

# **CPS Program of Studies for 2023-2024**

## **ENCORES**

### **Introduction**

A CPS student schedule consists of six 58-minute blocks that rotate (waterfall down a period each day) over a 6-day schedule. For nearly all students, 4 of these blocks are reserved for 'Core' classes: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students need to select 'Encores' to fill the other two blocks. Encores meet every other day, so there are 4 to schedule. Some students may have reading, study skills, and language classes that fill up some of their 4 encores.

### **GRADE 6 Required Encores**

Wellness and Writing plus a music choice.

#### **Grade 6 Wellness**

The Wellness course is designed to promote the overall well-being and healthy development of students. This course integrates physical activity, health education, and personal well-being to foster a comprehensive understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students will engage in a variety of physical activities, explore concepts related to nutrition and fitness, and develop skills necessary for lifelong wellness.

#### **Grade 6 Writing**

Welcome to the amazing world of SEL Writing Class! This course is all about learning skills that will help you shine in every part of your life. These skills include knowing yourself, understanding others, managing your feelings, making good choices, and building strong relationships.

But guess what? We won't just talk about them. You will actually practice these skills through the awesome art of creative and mindful writing. Get ready to let your imagination soar! Here's a little peek of what to expect. You'll write an "All About Me" book where you'll share everything that makes you special, a food memoir where you can tell delicious stories, letters to share your thoughts, poetry to make words dance, silly stories that will make you giggle, opinion papers to share your point of view, persuasive speeches to convince others, and much, much more!

In this class, your voice is super important, and we want to hear what you have to say! Writing gives you a special chance to express yourself and show the world who you are. It's a chance to be creative, thoughtful, and make a difference. So get ready to have fun with words, be yourself, and become an amazing writer with social and emotional superpowers. Your words have the power to inspire and connect with others.

## **Grade 6 ENCORE Music Choices (must choose at least one):**

Band, Chorus, or Intro to Percussion, Project Lead The Way, and Independent Reading

### **Grade 6 Band**

Grade 6 Concert Band is an entry level instrumental band ensemble. The primary focus is to learn basic performance skills and fundamentals (tuning, scales, arpeggios, rudiments, etc.) Music will be selected appropriately and each piece will enhance these basic performance skills. The band will perform at least 2 concerts during the school year.

### **Grade 6 Chorus**

In this course, our main focus will be becoming one ensemble through singing. We will build basic vocal pedagogy and music theory while learning songs of diverse cultures and languages. Students will be split into two sections and sing songs in two-part harmony. There will be three required evenings in this class.

## **Grade 6 Orchestra**

Grade 6 Concert Orchestra is an entry level instrumental string ensemble. The primary focus is to learn basic performance skills and fundamentals (tuning, scales, reading music) Music will be selected appropriately and each piece will enhance these basic performance skills. The orchestra will perform at least 2 concerts during the school year.

## **Grade 6 Intro to Percussion**

The 6th Grade CPS Percussion Studio will focus on the fundamentals of percussion, piano, and guitar. We will learn technique, implement/stick control, warm ups, timing exercises, common sticking patterns, rudiments, scales, and how to read music notation. The snare drum, bass drum, xylophone, glockenspiel/bells, hand drums, drum set, timpani, tambourine, cowbell, and triangle are some examples of the percussion instruments we will learn to play. (Course grade is based upon class participation, but there is not a concert expectation for this intro course)

## **Grade 6 ENCORE Choices:**

Art, Project Lead The Way, and Independent Reading

And students can 'double-up' on music for Band, Chorus, or Percussion (see descriptions above)

## **Grade 6 Art**

The 6th grade art class will focus on art practices using drawing, collage, and painting along with some sculpture through a variety of projects. Printmaking will be explored at an introductory level. Students will be exposed to some famous artists and art periods. The emphasis of the class will be on becoming better visual observers.

## **Grade 6 Independent Reading**

Reading is a predictor of academic, social, and personal success, and reading choice promotes student reading ability and ownership. In partnership with the Nantucket Atheneum, students in Independent Reading will work with their teacher, the CPS Librarian, and librarians from the Atheneum to find and read books of their choosing. Brief mini-lessons will help to develop a range of reading strategies, but students will spend a portion of their class time reading books they have chosen and applying the learned strategies. Instruction will be individualized; students will not be reading the same books or genres unless they choose to do so. Students will set



personal reading goals and maintain reading logs and journals to track individual progress and thinking, and will be challenged to read one book outside their comfort area, whether that be author or genre. Students will complete a summative creative project to demonstrate their progress and growth throughout the trimesters.

## **Grade 6 Project Lead The Way (Engineering)**

PLTW - Design & Modeling: "Have you ever wanted to create a toy or a device to help people? Students use tools such as the design process, a dynamic mathematics software, a computer-aided design program, computer simulations, an engineering notebook, and possibly a 3D printer to design, model, and build objects. Discover the design process and turn your ideas into realities!" Part of this course includes a 'build your own boat' out of cardboard and a 'race' in the NHS pool.

## **GRADE 7 Required Encores**

Wellness and a language choice (Spanish or Latin)

### **Grade 7 Wellness**

The Wellness course is designed to promote the overall well-being and healthy development of students. This course integrates physical activity, health education, and personal well-being to foster a comprehensive understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students will engage in a variety of physical activities, explore concepts related to nutrition and fitness, and develop skills necessary for lifelong wellness.

### **Grade 7 Spanish**

Spanish 1A, an introduction to Spanish language and culture, is designed for the true beginner. We devote more or less equal energy to the four skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, while also learning about the Spanish and Latin American cultures. In class, students will be exposed to the food, music, traditions and celebrations of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will begin to recognize basic cultural similarities and differences not only between the

various Hispanic cultures, but also between the cultures studied and their own. They will compare and contrast essential structures of the target language with their own. Students are expected to devote time each night to homework and/ or to review vocabulary and current concepts. Students will be introduced to vocabulary around making plans, what they like to eat and wear, describing someone, talking about family, school, sports and the weather. Emphasis will be placed on building a strong foundation of the Spanish language, on cultural literacy and on broadening the student's knowledge and experience of other cultures and worldviews.

Assessment: Students are evaluated on the basis of classroom participation and class work, homework, tests, quizzes, online assignments and projects, which will assess their speaking, writing, reading and listening proficiency in Spanish, as well as their cultural literacy.

## **Grade 7 Latin**

CPS Middle School School Latin students will be introduced to the immortal Language of Ancient Rome, Latin. Over the course of 7th and 8th grade students will engage in storytelling and listening in order to acquire a core set of frequently used classical Latin vocabulary terms. Students will begin by learning words in context, and over the course of time be able to read short simple sentences within stories that expose students to the culture of Ancient Romans themselves. Learning vocabulary can strengthen students' knowledge of Spanish and English vocabulary as well.

## **Grade 7 ENCORE Choices:**

Art, Band, Chorus, Music Tech, Percussion, Project Lead The Way, Independent Reading, and Writing

## **Grade 7 Art**

The 7th grade art class will focus on art practices including drawing, collage, painting, and sculpture through a variety of projects. Additionally, printmaking will be further explored. Students will deepen their exposure to techniques while continuing with a reinforcement of the importance of visual observation.

## **Grade 7 Band**

Grade 7 Concert Band is the intermediate level instrumental band ensemble. The focus is to develop performance skills and practice fundamentals (tuning, scales, arpeggios, rudiments, etc.) Music will be selected appropriately and each piece will enhance these performance skills. The band will perform at least 2 concerts during the school year. Grade 7 Band may be combined with the Grade 8 Band.

## **Grade 7 Chorus**

In this course, our main focus will be becoming one ensemble through singing. We will build upon basic vocal pedagogy and music theory while learning songs of diverse cultures and languages. Students will be split into three sections and sing songs in three-part harmony. There will be three required evenings in this class.

## **Grade 7 Music Tech**

Music tech 7 focuses on three of the tenets of music, creating, responding, and analyzing. We will use digital audio workstations, like SoundTrap and BandLab, to create different kinds of music. Focusing on musical concepts like rhythmic patterns, dynamics, and phrase motion we will create music to share with our classmates. Students will analyze each other's work based on the concepts that are focused on in each project. We will explore 3 chord progressions, improvising melodies, and freestyling lyrics to a beat or instrumental track. By the end of the year, students will write and produce their own song which they can download as an audio file.

## **Grade 7 Percussion**

The 7th Grade CPS Percussion Studio will focus on ensemble music. Students must have experience on a percussion instrument or basic knowledge of music notation. We will review technique, implement/stick control, warm ups, timing exercises, common sticking patterns, rudiments, and scales. The snare drum, bass drum, xylophone, glockenspiel/bells, hand drums, drum set, timpani, tambourine, cowbell, and triangle are some examples of the percussion instruments we will learn to play. (Course grade is based upon class participation, and a concert expectation three times per year.)



## **Grade 7 Independent Reading**

Reading is a predictor of academic, social, and personal success, and reading choice promotes student reading ability and ownership. In partnership with the Nantucket Atheneum, students in Independent Reading will work with their teacher, the CPS Librarian, and librarians from the Atheneum to find and read books of their choosing. Brief mini-lessons will help to develop a range of reading strategies, but students will spend a portion of their class time reading books they have chosen and applying the learned strategies. Instruction will be individualized; students will not be reading the same books or genres unless they choose to do so. Students will set personal reading goals and maintain reading logs and journals to track individual progress and thinking, and will be challenged to read one book outside their comfort area, whether that be author or genre. Students will complete a summative creative project to demonstrate their progress and growth throughout the trimesters.

## **Grade 7 Project Lead The Way (Engineering)**

PLTW - Design & Modeling: "Have you ever wanted to create a toy or a device to help people? Students use tools such as the design process, a dynamic mathematics software, a computer-aided design program, computer simulations, an engineering notebook, and possibly a 3D printer to design, model, and build objects. Discover the design process and turn your ideas into realities!" Part of this course includes a 'build your own boat' out of cardboard and a 'race' in the NHS pool.

PLTW- Green Architecture: PLTW Green Architecture is a STEM unit of study. The focus is the practice of architecture and sustainable development. Students explore residential building systems, residential construction and construction costs, site planning, and architectural documentation. They design furniture models, sheds, a tiny house or small home using recycled shipping containers and use fundamental features of 3D architectural software to document their design.

## **Grade 7 Writing**

Do you know that your absolute favorite show is your favorite show because of the amazing writers? Ok, yes the actors may be great, but they wouldn't be able to put on a phenomenal performance without an awesome script! Writing gives a voice to those who may otherwise go unheard allowing you to advocate for your beliefs, share your stories, contribute to discussions on important topics, and promote social change.

In this 7th-grade writing class, you will engage in different types of writing for various audiences, such as personal stories, poetry, flash fiction, comedy skits, plays, commercials, songs, and much more! You will tap into your imagination and learn how to use just the right words that will make your writing come alive!

Think of this as a writing community. When you step into the writer's room, we will work together as a team, helping each other grow as writers. We'll give each other friendly feedback and learn from one another. And most importantly, we'll have fun discovering the power of our words!

Develop a love for storytelling as you embark on a writing journey filled with creativity, self-expression, and unique voices.

## **GRADE 8 Required Encores**

Wellness and a language choice (Spanish or Latin)

### **Grade 8 Wellness**

The Wellness course is designed to promote the overall well-being and healthy development of students. This course integrates physical activity, health education, and personal well-being to foster a comprehensive understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students will engage in a variety of physical activities, explore concepts related to nutrition and fitness, and develop skills necessary for lifelong wellness.



## **Grade 8 Spanish**

Spanish 1B reinforces and builds upon the skills and content learned in 1A. We devote more or less equal energy to the four skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, while also learning about the Spanish and Latin American cultures. In class, students will be exposed to the food, music, traditions and celebrations of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will be challenged to make deeper and more complex linguistic and cultural investigations and comparisons. Students are expected to devote time each night to homework and/ or to review vocabulary and current concepts. Students will be introduced to vocabulary around travel, the weather, giving and obtaining directions in town, making purchases and bargaining, ordering food, discussing chores and daily routines, and describing a house. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the student's foundation of the Spanish language, on cultural literacy and on broadening the student's knowledge and experience of other cultures and worldviews. Students will move from a level of communication through the use of memorized phrases and vocabulary recognition to generation of language. Students are expected to take responsibility for their learning and will be encouraged to think critically.

**Assessment:** Students are evaluated on the basis of classroom participation and class work, homework, tests, quizzes, online assignments and projects, which will assess their speaking, writing, reading and listening proficiency in Spanish, as well as their cultural literacy.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Students engage in conversational dialogue, and learn to make requests, and obtain information in practical settings
- Students use authentic materials, such as menus, photos, charts, etc. when reading
- Students write postcards and letters
- Students understand and convey information about themselves and their personal surroundings, regarding such contexts as family, home, school, health, likes and dislikes and clothes
- Students understand and convey information beyond themselves such as geography, directions, weather, dates, time, food, travel, colors, and numbers
- Students learn how to best express their needs and wants
- Students understand and can express their opinion in limited detail
- Students use and understand expressions indicating emotion
- Students create simple and original written assignments using different verb tenses and their proper conjugations
- Students understand important ideas in highly contextualized and authentic text

## **Grade 8 Latin**

CPS Middle School School Latin students will be introduced to the immortal Language of Ancient Rome, Latin. Over the course of 7th and 8th grade students will engage in storytelling and listening in order to acquire a core set of frequently used classical Latin vocabulary terms. Students will begin by learning words in context, and over the course of time be able to read short simple sentences within stories that expose students to the culture of Ancient Romans themselves. Learning vocabulary can strengthen students' knowledge of Spanish and English vocabulary as well.

## **Grade 8 ENCORE Choices:**

Art, Band, Chorus, Music Tech, Percussion, Project Lead The Way, and CPS Newspaper

## **Grade 8 Art**

The 8th grade art class will focus on art practices including drawing, collage, and painting. Exposure to sculpture will occur through a variety of projects and will also involve hand building and glazing of clay. More options for printmaking exploration will be enabled. Careful visual observation will be regularly emphasized.

## **Grade 8 Band**

Grade 8 Concert Band is the next level instrumental band ensemble. The focus continues to be on developing performance skills and practicing fundamentals (tuning, scales, arpeggios, rudiments, etc.) Music will be selected appropriately and each piece will enhance these performance skills. The band will perform at least 2 concerts during the school year. Grade 8 Band may be combined with the Grade 7 Band.



## **Grade 8 Chorus**

In this course, our main focus will be becoming one ensemble through singing. We will build upon the knowledge of vocal pedagogies and music theory while learning songs of diverse cultures and languages. Students will be split into three sections and sing songs in three-part harmony. There will be three required evenings in this class.

## **Grade 8 Music Tech**

Music tech 8 focuses on three of the tenets of music, creating, responding, and analyzing. We will continue to explore digital audio workstations, like SoundTrap and BandLab, to create specific genres of music. Focusing on musical concepts like rhythmic patterns, dynamics, and phrase motion we will create music to share with our classmates. Students will analyze each other's work based on the concepts, like simple rhythms, melodies, and chord progressions in each project. We will explore 4 chord progressions, improvising melodies, and freestyling lyrics to a beat or instrumental track. By the end of the year, students will write and produce their own song which they can download as an audio file.

## **Grade 8 Percussion**

The 8th Grade CPS Percussion Studio will focus on ensemble music. Students must have experience on a percussion instrument and be able to read music. We will review technique, implement/stick control, warm ups, timing exercises, common sticking patterns, rudiments, and scales. The snare drum, bass drum, xylophone, glockenspiel/bells, hand drums, drum set, timpani, tambourine, cowbell, and triangle are some examples of the percussion instruments we will learn to play. (Course grade is based upon class participation, and a concert expectation three times per year.)

## **Grade 8 Project Lead The Way**

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PLTW Green Architecture is a STEM unit of study. The focus is the practice of architecture and sustainable development. Students explore residential building systems, residential construction and construction costs, site planning, and architectural documentation. They design furniture models, sheds, a tiny house or small home using recycled shipping containers and use fundamental features of 3D architectural software to document their design.

PLTW Medical Detectives is a STEM unit of study. Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks.

## **CPS Newspaper**

Welcome to Newspaper Class where we're going on an exciting journey into the world of journalism!

In this course, you'll learn all about creating amazing news stories. Be prepared to talk to interesting people, research real issues, touch on real topics, and write awesome thought-provoking articles. You'll become a pro at finding trustworthy and credible sources. But that's not all! You will also discover the magic of newspaper design and layout, crafting attention-grabbing headlines, selecting and taking powerful photographs, and organizing articles effectively.

Oh, and you will learn about the important stuff too. We'll explore how to be fair and honest when reporting news, why the media is so powerful, the media's influence on public opinion, and the challenges journalists face in today's digital world.

The best part? You'll get to be a real journalist for our school newspaper! Didn't know we had one? That's because we don't- until now! This is where you come in. You will cover CPS events, share exciting Nantucket news, trending topics, hottest music, latest fashions, school sports, or even investigate mysteries. And the best, best part? Your work will be published in our bi-weekly CPS newspaper for everyone to see!

Get ready to unleash your creativity, hone your writing skills, and embrace the power of the press. Newspaper Class will equip you with important skills and empower you to be an informed citizen and an effective reporter.