

2017-18 ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

West Cary Middle School

*Elective courses are not required subject areas like reading and math, but are optional courses that may be of interest to your child. Each middle school offers unique elective courses that your child can choose to take. The elective courses listed below are options for 6th grade students. Your child will select **4** electives from this list. Your elementary school will support your child in entering their selections in our system. You can find out more information on our school's website:*

<http://www.wcpss.net/westcaryms>

It is important to note that the availability of elective courses is dependent upon each school's master schedule, and choosing an elective does not guarantee it's availability in your child's individual schedule.

COURSE	COURSE DESCRIPTION
YEAR LONG ELECTIVES	
BEGINNING BAND	Emphasis is on the acquisition of basic musical skills as students learn to play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Band classes prepare several concert compositions that are performed for an audience. Student should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances. Students may choose from flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone or percussion.
BEGINNING STRINGS	First-year instruction in strings (violin, viola, cello and bass) includes correct holding position, bow grip, selected major and minor scales, and rhythm studies. Appropriate use of musical, dynamic markings, and the parts and care of stringed instruments are emphasized. Students prepare a number of concert selections that are performed for an audience. Students should anticipate some after-school practice and evening performances
READING ACCELERATION & SUPPORT	This course is designed for students who need additional instruction and support in comprehension building, vocabulary building and reading skills. Direct strategy instruction will occur with extended opportunities for guided reading practice with both fiction and nonfiction text. Students will have the opportunity to self-select texts and set individual reading goals
MATH ACCELERATION & SUPPORT	This course is designed for students who need additional instruction and support in gaining grade level mathematics skills, problem-solving strategies, test-taking skills, and mathematical thinking in authentic contexts. Activities will focus on the use of manipulatives to build understanding of mathematical concepts and the use of cooperative and individual activities that practice and strengthen grade level skills and ability in mathematics. Technology, reading and writing for greater understanding in mathematics will be incorporated where appropriate.
SEMESTER ELECTIVES	
PUBLIC SPEAKING & DEBATE	This course explores the production and reception of oral language through writing, delivering, and critiquing informal and formal speeches. Informational and argumentative public speaking are emphasized as students learn to consider both sides of an issue and move into formal debate. A variety of instructional strategies and resources will be utilized for this course
MUSIC EXPLORATORY	This course introduces students to the elements of music through singing. Students study basic theory concepts in order to read and perform a variety of musical styles from classical to contemporary spanning a number of cultures. Students will perform in an evening concert
INTRO TO THEATRE	This is an exploratory class. It is an overview of dramatic techniques. Students develop communication skills through the study of dialogue, mime, improvisation, speech & diction and role play. Students are also introduced to some elements of technical theatre

VISUAL ARTS EXPLORATORY	<p>This course introduces students to the elements of art through a variety of media that may include: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, pottery, and weaving. Application of these elements to the students' own original artwork is the major emphasis while being introduced to art history and critical analysis of master work as well as their own</p>
DIGITAL LITERACY/KEYBOARDING & BASIC WORD PROCESSING (Offered 1st Semester ONLY)	<p>This course is composed of instructional modules designed to allow students to learn the touch method of keyboarding, basic digital literacy and computer knowledge, and basic word processing and document formatting skills.</p>
INTRO TO OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY/OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY APPLICATIONS (Offered 2nd Semester ONLY)	<p>Prerequisite: Digital Literacy/Keyboarding & Basic Word Processing. This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction in digital literacy and software applications. The software applications include word processing, presentation software, and spreadsheets. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced.</p>
PROJECT REVIVE/EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY (Offered 1st Semester ONLY) INVENTION & INNOVATION/EXPLORING ENGINEERING & DESIGN (Offered 2nd Semester ONLY)	<p>Prerequisite: None. These middle school courses focus on applying the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, students focus on understanding how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. Emphasis is placed on brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, testing, and refining designs. Students develop skills in researching information, communicating design information, and reporting results. Activities are structured to integrate physical and social sciences, mathematics, English language arts, and art</p>
EXPLORING NUTRITION & WELLNESS/EXPLORING INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS & CHILDCARE (Offered 1st Semester ONLY)	<p>Prerequisite: None This course focuses on interpersonal relationships, nutrition and wellness, early child care and education, and interior design. Students are eligible to receive the American Red Cross® Babysitter certification. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced. Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competitive events, community service and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness through authentic experiences.</p>
UNDERSTAND PERSONAL FINANCE & HOSPITALITY/EXPLORING APPAREL & INTERIOR DESIGN (Offered 2nd Semester ONLY)	<p>Prerequisite: None. This course focuses on personal finance and resource management, food service and hospitality, and apparel. Students are eligible to receive EverFi's Vault™ and the NC eFoodhandler™ certifications. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced. Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competitive events, community service and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness through authentic experiences</p>
SPANISH - LESS THAN 1 YEAR	<p>This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Major topics include greetings, colors, numbers, classroom objects, the calendar, telling time, weather expressions, the house, transportation vocabulary, feelings, animals, foods, questions and interrogatives, the family, holidays, art, and clothing. Students who complete this course successfully should next take Spanish-Beginning 1 Year.</p>
SPANISH - BEGINNING 1 YEAR	<p>Prerequisite: Spanish - Less Than 1 Year. This course continues the study of the Spanish language and culture, refining grammatical and vocabulary topics. Major topics include foods, the present tense of –er and –ir verbs, the plurals of adjectives, the verb ser, the verb ir, question words, places, leisure activities, irregular verbs, possessive adjectives, family, celebrations, the restaurant, and personal descriptions. Students who successfully complete this course should continue the Spanish curriculum series for high school credit by taking Spanish I</p>