



Chenango Valley Middle School

Course Description

2017 - 2018

Every Warrior Succeeds

Art Department

The Arts program at CVCSD is designed to meet the national and state standards using a progressive art curriculum. Within a studio environment students will develop a foundation of artistic techniques as well as an understanding of various materials and processes. In addition, students will create works that explore different subject matter, topics, and themes. Through group and individual critiques students will reflect, interpret, and evaluate artwork using the language of art criticism. By exploring artifacts from different cultures and historical periods, students will discover how time and place influence visual characteristics of artwork as well as the effect of art on different societies.

6th Grade – Art

10 weeks – Every Day

An Introductory 10-week course designed to give 6th grade students a sampling of projects that introduce the elements and principles of art. Students will explore a variety of art themes and materials, develop techniques, and use creative thinking skills to express ideas and viewpoints; study artists and their works to gain understanding of the artistic process and learn about art produced at different times and in diverse cultures; make interdisciplinary connections based on the New York State Standards of Learning for all disciplines. A variety of media and techniques create an active learning experience.

7th Grade – Art

10 weeks – Every Day

An overview 10-week course designed to give the 7th grade student the opportunity to explore a variety of media, techniques, and methods. Projects focus on the elements and principles of design. Students will explore a variety of art themes and use creative thinking skills to express ideas and viewpoints; study artists and their works to gain understanding of the artistic process and learn about art produced at different times and in diverse cultures; make interdisciplinary connections based on the New York State Standards of Learning for all disciplines. The understanding and appreciation of self and others through art is explored.

8th Grade - Accelerated Art

Full Year – Every Day

Placement is based on recommendations.

of your work and an interview. One semester is Drawing & Painting. The second semester is Studio in Design & 3-Dimensional Art. These course descriptions are listed below.

8th Grade Accelerated Art selection criteria:

- Averages from 6th and 7th grade Art of 90 or better
- Teacher recommendation which may consider:
 - Attendance
 - Responsibility
 - Behavior (ex. interest, motivation, work ethic, participation, attitude, effort)
 - Performance on NYS assessments in prior grades

Computer Technology Education

Computer Technology Education is a broad and diverse discipline that enables students to prepare for entry-level employment after graduation in business office occupations or for post-secondary education. The Business Education curriculum provides a variety of courses for all students. Students learn from a broad range of business disciplines. Students will become proficient using several electronic hardware devices and software programs

6th Grade Computer Technology

10 weeks – Every Day

This course is designed to help develop basic keyboarding and word processing skills using Microsoft Word. Students will progress through 20 Typing Time lessons learning the entire alphabet, capitalization, and punctuation keys. Culminating projects include writing a personal business letter, a one page research essay including a cover and a works cited page. *This is a required course for all sixth graders.*

English Department

The English program at Chenango Valley has two positive functions: (1) to improve each student's ability to convey information, ideas and emotions, both in speaking and writing, as clearly and effectively as possible, and (2) to improve each student's ability to receive through reading, viewing, and listening the information and inspiration available to him through spoken and written English.

6th Grade English

Full Year – Every Day

Students in this course will begin their Middle School journey by refining their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. They will do this by continuing to develop an appreciation for literature through the study of literary elements in classic and contemporary selections. Emphasis is placed on moving students from the literal to the abstract in the students' critical thinking skills and in the use of language. Students will spend considerable time on the close reading of complex texts; specifically, the novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio that encourages students to, "...choose kind." This course also stresses the need for effective written expression that will lead them to be prepared to successfully complete the NYS Grade Six English Language Arts Assessment in the spring.

6th Grade ELA Lab

Full Year – Every Other Day

While working in conjunction with the English 6 course, students in ELA Lab 6 will develop critical thinking skills, critical reading skills, teamwork/collaboration skills, as well as interpersonal skills by working in large and small group settings. They will also increase the amount of reading done of both fiction and nonfiction texts throughout the school year, learn to interact more deeply with text, and communicate effectively with each other. A strong focus is placed on independent reading and in the participation of reading conferences.

7th Grade English

Full Year – Every Day

Students in this course will begin to prepare for the rigor of high school and college by refining their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. They will do this by continuing to develop an appreciation for literature through the study of literary elements in classic and contemporary selections. Emphasis is placed on moving students from the literal to the abstract in the students' critical thinking skills and in the use of language. Students will spend considerable time on the close reading of complex texts; specifically informational texts that will complement their literature study, and broaden their cross-curricular understanding. This course also stresses the need for effective written expression that will lead them to be prepared to successfully complete the NYS Grade Seven English Language Arts Assessment in the spring.

7th Grade ELA Lab

Full Year – Every Other Day

While working in conjunction with the English 7 course, students in ELA Lab 7 will develop critical thinking skills, critical reading skills, teamwork/collaboration skills, as well as interpersonal skills by working in large and small group settings. They will also increase the amount of reading done of both fiction and nonfiction texts throughout the school year, learn to interact more deeply with text, and communicate effectively with each other. A strong focus is placed on independent reading and in the participation of reading conferences.

8th Grade English

Full Year – Every Day

The Grade 8 curriculum is largely a continuation of skills begun in the English 7 curriculum. There is a strong emphasis on reading comprehension and application of basic literary terms to enhance understanding and discussion of the works of literature studied. Concentrated work on the establishment and development of basic writing skills is stressed in order to prepare students for the New York State 8th Grade English Language Arts exam administered in the spring. This exam largely tests the students according to the Standards explained above in the English 7 course description. The results of the 8th grade NYS ELA exam are used to determine whether students need additional academic support in ninth grade. The support may come in the form of monitoring within the student's English class, or the student may be placed in an AIS class.

8th Grade ELA AIS

Full Year – Every Other Day

Students who have been identified at below acceptable levels, or show serious deficiencies in reading or writing skills, are assigned to AIS. Students are scheduled into AIS, based on ELA proficiency and teacher recommendation, on alternating days. The more individualized attention enables a student to focus on particular problem areas and improve reading and writing skills.

Family & Consumer Science (FACS) Department

Introduction to FACS Grades 6th, 7th and 8th are courses designed to help adolescents live in a society of constant change by preparing them to meet present and future responsibilities as individuals, family and community members, consumers, home managers, and wage earners. The

goal is to educate students to think constructively, make sound decisions, solve problems and manage resources.

6th Grade FACS

10 Weeks – Every Day

This course is an introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences and allows opportunity for students to apply their academic knowledge to real world situations. Topics include teamwork, decision-making, problem solving, goal setting, management, kitchen and food safety, food preparation, the family life cycle and caring for young children.

7th Grade FACS

10 Weeks – Every Day

This course is an opportunity for students to apply their academic knowledge to real world situations. Topics include consumerism, foods, nutrition and wellness, culture in foods and financial literacy.

8th Grade FACS

20 Weeks – Every Day

In this course, students develop human literacy as they master a complex set of essential skills and knowledge needed to achieve quality of life. They gain career preparedness as they acquire readiness to participate in a rapidly changing workforce and global economy. Other areas explored over the 20 weeks include, interpersonal relationships, food science, housing, interiors and design and textiles, apparel and fashion.

Health

All students attending public school are mandated by NYS Education Law to complete and pass one semester of Health Education by the completion of the 8th grade year. In addition, one semester of Health Education needs to be completed by the end of their 12th grade year with a passing grade to earn a ½ unit of credit towards graduation requirements. The curriculum for Health Education is in alignment with the NYS Scope and Sequence for Health Education and New York State Learning Standards. The overall objective of our Health Education curriculum is to provide sound learning experiences and assessments that reach to the following standards: 1. Personal Health and Fitness; 2. Safe and Healthy Environment; and 3. Resource Management. Through these learning experiences and personal skill development, students will be able to make positive decisions in developing and maintaining a healthy personal lifestyle.

Grade 8th – Health Education

20 Weeks – Every Day

Students in the 8th grade take one semester of Health Education. Each student will complete a 10 week unit of instruction during their seventh and eighth grade years to fulfill the one semester requirement. The course begins with an introduction to wellness and appropriate life skills needed to achieve and maintain a high level of wellness. Units of instruction include: 1. Growth and Development/Body Systems; 2. Diseases and Disorders; 3. Self-Esteem; 4. Stress Management; 5. Communication/Conflict Resolution; 6. Nutrition/Physical Fitness; 7. Alcohol/Tobacco and other Drugs; 8. Human Sexuality and Prevention of STI's; and 9. Personal Safety/First Aid/CPR. These units of instruction will be covered over the course of the two ten week terms.

Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

Languages have always been instrumental in broadening a student's general knowledge, in expanding their grasp of English grammar and vocabulary, and in solidifying college preparatory skills. The goals of the Chenango Valley Language Department include an emphasis on the ability to understand and communicate in the new language, a familiarity with and an understanding of cultural traditions of the new language. Students are prepared for a world in which nations and people are increasingly interdependent.

7th Grade Language/ Cultural Exploration

10 Weeks – Every Day

Language Exploration is a LOTE (Foreign language) survey course given to all 7th graders. The purpose is to give students an introduction to all 3 of the LOTE department courses offered at CV. After 10 weeks, with approximately 3+ weeks of each language: Latin, French, and Spanish, 7th graders can then make an educated choice about which language they will take in 8th and 9th grades. In LOTE 7 students are familiarized with basic Latin, French, and Spanish vocabulary related to greetings, farewells, courtesy expressions, classroom objects, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, etc., and briefly touch on history and culture.

8th Grade French 1A

Full Year – Every Day

The students are exposed to all four aspects of language learning-speaking, listening, reading and writing. Basic vocabulary pronunciation of sounds and present tense of verbs are covered. CDs, DVDs, songs, the internet and technology supplement the text to develop an awareness of French speaking cultures.

8th Grade Latin

Full Year – Every Day

This is an introductory course in which students learn to read, write, and pronounce basic Latin sentences and vocabulary. The textbook, Cambridge Latin Unit I, contains stories of a Roman family in Pompeii. Through the stories, students learn about Roman families, cities, and customs. Roman culture, history, mythology, the relationship of Latin to English, and the cultural legacy of the Romans are also part of the curriculum.

8th Grade Spanish IA

Full Year – Every Day

The students learn the basic sounds of the Spanish language and practice the language in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Basic vocabulary and structures are introduced and an awareness of Hispanic culture is emphasized.

Mathematics

6th Grade Math

Full Year – Every Day

This course uses the New York State Common Core Curriculum for Math 6. Topics covered include: ratios and unit rates, integers, rational numbers and operations, expressions and equations, percent and proportional relationships, geometry skills, and statistical skills. These topics will be used to model real life situations and will use many forms of representations.

6th Grade Math Lab

Full Year – Every Other Day

In the 6th grade Math Lab we support the skills that are being taught through the modules in 6th grade Math. The topics covered include: ratios and unit rates, integers, rational numbers and operations, expressions and equations, percent and proportional relationships, geometry skills, and statistical skills. Throughout the year students also review basic skills and build their fluency through numerous methods such as group work, sprints, station work, independent work, and the use the technology sources.

7th Grade Math

Full Year – Every Day

This course uses the New York State Common Core Curriculum for Math 7. Topics covered include: ratios and unit rates, integers operations, rational numbers and operations, expressions, equations and inequalities, percent and proportional relationships, geometry skills, and statistical skills. These topics will be used to model real life situations and will use many forms of representations. A scientific calculator is required.

7th Grade Math Lab

Full Year – Every Other Day

In the 7th grade Math Lab we support the skills that are being taught through the modules in 7th grade Math. The topics covered include: ratios and unit rates, integer operations, rational numbers and operations, expressions and equations, percent and proportional relationships, geometry skills, and statistical skills. Throughout the year students also review basic skills and build their fluency through numerous methods such as group work, sprints, station work, independent work, and the use the technology sources.

7th Grade Accelerated Math

Full Year – Every Day

Placement is based on recommendations.

This course combines both seventh and eighth grade topics in one year. Students must relate and apply their algebra, geometry, and problem solving skills to real life situations, in preparation for the NYS Math 7 Assessment.

7th Grade Accelerated Math selection criteria:

- Averages from 5th and 6th grade math of 90 or better
- Teacher recommendation considering:
 - Attendance
 - Responsibility
 - Behavior (ex. Interest, motivation, work ethic, participation, attitude, effort)
 - Performance on NYS assessments in prior grades
- Ability to maintain an 85% average

8th Grade Math

Full Year – Every Day

This course uses a combination of teacher generated materials and the New York State Common Core Curriculum for Math 8. Topics include, but are not limited to, linear equations, rigid motions, dilations and similar figures, exponents and scientific notation, functions, volume, the Pythagorean Theorem and simplifying radicals. These topics will be used to model real life situations and will use many forms of representations. A scientific calculator is required.

8th Grade Accelerated Math Regents Geometry

Full Year – Every Day

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Accelerated Math

This is a full year course that is aligned with the NYS Common Core Geometry curriculum. Topics include informal and formal geometric proofs, geometric relationships with congruent and similar triangles, quadrilaterals, coordinate geometry, transformational geometry, circles, constructions and loci. Students will take the new Common Core Regents exam during the first week of June.

8th Grade Accelerated Math selection criteria:

- Averages from 6th and 7th grade math of 90 or better
- Teacher recommendation considering:
 - Attendance
 - Responsibility
 - Behavior (ex. Interest, motivation, work ethic, participation, attitude, effort)
 - Performance on NYS assessments in prior grades
- Ability to maintain an 85% average

Music Department

6th Grade Band

Full Year – Every Other Day

This course is a continuation of 5th Grade Band, and will expand students' listening and performing skills. The band meets one class period every other day, and members are required to take a small group lesson once a cycle. The lessons are scheduled in a rotation so that students are not pulled out of the same class more than once a month. In band, students will continue working on translating written notation to musical performance on their instruments. Students will develop their playing technique, personal musicianship, and ability to work collaboratively in an ensemble. The groups performs in at least two public concerts a year. Students are also provided opportunities to participate in the NYSSMA solo festival and the BCMEA All-County festivals.

6th Grade Chorus

Full Year – Every Other Day

This course is a continuation of 5th Grade Chorus, and will expand students' listening and performing skills. The chorus meets one class period every other day. In chorus, students will continue working on translating written notation to musical performance through their singing. Students will develop their singing technique, personal musicianship, and ability to work collaboratively in an ensemble. The group performs in at least two public concerts a year. Students are also provided opportunities to participate in the NYSSMA solo festival and the BCMEA All-County festivals.

7th Grade and 8th Grade Band and Chorus

Full Year – Every Other Day

Students in 7th and 8th grades may elect to be in the band and /or chorus. The band meets one class period every other day, and members are required to take a small group lesson each cycle. The lessons are scheduled in a rotation in order to minimize missed class time. The chorus also meets one class period every other day. Each group performs two public concerts per year and often takes part in the New York State School Music Association's Major Organization Festival (NYSSMA) each spring. Students are also provided opportunities to participate in the NYSSMA solo festival and BCMEA Festivals. Additional performances may be scheduled at the discretion of the director. The director will make every effort to schedule events well in advance in order to minimize the potential for schedule conflicts.

6th Grade General Music

Full Year – Every Other Day

The intent of this course is to broaden students' understanding of music, providing an engaging and worthwhile musical experience, regardless of individual skill or talent level in music. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to: appreciate a variety of musical styles and enjoy listening to and making music, understand the purposes of music and the basic scientific

principles of music, and identify and explain the relationships of music to other disciplines. Topics covered include: purposes of music, music genres, the science of music and hearing, instrument families, rhythm and bucket drumming, foley art, music careers, music history, the musical, video game music, and more.

7th Grade General Music

Full Year – Every Other Day

This course is required for 7th graders who are not members of the band or chorus and meets one class period every other day for the school year. The New York State and National Standards for the Arts provide the objectives and performance expectations for the course. Included in this class are units on composition using technology, musical theatre, and introduction to guitar.

8th Grade Accelerated Instrumental Music (AIM Band)

Full Year – Once every Six Days

Placement is based on recommendations.

This course is designed to provide advanced 8th grade instrumental music students with a more intensive course of study on their band instrument. In addition to the requirements for Middle School Concert Band, students will meet one additional instructional period per six-day cycle. Lessons will be given once a cycle on a small group basis and students will be required to successfully complete the goals and objectives established by the instructor.

This course is open only to students recommended by the instructor.

One half weighted high school credit will be earned upon successful completion of this course.

8th Grade AIM Band selection criteria:

- Averages from 6th and 7th grade Band of 90 or better
- Teacher recommendation which may consider:
 - Attendance
 - Responsibility
 - Behavior (ex. Interest, motivation, work ethic, participation, attitude, effort)
 - Performance on NYS assessments in prior grades
- Participation in NYSSMA and All County

Physical Education Department

All students in the Chenango Valley School District are required to attend and participate in physical education classes in accordance with the New York State Education Department. The Physical Education Curriculum has been designed and is aligned with the New York State Learning Standards. Students in grades 7 through 12 are required to participate in class, which meets every other day for one period. Evaluation of course mastery is dependent upon successful completion of various health and physical activities as described below. Assessment in physical skills, cognitive knowledge and affective arenas ensure a well-rounded program. All students will experience activities and instruction in team building and group dynamics geared towards character building and respect for others. Physical fitness testing using a nationally reputable program is completed once a year and all students have the opportunity to experience aquatics in addition to many other physical fitness activities. The skills needed to choose a healthy lifestyle are emphasized.

6th Grade, 7th Grade and 8th Grade

Full Year – Every Other Day

This program concentrates on the five health-related components of physical fitness. Cooperative group activities, team sport skills, individual sport skills, strategy and an introduction to lifetime fitness activities are emphasized. Basic swimming and aquatic safety is a required part of this program with a focus on stroke development, personal safety and boat safety. The introduction of a wide variety of activities allows the student to mature and develop healthy lifestyle habits.

Science Department

6th Grade Science

Full Year – Every Day

The course in 6th grade science is focused on the structure of Earth, the various processes that shape its surface, and its place in the universe. By utilizing and coordinating min-lab activities, writing skills, mathematical skills, and research and computer activities, the students will also be preparing for the 6th grade Math, ELA, and Intermediate Science state examinations.

7th Grade Science

Full Year – Every Day

This course in 7th grade biology is intended to develop basic biological concepts that may be used as building blocks in establishing an overall picture of life. Reinforcement of concepts in mini-lab situations and promotion of project work, including the material covered, are an integral part of the 40-week course. Areas of study include the scientific method, the microscope, life functions, the cell, microorganisms, chemistry topics, classification, invertebrates, vertebrates, plants, energy pathways, conservation and heredity.

8th Grade Science

Full Year – Every Day

This course prepares students for both their high school science courses and covers some of the material on the 8th Grade State exam. Physics and chemistry predominate the course. Math and writing skills are incorporated into the curriculum. Students will be involved in completing traditional labs, research projects and computer-related activities. Basic skills such as note taking, graphing, lab safety, and measuring in the metric units are emphasized.

8th Grade Accelerated Science - Living Environment

Full Year – Every Day

Lab Every Other Day

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Science

Placement is based on recommendations.

This course provides students with an awareness of the natural world, basic scientific concepts and inductive reasoning. Students achieve a basic understanding of biological processes through classroom, laboratory and field experiences. The use of scientific equipment, exposure to careers in science and familiarization with local environmental problems are stressed. Students planning on science-related careers or college should elect Living Environment. Students will perform and submit written reports for 30 laboratory periods. This course prepares students for the NYS Regents Living Environment (Biology) exam.

8th Grade Accelerated Science selection criteria:

- Averages from 6th and 7th grade science of 90 or better
- Teacher recommendation considering:
 - Attendance
 - Responsibility
 - Behavior (ex. Interest, motivation, work ethic, participation, attitude, effort)
 - Performance on NYS assessments in prior grades
- Ability to maintain an 85% average

Social Studies Department

The social studies curriculum is designed to develop the concepts, skills, and values that students will need throughout their lifetime as a worker, community member, and citizen.

6th Grade - The Eastern Hemisphere

Full Year – Every Day

Social Studies is based on the geography and history of the Eastern Hemisphere, including the development of cultures, civilizations, and empires; interactions between societies; and the comparison of trends in government and economics. It also incorporates some elements of other social sciences. The course begins with an examination of the Eastern Hemisphere today, using geographic skills. This provides the foundation for making connections between the past and the present throughout the course. The remainder of the course is divided into seven Key Ideas that cover a time span from pre-history into the 1300s. Students are provided the opportunity to explore belief systems across time and to examine the foundations of democracy.

7th Grade and 8th Grade United States and New York State History

Full Year – Every Day

Social Studies content in 7th and 8th Grades focuses on a chronologically organized study of United States and New York State history. Course content is divided into 11 units, tracing the human experience in the United States from pre-Columbian times to the present, and tying political, geographic, economic, and social trends in United States history to parallel trends and times in New York State history. 7th Grade covers pre-Columbian times through the Civil War. 8th Grade covers Reconstruction to the present.

Technology Education Department

The Technology Education Department is geared toward the interpretation of our technological society. Technology education provides the students with the basic learning skills, self-understanding and positive attitudes to make choices about programs based upon knowledge of abilities needed to pursue a career. The curriculum includes a variety of courses that will permit students to have an early exposure to the understanding of concepts about work and workers of our technological society. All students will be able to pursue purposeful goals for future education, preparation for employment, or both.

The key concept that the Technology Education Department shares with students is one of “discovery” specifically our technological society and how to operate within it; also, the discovery of the societies’ careers, and most of all, the students’ discovery of him or herself.

All 7th and 8th graders are required to take Technology Education. All other courses are free choice electives open to all male and female students.

6th Grade Technology

10 Weeks – Every Day

Foundations of Technology (6th grade technology) prepares students to understand and apply technological concepts and processes that are the cornerstone for the high/middle school technology program. Both group and individual activities will engage student in creating ideas, developing innovations, and engineering practical solutions. Technology content, resources, and laboratory/classroom activities apply student applications of science, mathematics, and other school subjects in real life situations.

7th Grade Technology Education

10 Weeks – Every Day

The content of the course will cover five main areas: Getting to Know Technology; What is the Need for Technology; How People Use Technology to Solve Problems; What Must be Known About Systems and Subsystems; and How Technology Affects People and the Environment. The student will go through concrete experiences which involve a variety of senses. The use of hands-on, laboratory-based activities will be used to provide successful experiences that help to build the skills and confidence needed to live in an ever-changing environment.

The progress of the human race has always been directly linked to the management of technology. Today technology is more important than it ever was in the development of human culture. Technology Education will emphasize that people control technology and that only people can determine whether it will be applied to their benefit, or to their ultimate disadvantage.