



RUSSELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

# Course Description Book 2021-2022

[www.d11.org/Russell](http://www.d11.org/Russell)





**Charles M. Russell Middle School of the Performing Arts**  
 2012 – 2015 National School of Character  
 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2018 Colorado Trailblazer School to Watch  
 2010-2015 Colorado School of Character

Mr. Michael Thomas,  
 Superintendent  
 David P DuBois, Principal  
 Lance Cunico, Assistant Principal  
 Ama Dei, Assistant Principal

## Welcome to Russell Middle School

Russell is always looking for ways to improve our student experience by providing opportunities for the performing arts, sciences, and other core classes. Our goal is that when students leave Russell Middle School, they will be well prepared for high school and be excited about their future and the opportunities that are to come.

Our school has an outstanding performing arts program where Russell is one of the few middle schools that have a full-time choir, dance, band, and orchestra teacher. In addition, we offer a drama/theater class that introduces students to another creative outlet. At Russell we understand how important the arts are to the development of the whole child and will continue our commitment to the arts for years to come.

Other programs include Gateway to Technology, computer coding classes, robotics, and Gifted and Talented, and select 8<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP classes.

In order to support our students academically, we have added a mastery resource class where students are provided the time to work with a teacher to address missing assignments, receive remedial help through an intervention math class, or access tutoring. This is a daily class that helps students prepare, organize, and learn how to advocate for themselves. By setting time aside every day for our students, we believe that we can help all students succeed.

However, students often need more than academic support. Understanding this, we have started a social emotional learning component this year that is embedded within our mastery resource class. In this program, teachers will guide students through different topics such as conflict resolution, facing the fear of failure, and how to set goals. We believe that by providing this to our students, stronger relationships will be formed between students and teachers, resulting in a stronger, safer, and welcoming school culture.

Russell is committed to student interests and organizations/clubs. In addition to the traditional sports, we also support clubs that are student-driven and supported by teacher sponsors. We believe that Russell has much to offer from our academics, student support, and an excellent staff. We invite you to be a part of Russell Middle School and start preparing for a great future.

David DuBois, Principal

***The world is changing. Meet the future.***

Colorado Springs School District 11  
 (719) 328-5200 • (719) 531-5520 Fax

Charles M. Russell Middle School of the Performing Arts • 3825 Montebello Drive • Colorado Springs, CO 80918



### Administrative Staff:

David DuBois	Principal	328-5202
Ama Dei	Assistant Principal (6 <sup>th</sup> grade A – L, 8 <sup>th</sup> grade)	328-5203
Lance Cunico	Assistant Principal/ (6 <sup>th</sup> grade M-Z, 7 <sup>th</sup> grade) Athletic Director	328-5204

### Student Personnel Staff:

Genna Dacanay	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor	328-5207
Michele Legette	Social Worker	328-4593
Ashley Malmquist	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor	328-5208
Colleen McElvogue	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor	328-5236
Krystal Crnich	Registrar	328-5215
James Gagnon	Gifted and Talented	328-4585
Jodie Swift	School Nurse	328-5216

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## **REGISTRATION FOR CLASSES 2020-2021**

This guide is provided to help students select their courses for the 2021-2022 school year and to give them information about the registration process. The final decision concerning which classes students take is the responsibility of the students and their parents/guardians. The responsibility of the counselors is to assist the student in determining appropriate class selection.

### **REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

1. Read course descriptions carefully!
2. Discuss possible choices with parents/guardians, counselor, and teachers.
3. Record your selections on the Course Request Form, provided electronically.
4. Write in two alternative course selections in case an elective class doesn't fit in the schedule.
5. Be sure your parents/guardians approve of your final choices.
6. Signing up for classes is a commitment that we ask students to keep for the year.

### **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Middle School is a time to explore and learn about oneself. Russell offers a variety of elective courses to support students' self-discovery. Many of our elective courses are yearlong and we expect students to stick to their commitment each school year. To maintain a balance of class size while allowing as many students as possible to take the combination of classes they have requested, we will consider only minor schedule changes once the school year or semester begins.

### **ADVANCED CLASSES**

Advanced classes expect students to have the ability to work, read, and write independently more so than a regular class. The pacing is expected to be faster. In addition, although the same standards and concepts are taught, advanced classes utilize material that is more complicated and allows for further and deeper investigation into topics. Assessments are designed to be more rigorous and often will include free response sections or even projects.

### **HOMEWORK**

Any course may have homework, which is work to be done outside of class and school.



## Attendance Expectations at Russell Middle School

### Tardies

- Please be on time to all classes. Tardies are disruptive to the learning environment and will incur disciplinary actions from teachers and/or administration.

### Attendance

- Attend school daily to meet the state law requirement of 1056 hours per school year
- Call in all absences to our attendance secretary at (719) 328-5211 within 48 hours of the absence
- Fill out an extended absence form for pre-arranged absences (if your student will be gone three or more days).
- Excessive absences (excused or unexcused) may lead to disciplinary and/or legal proceedings such as an attendance plan/contract or attendance court.
- When a student misses more than 10 percent of any marking period, whether excused or unexcused, they are **chronically absent** from school. Also, students who are absent four days in a thirty-day span and/or more than ten days in a schoolyear are considered chronically absent.
- After three total days of absences due to illness, doctor's notes need to be provided in order for the absence to be excused.

One criterion of a student's success in school is regular and punctual attendance. Frequent absences and chronic absenteeism may lead to poor academic work, lack of social development, and possible academic failure. Regular attendance is of utmost importance for school interest, social adjustment, and scholastic achievement. No single factor may interfere with a student's progress more quickly than frequent tardiness or absence. Continuity in the learning process and social adaptation is seriously disrupted by excessive absences. In most situations, the work missed cannot be made up adequately. Students who have good attendance generally achieve higher grades, enjoy school more, and are more employable after leaving school.

According to the Colorado Compulsory Attendance Law, it is the obligation of every parent/guardian to ensure that every child under his or her care and supervision receives adequate education and training and, if of compulsory attendance age, attends school. It is the obligation of every parent/guardian to notify school officials of changes in phone numbers, addresses and contact information as soon as possible. C.R.S. 22-33-104 states: (1) (a) ...every child who has attained the age of six years on or before August 1 of each year and is under the age of seventeen years, except as provided by this section, shall attend public school for at least the following number of hours during each school year: (I) One thousand fifty-six hours if a secondary school pupil; (II) Nine hundred sixty-eight hours if an elementary school pupil in a grade other than kindergarten; (III) Nine hundred hours if a full-day kindergarten pupil; or (IV) Four hundred fifty hours if a half-day kindergarten pupil.



## RUSSELL ATHLETICS

District 11 and Russell offers 7 interscholastic sports programs throughout the school year. Teams compete against the other District 11 Middle Schools. Students must have a current doctor physical, District participation form, and a blue emergency card on file with the Russell front office before they can try-out or practice. Students must remain academically eligible to be able to play in the games. Eligibility is checked weekly during the season. To be eligible the student must have a passing grade in all classes. A passing grade is a grade of A,B,C or D.

Sport fee (subject to change) – Full payment \$50, reduced lunch payment \$33 and free lunch payment \$17

\*\*\*Girls' Basketball, Boys' Basketball and Girls' Volleyball are try-out/cut sports

### **Fall Sports:**

Football (This is a partnership with Colorado Springs Park and Recreation. Football is the only sport we have a partnership with CSP&R). Season dates – August through October. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Girls' Track Season dates – August through October

Wrestling Season dates – September through November

### **Winter Sports:**

Girls' Basketball Season dates – October through December

Boys' Basketball Season dates – January through February

### **Spring Sports:**

Boys' Track Season dates – March through May

Girls' Volleyball Season dates – March through May

Russell also offers Club Sports. Club Sports are a mix between interscholastic sports and intramurals. Teams do compete against some of the other District Middle School teams.

Softball Season dates – September through October

Club Volleyball Season dates – March through May

Club Soccer Season dates – April through May



## **RUSSELL CLUBS**

There are a variety of clubs offered at Russell. New clubs are added on an ongoing basis according to student interest. Statistically speaking, students who are involved in extracurricular activities such as clubs or sports have a higher rate of academic success and a more positive school experience. Students are free to initiate creation of new clubs throughout the school year. See the Russell website for a list of our current clubs and their descriptions. The clubs offered at Russell in the 2020-2021 school year were:

- Anime
- Art
- Battle of the Books
- Drama
- Gaming
- Homework Club
- LGBTQ+
- National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)



## **Student Medication and Medication Form**

Parents are encouraged to administer medication to their children outside of school hours if at all possible. Only medications, which are required to enable a student to stay in school, may be given at school. If necessary, medications (prescription, over the counter, homeopathic and herbal) can be given at school under the following conditions:

1. All medications must be ordered by healthcare providers with prescriptive authority. (A student medication form must be filled out by a physician and signed by the parent/guardian).
2. All medication forms must be renewed each **school year**. (one form per medication).
3. Written permission by parent and physician in all cases. (Signatures provided on Medication form).
4. Medications must be in the original, properly labeled container. (This includes over the counter medications in original container, unopened). Medications sent in baggies or unlabeled containers will not be given.
5. All medications must be kept in the health room, except for students whose doctors require them to carry medication on their person as per school policy (for example, epipen, inhalers, etc).
6. Health care plan must accompany this medication form as per school policy.

\*\*\* Student Medication Form may be printed from the D11 website or asked for at our front office. Click [here](#) for a copy of the Student Medication Form. \*\*\*





# LANGUAGE ARTS

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Length/Credit: 1 year

This class creates an important transition to higher level analysis and writing from elementary school. Students will read fiction and non-fiction texts in order to analyze author's purpose and intent as well as argument and theme. Students will learn to craft clear thesis statements to present literary and non-fiction arguments with strong textual evidence in written responses. Students will create an extended writing project for each of the following genres: narrative, expository, argument, and research.

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS

Length/Credit: 1 year

This class is designed for motivated students with strengths in reading and writing. Requirements include: teacher recommendation, exemplary elementary school grades in reading and writing, and percentiles of at least 80% on CMAS testing. In this challenging class, students analyze a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. They will draw connections between texts with common themes. They will understand author's purpose and how texts give information about a time period or the human experience. Students will craft sophisticated responses to create thoughtful and original arguments and analysis in both short responses and extended writing projects.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Length/Credit: 1 year

This class creates an important transition in analysis and writing and extends ideas introduced from 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will read fiction and non-fiction texts in order to analyze theme and make connections between texts. Students will continue to craft clear thesis statements to present literary and non-fiction arguments with strong textual evidence in written response.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS

Length/Credit: 1 year

This class is designed for motivated students with strengths in reading and writing. Requirements include: teacher recommendation, exemplary 6<sup>th</sup> grade grades/advanced placement in reading and writing, and percentiles of at least 80% on CMAS testing. In this challenging class, students analyze a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts and focus on writing extended pieces and higher-level thinking in preparation for 8<sup>th</sup> grade/high school.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Length/Credit: 1 year

This class focuses on preparing students for high school English classes. Students will practice close reading, analytical writing, and communication skills. Students read a variety of diverse texts that are both literature and non-fiction in order to understand how details contribute to a whole, and how texts are interrelated. Students will respond with thoughtful responses based on text evidence.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS

Length/Credit: 1 year

This class is designed for motivated students with strengths in reading and writing. Requirements include: teacher recommendation, exemplary 6<sup>th</sup> grade grades/advanced placement in reading and writing, and percentiles of at least 80% on CMAS testing. In this challenging class, students expand their learning to a more self-directed approach. They will identify and develop their own arguments, questions, and analysis of the texts.



# MATH

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATH

Length/Credit: 1 year

6<sup>th</sup> grade math focuses heavily on ratios, rate, unit rate, algebraic expressions (evaluating and simplifying), data analysis, and dividing with fractions and decimals.

Topics covered:

- Standard 1 (Number and Quantity): Use ratio reasoning to solve problems, multiply and divide fractions, find common factors and multiples.
- Standard 2 (Algebra and Functions): Solve one-variable equations and inequalities, analyze relationships between dependent and independent variables.
- Standard 3 (Data, Statistics, and Probability): Develop understanding of statistical variability, summarize and describe distributions.
- Standard 4 (Geometry): Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE ADVANCED MATH

Length/Credit: 1 year

6<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math focuses heavily on ratios, rate, unit rate, algebraic expressions (evaluating and simplifying), data analysis, and dividing with fractions and decimals. Students in the accelerated class explore the topics more in-depth to prepare for 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math.

- See 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math for topics covered

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and/or supporting standardized test data

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATH

Length/Credit: 1 year

7<sup>th</sup> grade math introduces the skills that will determine how successful students will be with Algebra. The major concepts are negatives, proportional reasoning, and basic equation solving.

Topics covered:

- Standard 1 (Number and Quantity): Analyze proportional relationships, rational number operations.
- Standard 2 (Algebra and Functions): Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
- Standard 3 (Data, Statistics, and Probability): Draw informal inferences about two populations. Investigate chance processes and evaluate probability models.
- Standard 4 (Geometry): Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ADVANCED MATH

Length/Credit: 1 year

7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math covers all of the 7th grade standards, plus many of the skills taught in Pre-Algebra, in order to prepare for Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

- See 7th Grade math for topics covered

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and/or supporting standardized test data



# MATH

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH (PRE-ALGEBRA)

Length/Credit: 1 year

8<sup>th</sup> grade math (also known as Pre-Algebra) prepares students for Algebra 1 by focusing heavily on solving equations and working with linear functions.

Topics include:

- Standard 1 (Number and Quantity): Work with rational and irrational numbers, approximate irrational numbers with rational ones.
- Standard 2 (Algebra and Functions): Solve linear equations and systems of equations, use functions to model relationships, and work with radical and integer exponents.
- Standard 3 (Data, Statistics, and Probability): Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.
- Standard 4 (Geometry): Transform shapes in a coordinate plane, apply Pythagorean Theorem, and find volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ADVANCED PRE-ALGEBRA

Length/Credit: 1 year

8<sup>th</sup> grade math (also known as Pre-Algebra) prepares students for Algebra 1 by focusing heavily on solving equations and working with linear functions. This accelerated class moves at a quicker pace and students are asked to do more in-depth work.

- See 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math for topics covered

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation and/or standardized test data

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PRE-AP ALGEBRA 1 (Advanced)

Length/Credit: 1 year

**\*\*Students can earn high school credit for this course\*\***

Advanced 8<sup>th</sup> grade math students have the opportunity to earn high school credit for Algebra 1. This class includes the following topics: the algebraic, numeric, and graphical study of functions and systems of functions (linear, quadratic, exponential, square root and cube root, absolute value, piecewise, and step); transformations of functions; linear inequalities; multi-step contextual problem solving and modeling with functions; and data representation and interpretation.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade math (As/Bs) and a teacher recommendation



# SCIENCE

## 6<sup>TH</sup> SCIENCE

Length/Credit: 1 year

6<sup>th</sup> grade science is an exciting year of discovery. Students are introduced to practice and study of science through investigations, engineering, and problem solving. We start the year exploring ecosystems and energy transfer among living things, then learn about weather and climate as well as the cause and effect of both. During second semester, students investigate forces and motion, then apply their knowledge during a trip into outer space. Throughout the year, students will develop their critical thinking skills and scientific practices. This course is aligned to the 2020 Colorado State Science Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ADVANCED SCIENCE

Length/Credit: 1 year

Advanced 6th Grade Science students explore each topic on a deeper level by being challenged with independent tasks. These tasks are designed to reinforce the science concepts on a higher level and challenge the students to gather evidence that supports their thinking.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE

Length/Credit: 1 year

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science focuses on Earth and Life science. We explore how energy transfers cause the earth to change over time. We also investigate how energy flows through all living organisms and the relationship among those living organisms. Our main goal is to provide students with transferrable skills that can be applied to all disciplines; however, we focus more on skills that are science-based. We emphasize problem solving skills, critical thinking, claim writing, and collaboration.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ADVANCED SCIENCE

Length/Credit: 1 year

Advanced 7th Grade Science students explore each topic on a deeper level by being challenged with independent tasks. These tasks are designed to reinforce the science concepts on a higher level and challenge the students to gather evidence that supports their thinking.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE

Length/Credit: 1 year

8th Grade Science covers a multitude of subjects including: Genetics, Forces/Motion, Chemistry, Energy, Waves, Earth/Moon/Sun, Solar System, and Weather/Climate. We explore science through hands-on labs as well as virtual simulations. We teach our students to critically think and conduct the scientific method through experimentation. Students learn how to write proper lab reports, analyze data, and solve problems.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ADVANCED SCIENCE

Length/Credit: 1 year

Advanced 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science students will dive deeper into 9th grade material for each subject including; Genetics, Forces/Motion, Chemistry, Energy, Waves, Earth/Moon/Sun, Solar System, and Weather/Climate. We explore science through hands-on labs as well as virtual simulations. We teach our students to critically think and conduct the scientific method through experimentation. Students learn how to write proper lab reports, analyze data, and solve problems. Advanced students are also required to create their very own project reflecting Newton's three laws of motion.



## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WORLD STUDIES: WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

Length/Credit: 1 year

This course focuses on the beginnings of world civilization by examining the geography and history of the ancient world. Students will begin learning how to analyze historical sources for information about the past. They will also learn how to identify geographic features, read maps and make inferences about human society based on climate and land formations. Topics this course covers include: Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Mexico, Greece and Rome.

### **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WORLD STUDIES: ADVANCED WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

Length/Credit: 1 year

Advanced classes expect students to have the ability to work, read, and write independently more so than a regular class. The pacing is expected to be faster. In addition, although the same standards and concepts are taught, advanced classes utilize material that is more complicated that allows for further and deeper investigation into topics. Assessments are designed to be more rigorous and often will include free response sections or even projects.

### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WORLD STUDIES EASTERN HEMISPHERE**

Length/Credit: 1 year

This course continues tracing world history by examining societies during the Middle Ages and the rise of the early modern world. Students will learn how to think like historians by analyzing historical documents and artifacts to make observations and claims about the past. Students will also learn to plan and write essays that incorporate historical evidence. Topics this course covers include: the fall of the Roman Empire, the impact of the Byzantine Empire, Empires in Medieval Africa and the Americas, Medieval Europe and Japan, the Renaissance, Reformation and the Age of Exploration. Throughout all topics of study, students will build on their knowledge of world geography, government and economic systems.

### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WORLD STUDIES: ADVANCED EASTERN HEMISPHERE**

Length/Credit: 1 year

Advanced classes expect students to have the ability to work, read, and write independently more so than a regular class. The pacing is expected to be faster. In addition, although the same standards and concepts are taught, advanced classes utilize material that is more complicated that allows for further and deeper investigation into topics. Assessments are designed to be more rigorous and often will include free response sections or even projects.



## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AMERICAN STUDIES UNITED STATES**

#### **HISTORY: Beginnings-Reconstruction**

Length/Credit: 1 year

The history of the United States is the history of us. During this course, students will explore the history of this nation from its beginnings to the time of reconstruction after the Civil War. Students will learn how to think like historians and sociologists by exploring the historic, geographic, economic, and civic trends that have occurred in our nation. They will analyze how events and people brought about the changes that led the United States to become the world power that it is today.

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ADVANCED AMERICAN STUDIES**

Length/Credit 1 year

This course is a survey of United States Geography, Government, Economics, and History from late Colonial America through Reconstruction (1763-1877). Students will be required to utilize the broad and diverse outlines of US history to support arguments, sharpen their academic skills (reading, writing, critical thinking, drawing, speaking, discussing, and researching), make connections between history and current events, and decide what they feel is required to become a better citizen. They will analyze how events and individuals have influenced change and created the modern-day United States.

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PRE-AP WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY**

Length/Credit: 1 year

**\*\*Students can earn high school credit for this course\*\***

Pre-AP World History and Geography focuses deeply on the concepts and skills that have maximum value for high school, college, careers, and civic life. The course builds students' essential skills and confidence and helps to prepare them for a range of AP history and social science coursework during high school, including AP Human Geography and AP World History. The learning model is that of a disciplinary apprenticeship, with students using the tools of the historian and geographer as sources, data, and analytical reading and writing take center stage in the classroom. In this course, students learn that historians and geographers are investigators intent on using the tools of their disciplines to uncover new evidence about the world and its inhabitants.



## EXPLORATORY / ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS

The middle school years are exciting, unpredictable, and promising for students. During these years, they undergo major changes in their physical characteristics, mental abilities, and emotional stability. Through elective courses, students are exposed to many different areas of study beyond the core academic subjects.

Elective courses allow students to:

- Investigate a variety of courses to determine what interests them for future study. Students can explore courses that they may want to specialize in before they get to high school.
- Engage in hands-on activities and learning experiences that go beyond the core subjects of English, math, social studies, and science. Since middle school students are often full of energy and need a variety of learning experiences, elective courses give them the opportunity to move around and learn in a different way.
- Explore areas that may provide for future career options, basic life skills, and activities they may participate in as adults.
- Try new subjects for a shorter period of time to account for changes in development, attitudes, and preferences. Middle school students are changing rapidly during this time in their lives, and that means their interests and plans change as well. By changing courses often, students get the opportunity to explore many different areas that might interest them. Typically, at Russell:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade electives are one quarter providing students exposure to all Russell has to offer
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade electives are two quarters, one semester, in length
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade electives are two quarters, one semester, and some are year-long in preparation for high school
  - Performing Arts classes are yearlong for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.



## GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY

### **GATE TO TECH AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS**

Length/Credit: 1 year

Grade Level: 8<sup>TH</sup>

In Automation and Robotics, students learn how to make mechanical systems, using Vex Robotics kits. Once students have mastered mechanical systems, they will learn the code to turn their projects from human-powered to computer-powered.

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE INNOVATOR MAKERS**

Length/Credit: 1 semester

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>

Learn up to 3 different coding languages through immersive game play. Discover basic and advanced coding through development of your own games.

### **FLIGHT AND SPACE**

Length/Credit: 1 semester

Grade Level: 7<sup>th</sup>

Learn the history of flight and space travel through building many of the historical and modern flight devices. Discover through hands-on experiences how airplanes, hot air balloons, kites, and rockets work. Learn about the history and future of space travel.

### **DESIGN AND MODELING**

Length/Credit: 1 semester

Grade Level: 8<sup>TH</sup>

Students will learn the basics of 3D drawing and dimensions. They will take their skills and transfer them to 3D design software, where they will make multiple projects using Sketchup. At the end of the semester, students will work on projects and will access a 3D printer to take their creations home.

### **MEDICAL DETECTIVES**

Length/Credit: 1 semester

Grade Level: 8<sup>TH</sup> grade

Students will explore the expansive field of medical careers. Students will begin by studying the different types of careers available in the medical field. Next, students will learn how doctors and nurses gather patient info in order to figure out the correct diagnosis. Students continue using those skills to explore the nervous system and investigate different tests that doctors use to diagnose nervous system tumors. Next, students get to solve a mystery case file of a patient who has an unexplained illness. Finally, students finish the course by investigating a food outbreak that sickens multiple people! The entire course develops applicable skills for students to include: problem solving, cooperation, and investigating real-world problems.





# VISUAL ARTS

## INTRODUCTION TO THE VISUAL ARTS

Length/Credit: 1 quarter

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>

Students will be introduced to the Elements of Art: Line, shape, form, color, value, space, and texture. They will also develop artistic vocabulary in order to describe art in a more professional manner. 6<sup>th</sup> graders will discover and learn about famous artists who have made an impact on history and the world. Technical skills will be developed, along with the exploration of different materials. Students in Introduction to Visual Arts will create 2D and 3D projects using drawing, painting, sculpture, and more.

## ENCOUNTERS WITH THE VISUAL ARTS

Length/Credit: 1 semester

Grade Level: 7<sup>th</sup>

Students will review the elements of art and be introduced to the principles of design. 7<sup>th</sup> grade will explore and review various techniques and materials. They will create 2D and 3D projects using skills such as drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media, and more. Students in this course will also improve their understanding of space, form, and value and how they relate to one another. Along with these, they will discover more contemporary and modern artists who impacted art history.

## INTERMEDIATE DESIGN 1

Length/Credit: 1 semester

Grade Level: 8<sup>th</sup>

Students in this course will review and utilize the elements and principals of art. They will learn to analyze and critique artwork and learn to identify their likes and dislikes about different art styles in history and current culture. They will improve upon previously established skills and develop new ones. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will produce several projects reflecting their artistic growth and identity. They will discover what kind of artist they want to be, develop confidence in their craft, and take pride in their results.

## YEARBOOK

Length/Credit: 1 year commitment

Grade Level: 8<sup>th</sup>

**Russell Yearbook is a full-year commitment.**

Applicants for yearbook should be able to write effectively, do neat work, and meet deadlines. Interested students must submit an application that includes a reference from a teacher. The yearbook staff produces the school yearbook which entails taking photos inside and outside of school, planning pages, designing layouts, gathering information, writing copy, and composing pages for the sections of the book with the guidance of the instructor. Ordering, cropping, placing photographs, creating advertising, and encouraging school participation in school-wide events are the duties of editors and staff. Additionally, class members may be required to attend school activities outside of the school day.



## PERFORMING ARTS

### **BEGINNING BAND**

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup>

Prerequisite: None, beginners welcome! No experience needed

The Beginning Band (level I) class offers instruction on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments with a focus on the skills necessary for long-term student success. Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality and training in music literacy.

This class is ideal for those who are new to band or wish to learn a second instrument. Students of any grade level are welcome. No audition is required for placement in Beginning Band. You will be required to participate in an instrument selection night to help guide you to the perfect instrument choice.

All that is necessary is the desire and motivation to study a musical instrument. The Beginning Band will perform multiple concerts throughout the school year.

### **CONCERT BAND**

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup>

Prerequisite: Audition or by the direction of the Director

The Concert Band (level II) is for students who already have an understanding of basic music reading, instrument assembly and maintenance, correct playing position and sound tone production.

Instruction offers continued focus on the refinement of tone quality, technique, aural skills, and music literacy. Similarly, select students may have the opportunity to transition to instruments that may not have been offered in previous school experiences. The Concert Band will perform multiple concerts throughout the school year.

### **SYMPHONIC BAND**

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup>

Prerequisite: Audition or by the direction of the Director  
The Symphonic Band (level III) meets daily and is one of the advanced performing instrumental groups at Russell Middle School. Symphonic Band is composed of students on all of the major woodwind and brass instruments as well as student percussionists.

Instruction concentrates on advanced technical and expressive skills in an ensemble-focused setting. Membership in the intermediate groups is selective as intermediate reading, musicianship, and student responsibility are required.

The Symphonic Band will perform multiple concerts throughout the school year, on and off campus and participate in a Large Group Festival.

### **WIND ENSEMBLE (INTERMEDIATE BAND)**

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup>

Prerequisite: Audition or by the direction of the Director

The Wind Ensemble (level IV) is an advanced ensemble comprised of experienced student wind players and percussionists. Based on the wind ensemble concept and the literature written for this medium, the Wind Ensemble is the top-performing band at Russell Middle School. Instruction concentrates on advanced technical and expressive skills in soloistic, chamber, and full ensemble settings.

Membership in this ensemble is highly selective as advanced music reading, musicianship, responsibility, and experience are basic necessities. The Wind Ensemble will perform multiple concerts throughout the school year, on and off campus and participate in a Large Group Festival.



## PERFORMING ARTS

### JAZZ BAND

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup>

Prerequisite: Audition or by the direction of the Director

The Russell Middle School Jazz Ensemble allows student musicians to combine the music fundamentals learned in concert band with non-traditional music styles – Rock, Latin, and Swing. Based on this concept and the literature written for this medium, it is one of the advanced performing instrumental groups at Russell Middle School,

The Jazz Band comprises of a rhythm section (drum set, mallet instruments, keyboard, electric or stand-up bass guitar, and electric guitar), woodwinds (alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones), and brass (trombones and trumpets).

The Jazz Band will perform multiple concerts throughout the school year and participate in a Jazz Band Festival.

### CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students usually have 1-2 years of experience playing a string instrument with some understanding of reading music, and all students, even with no experience, are welcome and encouraged to join. In this course students will extend their music reading ability and musical vocabulary. They will gain the mechanics and basic understanding of tuning their own instrument. They will learn to perform, and they will learn multiple practice techniques.

### INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Student should have 1-4 years of experience playing a string instrument and all students, even with no experience, are welcome and encouraged to join.

Should be able to read music confidently and understand the mechanics of tuning their own instrument. In this course students will extend their reading ability and musical vocabulary. They will play musical selections which will require them to shift and play in multiple keys while performing more challenging rhythmic patterns with a focus on preparation for success in the High School Orchestra.

### ADVANCED ORCHESTRA

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Prerequisite: Instructor's approval and audition required

This is an advanced orchestra for student with 2-5 years of experience playing a string instrument. Students should be able to confidently read music and tune their own instrument with minimal assistance. They should be able to confidently shift to one other position and play in many different keys. In this course they will learn advanced techniques such as vibrato and shifting to higher positions. They will extend their reading ability and musical vocabulary and demonstrate this through sight reading.



## PERFORMING ARTS

### Choral Music:

#### **NOVA CHOIR**

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 6<sup>TH</sup>

Prerequisite: None, beginners welcome! No experience needed

This is a beginning choir that requires no audition. It is a yearlong class, and is a choir for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is a performance group that will have at least one required performance per semester, and may have more as the schedule dictates. Participants will need to have a dressy, all black outfit that will be worn at concerts. Students will not only learn proper choral technique, but will learn basic music reading skills such as music theory and sight reading.

#### **VEGA CHOIR**

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

This is an intermediate choir. It is a yearlong class, and is a choir for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is a performance group that will have several required performances per semester. This group will travel off campus for festivals. Participants will need a dressy, all black outfit that will be worn at performances. Students will continue their learning of proper choral singing techniques as well as have a more in-depth knowledge of music theory and sight reading.

#### **ANTARES CHOIR**

Length/Credit: 1 year Commitment

Grade Level: 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup>

Prerequisite: Instructor's approval and audition required

This is an advanced, auditioned choir for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. This group has many required performances during the year and will travel off campus several times. Participants will need a dressy, all black outfit that will be worn at performances. Students will learn at a fast pace and will learn advanced choral singing techniques as well as advanced music theory and advanced sight-reading skills. Students should be committed, serious choir students to be in this group.



## PERFORMING ARTS

### CHIMES

Length/Credit: 1 semester 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade. 1 quarter 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

Students will learn to read music, play chimes (hand bells) and play songs. Students may perform at some point during the semester. There is no prior experience necessary.

### BEGINNING GUITAR

Length/Credit: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 7<sup>TH</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Prerequisite: Students must have their own guitar.

This is a class for beginning guitar players. It is open to any student with their own guitar. Students must have a classical, acoustic, or electric guitar with a small amp. This class will start with the parts of the guitar, how to hold the guitar, and the proper playing technique. In this class students will learn how to read tablature, play chords, including Barre chords. They will learn a little about classical style guitar playing, lead guitar parts, and rhythm guitar playing. Students may also learn the 12-bar blues and improvisation.

### DRAMATICS (Theatre)

Length/Credit: 1 semester 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade. 1 quarter 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

This is a class for students interested in learning about the technical aspects of theater, as well as to act and put on a production. We will cover a wide variety of acting methods to include improvisation, stage movement, auditioning, and scene study. Students may be required to put on a production, which will serve as a final exam for the class.

### MUSIC EXPLORATION

Length/Credit: 1 quarter

Grade Level: 6<sup>TH</sup>

This is a quarter-long class for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Music Exploration is a class designed to expose students to the world of classical music. They will learn to read music, play a string instrument, develop listening skills, and study about the history and lives of the great composers and musicians from history.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Length/Credit: 1 quarter for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 1 semester for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

Students will participate regularly in physical activity and achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness while demonstrating proficiency in motor skills needed to perform a variety of physical activity. Students will exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in the physical education settings and apply safety knowledge and skills to prevent injury. Depending on the quarter, students will learn and practice specific sports-related skills and participate in sports and games that will contribute to their physical and social well-being. These sports and games include but are not limited to: Ultimate Frisbee, Flag Football, Disc Golf, Basketball, Volleyball, Net Sports (such as Badminton, Pickle Ball, and Table Tennis), Floor Hockey, as well as other indoor and outdoor games.

### LIFETIME SPORTS

Length/Credit: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 8<sup>th</sup>

Lifetime Sports is a course that focuses on physical fitness and lifetime skills needed to participate in various team sports. Through the participation in several sports, students will gain the knowledge necessary to become an educated participant and spectator.



# DANCE

## INTRODUCTION TO DANCE

Length/Credit: 1 Quarter

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>

This course introduces students to the foundational aspects of dance through specific units of study (creative movement, modern, jazz, ballet). Students will have the opportunity to build technique, improve flexibility, grow choreographic ability, draw on creativity, improve comfort of performing in front of others, and explore basic level dance history and its influence on dance styles. Students are expected to wear moveable clothing, actively participate, and demonstrate in each class.

## INTRODUCTION TO DANCE

Length/Credit: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 7<sup>th</sup>

This course provides a review of concepts and skills covered in Introduction to Dance, 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It digs deeper into dance skill, technique, and knowledge in creative movement, modern, ballet, and jazz and adds in the style of tap. Emphasis is placed on on-going technique, artistic growth and choreography, as well as advancing performance skills. Students will perform on stage at semester-end, presenting a group choreographic project. Students are expected to wear moveable clothing, actively participate, and demonstrate in each class.

## INTRODUCTION TO DANCE

Length/Credit: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 8<sup>th</sup>

This course offers continued study for dance students who have achieved intermediate levels of skills, technique, artistic growth, and performance. Students will further develop their skills, add in deeper study of the art of choreography, critique dance, build their understanding of basic anatomy and kinesiology, elect a project of study for research and presentation, learn class dances, and co-choreograph a dance to perform in small groups at the end of the semester.

## INTRODUCTION TO DANCE

Length/Credit: 1 Year

Grade Level: 8<sup>th</sup>

This course in the year-long dance form offers continued study for two-semester students. Dance These students will construct a choreographic piece, build and rehearse their cast, and present their piece in an evening concert for an audience. Students will also build a lesson and teach that dance lesson to their classmates. Students in semester - and yearlong - dance are expected to wear moveable clothing, actively participate, and demonstrate in each class.



## WORLD LANGUAGES

### WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES

Length/Credit: 1 quarter

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup> grade

This class is designed to introduce students to Spanish, French, and German basics. Students work through foundational units (such as introductions, numbers, colors, days/months, family) building vocabulary through speaking, listening, and writing, and cultural perspective associated with the three languages of study.

### INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

Length/Credit: 1 semester

Grade Level: 7<sup>th</sup> grade

This class is designed to build students vocabulary base in Spanish through units of study. Students will gain cultural perspective, begin working through basic level grammar structure, ask and answer questions in full sentence format, and focus on pronunciation. Students will accomplish this through reading, speaking, and writing. This class is an excellent preparation class to transition into 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish I/II.

### SPANISH I/II

Length/Credit: 1 year (2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**\*\*Students can earn high school credit for this course\*\***

This class is designed as a high school-level class, pacing with the district feeder schools to allow easy transition into Spanish III/IV. Students have the potential to earn high school credit with completion of the course and the earning of a grade of C or higher. This course is designed to take students through a quick review of basic vocabulary concepts, build new vocabulary, work on pronunciation, introduce students to foundational grammatical concepts (such as verb conjugation, subject-adjective agreement, gendered nouns, articles, and more), and bring in cultural concepts through thematic units of study. Learning will comprise listening, reading, writing, and speaking to support students being able to create simple sentences, hold basic conversations, read and comprehend basic text/stories, and ask and answer questions. Students will be expected to work at a high level, participate during class, complete in-class work, assessments, and homework.





## GIFTED & TALENTED

### **Gifted and Talented Discovery**

Length/Credit: 1 year

Prerequisite: Identified GT open to all Identified GT students and GT Talent Pool students when space allows

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

The Gifted and Talented program at Russell is a comprehensive, three-year middle school GT program. GT students are enrolled in a “Discovery” class where they meet daily with a Gifted Resource Teacher and work with other GT peers. With an emphasis on project-based learning and social and emotional wellbeing, we learn about what it means to be gifted while also developing our unique talents. All GT students complete an Advanced Learning Plan at the beginning of the year, and as the year progresses, we work on achieving the goals outlined in the ALPs. The culminating event every year is the GT Showcase where the public is invited to look at our GT students’ Independent Study Projects. Russell GT students are self-driven, enthusiastic learners, who are challenged to grow in their areas of strength as well as explore new perspectives.



## RESOURCE

Russell students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>: all have a one-period resource class every day. There are four possible courses, determined by individual programs and needs.

### **MASTERY RESOURCE**

Length/Credit: 1 year

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

Mastery Resource, also called Study Skills, is designed to maximize academic performance by providing daily support that gives students the opportunity to complete assignments, communicate with teachers, address instructional gaps, and participate in enrichment activities.

### **DISCOVERY MATH**

Length/Credit: 1 year

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

This course provides additional math support and focuses on skill-building, fact-fluency, and filling in gaps. Students may also have time to complete assignments and communicate with teachers.

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF READING**

Length/Credit: 1 year

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

This course requires students to have an Individual Education Plan, IEP. System 44 and Read 180 programs are utilized to accelerate learning and enables struggling readers to experience success in developing foundational skills to reading comprehension.

### **ELL (English Language Learners)**

Length/Credit: 1 year

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Gifted and Talented Discovery**

Length/Credit: 1 year

Prerequisite: Identified GT open to all Identified GT students and GT Talent Pool students when space allows

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>

See description on page 24



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

### Russell Special Education Staff:

Dane Kastl	8 <sup>th</sup> grade SpEd teacher	328-4589
Karli Copeland	7 <sup>th</sup> grade SpEd teacher	328-7573
Christy Combs	6 <sup>th</sup> grade SpEd teacher	328-6198
Nicole Vallance	Severe Needs teacher	328-7584
Lisa Larkin	Social/emotional/behavioral teacher	328-4590
Michele Legette	Social Worker	328-4593
Jodie Swift	School Nurse	328-5216
JP Lautenschlager	Speech Pathologist	328-4591

Russell provides a variety of options to choose from within our continuum of services. Our mission is to equip students with the tools needed to enhance independence in life after graduation. The options available are:

- Inclusion – In elective and core classes, with supports, if needed, by teacher assistants or student tutors.
- Co-Taught Classes – A regular class teacher and a Special Education teacher co-teach to provide additional support to Special Education students for optimal success.
- Fundamentals Classes - Offered by Special Education teachers with an academic approach in reading, language arts, and math.
- Life skills - oriented classes for students with more significant needs. Lessons are aligned with daily living and community access skills such as: self-advocacy, safety, leisure – all with social and communication skills integrated throughout.
- SpEd services to include Behavior continuum room, mental health, speech, OT (Occupational Therapy), and PT (Physical Therapy).

Our continuum of services provides for Special Education students of all skill and functioning levels. SpEd services to include Behavior continuum room, mental health, speech, OT (Occupational Therapy), and PT (Physical Therapy).

### Fundamentals Classes:

Language Arts	Fundamentals of Language Arts
Mathematics	Fundamentals of Math
Reading	Fundamentals of Reading



Colorado Springs School District 11 is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, creed, color, sex (gender), ancestry, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age and/or disability.

Inquiries may be referred to:

Alvin N. Brown, Jr., JD, Director,  
Equal Opportunity Programs and Ombudservices, District 11 Equal Opportunity Office, Room 117  
1115 N. El Paso Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
E-MAIL: [alvin.brown2@d11.org](mailto:alvin.brown2@d11.org)  
Phone: 520-2271, FAX: 520-2442