

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clearway School  
61 Chestnut Street  
West Newton, MA 02465

## **ELECTIVE CHOICES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST SEMESTER 2009-2010**

### **REQUIREMENTS**

***The Writer's Workshop period will be assigned during an elective block. Tutorial meetings with the Educational Counselor are scheduled throughout the week. Every student will take gym class to fulfill the physical education requirement unless waived by the sending school system.***

1. **Writer's Workshop**

In Writer's Workshop you meet with your English class and teacher to focus on writing process, structure and composition, grammar and punctuation, organization and format, editing and rewriting techniques.

1 period

2. **Tutorial**

Each student meets with his/her Educational Counselor at a regularly scheduled weekly meeting.

3. **Gym Class**

This class will provide students with a variety of gym experiences. Possibilities include units in fencing, rock climbing, karate, soccer, weight training, and use of personal fitness machines.

2 periods

### **ASSIGNED ELECTIVES**

***Students may be assigned to some of the following electives based on sending school system requirements, age requirements, or IEP requirements.***

4. **Vocational Exploration**

Students will participate in several vocational activities to help strengthen job readiness skills including obtaining/completing job applications, practicing interviewing skills, learning job terminology, identifying work environment expectations, and problem solving difficult/awkward job situations. Tours of local companies will extend the experience from the classroom to the real world, including visits to Clearway School workstudy sites. Successful completion of this class is required for participation in the work-study program.

1 period

5. **Transition Planning / College Applications**

High school seniors will research and tour local postgraduate programs including community colleges, four-year colleges, work training programs, technical programs, and work. They will receive assistance with the college application process including references, transcripts, college essays, and activity sheets. They will also evaluate college disability centers in relation to their own needs. As a class, seniors will support each other through what can be both an exciting and anxious time.

1 period

6. **Group on Adolescent Issues**

Selected students will meet with the school social worker to discuss common issues in adolescent growth and development, particularly as pertains to their own experience. Group topics might include understanding mindfulness, developing conflict resolution skills, understanding multiple intelligences, and adapting to transition and change.

1 period

7. **Social Group**

Selected students will meet with the school social worker in an activity-based group which will focus on social and peer interactions, how to make and keep friends, and tolerance and acceptance of peers.

1 period

8. Pragmatic Language Sequence

Students who receive speech and language services will be assigned to small groups with the Speech/Language Pathologist focused on language development and our five-stage pragmatic language curriculum that addresses the nonverbal and verbal aspects of communicative exchanges.

1 period

9. Assistive Technology

This class targets specific areas which are affected by a student's learning disabilities. Depending on need, students may explore read-aloud software and methods of obtaining digital text, writing software such as word prediction and organizational tools, keyboarding programs, software to build math fluency and comprehension, and various calculators. This class will be individualized to meet specific needs and students may be assigned to this class based on need or IEP.

1 period

10. Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Grade Health

This class will focus on physical health including growth and development, physical activity and fitness, nutrition, and reproduction and sexuality. In addition students will explore safety and prevention including disease, injury, and violence prevention as well as drug, tobacco, and alcohol prevention.

1 period

11. Test Preparation – MCAS and SAT

Students in this class will develop long-term plans for prepping for large, cumulative assessments. They will develop time lines for how to prepare at school and at home. In addition, students will use class time to learn common test-taking strategies that can assist them in comprehending questions, organizing responses, and managing time. Students taking this class will be expected to complete homework.

1 period

**ELECTIVE CHOICES**

***Students have between one and nine elective slots to fill with choices from the following list. The exact number depends on each student's individual program.***

***Please rank order 15 or more choices from the list below. We will try to accommodate your wishes.***

**Applied Academic and Life Skills Choices**

12. Famous Bostonians

In this elective students will gain an appreciation of the contributions Bostonians have made in the fields of music (Aerosmith, Godsmack, The Cars, Rob Zombie, Leonard Bernstein), literature (Emily Dickinson, Jack Kerouac, Robert Frost, Edgar Allan Poe), politics (The Kennedy Family, Michael Dukakis, Malcolm X, Sam Adams), and entertainment (Jay Leno, Dane Cook, Matt Damon).

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

13. Children's Literature

Do you remember books you read or heard as a young child? In this class we will explore the elements of children's literature through reading and discussion. In addition to revisiting classic stories of authors such as Dr. Seuss and Eric Carle, we will look at the wide range of multi-cultural children's books and examine the themes they address. Students will have the opportunity to compose and illustrate their own children's book and share their creations with local preschool children.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

14. Medical Mysteries

Every year, millions of Americans fall prey to real-life medical mysteries – ailments that go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed for years. Their lives are thrown into turmoil – sometimes their sanity is called into question – as medical professionals struggle to understand their baffling conditions. This class will examine a new medical mystery each week and learn how medicine and patient care has changed as a result.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

15. The Holocaust and Human Behavior

In this elective students will examine what caused regular German citizens to become racist, prejudiced, and anti-Semitic murderers during WWII. Students will be encouraged to make connections between history and the moral choices they confront in their own lives as citizens in a democracy.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

16. Service Learning Project

This class will focus on the many different ways students can participate in community service. Students will identify organizations, programs and causes on both a local and national level and explore ways of performing direct service. In addition they research root causes of their issue and policies designed to address the problem. The class will take responsibility for educating the Clearway School community about their work in progress and will assist with several school activities on an as-needed basis. Students will have many opportunities to take on leadership roles throughout the semester.

1-2 periods\_\_\_\_\_.

17. Service Learning Project – Children’s Theatre

This class has one primary goal – to develop the script for a brief fairy tale that can be performed for a local nursery school. Students will work to develop a script for a “fairy tale” with a message that will be appealing to preschool aged children. They will then move the project from script to stage.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

18. Academic Support

This class will focus on organizational and assistive technology strategies that can support students in completing homework. This will be individualized based on particular need. Students may use the class to support daily completion of nightly homework assignments or to support the completion of long-term projects, research, and essays. Students should be prepared to bring homework assignments to class. Students may be assigned to this class based on need or IEP.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

19. Lost in Translation: Feminism’s Relevance in the Modern World

Feminism has become a term associated with the past and has more recently become a word with harsh negative connotations. In this class students will investigate feminism’s roots and goals and explore practical applications for those goals today. We will read excerpts from seminal feminist works such as Phyllis Chesler’s Women and Madness, Kate Millet’s Sexual Politics, and Simone de Beauvoir’s The Second Sex. Some independent reading will be required.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

20. Science Fiction / Fantasy

In this class we will read various sci-fi/fantasy novels. Students will read and discuss major themes, character development, and plot. Students will be expected to read approximately one hour per week outside of school.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

21. Secret Lives of U.S. Presidents

In this elective students will investigate the outrageous, little-known, politically incorrect, and downright bizarre behavior of U.S. Presidents. Did you know that Jimmy Carter reported a UFO sighting in Georgia, John Quincy Adams loved to skinny-dip in the Potomac, and George Washington spent 7% of his salary on rum? If you want to know whether JFK really had an affair with Marilyn Monroe, then this elective is for you.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

22. Mock Trials

Students will participate in the mock trial program. They will research the defense and prosecution arguments for a specified case or question of law. They will practice questioning witnesses and conducting cross-examinations. They will learn to make objections and how jury trials proceed. The class will split into teams.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

23. School Newspaper

Students will work as a group to produce a school newspaper containing feature stories, interviews, news stories, and opinion pieces. Other features could include puzzles, cartoons, and horoscopes.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

24. Literature for the Masses

Throughout history, writers and storytellers have produced great material whose purpose was to entertain the masses. Boccaccio, Chaucer, Michael Psellus, Shakespeare and others wrote plays, histories, and told stories that might make the Three Stooges blush. This class will read and discuss some of these materials.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

25. Finance and Investments

In this class students will explore many personal and social financial concepts and issues. They will define and differentiate between various personal investment tools, look at borrowing and banking options, and work to understand the interrelationships between personal finance and macroeconomic realities.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

26. Introduction to Advertising

Advertisements use mass media to influence or persuade consumers. In this class, students will examine some of the ads that shook the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They will learn about direct and Internet marketing, brand and political advertising, and public service ads. Students will also explore the concept of marketing to a targeted audience.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**27. Natural Disasters and Relief Efforts**

Students will learn about a variety of natural disasters including tornadoes, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods. We will investigate case studies and look at the impact of the disaster on communities and the environment. Students will research the relief effort made after a disaster by various agencies. Group investigations and independent research will be incorporated into the class.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**28. Food and Power in the United States**

This class takes a critical look at the roots and ramifications of the major contemporary debates about food in the United States. We will examine subjects ranging from food stamps and school lunches to calorie labeling laws, the fat acceptance movement, and food safety crises and will consider the ways food in the United States can be political and spark debates about power.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**29. Shakespeare's Comedies**

The Bard of Avon wrote some of the funniest plays ever. Once you get past the period language, his characters and situations are as funny as any Will Ferrell film. This class will read and discuss some of his best. (Be aware, these plays contain adult content.)

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**30. Teaching Little Kids – How Do Those Little Minds Work?**

How do you get preschoolers to share toys? Why do kids like playing dress-up? Why do babies like baby talk when it drives everyone else crazy? How has education theory changed over time? Students in this class will explore classical thinking from scholars like Erikson, Freud, and Piaget about stages of development and will think about how it affects early childhood education.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**31. Modern World Issues**

We live in turbulent times. Every day we all hear sound bites about crises and triumphs that could affect our lives. This class will look more deeply at questions like the rising costs of medical care, the election in Iran, and the economic impact of globalization. Students will be encouraged to research issues on their own in order to increase their ability to participate in discussions.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**32. Women in American History**

This class will explore the lives and accomplishments of a variety of women who have changed the course of American history. We will investigate figures from civil war times, like Harriet Tubman, and modern day figures such as Hillary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice. Using articles, videos, and Internet research, students will discover what allowed these women to become so influential and how they overcame the "glass ceiling".

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**33. A Musical History of America**

Music will be the history "text book" in this elective. Music and lyrics have always played a role in reflecting and influencing culture and society. Throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century political and social movements were documented and defined by song. Instead of reading about historical events, we will listen to songs about historical events and discuss their significance.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**34. Short Stories**

Students will read a variety of short stories together and discuss what they liked, what they didn't, what they thought was funny, weird, or wacky. We will focus our creative effort on a general topic or style and come up with stories of our own.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**35. Debate Club**

Students will learn debate procedure and the various roles in formal debate. They will learn to make opening and closing statements, arguments and rebuttals, research and prepare topics from current or historical events, and take part in debates as debate teams. They will receive feedback about their performance.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**36. Student Government Advisory Group**

Students who sign up for this elective will bring the student voice to policy decisions and issues that affect the community at large. This group will also organize events that improve the climate of the community.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**37. Astronomy**

Students will learn about the universe, its history, and its parts. Units will include the stars, the moon, the sun, the planets, theories of how the universe began, and how scientists learn about space. Students will participate in hands-on activities, research, and Internet based activities.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**38. Mad Money – Life Skills**

Learn the fundamentals to financial success. Students will learn the benefits and pitfalls to using credit cards, how to balance a checkbook, how to calculate compound interest on a savings account, and the ins and outs of getting a car loan. We will study the stock market and each student will start his/her own portfolio with "\$1,000 Clearway Dollars".

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**39. Nutrition and Cooking**

This class will use a "30 minute meal" format to produce nutritionally balanced, healthful food items. Students will practice basic skills in food preparation with emphasis on safety and creativity. Students will make food from a variety of food categories including salads, pasta, grains, vegetables, poultry, meat, and fish. Some classes will be spent studying nutrition, compiling cookbooks, and watching cooking videos.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**Arts and Fine Arts Choices**

**40. Basic Drawing (Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Levels)**

Students will learn the fundamentals of composition, line, rhythm and shading utilizing various mediums (pencil, charcoal, pen & ink, etc.). They will keep working on the difference between "seeing" and looking.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**41. Art History (Beginning)**

This class will survey the relationship between art and its historical period. Students will study some of the great artists, identify their style and incorporate that knowledge into their own work. No previous art history is required.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**42. Art History (Intermediate)**

This class will concentrate on contemporary art, focusing on artists who utilize language and words in their work. Students will then incorporate this knowledge into their own work. This class is open to students who have had a previous class in art history.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**43. Portraiture**

Students will work on head drawings from photographs and real life models. Materials will include pencil, charcoal, inks, and some mixed media. This class is only open to those students who have taken 1 year of drawing.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**44. Bookbinding**

Students will make various types of books (narrative, picture, etc.) and use different binding techniques to bind them, including signature, pamphlet, and concertina bindings. We will experiment with different types of papers.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**45. Collage**

Students will explore ways to bring together images in creative ways. We will use torn magazines, drawings, and other materials to create art, paying close attention to composition and color.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**46. Painting (Acrylic)**

Students will learn painting techniques using acrylic paints. Students will paint on canvas as well as paper and will learn to mix paint to attain variation of color.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**47. Assemblage**

Students will be working with "found objects" and other 3-dimensional material to create pieces of art.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**48. Digital Photography**

Students will learn how to take interesting photographs using digital equipment. Elements of composition, design, and color will be stressed. Students will work with Photoshop to manipulate their images and create pieces that reflect their individual point of view.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

**49. Animation with the MAC**

Make your drawings come alive with animation (movement and music). Develop a character, draw it and then sequence it on the Mac.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

50. Ceramics

Students will travel to the New Art Center to learn ceramics using a potter's wheel, including how to center and throw on a wheel.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

51. Woodworking

Students travel to a local woodshop to work with an on-site instructor. They will perform precise measurements, read and follow blueprints, use a variety of mechanical and hand-held tools, and produce and stain their project. Students will read material from woodworking journals, magazines, and texts related to the tools and skills they are learning. Students will work on one or two long-term projects this semester.

2 periods\_\_\_\_\_.

52. Digital Music Production

Students in this elective will learn the fundamentals of recording and creating digital music. With the use of the recording software *Cubase LE* and the sequencing software *Project 5*, students will create their own music, learn how to mix, and convert their files to mp3s. No musical experience is necessary.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

53. Intermediate Guitar

In this elective students will study higher-level guitar techniques including scale fingerings, chord progressions, finger-picking, tapping, and odd time signatures. Students will also work on note reading and tablature reading skills. Intermediate guitar skills are required for this class.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

54. Introduction to Piano/Keyboarding

In this elective students will learn the fundamentals of playing the piano/keyboard. They will focus on fingering, reading sheet music, and progressing toward playing chords and finally complete songs. No prior knowledge of piano is required.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

55. Video Production

In this class students will learn basic filming and editing techniques using DV video cameras and Apple's *imovie* software. Previous class projects have included mock infomercials, short films, and a skateboard video. In addition to a project of this sort students will document school events to create a video yearbook.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

56. Instrumental Performance

In this class students will focus on preparing either an original musical piece or a selection of covers to perform at Arts Night in June. Intermediate knowledge of an instrument is required for this elective. Possible instruments can include guitar, bass, keyboards, percussion, and voice.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

57. Scene Study

We will spend the semester working on a scene. Students will learn about motivation, sense memory and movement within the scene.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

58. Improv Theater

In this class students make it up as they go along. Class time is spent playing improvisational games to build cooperation and focus. This aids in self-expression and understanding of the self and others.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

59. Play Writing

This class will explore the structure of dramatic scripts and will read and watch one-act plays. Students will work collaboratively to develop one-act plays with the goal of having scripts turn into productions next semester.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

60. Set Construction

This class will help build props and sets for the Clearway play presented at Arts Night in January. They will get stage crew training for a role behind the curtain.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

61. Sketch Comedy

Use the tools of improvisation to develop comic scenes. Make it up as you go along and then try it again!

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

62. Theater Performance

This class will perform a play to be chosen to match the size of the available cast, culminating in an evening performance for families and members of the community. Students will learn how to prepare characters, work as part of an ensemble, and how to evaluate performances. When not practicing lines, students will work on sets, costumes and props, and improve their improvisation skills.

2 periods\_\_\_\_\_.

## Physical Activity Choices

### 63. Sports Skills

Students will participate in a variety of sports including football, basketball, soccer, and tennis. They will learn new skills and work on teaching skills they have mastered. Students will participate outdoors in all types of weather conditions including cold and wet weather. Emphasis will be on teamwork, skill building, and sportsmanship.

**Students who sign up for this class must be prepared to exercise even in bad weather.**

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

### 64. Train for a 5K

Students will research and discuss training schedules for a 5K race, including fitness, nutrition, sleep, and running schedules. The group will plan a training schedule to run on local routes that will increase from 0.5 to 3 miles, and ultimately will run a 5K race.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

### 65. Introduction to Soccer

This elective will introduce students to the fundamentals of the world's most popular sport. Students will learn how to dribble, pass, trap, and shoot. In addition to individual skills students will receive instruction in the following areas: fitness, injury prevention (stretching and increased core strength), strategy, and rules of the game. Good sportsmanship and having fun will always be the primary focus of this class.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

### 66. Stretching for Relaxation and Concentration

Enjoy fifty minutes each week learning a variety of stretching routines to reduce stress and allow the mind to focus.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

### 67. Skateboarding

In this elective students will learn basic skateboarding techniques at a local skate park. No experience is required, but you must provide your own skateboard. Clearway will provide helmets, which are required for this class. Along with basic skills, park etiquette will be reviewed.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

### 68. Frisbee Disc Sports

In this elective students will sample all eight disc sports. We will spend two weeks learning and playing each of the events: Freestyle, DDC, Self-Caught Flight, Accuracy, Distance, Golf, Discathon, and Ultimate.

1 period\_\_\_\_\_.

### 69. Outdoor Sports (Golf, Hiking, Snowshoeing)

Over the course of the semester students will spend four to six weeks each on a variety of outdoor sports activities including golfing, hiking, and snowshoeing. All equipment and instruction is provided. Students must be prepared to take part in **ALL** activities in **ALL** weather.

1-2 periods\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**My Elective Choices in Preferential Order**

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