



Home of the Cougars

CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY
2010-2011
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CURRICULUM GUIDE

**Developing student's lives to positively
impact the world
through academic excellence and
higher moral character.**

Our vision is to be the #1 School of Choice in our area, through excellence in values and education.

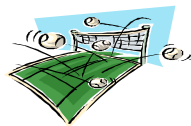
Crossroads Charter Academy offers the maximum number of enrichment classes possible with the staff that we have. If a student signs up for band and Spanish as their enrichment classes those will be the enrichment classes they will be enrolled in for the year. All 7th grade students must take one trimester of Computers, and Health and Character Education. Students in the 7th and 8th grade will be enrolled in an English, Math, Science, and a Social Studies class for all three trimesters.

We believe that middle school can be a positive stepping-stone for future academic success.

The following enrichment classes are offered at CCA.



Band



Physical Education



Art



Computers



Choir



Spanish



**Health and Character
Education**

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CCA Core Values

Embracing Excellence In:

- ⊠ higher moral character and integrity
- ⊠ academic achievement
- ⊠ a safe, nurturing environment; physically, mentally, and emotionally
- ⊠ diversity by respecting differences
- ⊠ resource stewardship
- ⊠ life long learning and leadership
- ⊠ life skills development
- ⊠ community service
- ⊠ critical and creative thinking

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English Language Arts

7th Grade English Language Arts

7th grade English Language Arts is a yearlong class in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The text for this course is Writer's Choice: Grammar and Composition by Glencoe. This class will encompass critical thinking in vocabulary and spelling, the writing process, and paragraph and essay writing skills. Students will write a memoir and create their very own Digital Story. Students will present persuasive speeches and be exposed to a variety of literary forms including short stories, poetry, and informational texts. Students will be responsible for reading Lois Lowry's The Giver and William Shakespeare's As You Like It. Accelerated Reading is required and accounts for 20% of the student's grade each trimester. Students will receive grades based on authentic assessment through student based learning, AR, class work, homework, quizzes, and tests. Supplies needed include (1) text book cover, (1) 1 ½ inch three-ring binder, (1) composition notebook/journal, (1) pkg. construction paper assorted, (1) pkg. note cards, lined paper, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, pencils, erasers, and (1) handheld pencil sharpener.

8th Grade English Language Arts

8th grade English Language Arts is a yearlong class in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The text for this class is Writer's Choice: Grammar and Composition by Glencoe. This course will encompass critical thinking in vocabulary and spelling, the writing process, and paragraph and essay writing skills. Students will write a biography and create their very own Digital Story. Students will present persuasive speeches, participate in a panel discussion, and be exposed to a variety of literary forms including multicultural literature, global and community issues, short stories, poetry, and informational texts. Students will be responsible for reading Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird and Pearl S. Buck's The Good Earth. Accelerated Reading is required and accounts for 20% of the student's grade each trimester. Students will receive grades based on authentic assessment through student based learning, AR, class work, homework, quizzes, and tests. Supplies needed include (1) text book cover, (1) 1 ½ inch three-ring binder, (1) composition notebook/journal, (1) pkg. construction paper assorted, (1) pkg. note cards, lined paper, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, pencils, erasers, and (1) handheld pencil sharpener.

Mathematics

7th Grade Mathematics

This class will focus on concepts that introduce algebra. Topics such as integers, algebraic expressions, and solving basic equations will be covered through student-centered activities. There will be many hands on learning tools used to help students explore and understand the concepts being taught. Some of the hands on tools would include balance scales for solving equations, algeblocks for manipulating integers and solving equations, and group projects that apply the math concepts learned. Toward the end of the school year the focus will be on using the skills learned to solve problems such as slope and y-intercept, graphing simple equations, and geometric constructions.

8th Grade Mathematics

This class continues the study of basic algebra. They will review solving equations and apply that information to inequalities and functions. Exploring with graphing calculators and learning how to use them to perform some basic algebraic functions will be part of the learning process.

Geometry topics such as area, volume, symmetry, and reflections will be covered. Topics will be learned through a variety of methods such as the Classroom Performance System (clickers), algeblocks, and group projects that apply the math that is learned. By third trimester this class will begin Algebra I topics in preparation for the beginning of their high school Algebra I class.

8th Grade Algebra I

This class is for students who excel in math as shown by performance in 7th grade math class as well as standardized tests. The Pearson/Prentice Hall Algebra I textbook is used. Students will focus on linear functions, solving linear and quadratic equations and systems of equations, simplifying algebraic expressions including exponential, polynomial, and radical expressions, factoring, and graphing.

These students will be able to earn Algebra I high school credit if they maintain at least an 80% average for each of the two trimesters, and pass each final exam with at least an 85%.

Science

7th Grade Science

Seventh grade wrap-ups Michigan's GLCE's as your science understanding will be tested via the MEAP the beginning of the 8th grade year. We will use a variety of Prentice Hall Science Explore text books along with other resources to gain a deeper understanding of atoms, elements and chemical bonding; the energy in waves, cells and their growth and development and their connection to heredity; the water cycle and how it affects our weather and climate and how humans can impact the environment. These concepts will be explored through text, video, and hands on projects. Students will read, write, model and discuss science concepts and how they relate to their world. Students will begin to explore themselves as learners and begin to understand how they learn best. To be successful in this class, students should have a 1" binder, a spiral notebook for each trimester and a desire to better understand the world they live in.

8th Grade Science

Your GLCE's have ended, but are you ready for high school? 8th grade science will emphasize making sure you have an understanding of the prerequisites needed to be successful in your required high school science courses. We will expand from 7th grade learning styles to how they may translate into careers. Along with exploring magnetism, body systems and astronomy, students will be exploring different career paths and developing an EDP (Educational Development Plan). The focus will be moving from who they are to who they want to be. The curriculum will be explored through a multitude of differentiated instruction including the Profiler, which focuses their intelligence into a specific career task. Students need a 3-ring 1" binder and 3 – 1 subject spiral notebooks. Math calculators may be used from time to time.

Social Studies

7th Grade Social Studies

The Study of the Eastern Hemisphere

The areas of study for this class will include several units of study; give themes of geography, Europe, Russia and the Republics, Africa, Middle East, and South and East Asia. The textbook for the class is *World Geography* by Daniel D. Arreola (2005). This class will have a strong student-centered focus. Students will participate in a variety of activities such as map making, travel brochures, Adopt a Country, some research, presentations, and student lead learning. They will also have a yearlong Passport and Wiki Travelogue, which will also be a cross-curricular project. Students can expect to work both in groups and individually, and conduct peer evaluations. A variety of formative, summative, standard, project based evaluations will be used to assess student learning.

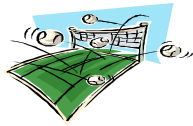
Supplies: Students will need a 3-ring binder that is 2 ½ inches and note cards. Also helpful for this course would be colored pencils, highlighter and an attitude to learn.

8th Grade Social Studies

This class will include U.S. History and Geography from the time of Independence through the Industrial Revolution. The textbook for this class is *Why We Remember* by Herman J. Viola (1997). Students will participate in a variety of activities that have a strong student-centered focus. Activities will include classroom debates, presentations, party platforms, writing and performing Raps, and a Preamble classroom project. Students will work both in groups and individually and will conduct peer evaluations. A variety of formative, summative, standard, project-based evaluations will be used to assess student learning. Students will also be involved in some of the quiz and test writing responsibilities. A cross-curricular unit will focus on the American Indians and the Civil war eras.

Supplies: Students will need a 3-ring binder that is 2 ½ inches and note cards. Also helpful for this course would be colored pencils and an attitude to learn.

Physical Education



Physical Education

This class will provide an exciting opportunity for students to develop an understanding of the benefits of physical activity. Students will have an opportunity to learn the four domains of physical activity included in the Grade Level Content Expectations for Students drawn up by the State of Michigan. The Four domains include motor skills and movement patterns, content knowledge, fitness and physical activity, and personal and social behaviors. By developing these four domains students will learn mature form, a solid knowledge base, grow toward fitness goals, and demonstrate good sportsmanship through a variety of activities. Some of the exciting programs that students will have the opportunity to be active in are running, basketball, soccer, volleyball, Frisbee, football, badminton, Paddle Ball, dance, golf, kickball, and archery.

Health and Character Education



Health and Character Education

This class is designed to present students with accurate, useable, and appropriate knowledge for them to live a healthy life. There are six basic topics that this class will include: 1.Character Development, 2. Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs, 3. Personal Safety, 4. Social and Emotional Health, 5. Personal Health and Wellness, and 6. Nutrition and Physical Activity.

Through all of these topics eight standards will be covered which are: core concepts, accessing information, health behaviors, influences, goal setting, decision making, social skills, and advocacy. Also, through this class students will have opportunities to present skits, information brochures, power point presentations and/or posters about one or more of these six basic topics.

Computers



7th Grade Computers

Keyboarding - Students in this class will build a typing foundation. They will learn proper keyboarding techniques with focus on the home row, good posture and proper hand placement while typing. Students will create individual typing files for lessons, journals and timings to use throughout the class. Many assignments from this class will come from the Glencoe Keyboarding with Computer Applications book. Students will be responsible for updating their own typing files daily in the class. Grading will be based on participation and progress as typists. There will be some basic word documents integrated into the class such as letters and reports with emphasis on utilizing the Internet as a research tool, computer ethics and computer terminology. Students will complete a report as a final project that will take the place of their exam.

In accordance to Michigan Educational Technology Standards & Expectations- Students will:

1. Use proper keyboarding posture, finger positions, and touch-typing techniques to improve accuracy, speed, and general efficiency in operating a computer.
2. Understand the potential risks and dangers associated with on-line communications.
3. Use a variety of technology tools to maximize the accuracy of technology-related products.

Intro to Microsoft Office - This class will focus on the 3 main Microsoft Office programs: Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Students will create applications in Word such as flyers and newsletters that will focus on formatting pictures and textboxes within the documents. They will also learn to create and utilize tables into their Word documents. Students will complete basic PowerPoint presentations while using the Internet for research. Students will also learn the basics of Microsoft Excel in creating spreadsheets. They will create charts and graphs with their spreadsheets and be introduced to simple formulas to find totals and averages. Grading will be based on participation and criteria given in assignment sheets. Typing skills will be reinforced throughout this class. This class will use the 2000 Word, PowerPoint and Excel books for some of the assignments. Students will be asked to save their work in their own personal folder. Students will complete a final project covering all 3 programs that will count as their final exam.

In accordance to Michigan Educational Technology Standards & Expectations- Students will:

1. Use proper keyboarding posture, finger positions, and touch-typing techniques to improve accuracy, speed, and general efficiency in operating a computer.
2. Apply common software features to enhance communication and support creativity.
3. Use available utilities for editing pictures, images or charts.

Desktop Publisher and Graphics - Students in this class will be introduced to Microsoft Publisher. They will create many basic creative applications such as programs, menus, newsletters, brochures and business cards for given topics or businesses. Students will also use the program Paint to create a collaboration of drawings/paintings with specific themes. Grading will be based on participation and criteria given in assignment sheets. Students will be asked to create specific folders for certain topics or businesses to save all of their materials in for that project. Typing skills will be reinforced throughout this class. Students will create a list of publications for a pet store at the end of the class that will be graded as a final project to take the place of their exam.

In accordance to Michigan Educational Technology Standards & Expectations- Students will:

1. Use proper keyboarding posture, finger positions, and touch-typing techniques to improve accuracy, speed, and general efficiency in operating a computer
2. Use available utilities for editing pictures, images or charts
3. Create a project using a variety of media and formats to present content information to an audience

Computers



8th Grade Computers

Word Processing - Students will complete many different business applications in this class using Microsoft Word. They will be put in many different office-type scenarios where they need to create letters and memos within a business. This class will also focus on continued growth of the students' typing skills. They will be asked to do advanced typing lessons in the Glencoe Keyboarding with Computer Applications book and save them in their lessons folder. Students will be timed frequently in an attempt to increase typing speed. Students will also use the program Mavis Beacon to monitor accuracy and progress. Grading will be based on participation, typing improvement and criteria on assignments. Students will complete a list of office documents for a business at the end of the class that will be graded as a project in place of an exam.

In accordance to Michigan Educational Technology Standards & Expectations- Students will:

1. Use proper keyboarding posture, finger positions, and touch-typing techniques to improve accuracy, speed, and general efficiency in operating a computer.
2. Discuss issues related to acceptable and responsible use of technology.
3. Use collaborative tools to design, develop, and enhance materials, publications, or presentations.

Multimedia- Students will focus on creating advanced multimedia projects in PowerPoint. Many elements such as animation, transitions, templates and timings will be involved in slideshows throughout this course. Many of the assignments will involve Internet research with proper citation. Grading will be based on participation and criteria given in assignment sheets. This class will use the PowerPoint 2000 book for some of the activities. Typing skills will be reinforced throughout this class. Students will present some of their slideshows in front of the class. At the end of the class they will complete a slideshow and present it for their Exam grade.

In accordance to Michigan Educational Technology Standards & Expectations- Students will:

1. Use proper keyboarding posture, finger positions, and touch-typing techniques to improve accuracy, speed, and general efficiency in operating a computer.
2. Create a project using a variety of media and formats to present content information to an audience.
3. Use a variety of Web search engines to locate information.

Spreadsheets and Web Design- This class will focus on creating advanced spreadsheets and the basics of web design. Students will create spreadsheets that involve complex formulas and more specific charts from their data. Students will use the Excel 2000 book for some of their activities. An introduction to web pages, web development and design will take place toward the end of this class. The students will build simple web pages in Publisher and create links to other pages. Grading will be based on participation and criteria given in assignment sheets. Typing skills will be reinforced throughout this class. At the end of the class the students will complete a personal website in Publisher that will count as their final exam.

In accordance to Michigan Educational Technology Standards & Expectations- Students will:

1. Use proper keyboarding posture, finger positions, and touch-typing techniques to improve accuracy, speed, and general efficiency in operating a computer.
2. Use database or spreadsheet information to make predictions, develop strategies, and evaluate decisions to assist with solving a basic problem.
3. Evaluate information from various online resources for accuracy, bias, appropriateness, and comprehensiveness.

Spanish



8th Grade Spanish

This class is an immersion into the language and culture of Spanish-speaking countries of the world. Goals in this class will be aligned with the Michigan World Language Standards as well as the 5 C's of the National Standards of Foreign Language Learning: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons and community. Students in this class will learn the Spanish language using the present tense and will acquire a basic knowledge of vocabulary as well as culture. Our textbook, *En Español!*, breaks down this learning into thematic units such as school, sports, leisure activities, food, family, clothing, vacation and home.

Much of the learning is student-led through group and paired activities. There are several projects completed in this class, for example, making piñatas, writing a report on a Spanish-speaking athlete and making brochures for a Spanish-speaking country. The class also uses technology to complete a variety of projects as well as other assignments and activities.

Students are required to use a pencil and to have one with them every day. Students are also required to have a notebook to be used only for this class. This notebook will be used to do journaling and short writing assignments, as well as other book assignments. Students will be graded on participating as well as on completion of work through both formal and informal assessments.

8th grade Spanish is a full year class.

These students will be able to earn Spanish high school credit if they maintain at least an 80% average for the whole year, and pass each final exam with at least an 85%.

Art



7th Grade Art

Drawing I (First Trimester)

This class will focus on developing drawing skills through the use of pencil and charcoal. Students will participate in art criticism, historical inquiry, a survey of aesthetics, and studio production. Student's work will be based on the theme of self-identity. Writing skills are encouraged through written critiques, sketchbook activities, note taking, and artist statements. Information will be taught through various methods including videos, demonstrations, PowerPoint presentations and lectures.

Painting I (Second Trimester)

This class will focus on developing painting techniques through the use of tempera paint and watercolors. Students will participate in art criticism, historical inquiry, a survey of aesthetics, and studio production. Student's work will be based on the theme of self-identity. Writing skills are encouraged through written critiques, sketchbook activities, note taking, and artist statements. Information will be taught through various methods including videos, demonstrations, PowerPoint presentations and lectures.

Three-Dimensional Art I (Third Trimester)

This class will focus on three-dimensional art through the use of clay, wire, and cardboard. Students will participate in art criticism, historical inquiry, a survey of aesthetics, and studio production. Student's work will be based on the theme of self-identity. Writing skills are encouraged through written critiques, sketchbook activities, note taking, and artist statements. Information will be taught through various methods including videos, demonstrations, PowerPoint presentations and lectures.

Art



8th Grade Art

Drawing II (First Trimester)

This class will further develop the understanding of drawing skills and techniques through the use of chalk and oil pastels, ink, charcoal, and marker. Students will participate in art criticism, historical inquiry, surveying aesthetics, and studio production as they create work based on the theme of being a part of a larger community. Writing skills are encouraged through written critiques, sketchbook activities, note taking, and artist statements. Information will be taught through various methods including videos, demonstrations, PowerPoint presentations and lectures.

Painting II (Second Trimester)

This class will further develop an understanding of painting techniques through the use of watercolors, tempera paint, and acrylic paint. Students will participate in art criticism, historical inquiry, surveying aesthetics, and studio production as they create work based on the theme of being a part of a larger community. Writing skills are encouraged through written critiques, sketchbook activities, note taking, and artist statements. Information will be taught through various methods including videos, demonstrations, PowerPoint presentations and lectures.

Three-Dimensional Art (Third Trimester)

This class will further develop an understanding of three-dimensional art through the use of clay, cardboard, wire, and plaster. Students will participate in art criticism, historical inquiry, surveying aesthetics, and studio production as they create work based on the theme of being a part of a larger community. Writing skills are encouraged through written critiques, sketchbook activities, note taking, and artist statements. Information will be taught through various methods including videos, demonstrations, PowerPoint presentations and lectures.

Musical Arts



Band

The Middle School Band consists of 7th & 8th grade students. Prior musical training and experience is necessary for membership in this performing group. Middle School band is designed to challenge and further enrich the musical experience of its members by attendance at MSBOA band festivals, annual concerts, parades, solo & ensemble and other Charter School events. The CCAMS Band has maintained an 8-year tradition of being District and State festival contenders, consistently earning top Division I and Division II ratings.

All students enrolled in this class are expected to practice and prepare materials on a regular basis, outside of class time. Grading consists of daily class participation, weekend instrument and music take home for preparation, sectional participation, playing assessments and attendance at scheduled performances. **Concerts, parades, festivals and rehearsals are graded requirements for this course.** Middle School Band is a full year, 36-week, three-trimester performance class.



Choir/Music Appreciation

Middle School choir/music appreciation class is designed to introduce students to the basic fundamentals of music theory, music history, sight-singing skills and vocal music literature. Membership is extended to encourage and welcome both male and female students, to enhance the potential performance level of the vocal ensemble. This vocal ensemble will perform at concerts and other events throughout the year. By learning various types of vocal warm-ups and articulators needed to develop better vocal skills, the students will have the opportunity to sing and perform with a group and by themselves. A wide range of secular, pop and sacred music will be explored during class rehearsals and performances. Selections are dependant upon current vocal ranges and abilities necessary for proper blend, balance and harmony. No prior experience is required for selection of this class.

This one semester class is offered throughout the year, but can be selected as a full year or a one or two trimester elective course. As a performance class, graded requirements include: attendance, participation during the daily class time and attendance at scheduled performances. A concert uniform of a solid white top and black slacks or skirt is required for most performances however; a special designed choir shirt might apply.