

Name _____

Clearway School
61 Chestnut Street
West Newton, MA 02465

ELECTIVE CHOICES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SECOND SEMESTER 2008-2009

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 rock climbing, karate, indoor 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**

This class will explore the world of work, both generally and in terms of specific experiences students will need, such as job applications, social security numbers, interviews, etc. Tours and visits will extend the experience from the classroom to the real world, including visits to Clearway School workstudy sites, depending on student interest.

1 period

5. **Post Graduate Studies / College Applications**

High school seniors will research college prep and college training programs at local colleges and universities, receive assistance with the college application process, receive career counseling to help determine realistic future goals, review and prepare for the SAT's, and visit and/or interview at specific colleges. This class provides the opportunity to review essays, prepare resumés, and provide each other with support.

1 period

6. **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

7. **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.

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

Students will work to become more comfortable with a variety of software including voice-activated software, read aloud software, keyboarding programs, graphing calculators, on-line organizers, and on-line resources that can assist with finding support with regard to reading comprehension. Students will also find and download books and use read aloud software with these books. 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. MCAS Preparation – Math and English

Students preparing for the 10th grade MCAS will focus on problem solving strategies, application of formulas, open response questions, and long composition using preparatory materials and tests from previous years. Test-taking strategies and scoring rubrics will be incorporated.

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. Anthropology

Anthropology is the study of human beings and their social, environmental, and cultural relations over time. In this course students will explore current culture, cultures from around the world and from different periods in history. They will examine each culture through the lenses of family, death, identity, and power. They will explore the similarities and differences in cultural roles in various times and places.

1 period_____.

13. Medicine and Ethics: Quandaries, Dilemmas, and Debates

As medicine continues to become more and more advanced, we are faced with new ethical dilemmas. Each week, the class will discuss and dissect a medical issue that presents a dilemma of ethics. Topics for discussion may include childhood vaccines, gene therapy, alternative medicines, experimentation, confidentiality issues, and patient rights.

1 period_____.

14. Service Learning Project

This semester service learning will be divided into two segments. During the first term students will volunteer at a local senior rehabilitation center every other week. At the center we will assist with recreational activities while interacting and socializing with residents. During second term students will select several different causes to learn more about and develop a plan to help and provide service. Such causes might include environmental issues, homelessness, and U.S. troops. Throughout both terms students will research the issues to learn about causes as well as what is occurring on local/national levels to improve present conditions. Preference for this class will be for high school students.

1-2 periods_____.

15. Fantasy / Science Fiction Literature

In this class students will explore various sci-fi/fantasy novels. They will read & discuss major themes, character development, and plots. Students are expected to read approximately one hour per week outside of school.

1 period_____.

16. 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_____.

17. True Genius

Each week this class will look into the lives and accomplishments of some of history's geniuses. People as diverse as DaVinci, Jefferson, and Moe Berg will be studied in readings, visuals, and discussions.

1 period_____.

18. World Religions

Learn about the major religious traditions found worldwide today: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and other less well-known traditions. Examine the beliefs, practices, and values of these groups in order to understand the worldviews and ways of life of the people who practice them.

1 period_____.

19. 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_____.

20. History of Rock and Roll

In this class students will learn about the history of rock and roll from its roots in jazz, country/western, to the racial issues surrounding early rock and roll and technical developments that have created the music we listen to today. Students will have the opportunity to do individual research on an influential artist or group and create a presentation for the class.

1 period_____.

21. CSI: Newton

This class is an introduction to the study of forensic science. Like real-life forensic scientists, students will observe carefully, organize and record data, think critically, and conduct simple tests to solve crimes like theft, dognapping, vandalism, and water pollution.

1 period_____.

22. Minority Book./Authors Club

Students will explore different cultures through the eyes of minority writers. They will select a novel to read and discuss and relate the novel to their lives. We will respond to the novels via discussion, presentation and reports. Students will be expected to read approximately one hour per week outside of school.

1 period_____.

23. Protests of the Twentieth Century

The history of the 20th century has some of the most important protest movements ever. The Bonus Marchers of the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement of the Sixties, the Tienamen Square protest, and even violent outbreaks over incidents like the Rodney King beating were protesting policies and ideas. Many of these incidents have been recorded on film, as well as in the memories of people still alive today. This class will revisit this recent history with the possibility of original research through interviews with people who lived through it.

1 period_____.

24. Solar Cars

In this class students will design and build a model solar car. They will learn about the physics of vehicles and will investigate various solar energy systems. Finished cars may participate in a race at the end of the year.

1 period_____.

25. Women in History

This class will investigate the stories of many great women in world history. We will explore the lives of female militarists like the Trung sisters, political leaders such as Theodora of Byzantium and Catherine the Great, activists including the Mirabal sisters, literary giants like Gertrude Stein, Emily Dickinson and Joan Didion, and even Scheherazade and Mother Goose. There may be some class reading included with videos, discussions, and presentations.

1 period_____.

26. Greek Mythology

In this class students will explore the myths of ancient Greece. They will study the various gods and goddesses, read a variety of myths, and examine the relevance of these ancient stories to modern life.

1 period_____.

27. Shakespeare

Explore the world of Shakespeare. This class will read excerpts from a variety of plays. Students will look at both comedies and tragedies as well as investigate how Shakespeare has been brought to the stage and the big screen over the years.

1 period_____.

28. Environmental Science

This class will cover a wide variety of topics in the environmental sciences. Students will learn about how scientists use knowledge about the earth and its ecosystems to help maintain a healthy planet. Discussions, research and experiments will all be a part of this class.

1 period_____.

29. Poetry Roundtable

Students in this class will be exposed to a variety of poems each week. They will have a chance to respond to the poems in various ways such as class discussions, creating visual representations of the poems, and writing poems in response to those presented.

1 period_____.

30. Asian Culture and Conversational Korean Language

Students will explore Asian culture, traditions and learn to speak conversational Korean. We will study similarities and differences within specific countries as well as compare and contrast values and culture of major Asian countries.

1 period_____.

31. 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_____.

32. 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_____.

33. Archeology and Paleontology

Explore some of the great discoveries from ancient worlds, including fossil hunting in the Gobi Desert, King Tut's tomb, the Lascaux Cave paintings, Lucy and the Leakeys in Olduvai Gorge, and the LaBrea tar pits. We will read about discoveries and discoverers in this class that will combine a little science with a little history and literature.

1 period_____.

34. Dream Psychology

Students in this class will look at various theories concerning the meaningfulness of dreams from a cross-cultural perspective. They will be asked to do an extensive interpretation of several dreams utilizing the various perspectives (Freudian, Jungian, and existential) we have learned in class.

35. 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_____.

36. Introduction to Latin

Are you someone who likes dropping the word "defenestrate" at a dinner party (from the Latin words for "window" and "out of")? Have you watched *Gladiator* five times? This class will be an introduction to Latin and Roman culture. The focus will be on building vocabulary and learning about the impact of Roman culture on modern times.

1 period_____.

37. Good vs. Evil: Leaders Throughout History

This class will explore the continuum of leaders throughout history, from great leaders like FDR, Gandhi, and JFK, to infamous leaders like Genghis Khan, Hitler, and Stalin. Our sources will be texts, Internet, and videos. In the course of research we will answer the big questions about how and why each leader was good or evil. You will produce an informative poster project on a leader of your choice.

1 period_____.

38. Dramatic Sampler

Universal themes and ideas will emerge as this class joins in reading a sampling of plays. Selections will include Greek, Renaissance and Modern plays, and possibly covering dramas from eastern cultures as well.

- 1 period_____.
39. The Physics and History of Flight
Throughout the ages, humans have been fascinated by the idea of flight. Learn about early attempts at flight and the refinement of flight over time. This class will also include simple experiments and the physics behind flight.
1 period_____.
40. Playwriting
Students will read portions of famous dramas and comedies and learn about methods of producing effective dialogue, characterization, and scene construction. Students will then work to develop original scenes. The class will offer their work to Clearway students to provide scripts for future theater production.
1 period_____.
41. Yearbook
Students will participate in all aspects of selecting, organizing, and compiling pictures and information to create a school yearbook. Individual portraits will be scheduled for all students. Yearbook staff will take candid shots of students, staff, and school happenings.
1 period_____.
42. 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

43. Basic Drawing (Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Levels)
Students will learn basic techniques utilizing various mediums (pencil, charcoal, pen & ink, etc.). They will be working from life as well as from their imaginations. Students will explore different drawing challenges (portrait, still life, animals, etc.).
1 period_____.
44. Printmaking
Students will make various types of prints including woodcuts, serigraphy, linoleum block, silkscreen, monotype, and dry point engraving.
1 period_____.
45. Art History and Culture (Beginning and Intermediate)
This class will survey the relationship between art and its historical period.
1 period_____.
46. 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_____.
47. Watercolor
Students will use watercolor as a medium and will learn and practice watercolor techniques such as wet on wet, washes, scumbling, and stippling. Still life, portraits, and animals will be executed with watercolors.
1 period_____.
48. Cartooning
Students will learn to develop characters in graphic illustration using pencil, pen, watercolor, etc. Each student will formulate her/his own character and learn to create people, animals and objects. Students will be introduced to the elements of cartoon sequences including character, frames, story boards, story line, and creating a book.
1 period_____.
49. 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_____.
50. 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_____.

51. Digital Music Production

In this elective students will explore a variety of music production software for both Mac and PC. They will learn how to program beats and musical sequences as well as record and edit live instruments and voices. Students will also learn post-production skills such as fine editing and mixing. Basic knowledge of musical instruments is recommended but not required.

1 period_____.

52. 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_____.

53. 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_____.

54. Video Production

In this class students will learn basic filming and editing techniques using Apple's *imovie* software. Possible projects can include creating a music video, a short dramatic film, mock news or commercials, or an action sports/skateboarding video.

1 period_____.

55. 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_____.

56. Oral Interpretation of Literature

We will work on reading aloud to an audience. Learn how to share your interpretation of a short story, essay, or poem.

1 period_____.

57. Improv

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

1 period_____.

58. 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_____.

59. Set Construction

Help build props and sets for the Clearway play presented at Arts Night in June.

1 period_____.

60. 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_____.

61. 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. This fall we will consider performing a musical.

2 periods_____.

Physical Activity Choices

62. 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_____.

63. Track and Personal Fitness

Running is a discipline which will increase your strength, stamina, and mental focus, but to incorporate this habit into your lifestyle takes research and planning. In this class students will develop a personal fitness schedule, discuss good life style habits, and exercise **outside** come rain or shine or bitter cold. Students in this elective have the option of participating in an annual track meet held at MIT in the spring.

1 period_____.

64. Fitness

Students will take part in a range of fitness activities including yoga, stretching, jogging, and simple exercises using their own body weight to provide resistance. Each student will develop his/her own fitness goals and record progress toward their goals.

1 period_____.

65. 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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