be responsible to supply material for the textile unit. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Introduction to Theater

Drama is a group art form which involves human interaction. The purpose and goal of drama is to develop effective communication skills through the use of body, voice, mind, and feeling. Learning experiences include movement, pantomime, story dramatization, and theater games. Structured activities provide opportunities to develop skills in listening, following directions, cooperation, observation, body control, concentration, critical thinking, problem solving and imagination. Students need to understand the definition of drama, the general rules, the consequences and the criteria for evaluation soon after class begins. At this level, students will be tested and will assist with set construction for the high school musical. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Digital Photography Exploratory

Students will learn the basics of capturing scenes with a camera, theory of light with relationship to photography, theory of cameras-traditional and digital. They will learn how to compose the picture before snapping the shutter and what makes a good photograph. They will learn the effects of getting up close, filling the frame, zooming, using flash, capturing action and contrast. They will learn the function of the most used features of cameras especially digital cameras. Also, they will learn how to get the most out of the pictures they take by downloading to computer, printing, emailing, etc. They will learn how to select a good camera, the accessories to go with it, and how to take care of these. Basically they will learn how to get the most out of those cameras that are all around the house already. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Sign Language Exploratory

The basics of communicating with the hearing impaired will be the focus of the class. Students will learn the manual alphabet. Common words and phrases as well as normal conversations will be taught. As time permits, more extensive conversations will be learned. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course. (This class is pending the availability of a teacher)

Computer Publishing Exploratory

Students will be writing and publishing a periodical newsletter. The frequency will depend upon the skill level of the students. Students will interview, record, and write articles about CCMS in general and the activities of the 7th and 8th graders in particular. Those articles will then be word-processed into a newspaper/newsletter format using Desktop Publishing software. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course. (This class is pending the availability of a teacher)

Keyboarding

Keyboarding is required of all 6th graders who cannot type 30 wpm at 90% accuracy. However, 7th and 8th graders can retake keyboarding if they wish to continue their speed and accuracy.

Keyboarding techniques are reviewed during the first quarter in the American history class, and basic word processing using Microsoft Word is taught. Keyboarding skills are reinforced throughout the year in the content area classes including spreadsheets in math. This is a combined 7th and 8th grade course.

Co-Curricular Activities

Student Council
Yearbook
Chess Club
Weight Club
School Play
Jazz Band
Brains Team
Mission Club
Basketball
Cross Country
Football
Soccer
Track
Tennis
Volleyball
Wrestling

Service Projects

Visits to Wells Nature View
Letters to the Homebound
Thanksgiving Community Meal
Thanksgiving Food Collection
Christmas Food Collection
Father Pankratz's Mission in the Philippines

ADVISOR-ADVISEE CURRICULUM

At Columbus Catholic Middle School, an Advisor-Advisee program is a regular part of every day. The objectives of the “AA” curriculum can be summarized as follows:

- to promote better student-teacher relationships
- to address general self-esteem and competence beliefs
- to provide social exchange and peer recognition
- to mediate between academic and social concerns

Each homeroom teacher works to foster a unique relationship with his/her students in order to provide the encouragement, support, and guidance that is an essential component to the well-being of the young adolescent. Each student is well known to at least one adult who becomes that student’s advocate.

In this program, opportunities are provided where the students and their teachers can talk about and share ideas and feelings about topics that are important to the middle schooler but not directly related to the academic content of the school day.

Some of the key components in the Advisor-Advisee program are:

- Monthly Themes
- Special Theme Days
- Silent Reading Days
- Intramural Activities
- Service Projects
- Round Table Discussions
- Socialization Skills
- Success Strategies
- Development of Organizational Skills
- Intrapersonal Knowledge
- Career Preparation