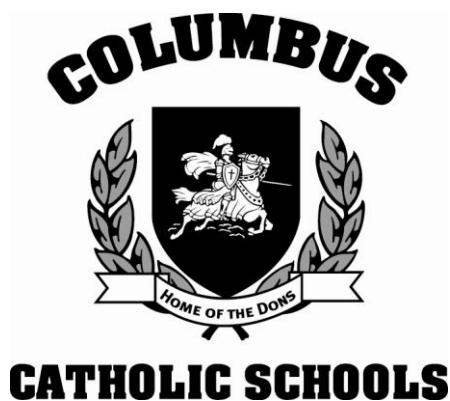


COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2011-2012



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Mission Statement

The Columbus Catholic Schools, guided by our parishes, are dedicated to providing a high-quality Catholic education, permeated with Gospel values, and designed to nurture each child spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

Philosophy

Columbus Catholic Schools are committed to the education, development, and spiritual formation of our students. Within the context of the Gospels and the teachings of the Catholic Church, **we believe we are called to....**

1. Faithfully teach Catholic doctrine and nurture in our students an abiding love of the Catholic faith through participation in religious instruction, prayer, devotions, and the Sacraments, particularly the celebration of the Liturgy, preparing each to take his/her place as the Church leaders of tomorrow.
2. Carry out the educational ministry of the Catholic Church by providing a quality, affordable Catholic education to all those children entrusted to our care, regardless of race, creed, or socio-economic status.
3. Fulfill the academic needs of each individual student through a curriculum and through teaching methods that encourage and enable each student to reach his or her maximum potential in all areas, placing an emphasis on nurturing a sense of responsibility to develop God-given gifts to their fullest.
4. Prepare our students to meet the academic, spiritual, and moral challenges of the future by providing opportunities to develop Christian values and the skills of critical thinking that will be the basis for future decision-making, growth, and development.
5. Provide an atmosphere of love and compassion for each individual student, offering them a sense of belonging and respect in order to foster their growth as caring, responsible, and confident Christians inspired to loving service of God and neighbor.
6. Help each student learn to appreciate and respect the rights and differences of others so that at school, at home, and in the community, they might act as true Christians who nobly grace our society with peace.
7. Provide a safe, nurturing environment with clear expectations for behavior and decorum, based on the Christian model of peace and respect, and compassionate to the developmental, social, and emotional needs of each student.
8. Provide a variety of opportunities in athletics and other extra-curricular and co-curricular activities in order to allow our students to explore diverse areas of personal interest and fulfillment.

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 Columbus Catholic Schools system

SIXTH GRADE COURSES

Core Classes

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

Elective Classes

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Band | (year) |
| Choir | (year) |
| Introduction to Music | (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) |
| Speed & Agility | (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- Spanish | (year) |
| Physical Education | (year) |

Elective Classes

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Band | (year) |
| Choir | (year) |
| Introduction to Music | (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) |
| Career Exploration | (qtr) |
| Exploring Math & Problem Solving | (qtr) |
| Health & Fitness | (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) |
| Introduction to Music | (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) |
| Career Exploration | (qtr) |
| Exploring Math & Problem Solving | (qtr) |
| Health & Fitness | (qtr) |

*Exploratory classes are subject to change

**CCHS Classes

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| French I | (year) |
| Spanish I | (year) |
| Algebra I Honors | (year) |

**CCHS classes are subject to CCHS rules and fees.

SIXTH GRADE COURSES

World Languages-Multicultural: Spanish

Fee - \$5

Spanish will meet twice a week for the entire school year. 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 CCS, 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 & 8th

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth 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, a three ring binder 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 class runs Tuesday, Thursday and Friday every week during 10th hour.

Introduction to Music—6th, 7th & 8th

Introduction to Music is a course that takes the students through the conception and evolution of music. This class is run as a fully academic class. Through lecture, projects, quizzes and tests the students of Intro to Music will dive into the inner workings of music itself. Requirements for this class are a folder and notebook. This class runs on Monday and Wednesday every week during 10th hour.

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

Fee - \$20

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.

Speed & Agility Exploratory

This exploratory will provide the opportunity to either get into shape or to remain in shape for your own personal health as well as any athletic teams to which you have made a commitment. Stretches, warm-ups, plyometric exercises and the occasional Tae Bo or other exercise routine will be a part of the course. Activities will take place outside as often as the weather allows.

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 Spanish

Fee - \$5

Spanish will meet twice a week for the entire school year. In the fall we will quickly review the many “questions and potential answers” that we studied in grade 1-6. From day one you will be using the language orally much more than in past years. Once the review is completed, we will use the language in many advanced projects: writing and performing skits, reading easy reader books and doing book reports, writing a book of your own, and finally enjoying a Hispanic cooking unit.

Introduction to Music—6th, 7th & 8th

Introduction to Music is a course that takes the students through the conception and evolution of music. This class is run as a fully academic class. Through lecture, projects, quizzes and tests the students of Intro to Music will dive into the inner workings of music itself. Requirements for this class are a folder and notebook. This class runs on Monday and Wednesday every week during 10th hour.

Choral Music – 6th, 7th & 8th

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth 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, a three ring binder 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 class runs Tuesday, Thursday and Friday every week during 10th hour.

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

Fee - \$20

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.

Career Exploration

Your chance to learn about blue collar, white collar, small business and military careers. All the learning is “hands-on” with guest speakers and a Power Point final project on the career that interests you the most. Great opportunity to plan for the future!

Exploring Math & Problem Solving

If you love math, then this is the class for you. Different areas of math will be explored including Geometry, Algebra, and Probability. Much of the class will focus on different problem solving strategies. Students also will learn how to solve the Rubik’s cube. No homework, lots of fun!

Health & Fitness

This class will meet daily for a quarter. The days will alternate between the fitness/weight room and the classroom. Students will learn how to set up a workout routine, as well as learn proper stretching techniques. Students can pick between focusing on an aerobics workout or weight training. Weight training will include low weights with high repetition. Gym attire required.

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 - French I

Fee - \$100
Work book fee \$16

As 8th graders, you have the option of taking the French I course that is offered at the HS level. No previous knowledge or exposure to French is required. This course is an introduction to French with emphasis on communication involving the four language skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. An appreciation of French culture is developed through study and occasional sampling of French cuisine and music.

(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

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth 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, a three ring binder 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 class runs Tuesday, Thursday and Friday every week during 10th hour.

Art Exploratory

Fee - \$20

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.

Career Exploration

Your chance to learn about blue collar, white collar, small business and military careers. All the learning is “hands-on” with guest speakers and a Power Point final project on the career that interests you the most. Great opportunity to plan for the future!

Exploring Math & Problem Solving

If you love math, then this is the class for you. Different areas of math will be explored including Geometry, Algebra, and Probability. Much of the class will focus on different problem solving strategies. Students also will learn how to solve the Rubik’s cube. No homework, lots of fun!

Health & Fitness

This class will meet daily for a quarter. The days will alternate between the fitness/weight room and the classroom. Students will learn how to set up a workout routine, as well as learn proper stretching techniques. Students can pick between focusing on an aerobics workout or weight training. Weight training will include low weights with high repetition. Gym attire required.

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