

Cimarron Middle School

*Learning and Leading
in the 21st Century*

6th Grade Course Description Guide 2010-2011

Douglas County School District
Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

IMPORTANT DATES

Student Registration

Cimarron Middle School

These dates are also posted on the Cimarron Middle School website.

Dec. 1 – Jan. 15		Open Enrollment Window
Week of Jan. 4		Elementary schools will receive registration packets
Jan. 19	6:00-6:30 p.m.	5 th to 6 th Grade Discovery (gifted and talented) Parent Information Meeting*, Tracks A/C and Gold Rush Elementary Legend HS Library
	6:30-8:00 p.m.	5 th to 6 th Grade Parent Information Meeting Tracks A/C or Gold Rush Elementary Legend HS Theater
Jan. 20	6:00-6:30 p.m.	6 th to 7 th Grade Discovery (gifted and talented) Parent Information Meeting*, Tracks A/C and Gold Rush Elementary Legend HS Library
	6:30-8:00 p.m.	6 th to 7 th Grade Parent Information Meeting Tracks A/C or Gold Rush Elementary Legend HS Theater
Jan. 26	6:00-6:30 p.m.	6 th to 7 th Grade Discovery (gifted and talented) Parent Information Meeting*, Tracks B/D and charter schools Legend HS Library
	6:30-8:00 p.m.	6 th to 7 th Grade Parent Information Meeting Tracks B/D and charter schools Legend HS Theater
Jan. 27	6:00-6:30 p.m.	5 th to 6 th Grade Discovery (gifted and talented) Parent Information Meeting*, Tracks B/D and charter schools Legend HS Library
	6:30-8:00 p.m.	5 th to 6 th Grade Parent Information Meeting Tracks B/D and charter schools Legend HS Theater
Jan. 28 – Feb. 26		Portal open for online registration
Feb. 1 – 5		7 th grade students register for 8 th grade classes at CIMS
Feb. 26		5 th and 6 th grade registration forms due to elementary schools
Week of March 1		5 th and 6 th grade registration forms sent to CIMS from elementary schools

*Discovery meetings are *optional* and intended for parents interested in learning more about the program.



Home of the Colts

Cimarron Middle School
Karen Tarbell, Principal
22219 Hilltop Road
Parker, CO 80138
(303) 387-4500

January 2010

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Cimarron Middle School! This is a very exciting year for us as we welcome three classes to our new school. Our two years at Legend High School have enabled us to come together as a staff as we focus our efforts on preparing students for learning in the 21st century.

We are pleased to present our *Course Description Guide* to you. In this guide, you will find the directions for online registration, the list of courses for each grade level, and information on athletics.

The 5th to 6th grade and the 6th to 7th grade portal will be open from January 28th to February 26th. If you are unable to register online, we will register your student once we receive the Course Selection Worksheets from your respective elementary school.

Our current 7th graders will register for 8th grade classes the week of February 1st through 5th during their social studies classes. Students and parents will complete the Course Selection Worksheet, and students will use this worksheet to register for their classes.

We continue to be committed to offering the very best middle school experience for your students. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks for sending such great kids!

Sincerely,

Karen Tarbell
Principal

Instructions for Accessing Online Registration Cimarron Middle School 2010-2011

PLEASE NOTE: Current 7th grade CIMS students will have the opportunity to enter their own registration during social studies class time the week of February 1st – 5th in the school computer lab.

Step 1 – Complete Course Selection Worksheet

You will use this form as reference to enter your online enrollment. After completing the Course Selection Worksheet, be sure to keep it! Your teacher will collect all the worksheets.

Step 2 – Go online to enter your course requests

Online registration opens January 28th and closes February 26th for fifth to sixth and sixth to seventh grade students. Online registration at Cimarron will be held the week of February 1st – 5th for seventh to eighth grade students.

- Go to the Cimarron Middle School website: <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/cims>
- From the Cimarron Middle School Home Page, click on the “Student Registration” link to go to your Campus Portal sign-on page
- To sign on, under “User Name”, enter your **last name, first initial, middle initial** (lowercase, all one word); (example: *smithje*). To automatically retrieve your existing Portal username and password, please select “**Problems logging in**” and follow the directions there to retrieve your username and password.
- Under “Password”, enter **Dcsdstudent ID#** (make sure the first “D” in “Dcsd” is uppercase; enter your student ID number immediately after the “d”; example: *Dcsd155555*)
- Click “Log In” to open your account

Step 3 – Course selection

Follow the instructions for Online Registration shown on the next page.

- Request elective courses according to your Course Selection Worksheet
- Core classes will automatically be assigned (example: social studies)

Step 4 – Log Off

After you have double-checked your course selections, click “Log Off” to automatically save your session and close all connection to the Infinite Campus Portal.

PARENTS: We strongly recommend you re-check course selections before online registration on the Infinite Campus Portal closes to confirm your student’s selections.

Instructions for Online Registration

User name = Student last name, first initial, middle initial

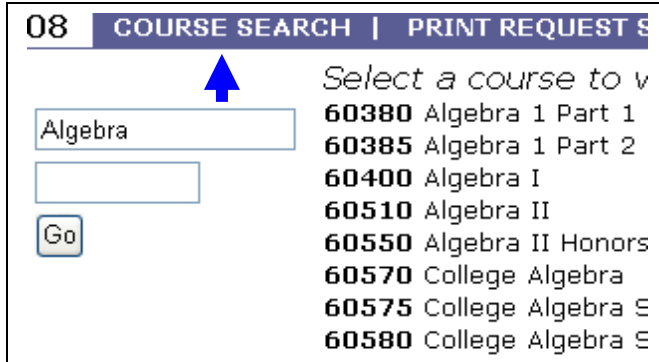
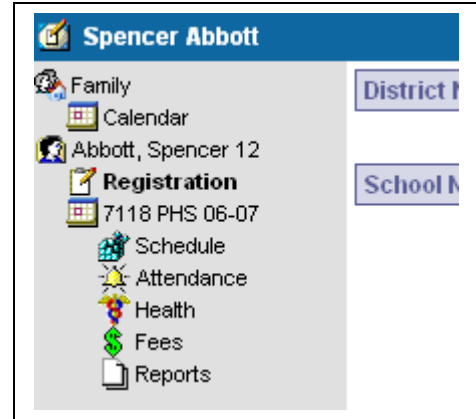
Password = Dcsdstudent ID#

Make sure first "D" is uppercase!

E.g. smithje **Password** = Dcsd155555

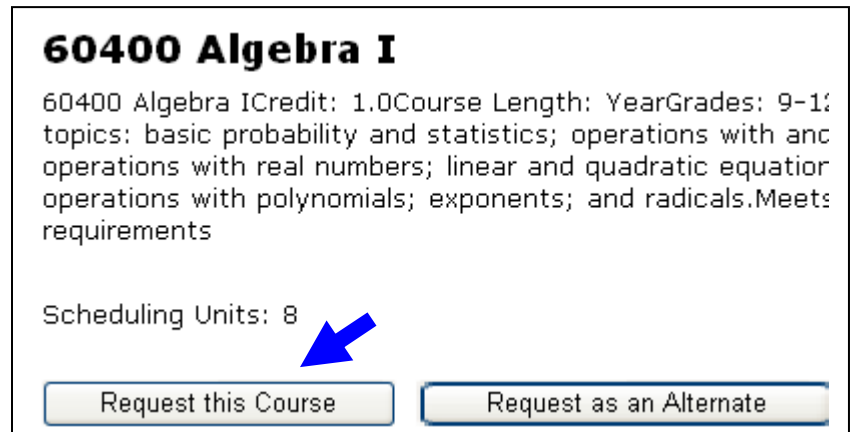
To Register

1. Log on to the Campus Portal
2. Click on **Registration**
3. Click on **Course Search**

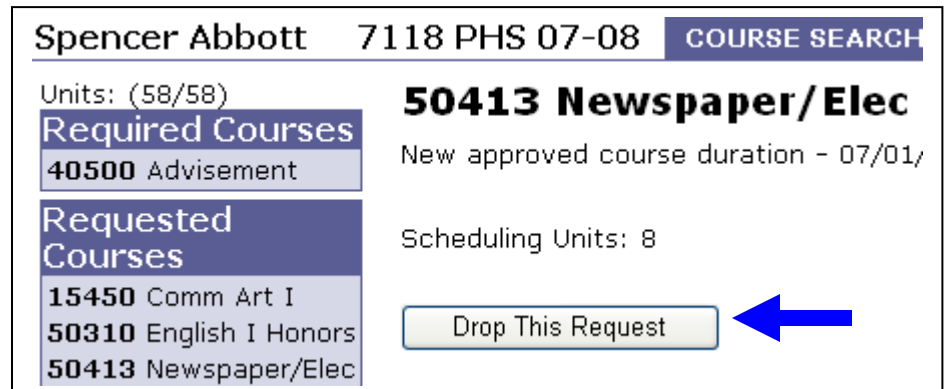


4. Search for a course by course number (full number) or by course name (you may enter part of the name if you are unsure of the full name).

5. When you find the course you want, select it and click **Request this Course**.



6. To remove a course request, click on the course name under **Requested Courses**. Then click **Drop This Request**.



6th GRADE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

2010-2011

Required Courses	Elective Courses	
	Year Long	Quarter
Advisement Language Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts 6 • Language Arts Discovery 6 Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math 6 • Pre-algebra Discovery 6 Science-Earth 6 Social Studies-Geography 6 Art 6 (one quarter) Physical Education 6 (one quarter) Technology 6 (one quarter) Vocal Music 6 (one quarter)	Band 6 Chinese 1A French 1A Orchestra 6 Spanish 1A	Consumer & Family Studies 6 Digital Media 6 Exploring Drama 6 Exploring World Cultures 6 Speech 6 Vocal Music 6* <i>*if interested in taking more than the required one quarter of music</i>

In addition to the required year long courses, 6th graders have one period to take a course of their choice. This is an opportunity for students to explore a wide range of interests. Year long elective courses will take priority in scheduling for electives.

As in all Douglas County Middle Schools, all course offerings are subject to modifications or deletions based upon student enrollment figures.

A fee will be charged for certain elective classes as per Board of Education policy district-wide.

Preparing students for the 21st century is a cornerstone at Cimarron Middle School, and one way we accomplish this is to embed critical thinking strategies into all classes. These strategies are:

- ❖ Monitoring for meaning
- ❖ Activating, utilizing, and building background knowledge
- ❖ Asking questions
- ❖ Drawing inferences
- ❖ Determining importance
- ❖ Creating sensory images
- ❖ Synthesizing information and ideas
- ❖ Problem solving

6th Grade Required Courses

Language Arts:

- **Language Arts 6**

Language Arts is the entire study of communication through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Reading competency and writing fluency will form the majority of classroom emphasis. As readers, students will read and comprehend a variety of grade level/course appropriate materials and texts using a wide variety of reading strategies. Students will read various types of literature including: novels, short stories, plays, and magazines. As writers, students will use the writing process to achieve writing fluency. The appreciation and understanding of literature will also be addressed through writing. Additionally, students will become comfortable speaking in front of others, and cooperative learning groups will provide students with an opportunity to build leadership and communication skills.

- **Language Arts Discovery 6**

Language Arts Discovery is a program designed for those students who have been formally identified by the district as gifted and talented learners in reading and writing. These students are provided with a rigorous program that includes in-depth, complex instruction and fast-paced study related to Douglas County's academic standards.

Mathematics:

- **Math 6**

The focus of sixth grade math is to give students an opportunity to solidify their understanding of basic math concepts. The primary math units covered during the year include: decimals, graphing/data analysis, fractions, geometry, probability, and measurement. Students are also introduced to integers, evaluating expressions, and solving simple algebraic equations. Writing in math is an important skill sixth grade students develop and practice throughout the year.

- **Pre-algebra Discovery 6**

Prerequisites: recommendation from 5th grade math teacher

This course is for those students who have excelled beyond the content standards for mathematics during their fifth grade year and are motivated to enhance their mathematical knowledge in preparation for the demands of Algebra 1 in seventh grade. Students completing this course will develop an excellent foundation in algebra, data analysis, graphs, number theory, geometry concepts, rational numbers, inequalities, transformations, linear equations, polynomials, integers, and real numbers. The general expectation of students placed in Pre-algebra is that they maintain a grade of B or better.

Science-Earth 6:

The 6th Grade Earth Science curriculum is designed to provide the students with general knowledge and skills in general earth science. The common concepts that will be taught will include but are not limited to geology, hydrology, astronomy, meteorology, the atmosphere, and the impact of humans on the earth. These concepts are investigated through a series of inquiry-based instruction activities and labs.

Social Studies-Geography 6

This year long course will engage students in the study of the western hemisphere. Sixth grade geography will include the study of the physical as well as cultural geography. Landforms, water bodies, climate,

vegetation and natural resources will be explored to set the stage to include the human factor. Cultural geography will include the gathering of data to compare the characteristics of the variety of cultures of the western hemisphere. Students will use this study of the geography and culture to make connections to the modern western hemisphere.

Physical Education 6

This is a required course where students will learn the importance of lifetime fitness and the skills needed to participate for life. They will learn the four fitness components: cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility. Students will study how to improve the four components and be tested in the fitness gram, with an introductory component to fitness gram. They will also participate and learn introductory skills in such units as: team and individual sports and fitness. Students will also participate in daily cardiovascular activities.

Art 6

This is a required course for all 6th graders. Students will study and create standards-based projects based on the elements and principles of design, art history, and personal expression. Students will experience drawing, painting, and forms of 3-D art. This course will provide a basis of knowledge for students wishing to take other art classes in 7th and 8th grade and in high school.



Vocal Music 6 (Required)

This is a required course for all 6th graders. Students will expand their choral knowledge by studying vocal technique, rhythmic and melodic sight-reading, two and three-part singing, music theory, and music history. A commitment to attendance of quarterly concerts is required and is included in the grading criteria. Black pants/skirts, white dress shirt or polo, and black shoes are required for all performances.

Technology 6

This is a required course for all 6th graders. Students will be introduced to the software available at Cimarron Middle School. The class has a heavy emphasis on mastery of keyboarding skills.

6th Grade Elective Year Long Courses

Foreign Language:

- **Chinese 1A/French 1A/Spanish 1A**

The Level 1A language course focuses on speaking, reading, writing, and listening in the chosen language as well as learning cultural information. Students will study simple grammatical structures, which include present tense verb conjugations, gender of nouns, adjective use, and sentence structure. Vocabulary study is an integral part of language learning and students are expected to continually practice so they will be able to communicate on a variety of topics. All skills will be practiced through speaking, writing, listening, and reading. The combination of Level 1A and Level 1B is equivalent to the high school Level 1 course. **Please note:** After successful completion of Level 1A, students will proceed to Level 1B. *****Successful completion is defined by having an A or B by the end of the year and a teacher recommendation.**

Music:

- **Band 6**

This class is a beginning/intermediate level of band instruction designed as a continuation of elementary instruction (students who have played for at least six months during their 5th grade year). This is not a beginning level band class. Students not taking band instruction in the 5th grade or ever having played an instrument must have at least six months verifiable, private instruction to qualify for class participation. Emphasis will be placed on learning to read and write musical notation, playing a wide variety of music representing many cultures and styles, listening critically to music, creativity, and working together as a team. Evening performances are required.

- **Orchestra 6**

This class is designed for violinists, violists, cellists, and string bassists as a beginning/intermediate level of string orchestra. Instruction is designed as a continuation of elementary instruction. Prior experience is necessary, and students should have played for at least six months during their 5th grade year and/or have had private lessons. Students will learn advanced performance techniques, listening critically to music, and working together as a team. Emphasis will be placed on learning to perform a wide variety of music, styles, and techniques representing many cultures. We will also learn to read and write musical notation and develop our listening and performance skills. Festivals and contest opportunities are available. Evening performances are required.

6th Grade Elective Quarter Courses

Consumer & Family Studies 6

Consumer & Family Studies 6 is a hands-on exploration course promoting cooking preparation and life development skills through cooking labs and additional activities. Students will gain experience with basic food preparation techniques, as well as skills to develop a better understanding of the characteristics found in healthy relationships. Students will explore strategies to help them make good decisions when it comes to home-alone safety and other responsibilities gained as a preteen. This course offers many opportunities for students to begin developing the necessary practical skills it takes to grow into a unique, independent individual. Come explore what life has to offer!

Digital Media 6

Students learn how to design and create media. Students will learn how to use Adobe Photoshop, the iLife Suite, and the fundamentals of digital photography.

Exploring Drama 6

This course will begin the exploration into the world of dramatic arts. It will give students the beginning experience, the practice of speaking, and the art of acting in front of a group. The creative process will be used as students explore pantomime, improvisation, skits and plays. Students will be encouraged to gain confidence and composure by performing for each other while using various explorative drama strategies. They will begin to gain knowledge about using their voice, body, imagination, and mind to create characters and solve certain situations. Class time is given for writing and rehearsing their drama scripts. Join in the fun!

Exploring World Cultures 6

In Exploring World Cultures 6 students will explore components of culture as they relate to various world societies and ourselves. The course focuses on preparing students to participate in an increasingly global society. The students will use research, reflection, discussion and projects to demonstrate understanding of global issues.

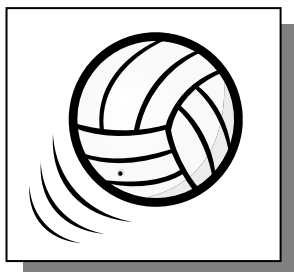
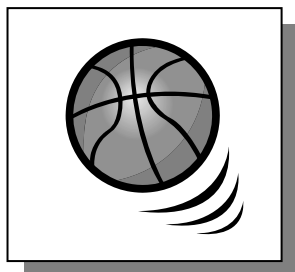
Speech 6

This course is designed to help students increase their effectiveness, confidence, and fluency in public speaking. Students will develop an understanding of both interpersonal communication and public speaking skills through a variety of speaking strategies. Assignments include writing and presenting short stories and delivering speeches based on demonstration, information, persuasion, and current events. Students are required to use visuals, which can turn an average speech into an impressive presentation.

Vocal Music 6 (Elective)

Vocal Music 6 is also open as an elective to all 6th grade students wishing to sing and study music for nine weeks at a time. Students will expand their choral knowledge by studying vocal technique, rhythmic and melodic sight-reading, two and three-part singing, music theory, and music history. Curriculum is changed quarterly, so students are encouraged to take choir as many times as they wish. A commitment to attend all quarterly concerts is required and is included in the grading criteria. Black pants/skirts, white dress shirt or polo, and black shoes are required for all performances.

ATHLETIC SPORT SCHEDULE



FALL SPORTS

7TH & 8TH GRADE CROSS COUNTRY
7TH GRADE FLAG FOOTBALL
8TH GRADE FOOTBALL
7TH GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
8TH GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

WINTER SPORTS

8TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL
7TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL
8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL
7TH & 8TH GRADE BOYS & GIRLS WRESTLING

SPRING SPORTS

7TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL
7TH & 8TH GRADE BOYS & GIRLS TRACK

A 6TH GRADE INTRAMURAUL SPORTS PROGRAM IS CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT; DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT A LATER DATE.