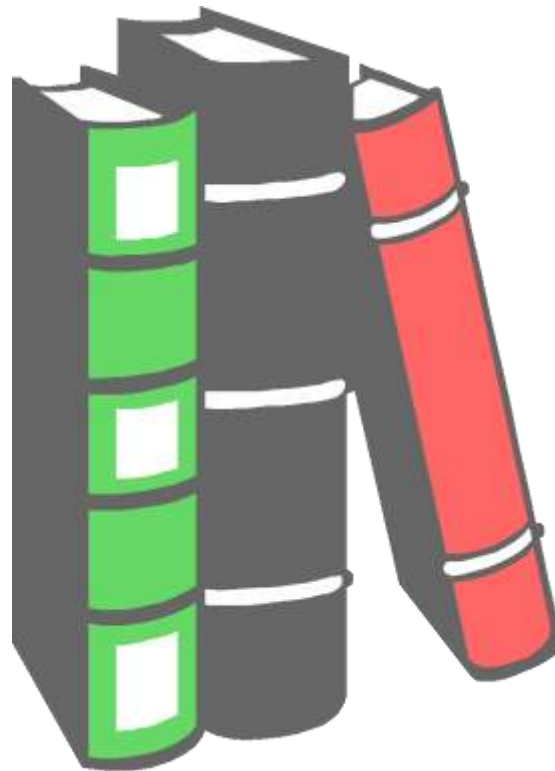


***VERONA AREA CORE KNOWLEDGE<sup>®</sup>***  
***CHARTER SCHOOL***  
***MIDDLE SCHOOL***



**CURRICULUM HANDBOOK**  
**EIGHTH GRADE**  
**2017 – 2018**

## Verona Area Core Knowledge® Charter School

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Rick Kisting – Director

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Dear Parents and Students:

Verona Area Core Knowledge® Charter School (CKCS) is proud of the Middle School choice we provide to students in the Verona Area School District. This handbook is designed to convey basic information about the core classes available at CKCS, as well as the Encore classes.

The CKCS Middle School Curriculum is built around the Core Knowledge® Sequence. This curriculum does an excellent job of preparing your child for high school and educational endeavors beyond. Our Middle School provides a seamless transition for students from our elementary program. It also provides a well-balanced academic choice for students new to CKCS. The positive and supportive staff at CKCS provides high quality instruction in nurturing classroom environments.

Please review the materials and contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mr. Rick Kisting  
Director  
608 845-4133



Ms. Tamara Gunwall  
Curriculum Coordinator  
608 845-4126

# **EIGHTH GRADE**

## **Required Classes**

English Literature/Language Arts  
Math  
Science  
Social Studies  
Physical Education  
Health

## **Elective Classes** (Full Year)

Band  
Orchestra  
Choir  
Instrumental Music for Beginners  
German 1, Spanish 1 *or* Spanish Language Arts 1

## **Elective Classes** (Semester)

### **Art**

Drawing and Painting  
Ceramics and Sculpture  
Design Arts – It’s All in the Design!

### **Family and Consumer Education**

KFC-Kids, Food and Cooking  
Designs in Living  
“Business Wanna-Bees” – Kub’s Closet

### **Information and Technology Literacy**

Advanced Information and Technology Literacy  
Media Production

# COURSE DESCRIPTION – EIGHTH GRADE

## REQUIRED CLASSES

### English Literature/Language Arts

The CKCS eighth grade English language arts curriculum includes writing and grammar skills, vocabulary development and selected literature. Students use *Vocabulary Workshop* and literature from a variety of sources. Students will study classic literature in the forms of short stories and poetry by authors including: Browning, Dickinson, Yeats, Wordsworth, Frost and Shelley. Novels studied in eighth grade include *The Good Earth*, *The Watsons go to Birmingham—1963*, *The Breadwinner*, and *Journey to Jo'Burg* as well as the play *A Midsummer's Night Dream* by William Shakespeare. Expository writing, research essays and public speaking round out the curriculum.

### Mathematics

Students are tested and placed into a math course according to their instructional level, teacher recommendations, CKCS math guidelines and test scores. Math courses offered in 8<sup>th</sup> grade include Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1 and advanced math courses. Students who demonstrate advanced math skills may be placed into accelerated math classes and are provided coursework at their instructional level. Remedial and enrichment activities are provided within the classroom as appropriate. Students study many math subject areas including problem solving skills, pre-algebra, measurement, geometry, probability and statistics, properties of the real numbers, relations, functions and graphs, linear equations and functions, arithmetic of rational expression, quadratic equations and functions, analytic geometry, introduction to trigonometry, triangles and proofs.

### Science

Eighth grade science curriculum covers the topics of Physics, Electricity & Magnetism, Radiation, The Chemistry of Food and Respiration, and Sound. Students will expand upon scientific content and lab skills learned in previous years while continuing to develop their use of the scientific method. Key components of the curriculum are formulating hypotheses, developing inquiry skills, research and documentation through written reports. All students participate in the science fair second semester.

### Social Studies

The CKCS social studies program continues its study of United States in a chronological order and blends in world history as it relates to US history. Emphasis is placed on growth and change in American democracy and interactions with world forces, particularly nationalism and totalitarianism. The time frame for eighth grade starts in the mid 1900's and continues to present day. Main topics of this US - World History blended curriculum are : The breakup of the British Empire, The Korean War, The Cold War, Vietnam, Middle East and Oil Politics, South Africa, China, Social Activism and Civil Rights, and Civics and Democracy. Geography studies include the Five Themes of Geography and a review of the geography of India, China, South-East Asia, Mexico and Canada.

### Physical Education

The main emphasis of the middle school physical education program is developing healthy bodies and healthy minds. Cardiovascular fitness and the development of life long fitness skills are a main focus at all grade levels. Instructors constantly strive to boost student self-image through positive reinforcement. Activities include: Softball, fitness testing, team sports, individual sports, adventure education, racquet sports, cooperative games, speed training, and eclipse ball.

### Health

Health class is a required comprehensive nine-week class. It encourages skills for living by preparing the individual to make healthy, pro-active, choices now and in the future. Issues concerning human growth and development are included in the curriculum. Parent/guardian permission is required for this section of the curriculum. All curriculum is available for preview by contacting the school office or the instructor.

## **ELECTIVE CLASSES**

Every effort is made to accommodate elective course requests. However, due to budget constraints, student enrollment in courses is subject to change. Elective class changes must be made only during the first three days of that semester through the recommendation of the counselor.

# Full Year Classes

## **Band**

Eighth grade band is a logical extension of the experience for students that have been enrolled in seventh grade band. This class continues to develop skills and talents that have been introduced during earlier years, as well as introducing more advanced techniques. As the musical expectations increase in this ensemble, so do the expectations for mature and serious rehearsals. Students must have consent of teacher and/or prior playing experience to be in this group. Incoming eighth graders may not start band as a beginner in the fall of eighth grade.

Eighth grade band performs several times during the year, and on a few occasions in combination with older musicians from the High School ensembles. Members of this band are also asked to perform as Wind players for the Orchestra, an important and technically challenging responsibility. Students from this group are invited to perform in the solo and ensemble festival and the Jazz Ensemble as well. In addition to a sound musical education, players in the eighth grade band will continue to develop the skills of cooperation, dedication, personal control and responsibility...skills that last a lifetime!

## **Orchestra**

Eighth grade orchestra meets every day, and is open to any student with prior string playing experience. Musicians in this ensemble develop intermediate to advanced performance skills including bowing styles, musical phrasing, shifting and playing in higher positions. The music performed by this ensemble will be on a higher level and will prepare them to continue their musical development in high school. This orchestra gives three to four evening concerts each year, and occasionally participates in clinics or hosts guest musicians. Students in the eighth grade orchestra are eligible to participate in the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) Solo/Ensemble Festival

## **Choir**

Eighth grade choir is the advanced ensemble at the middle school. Don't let the title scare you away! Every singer or non-singer is welcome. Teacher and students help each other develop the vocal and musical skills for success. Students work toward independence through reading music, working on tone production, and even a solo (if you want). Choir students sing a variety of music from Classical to Contemporary, incorporating piano, instrumental and a cappella music into the program. Group interaction, dedication and an open mind about all music are emphasized in this class.

A separate class period for a boys 7/8 choir will be held. In addition to the skills stated above, boys will explore how to use their voice while experiencing a voice change. This is an environment where boys will be singing with others with similar voices.

## **Instrumental Music for Beginners**

This class is an opportunity for seventh and eighth graders who do not play an instrument to learn a brass, woodwind, or string instrument, or for current music students to learn an additional instrument. The course will cover the basic note-reading, rhythm, tone production and technique necessary for beginners to play in a music ensemble. After completing this course, students will be eligible to enroll in band or orchestra for the following school year.

There may be performance opportunities for some or all students who are enrolled in this course.

Sixth and seventh grade students who are currently enrolled in a music class may not sign up for this class without approval from their current music teacher.

Note that drums, piano, and guitar are not options for this class.

## **SHOULD I TAKE A WORLD LANGUAGE?**

Students and their parents often wonder whether it is a good idea to take a world language in eighth grade. The following information is provided to help you make an informed choice.

A world language is not required for high school graduation; however, 2 years are required to attend most colleges. More competitive colleges, such as UW-Madison, prefer that students take 4 or, if possible, 5 years of a world language in high school. If a student begins a world language in middle school, then s/he would be able to reach Level 5 by the time they graduate from high school. A student may start in middle school or choose to wait until high school to take a world language, as Level I classes are offered at the High School in Spanish, German, and French.

### **PROS:**

- Learning a language is fun
- A second language is a great skill
- One can speak with others in the world today
- Different type of learning than other classes
- Allows student to acquire 4-5 years of a world language by the time they graduate from high school
- Prepares student for college and work place
- Strengthens English and improves SAT/ACT scores
- Helps student acquire healthy insight into other cultures

### **THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

- Requires strong commitment
- Requires oral practice
- Student must be motivated
- Tutorial opportunities are limited

## **World Language Class Advancement**

### **Spanish 1**

Eighth grade classes focus on listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. We cover topics such as school, leisure activities, family and food. As students continue growing their vocabulary through these various thematic units, there is more emphasis on the structure and grammar of the Spanish language. Students will also learn about the culture of the people who speak Spanish and become more knowledgeable of the world around us.

### **German 1**

Eighth grade students will continue to expand their knowledge of the German language and culture. Topics covered throughout the year include: geography, telling time, family and friends, house and cities, hobbies and free-time activities. As students build their vocabulary, we take a closer look at the structure and grammar of the language. Students focus on four main areas of communication: listening, speaking reading and writing in German. Students will also be exposed to a variety of German musicians, follow the German soccer league, and compare and contrast the German and American cultures. Through language learning students become more knowledgeable of themselves and the world around them.

CKCS eighth grade World Language classes meet every day for the entire year. After successfully completing the seventh and eighth grade courses, students will have completed the equivalent of one year of world language at the

high school. While eighth grade students do not receive high school credit for the eighth grade course, students are taught at the same pace and with the same expectations as Spanish 1 and German 1 at the high school.

*Note: Students who want to continue with Spanish 2 or German 2 at the high school must: 1) maintain an average grade of a C, 2) receive at least a C on the three common eighth grade/high school assessments, 3) be recommended by their Spanish or German teacher.*

### **Spanish Language Arts 1**

The goal of Spanish Language Arts is to practice the language, grammar, and literature in Spanish. The prerequisites of this class are that the students speak Spanish fluently and are comfortable with the language. In this class, students will practice and improve their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Spanish.

## **SEMESTER ELECTIVE CLASSES**

**\*Designates a course fee may be charged for this elective.**

### **ART**

#### **Drawing and Painting \***

If you really want to learn how to draw, then this is the class for you! We explore new drawing materials – pen and ink, pastels, conte’, scratchboard, colored pencils, charcoal, etc. You will learn how to draw portraits of people and amaze yourself! Other subject themes include still life, animals, landscape, and fantasy art. Allow your creativity to shine as you gain more experience painting with acrylics and watercolors. By the end of this class, you will have created your own personal gallery of awesome originals. If time permits, we may explore some digital paint programs.

#### **Ceramics and Sculpture \***

If you enjoy working with your hands, this class is for you! This three-dimensional adventure in art will allow you to experience the potter’s wheel. Other clay projects may include modeling imaginative creatures and creating beautiful slab vases, platters, and fanciful village buildings. The first half of the semester is working with clay and learning glaze techniques.

The sculpture projects may include awesome animal masks, paper-mache animal sculptures, carved figures and metal sculptures. Creations will earn oohs and aahs!

#### **Design Arts –**

#### **It’s All in the Design! \***

From computer images to fantastic painted furniture, students will create artworks using many different and unique tools. Journey into the art world of the designer. While exploring art products in society, students will design artworks using the computer; they will recycle materials to create Upcycled Art (record clocks), explore bookmaking by creating a beautiful metal embossed photo album, and learn basic jewelry making techniques. Students will create their own idea of art using practical, everyday pieces of furniture. The role of function versus non-function is emphasized when designing a clay teapot and with the shoe project. Students will get a chance to experiment on the Potter’s Wheel. This class is for the adventuresome student with a large mixture of art materials explored.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER EDUCATION**

#### **KFC – ‘Kids, Food and Cooking’ \***

Do you like children? Does cooking sound like fun to you? Then here is a class for you! The first nine weeks you will learn how children grow and develop. You’ll experience being a parent by taking care of a chick for one week. Learning happens by taking fun field trips and listening to exciting guest speakers. The remaining weeks you’ll become an expert in the kitchen with lots of cooking and baking labs. A mass quantity food sale is one of the many learning experiences you will have in KFC.



### **Designs in Living** \*

Does redecorating your room or constructing a fashionable clothing piece appeal to you? Do you feel you are artistically inclined? This class will particularly appeal to those students who enjoy hands-on creations of home and personal design. Explore historical and recent fashion through clothing and housing design. Use paint, sewing techniques and real housing materials to create your own personal style. This course will help you better understand your role in the consumer market of design.

### **“Business Wanna-Bees” – Kub’s Closet** \*

Have you ever considered starting your own business? Do you like talking with students and staff at the middle school? Then Business Wannabee’s is the class for you! You will organize, run and manage the school store. You will choose, order, and price products to sell. As an entrepreneur, you will market new items at the store, visit businesses that focus on exciting new ideas, and hear guest speakers who are experts in business.

## **INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY LITERACY**

### **Advanced Information and Technology Literacy** \*

Exploring the technological world, this class begins with an in-depth study of today’s definition of technology and its impacts in our modern-day society. Independent learning is encouraged as students work to master “The Design Process,” problem solving through a step-by-step process, which puts your brain to the test as you design and construct individual and group projects. The integration of technological concepts with a hands-on curriculum result in the creation of a number of exciting projects. Projects include spinning wood tops, an introduction to computer programming, using modern GPS systems to locate geocaches, experimenting with digital music tools and much more. This class devotes time to using both computer technology and hands-on woodworking to enhance the classroom experience. This class will provide students with a practical application of technology as part of their educational experience.

### **Media Production**

The Media Production class will focus its attention on making media productions and the roles within these fields. We will be creating and producing information videos and a weekly news broadcast. We will explore the roles of writer, reporter, director, and video editor. In this course students will gain an in-depth understanding of video production editing programs. We will also explore and experiment with film making and animation as well as assist with the yearbook production.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

The middle school offers programs that meet the needs of every student. Special education services address the individual needs of any student who meets state eligibility criteria for special education. Our special education program follows a cross-categorical service delivery model. This model provides specially designed services for students with learning, speech, language, emotional, behavioral, physical, health, hearing, visual, developmental and/or cognitive intellectual disabilities. Each student identified as having special education needs has an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) as determined by an IEP team. Students may receive services on an individual basis, in small groups, and/or in the classroom.

## **RESOURCE AREAS**

We believe strongly in providing additional resources beyond the classroom materials to facilitate the learning of our students. The two key resource areas are the Computer Lab and the Learning Materials Center (Library). Both of these areas are a functional and integral part of our classroom instruction and are used on a regular basis by all students. Both resource areas are facilitated by a certified coordinator.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **School Counselors**

The school counseling program is designed to focus on academic success, career development, and social/emotional development. Counselors address these issues in classrooms, small groups, individual student meetings, and parent planning conferences.

Counseling groups are offered to all students. Those who express interest may be invited to join a group related to one of the following topics:

- Family Issues: How to live with parents and siblings
- Stress Management: How to relax and reduce stress
- Family Change: Separation, divorce and remarriage issues
- Concerned Persons: Caring about some-one's abuse of drugs or alcohol
- Grief/Loss: How to cope with the death or loss of a family member

Parents are encouraged to contact the counseling staff at any time with questions or concerns.

### **Social Worker**

The primary function of the school social worker is to promote the emotional, social and mental well being and adjustment of students. The school social worker provides direct and indirect services to students, parents and school staff. Services may include counseling and family intervention, groups, consultation with staff or parents, liaison with community agencies, classroom instruction, and coordination and implementation of district programs. The social worker role includes advocacy for children and families in the school system and community programs.

### **School Psychologist**

The school psychologist at the middle school is an integral team member in helping to determine the educational needs of students who are experiencing difficulty finding success at school. The psychologist conducts formal evaluations of students to determine placement in special education programs and informal evaluations of students to determine learning and/or behavioral difficulties. Other services provided by the school psychologist include teacher consultation, parent consultation, individual counseling sessions with students, and small groups focused on social/emotional/academic development.

### **Curriculum Coordinator**

The purpose of the Curriculum Coordinator position is to ensure that students receive instruction based on their individual needs, strengths and weaknesses. Some of the tasks associated with this position include, but are not limited to:

- Collecting and disseminating information about students who demonstrate programmatic needs associated with at-risk characteristics
- Collecting and disseminating information about students who demonstrate programmatic needs associated with gifted and talented characteristics
- Consulting with teams to develop strategies to meet individual student needs
- Facilitating curriculum implementation, development, revision, and articulation
- Providing staff development in the form of workshops and in-service
- Serving as a conduit for information related to sound educational practice

The curriculum coordinator is also involved in the development and evolution of long range goals which foster ways in which staff can work together to promote student learning.

### **Resource Teacher**

Our regular education resource teacher works with students in small groups. Focus is on reading and math. The resource teacher also meets with students during tutorial time daily or every other day to work on deficit skills students may have as well as to teach some organizational skills to help students meet with success in middle school.

## **Programs for English Language Learners**

We welcome students from all cultures and backgrounds. In addition to learning science, math, social studies, language arts, and other academic content, English language learners (ELLs) must also become proficient in English (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). In order to meet students' needs and follow federal and state laws, Badger Ridge provides the following programs which allow ELL students to learn grade level content and English.

### **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

A certified ESL teacher teaches ESL as a daily scheduled class. Topics may include survival vocabulary, basic conversation, as well as listening and pronunciation of the English language. Emphasis is placed on practical everyday English and communication skills.

### **ESL and Bilingual in-class support**

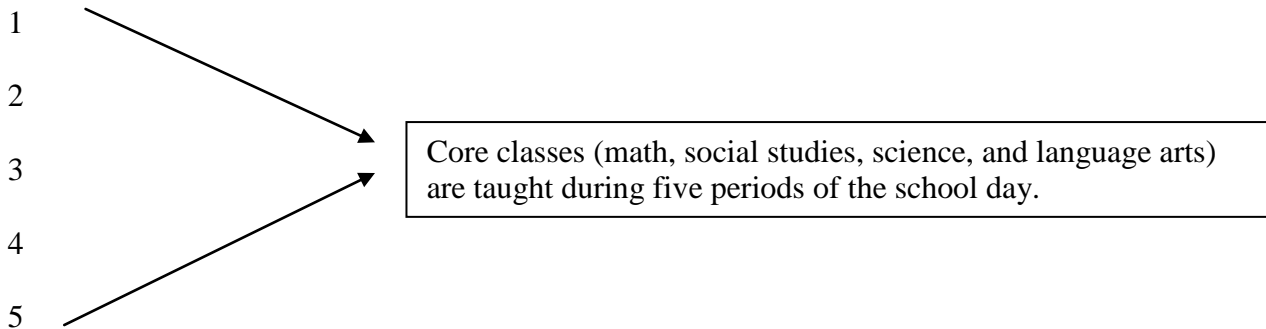
An ESL or bilingual teacher works in collaboration with the classroom teacher in general education classes. The teacher works with ELL students within the classroom, supporting individuals or small groups. Content area classes may include writing, reading, math, science or social studies vocabulary development. Content area classes may include vocabulary development in writing, reading, math, science or social studies.

### **Accommodations made by the Grade Level and Encore Teachers**

Grade level teachers modify the way they teach to make the content more accessible and understandable. They use visuals, realia (objects from real life used in the classroom), pacing (slower, explain difficult vocabulary), provide more individual help, repeat directions, use visual representations, post content and language objectives, etc. These accommodations are designed to ensure that ELL students receive the same content as native speakers.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Sample Daily Schedule Outline

There are eight periods in the school day. A skeleton schedule is depicted below.



6 → One semester of physical education / one quarter each of health & tutorial

7 → One full year class or two semester classes

8 → One full year class

OR

Two semester classes

OR

One semester class and one semester tutorial

OR

One full year tutorial

### Please note:

All students will have one quarter of tutorial opposite physical education and health. Tutorials are optional beyond that, but limited to no more than one full year of tutorial.

If your child is enrolled in a supplementary program (Resource, EEN, ELL, etc.) he/she may have only one elective choice. She/he may need to choose between an exploratory and music.