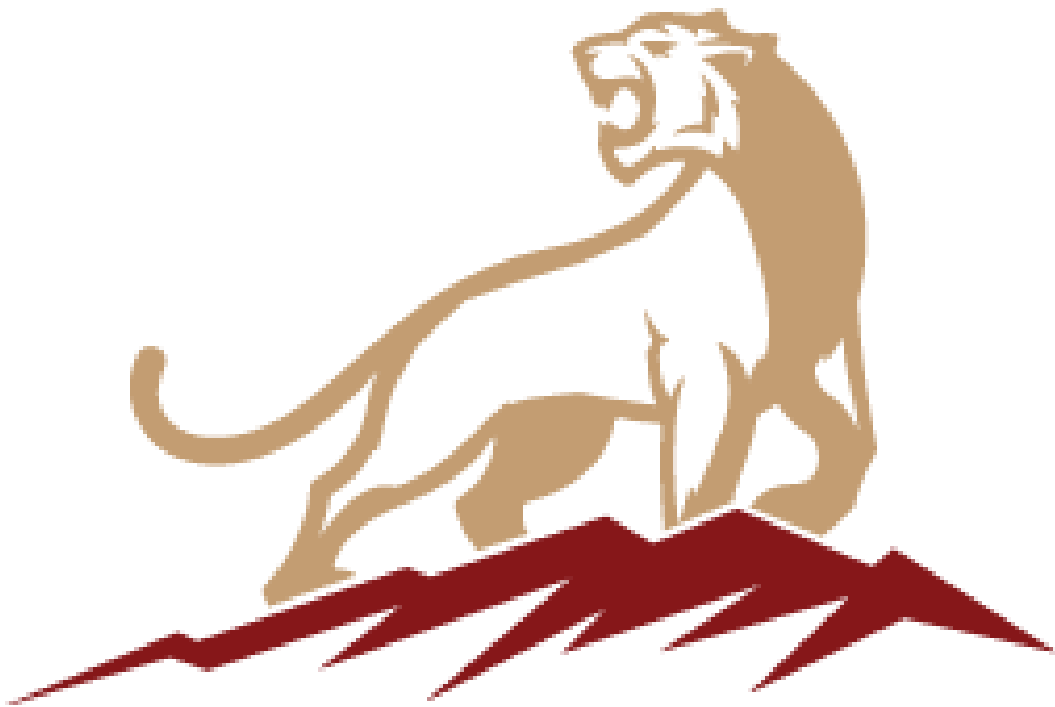


Cheyenne Mountain Junior High



Home of the Mountain Lions
Course Description Guide
2026 - 2027

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COURSE INFORMATION

At Cheyenne Mountain Junior High School, students must successfully complete the following requirements each year:

Students must successfully complete the following course requirements each year:

English	1 per semester for a total of two	(Core Class)
Social Studies	1 per semester for a total of two	(Core Class)
Math	1 per semester for a total of two	(Core Class)
Science	1 per semester for a total of two	(Core Class)
Elective courses	4 total for the school year	

Passing a minimum of 12 total semester courses are required to be promoted to the next grade level.

****Additional elective courses may not be used to make up any core academic course lost during the year.**

If students do not complete the course requirements per grade, summer school or grade retention may result. Students may recover a MAXIMUM of two required courses in summer school. If a student needs to recover more than two courses at the end of the regular school year, he/she may be retained. CMJH utilizes an online curriculum for summer school, and there is a fee for each course to be recovered. The curriculum is supported by online instructors and requires that students consistently communicate with them; each course requires approximately 90 hours to complete.

Coursework completed at any middle school or junior high school will not be allowed for high school credit, will not be used in the calculation of the Cheyenne Mountain High School GPA, and will not be posted on the Cheyenne Mountain High School transcript.

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 7

Grade: 7

2 Semesters

Seventh grade English emphasizes basic grammar and language mechanics, vocabulary development, the principles of paragraph development, and critical reading. An introduction to literary terminology is applied to the study of short stories, poetry, novels, plays, and Greek mythology. Some basic speech opportunities are also included through classroom presentations. Seventh grade English reinforces prior knowledge of the subject and advances skills in reading, writing, and also promotes critical thinking.

ENGLISH SKILLS 7

Grade: 7

2 Semesters

This class covers the same content as English 7 but at a slower pace and with more support. English 7 Skills' main focus is on improving the writing skills of the students in the class to eventually reach grade level. Students are placed in this class based on teacher recommendation. Students in English Skills may be moved out of the class and into an English 7 class based on teacher assessment of student writing skills.

ENGLISH 8

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

Eighth grade English emphasizes the following areas: vocabulary, compiled from formal lists as well as literature studied; grammar, which builds upon the basic sentence element studied in seventh grade; analysis of literature, deepening and extending the student's understanding of literary terminology; and continued practice in both expository and creative writing. Works studied include: short stories, novels, plays, and an introduction to Shakespeare. Some speech experiences are also offered. Eighth grade English reinforces prior knowledge while advancing the student's knowledge and critical thinking to a more sophisticated level.

ENGLISH 8/HONORS

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

Students who have advanced skills in language arts may apply for Honors English. Students who are accepted have above average writing and reading skills and are willing to work at a more rigorous level. Honors English is a writing intensive course that will demand advanced writing ability across various styles and genres. Honors English focuses on the reading and analysis of various literary genres including young adult and classic novels, Shakespeare, and poetry to explore the human experience. Grammar for this course is fast-paced and more intense than English 8 classes.

Criteria for honors English 8:

- a seated, timed-writing sample from the student in handwriting
- English class performance recommendation from 7th grade teacher
- exemplary MAPS reading scores

ENGLISH SKILLS 8

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

English Skills 8 follows the same content as English 8 but at a slower pace and with more support. The goal for this class is to improve students' writing skills in order to reach grade level. English Skills is a writing-intensive class focused on improving students' writing, vocabulary, and grammar skills in order to prepare them for high school. Students are placed in this class based on teacher recommendation. Students in English Skills may be moved out of the class and into an English 8 class based on teacher assessment of student writing skills.

MATH

INTEGRATED MATH 2

Grade: 7, 8

2 Semesters

Integrated Math 2 incorporates fundamental skills including number theory, fractions, and decimals to support the variety of Colorado 7th grade standards to also include integers and rational numbers, equations, inequalities, proportional reasoning, percents, geometry, data analysis, and probability. Explorations and hands-on learning experiences will apply content to the real world. Problem-solving strategies will help students develop skills to be successful, independent thinkers. This course will be taught both with and without the use of a calculator.

MATH 2

Grade: 7, 8

2 Semesters

Math 2 consists of a structured approach to a variety of topics including integers and rational numbers, equations, inequalities, proportional reasoning, percents, geometry, data analysis, and probability. Explorations and hands-on learning apply content to the real world through guided experiences. Problem-solving strategies help students develop skills to be successful, independent thinkers. This course will be taught both with and without the use of a calculator, as appropriate.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Grade: 7, 8

2 Semesters

Pre-Algebra provides a solid foundation to fully prepare students for Algebra 1. Extensions throughout chapters ensure students receive the visual and special instruction necessary to conceptualize these abstract concepts and prepare them for advanced math courses. Topics covered include equations, transformations, angles and triangles, graphing and writing linear equations, systems of linear equations, data analysis and displays, functions, exponents and scientific notation, real numbers and the Pythagorean theorem, and volume and similar solids.

For a 7th grader to be enrolled in Pre-Algebra, they must meet the requirements of the CMJH Advanced Math entrance process. The process includes 5th grade CMAS math scores, NWEA test scores, and the CogAT test results. A 7th grader in Pre-Algebra is one year accelerated and needs to maintain a B or above by the end of 1st semester to remain in the class. A student unable to maintain the grade requirements will be moved to a Math 2 class for 2nd semester. If a student remains in Pre-Algebra for the 2nd semester but fails to maintain the grade requirements during the 2nd semester of school, he/she will repeat Pre-Algebra the following year.

ALGEBRA I

Grade: 7, 8

2 Semesters

Algebra I is the study of variables, constants, expressions, equations and their relation to one another and how they apply to everyday life. Topics covered include solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing and writing linear functions, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, exponential functions and sequences, polynomial equations and factoring, solving and graphing quadratic functions, radical functions, and data analysis.

For an 8th grader to be enrolled in this class, Algebra readiness will be evaluated using Pre-Algebra assessments, 18-week Pre-Algebra grade and Pre-Algebra 1st Semester Exam Grade. Per CMHS requirement, an 8th grader in Algebra I needs to maintain a “B” or above letter grade to be recommended for **Advanced** Integrated Geometry and Algebra II. Students earning less than a “B” in Algebra I will be placed in Integrated Geometry & Algebra II or will need to repeat Algebra I per CMHS discretion.

A 7th grader in Algebra 1 is two years accelerated and needs to maintain a B or above by the end of 1st semester to remain in the class. It is important to note that a 7th grader in Algebra will be taking a rigorous math course load leading them to completion of Calculus 3 by the end of high school. A student unable to maintain the grade requirements will be moved to a Pre-Algebra class for 2nd semester. If a student remains in Algebra 1 for 2nd semester but fails to maintain the grade requirements during the 2nd semester of school, he/she will repeat Algebra 1 the following year.

ADV INTEGRATED GEOMETRY & ALGEBRA II

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

1st Semester Geometry: In this class we will be exploring the basics of Euclidean geometry and reasoning. These topics include parallel and perpendicular lines and their equations, special angle pairs, transformations of shapes and functions, relationships within triangles and polygons, congruence, similarity, areas and volumes of 2 and 3-dimensional shapes, right triangles and trigonometry, as well as circles and their equations.

2nd Semester Algebra II: In this class we will be introducing Algebra 2 topics involving linear, quadratic, polynomial, radical, exponential, and logarithmic, and rational functions. This rigorous program provides a balance of conceptual understanding (why), procedural fluency (how), and application (when). Per CMHS requirement, an 8th grader in IGA2 needs to maintain a “B” or above letter grade to be recommended for Advanced Algebra II and Pre-calculus. Students earning less than a “C” in IGA2 will be placed at the discretion of CMHS.

SCIENCE

7th GRADE SCIENCE

Grade: 7

2 Semesters

This course is an introduction to a laboratory science class. The science curriculum during the 7th grade includes these general areas of study: Chemistry, Physical Science/Energy, Weather and Life Science.

In each area of study, experimentation and the scientific process are stressed. The student applies the use and care of the electronic balance, thermometers, and other laboratory equipment and procedures.

8th GRADE SCIENCE

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

The science curriculum during the 8th grade includes these general areas of study: Chemistry, Physical Science/Energy, Geology and Genetics.

In each area of study, experimentation and the scientific process are stressed. The student applies the use and care of the electronic balance, thermometers, and other laboratory equipment and procedures.

SCIENCE 8/HONORS

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

This course is designed for students to develop evidence gathering and reasoning skills through extensive experimentation and inquiry-based study of physical science. The course is a strong student-centered, laboratory-oriented program (Other Science components are also included as part of the curriculum to help ensure success on the 8th grade state assessments).

Criteria for Honors Science:

- A CMJH developed comprehensive math and science test
- 7th grade Science class performance
- Qualitative CogAT score

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Grade: 7

2 Semesters

The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on the Eastern Hemisphere including Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Within the study of each of these regions, specific aspects of geography, history, government, and economics will be analyzed.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

The eighth grade social studies curriculum focuses on the major historical events from the Early Colonies to Reconstruction. Within each unit of study, specific aspects of geography, history, government, and economics will be analyzed.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8/HONORS

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

This course features rigorous study that challenges abilities and stimulates interests in all areas of Social Studies. Honors Social Studies focuses on the ability to think critically about History and the world around us. Honors Social Studies is fast-paced and more intensive than regular Social Studies class. Students will be challenged to take information and make their own connections. Regular eighth grade Social Studies and Honors Social Studies fully prepares students for Modern World History and Economics at the High School.

Criteria for Honors Social Studies:

1. *World Geography final grade (90% or higher) in 1st Semester*
2. *Data points pulled from Geography common assessments*
3. *Current Social Studies teacher recommendation*
4. *Performance on a document analysis assessment*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade: 7, 8

2 Semesters

The PE curriculum promotes lifetime fitness and recreational skills through individual and team sports, games, and physical fitness activities. The environment encourages and supports appropriate social skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and responsible behavior, while setting personal fitness goals.

Health education is taught in both 7th and 8th grade. Topics include, alcohol, drug and vape/tobacco prevention, nutrition and healthy body image, risk reduction of major diseases, stress management, mental health, healthy relationships and suicide prevention (Signs of Suicide taught by our counselors and social worker) and human reproduction (Board approved curriculum aligning with state standards, available for preview on District website).

YEAR LONG ELECTIVE COURSES

PERFORMING ART

CONCERT BAND

Grade: 7, 8

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: 2-3 years playing experience

CMJH's Concert Band is a non-auditioned ensemble designed for intermediate junior high musicians. Most students have 2–3 years of playing experience, and this is not a beginning-level class. Instruction emphasizes the development of strong foundational skills, including the performance of 8 major scales and ensemble playing. The band performs music from diverse periods and styles at local and regional festivals and formal concerts. Instrumentation includes brass, woodwind, and percussion.

SHOW CHOIR

Grade: 7, 8

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Audition and Choir director selection

Show Choir introduces students to the fundamentals of choral performance, combining singing, dancing, and stage presence into a dynamic ensemble experience. In this AUDITION ONLY Choir, singers will strengthen vocal techniques, learn choreography, sight-read, and enhance basic music theory skills. Emphasis is placed on teamwork, confidence, and performance skills, with opportunities to participate in local events, concerts, showcases, and more!

SYMPHONIC BAND

Grade: 7, 8

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Concert Band or students new to the program MUST have instructor approval

CMJH's Symphonic Band is an auditioned ensemble for advanced junior high musicians. Students in this class will develop high-level musical skills, including mastery of all 12 major scales and advanced ensemble techniques. The group performs a wide range of music from various periods and styles at local and regional band festivals, as well as several formal concerts throughout the year. Instrumentation includes brass, woodwind, and percussion.

THEATER PRODUCTION

Grade: 7, 8

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Audition Only

Are you interested in acting and performing on stage? Have you always wanted to be in a play or a musical? Theater Production class is the perfect opportunity to do that! Throughout the class, we will focus on what it takes to put on a production. Students will learn character study, stage direction, singing in the musical theater style, choreography, and acting to put on various productions throughout the school year. We will perform a musical, and we may perform a One Act play as well as other smaller productions! This is an AUDITION ONLY class. We are excited for what this class will create!

TECHNOLOGY

MLTV (Mountain Lion TV)

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: *Must complete the application process, including a personal essay and teacher references*

Video Announcements is a unique experience at CMJH designed for students who want to learn journalism, video production and editing and create our very own TV Show. This is a YEAR LONG COURSE in which students are taught how to interview and report on the daily and weekly happenings in and around Cheyenne Mountain Junior High. Students are responsible for understanding the whole process of a story from the big idea all the way through editing and airing our daily TV Broadcast. There is no prerequisite for this class and all students are taught the art of video production throughout the year.

PUBLICATIONS

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: *Must complete the application process*

In this hands-on course, students collaborate to produce the junior high yearbook through photography, design, writing, and editing. Students learn to use dSLR cameras for portraits, action shots, and event photography, as well as plan and create yearbook layouts with photo editing, placement, and story development. This class meets twice a day, during a regular class period and Access. Students must go through an application process in April to be selected to take this course.

VISUAL ART

[Visual Arts Video](#)

HONORS ART

Grade: 8

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: *Complete application process, portfolio reviewed and be accepted*

Advanced Studio Art is a unique art experience at CMJH designed for students who show a high interest and ability in 2-dimensional art. This is a YEAR LONG COURSE in which students are taught more in depth techniques and processes using a wide variety of materials and then given the opportunity to work in a more independent setting. First semester, all students will work with a variety of mediums learning teacher directed techniques and processes, applying them to projects of their choosing. Second semester, students are given the opportunity to work independently choosing the medium, format, and direction of their work based on their personal interests and areas of strength. This is a self-directed class requiring students to be self-motivated, passionate about art, and have the ability to balance fun with hard work. Students must complete the application process, have their art portfolios reviewed, and be accepted into this specialized, one-of-a-kind class!!

WORLD LANGUAGE

[World Language Video](#)

French, German, and Spanish Language 1A and 1B (Two-Year Sequence)

Grade: 7, 8

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

The Junior High World Languages program introduces students to French, German, or Spanish through a two-year sequence: Language 1A (Beginning) and Language 1B (Intermediate). Designed primarily for students beginning language study in 7th grade, the program builds a strong foundation for continued language learning in high school.

Instruction follows a communication-based approach focused on practical language use. By the end of the two-year sequence, students perform within the Novice proficiency range and can communicate about familiar topics such as personal identity, family, school life, daily routines, and cultural practices. Students develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through interactive activities, with instruction conducted primarily in the target language. Cultural understanding is integrated throughout the curriculum.

Placement Notes:

- 7th-grade students planning to complete both Language 1A and 1B receive priority placement.
- 8th-grade students may enroll in Language 1A but will begin at Level 1 in high school.
- Students may take two world languages, using both elective slots.
- For French and German, Levels 1A and 1B will be combined into a single class period. Enrollment in each combined course is capped at 32 students.

Completion of Language 1A and 1B is equivalent to one year of high school world language. While no high school credit is awarded, most colleges recognize this sequence as fulfilling one year of their entrance requirement. Students who complete both years are prepared to begin Level 2 French, German, or Spanish as freshmen, placing them on a pathway toward advanced and AP-level language study in high school.

SINGLE SEMESTER ELECTIVE COURSES

PERFORMING ART

[Performing Arts Video](#)

CHOIR

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

Prerequisite: A love of singing!

NOTE: *This class may be taken more than once*

Choir is a class for students who love to sing and want to be part of something fun, positive, and creative. Singers will learn vocal techniques, basic music theory, sight-reading, teamwork, and collaboration. Students will participate in required performances throughout the school year including a concert at the end of the semester.

TECHNOLOGY

[Technology Video](#)

CREATE WITH CODE AND DIGITAL TOOLS

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

(FORMERLY TECH TODAY I)

Prerequisite: None

Students explore keyboarding, Google Workspace, beginner coding, Sphero robotics, and web development, while practicing safe and responsible technology use. They build collaboration and problem-solving skills, learn about IT careers through short spotlights, and create a portfolio of documents, coding artifacts, and a project to demonstrate learning.

APPLIED CODING AND PHYSICAL COMPUTING

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

(FORMERLY TECH TODAY II)

Prerequisite: *Create with Code + Digital Tools*

Students deepen their coding with animations, games, and app logic, practice data literacy with attention to privacy and ethics, and explore machine learning and develop machine learning projects around real world data. They work in teams with simple agile routines, connect learning to careers like software development and cybersecurity, and by semester's end, create a portfolio of coding artifacts, projects, and continuum of learning and experience.

ENGINEERING

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE, AND AEROSPACE

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to help students think like an engineer in a variety of fields. Students will start the semester by learning drafting and online 3d design. The class will then proceed to an architectural unit where students will draw, build, and design a number of structures like a real architect would. Students will conclude the semester study and create a few vehicles to demonstrate principles of aerodynamics.

ENGINEERING

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, AND ROBOTICS

Prerequisite: None

This course follows the engineering design process in order for students to create a variety of inventions in the same way an engineer would. Students will start by learning the basics of block coding to determine inputs and outputs. After this unit students will upgrade to using a microcontroller called a microbit to make a number of interactive inventions. The class will finish the semester by creating a number of simple devices using robotics parts.

VISUAL ART

BEGINNING CERAMICS

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

In this semester-long studio class, junior high students will explore the possibilities and limitations of clay through a variety of hand-building techniques. As they create at least four unique ceramic artworks, students will also develop social, cultural, and historical awareness of art, using problem-solving and creative thinking to express themselves. By the end of the course, students will develop a deeper appreciation for art and its role in their lives, all while acquiring practical skills in ceramics.

ADVANCED CERAMICS

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

Prerequisite: Beginning Ceramics

Building on skills from Beginning Ceramics, Advanced Ceramics challenges students to refine their hand-building techniques and introduces them to wheel throwing on the electric pottery wheel. Through a variety of functional and sculptural projects, students will deepen their understanding of ceramics while developing their own creative voice. Along the way, they'll explore how art connects to daily life and discover new ways to express themselves through clay.

DIGITAL ARTS

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

Bring your computer and a creative mind - and let's create some art with a computer! Digital Arts is a semester-long course introducing 7th and 8th grade students to the fundamentals of computer-based art and digital creativity. Students will explore a variety of digital tools and techniques, including (but not limited to) graphic design, digital drawing, painting and illustration, basic photo editing, and maybe even simple animation! Emphasis will be placed on creative problem-solving, visual communication, and the responsible use of technology. Projects are designed to build both technical skills while focusing on artistic expression, allowing students to create original works of art. By the end of the course, students will develop a digital portfolio showcasing their growth, achievements, and understanding of the basics of computer arts.

FIBER ART

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

In this hands-on introduction to fiber arts, students will explore how to create unique artworks using materials like thread, yarn, rope, and paper. Through projects in weaving, knotting, and sewing, students will experiment with techniques such as paper quilling, embroidery, and traditional weaving. Along the way, they'll discover how fiber arts connect creativity to real-world skills like sewing and design, building both artistic and practical abilities in a fun, supportive environment.

JEWELRY

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

Students will be introduced to the design and techniques of jewelry making. They will create a variety of wearable and small sculptural projects. Techniques studied may include but are not limited to: bead work, polymer clay, metal stamping, soldering, and stone setting.

SCULPTURE

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

Students will be introduced to the different forms and techniques of three-dimensional sculpture. From paper mache armatures to 3D sneakers, students will learn how to create and build something that goes up and out.

STUDIO ARTS

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

Studio Arts is a dynamic opportunity to provide an outlet for your imagination. You will relax, paint, draw, and explore a variety of mediums. Get ready to unleash your creativity as you learn the fundamentals of art and design - all while creating AMAZING ART! This is an introduction to art and will benefit students of all skill levels... in other words NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Expect to find an inner artist you may not have known you had and gain valuable skills as you enjoy this engaging class.

OTHER ELECTIVES

GOAL

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

GAINING OPPORTUNITIES & ACCESS TO LEARNING

Prerequisite: Counselor/MTSS Recommendation

This class is designed to provide students with academic support while gaining personal awareness, knowledge, and use of executive functioning and study skills. Students will spend the semester reflecting on and refining current study skills as well as assessing and gaining personal insights into why they are and how they best work in school. Students also meet with the instructor weekly to review their progress in all courses to provide individualized academic support throughout the term.

LEADWORTHY

Grade: 7, 8

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

Leadworthy is a semester-long elective course where students develop leadership, professional, and business skills that include communication, interpersonal relationship building and problem solving. Throughout the class, students will use various technologies to support and empower them to take their skills to the next level. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities outside of the classroom that impact the community.

Students will be assessed on a regular basis through consistent journaling and notes through lessons, group and individual presentations and speeches, class and community participation and content based assessments.

ACCESS

ACCESS is a class period at the end of the day from 2:39-3:15pm. In order for students to leave the classroom to “access” a teacher, they must have their planner signed by the teacher they wish to visit PRIOR to ACCESS period. The goals of ACCESS class are:

- To ensure that each student has a daily adult contact who can help facilitate issues related to academics, social, emotional, or physical well-being.
- To provide students with school time to receive help from teachers and to work on assignments.
- To provide time for students to complete homework
- To complete progress/grade checks and student reflections every three weeks
- To provide time for assemblies, group or team meetings, etc.
- To share whole school announcements/information, via lessons and Mountain Lion TV

Schedule: Typically, students will be allowed to work on homework, access other teachers for help, or read. However, a few days each month, students might stay in their ACCESS classroom and participate in a variety of activities:

- **Character Building Activities:** While teachers are not counselors, they will help facilitate students in a variety of activities. These activities may include goal setting, empathy and communication, discussions, team building, etc. These activities will be designed to give students a forum to reflect upon relevant issues in a safe and controlled environment.
- **Academic Activities:** Teachers will conduct periodic discussions and activities focused on academic success strategies such as planner usage, time management, periodic grade checks and goal setting, preparation for final exams, etc.

Grading: Students receive a grade of Complete/Incomplete for this course based on daily participation points, and additional activities conducted during ACCESS. Students will receive grades for the following:

- **Weekly participation grade:** The expectation for every student in ACCESS is that he/she comes to class prepared with the supplies and materials needed, has their planner filled out, and that he/she either accesses another teacher, works quietly on homework, or reads silently.