

Cedar Middle School
Accelerated Courses
2007-2008

General Information: We will not have a set criteria that students must meet in order to qualify for these courses, however, students who sign up for these classes must attend a mandatory meeting with their parents this spring to outline class expectations.

This is a list of characteristics that generally describe students who have done well in these classes in the past.

- Demonstrate a high level of personal responsibility.
- Welcome rigor and challenge in class activities and assignments.
- Possess uncommon academic skills and abilities.
- Exhibit initiative and desires to go beyond what is required.
- Is highly motivated and self-directed.
- Show interest in subjects beyond a superficial level.

These are the suggested levels of performance for students considering the class.

- Have a 3.7 Cumulative GPA. (B's in the subject area the year previous)
- Read at a 9.5 grade level or higher Achieve 84% or higher on the end-of-level language arts exam.
- Be able to express thoughts well on paper, demonstrating an understanding of proper writing conventions.
- Have a 95% or higher attendance record.

Course Title: Accelerated Science

Instructor: Monty Black

Course Length: Full Year

Course Description: The primary focus is teaching the standards and objectives in the state core curriculum. The year is spent helping students understand relationship that exist in our world. The 8th Grade Core Curriculum emphasizes forces, energy, and energy conversions. There will be considerable time spent graphing and on the interpretation and analysis of the data contained in the graphs. There is also a considerable amount of math using different physical science formulas such and work, power, and kinetic and potential energy. The use of these formulas requires an understanding of some basic algebra concepts. Many projects are required to be completed at home with a certain amount of expense (money) to buy supplies. Many hands-on labs are used during the physical and life science portions of the curriculum. During the earth science section, more Internet activities will be completed. Grading is based on a weighted system with 50% of the grade based on completion of assignments and labs and 50% from test scores. Internet access with a color printer is required. Students will also have to provide a kit with color pencils, rulers, glue, and other basic school supplies. A binder will be necessary.

IMPORTANT: The move from 7th to 8th grade science is a huge step in difficulty based only on the requirements on the state core. Moving to an accelerated course should be done only on the recommendation of your 7th grade science teacher.

Estimated hours of homework: 5 hours per week. This homework will generally have one due date.

Homework not handed in on the due date will be given zero credit.

Course Title: U.S. Accelerated History

Instructor: Ryan Durfee

Course Length: Full Year

Course Description: This is a year-long course that will cover events and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction and the westward movement, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered will include geography, exploration, colonization, the Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation building, the Civil War, Reconstruction, immigration and the westward movement. The study of current events will be an important part of the curriculum for this class. Students will be required to keep abreast of local, national and world events. This course will take a more in depth look at history than the standard U.S. History course, requiring additional homework. In addition students will be required to participate in the History Fair. Students will be expected to exhibit the characteristics of an Accelerated Student. The teacher will employ investigative and directed teaching strategies in a multiple intelligence style of instruction.

Level of Challenge: 4 on a 5-point scale with 5 being the most difficult.

Estimated Hours of Homework per week: 2-3

Fees: None

Course Title: 8th Grade Accelerated Core

Instructor: Jennifer Rowland

Course Length: Full Year

Course Description: Accelerated Core is designed to promote a deeper understanding of Language Arts and Literature. This rigorous academic experience is intended for students who are ambitious, intellectually curious, and highly self-motivated. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, intensive writing and reading skills, inquiry and research processes.

Students will engage in an active and collaborative learning experience. At least 3 hours of at-home reading per week is required and in-class reading will include 8 to 10 novels during the school year. In addition to following the Utah State Core Curriculum for 8th grade reading and language arts, students will compile a portfolio and research the 60's, a famous contemporary person, the Victorian Era, WWII and the Holocaust, American culture of the 1930s, famous poets/poems, evaluate various literary works from renowned writers, as well as perform a time-period play. Extensive final projects and/or concluding examinations are comprised of research papers, power point presentations, tests, essays, literary critiques, and published works.

Estimated hours of homework per week: 3-5

Level of Challenge: 4-5 on a 5-point scale with 5 being most difficult

Fees: As appropriate for specified class projects and field trips.

There will be no 7th Grade Accelerated Core for the 07-08 School Year

Course Title: Geometry

Instructor: Dale Prince

Course Length: Full Year

Course Description: Students in Geometry will review and build on objectives previously learned up through Algebra I. Students will be introduced to, study, and develop math concepts in the following areas: formulating their own definitions and discovering geometric generalizations through investigations, express mathematical ideas orally and in writing, read written presentations of mathematics with understanding, discover and test conjectures, formulate counter-examples, follow and construct logical arguments, understand the connections between mathematical topics and between mathematics and other subjects, and utilize the computer to solve problems encountered in everyday life.

Estimated Hours of Weekly Homework: 3-5

Level of Challenge: 4 out of 5 on a 5-point scale, with 5 being the most difficult

Supplies Needed: One 2-3" three ring binder with pockets on the outside of the binder, and 1 package of sheet protectors (75 count), and \$3.00 for a compass and protractor.