

## Elective List- Fall 2014

Hi Families and Students.

Students will receive schedules that show all of their assigned classes- their academic classes and those IEP-required classes (Orton-Gillingham reading, Jenn's speech and language classes, Denise's/Kristie's groups, tutorial, work-study and transition classes).

They will use this information along with this document to select electives for each block for which they have a "choice". Please note: electives require a minimum number of participants to occur, and there could be an elective or electives on this list that does not occur. Also, students who have lots of required classes in their IEP's especially seniors in work-study receive less "choice" periods. If a student's absolute favorite elective is happening at a time when he/she does not have a choice, please talk to Peter or Rebecca about whether something can be done.

For each of these "choice" blocks, students should put down their 1<sup>st</sup> choice and their 2<sup>nd</sup> choice. Students will not be allowed to have the same elective multiple times in one semester (e.g. students cannot have "cooking" twice). On the line following the course description:

Place a "1" next to 1<sup>st</sup> choice

Place a "2" next to 2<sup>nd</sup> choice

**PLEASE NOTE- Some classes are double periods. Students will not receive more than 1 academic support class in one day but can sign-up for academic support on multiple days in a week.**

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Period (11:40 to 12:30)

**Bobbie-** *Community Cooking for Middle Schoolers*- Middle School students in this class work collaboratively in the kitchen to prepare meals that their peers will enjoy. Middle Schoolers will dine on the food prepared during "community lunch".

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**Jeremy-** *Role-playing Games*- Remember when you were younger and you could pretend to be anything you wanted? Well, those days are back. Come join the role-playing games elective and we'll explore dungeons, fight dragons, loot treasure, and roll a lot of dice. If you want to work on your acting, if you like telling a good story, or if you just want to smash zombies with a giant sword, you should give RPGs a try.

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**Roberta-** *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. [open to students and staff]

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**Rune- Academic Support-** This class provides an opportunity for students to complete homework while receiving support and feedback from a Clearway instructor.

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**Trevor- Digital Scoring for Video -** In this class, students will explore the basic concepts and skills involved in writing music for film and other video. With the help of the teacher, students will compose original scores to video clips and present them at Arts Night. Prior experience with digital music production is helpful, but not required.

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**Vin- History at Home-** Living in New England can provide opportunities to learn about history first hand. Many of our local cities and citizens have been involved in major events and trends in US history, such as the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, the Industrial Revolution, reform movements, literary achievements and much more. This class will look into some of these trends and events, possibly investigating our own hometowns. Some brief field trips might occur, as well as discussions, readings and research.

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### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Period (12:50 to 1:35)**

**Academic Support-** This class provides an opportunity for students to complete homework while receiving support and feedback from a Clearway instructor.

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**Jeremy- Minecraft Architecture-** Come explore! Play one of the best-selling games of all time, see what it's all about, and learn while you do it. We'll engineer circuits, build historically accurate villages, and of course, kill zombies and mine for diamonds while we're at it. Students will work together in a shared game (not play on the server they use at home).

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**Roberta- 2-dimensional design-** Students will study the graphic qualities of art and learn the fundamentals of composition, line, rhythm and color. They will learn how to arrange lines and shapes to create interesting patterns. [open to students and staff]

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**Trevor-Intro to Guitar -** In this course, students will learn basic skills on the guitar. Topics covered will include the parts of the instrument, tuning, and basic chord formations. Students can use their skills to play along in class to songs they enjoy. The primary focus will be on acoustic guitar.

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### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Period (1:35 to 2:20)**

**Jeremy- Minecraft Architecture-** Come explore! Play one of the best-selling games of all time, see what it's all about, and learn while you do it. We'll engineer circuits, build historically accurate villages, and of course kill zombies and mine for diamonds while we're at it. Students will work together in a shared game (not play on the server they use at home).

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**Roberta- Watercolor-** Students explore the medium of watercolor on different materials. Students will learn about color, design and composition while painting with watercolors.[open to students and staff]

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**Rune- Introduction to Psychology-** This class will explore various fields of psychology including developmental, abnormal, and social. Students will explore various forms of psychological studies and will learn how to design and write up a study (create hypotheses, create questions, collect data, summarize findings, etc.)

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**Trevor- Performance Workshop -** Open to all students currently involved in any of the performing arts (music, theater, dance, etc.). Over the course of the semester, students will develop and prepare a piece for potential performance at Arts Night, community meeting, or other venue. They will regularly practice for their classmates and the teacher, with a focus on what makes a great performance.

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### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Period (11:40 to 12:30)**

**Academic Support-** This class provides an opportunity for students to complete homework while receiving support and feedback from a Clearway instructor.

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**Chris R- Theater Arts: Physical Theater-** Neutrality and character-creation are further evaluated through physical presence. Pantomime and dynamic mime will be reviewed through each session in order to acknowledge how our body speaks. As we take risks, we develop character as well as our own unique presence in the world. The ensemble creates story through physical imagery to engage an audience in wonder.

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**Jules - Philosophy of The Matrix:** What is "reality"? Why are the pills blue and red? What are the ethical dilemmas behind Cypher's choice? This class will explore the differences and similarities between the ancient absolutism of Plato and the modern relativism of Nietzsche - all through the action packed allegorical movie, *The Matrix*. Students signing up for this movie need to be given permission to see portions of the *Matrix trilogy*- which has an *R* rating.

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**Trevor- Intro to Music Production -** Students will learn the basics of multi-track recording with audio software such as *GarageBand* and *Logic*, and use their skills to create original recorded music. Concepts of song structure will also be discussed.

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## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Period (12:50 to 1:35)

**Chris and Trevor- Theater- Performance Workshop** (*Double Period is preferred but NOT required*)- This is an opportunity for artists with interest in performing in Arts Night! Together we will develop and refine an interdisciplinary process through Music, Movement, Theater and Visual Arts. Our focus will be the creation of a wonderful experience for the audience. We will start with the creation of small pieces and further elaborate on our success.

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**Nick- Animal Shelter** (2 periods- must also have a “choice” Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> period): Students will volunteer at an animal shelter in Milton. Students will perform a variety of roles including cleaning as well as grooming and taking care of the animals. Students will earn credit for service hours for their work (limit 3 students). Students cannot be in animal shelter on two days. Preference will be given to students who have not been in this class previously.

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**Pam- Service Learning-** 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, students will research root causes of social issues and policies designed to address the problems. The class will take responsibility for educating the Clearway School community about their work. Students will have many opportunities to take on leadership roles throughout the semester. **STUDENTS SIGNING UP FOR THIS CLASS WILL BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN TRIPS IN WHICH THEY VOLUNTEER AT LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**

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**Roberta- Collage-** Collage is a form of art in which various materials such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric are arranged and adhered to another surface. The students will learn techniques and concepts of collage. [open to students and staff].

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**Vin- Academic Support-** This class provides an opportunity for students to complete homework while receiving support and feedback from a Clearway instructor.

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## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Period (1:35 to 2:20)

**Bobbie- Cooking-** Students will prepare a variety of dishes, with a focus on developing skills in the kitchen. Emphasis will be placed on encouraging students to safely and comfortably use various cooking tools, to make basic dishes that they can modify to suit their own tastes.

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**Chris/Trevor- Theater: Performance Workshop (Double period is preferred but NOT required)-** This is an opportunity for artists with interest in performing in Arts Night! Together we will develop and refine an interdisciplinary process through Music, Movement, Theater and Visual Arts. Our focus will be the creation of a wonderful experience for the audience. We will start with the creation of small pieces and further elaborate on our success.

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**Roberta- Fashion Design-** Students will study fashion design throughout the ages. They will be looking at how society and fashion interact. The students will be drawing their own designs.

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**Sports Skills-** Students will participate in a variety of sports including modified versions of soccer, basketball, baseball, and Ultimate Frisbee. Games will be adapted to take into account a smaller number of participants. **STUDENTS SHOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE NO MATTER WHAT THE WEATHER IS LIKE!!!!**

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**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Period (11:40 to 12:30 or 12:00 to 12:50)**

**Bobbie- Ecology-** Students will learn what Ecology encompasses. They will learn and demonstrate knowledge of ecosystems, biospheres, various biomes, and populations. They will explore the impact humans have on the biosphere. The course will also encompass environmental issues and there will be hands on activities/field trips.

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**Chris- Theater Arts: Physical Theater-** This class focuses on how actors make their bodies move. Neutrality and character- creation are further evaluated through physical presence. Pantomime and dynamic mime will be reviewed through each session in order to acknowledge how our body speaks. As we take risks, we develop character as well as our own unique presence in the world. The ensemble creates story through physical imagery to engage an audience in wonder.

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**Jenn and Jules--***Writing at the Next Level* (Seniors highly encouraged to apply, Juniors and Sophomores welcome). This class is a great way for students thinking about college writing to get practice and support. This academic elective, co-taught by an English teacher and speech-language pathologist, will focus on exposing students to college-level writing tasks. Both juniors and seniors are encouraged to enroll as they will practice thesis development for research-based writing as well as other aspects of the writing process including organization and editing. Seniors will leave the class having completed a college application essay. Students will have the opportunity to schedule weekly meetings with the instructor (similar to "office hours") and will be encouraged to complete work outside of class time.

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**Jeremy- Python-** Python is a modern, highly versatile programming language that you can use to make everything from a basic calculator program to a sophisticated Google app. In this class, we'll learn the language from the ground up, exploring data types, logic statements, classes and objects, and other basic concepts before diving in and making some graphics and simple games. Students learn programming concepts, solve puzzles of broken code, and invent their own code to complete tasks. Collaboration and teamwork is encouraged.

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**Rune- Gods and Heroes-** (Preference will be given to Middle School student)- If you ever wondered why the Odin from your mythology books seems different than the Odin that shows up in Marvel Comic movies, this class is right for you. We will analyze and compare the media's depiction of various gods and heroes to the of the original tales. The class does involve some writing as well as viewing of pg-13 movie excerpts.

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**Trevor- Musical Elements & Keyboarding-** Students will explore basic elements of music such as notes, scales, rhythm, and harmony. Keyboards will be used to show concepts hands-on, and students are welcome to bring other instruments if they play them.

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### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Period (12:50 to 1:35)**

**Becky- Service at Clearway-** This class is open to any who want to help the Clearway community. This class will be guided by students and could include projects like planning Clearway events, advocating on student behalf, starting programs such as Big Sibling or Peer tutoring programs. This class is for students who like helping their school be a wonderful community. Students in this class will also plan for community meetings.

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**Chris- Basics of Acting-** Participants engaged in this class will undergo fundamentals in acting technique. Goals, obstacles, tactics, and expectations will be discussed through scene study. Gesture, movement,

and blocking each scene will occur in order to understand the motivations of an author and develop the characters fully. Active participation is essential to create an ensemble that will encourage personal growth through the art of theater.

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**Jeremy- Python-** Python is a modern, highly versatile programming language that you can use to make everything from a basic calculator program to a sophisticated Google app. In this class, we'll learn the language from the ground up, exploring data types, logic statements, classes and objects, and other basic concepts before diving in and making some graphics and simple games. Students learn programming concepts, solve puzzles of broken code, and invent their own code to complete tasks. Collaboration and teamwork is encouraged.

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**Roberta- Silk-screen (double period)** - Students will learn the techniques of silk-screening. They will learn how to print multiples of an image they design. Since this art form takes time, please sign-up if you can commit to 7th period also.

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**Trevor- Performance Workshop** - Open to all students currently involved in any of the performing arts (music, theater, dance, etc.). Over the course of the semester, students will develop and prepare a piece for potential performance at Arts Night. They will regularly practice for their classmates and the teacher, with a focus on what makes a great performance.

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**Vin- Academic Support-** This class provides an opportunity for students to complete homework while receiving support and feedback from a Clearway instructor.

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### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Period (1:35 to 2:20)**

**Bobbie- Academic Support-** This class provides an opportunity for students to complete homework while receiving support and feedback from a Clearway instructor.

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**Chris- Technical Theater and Craft-** This class incorporates elements of puppetry, prop-making, and set construction. This is an elective devoted to the creation of the objects used within the performance opportunity workshop. We will learn how to construct flats, craft some puppets and develop the props that will be used in Arts Night! As we near the performance, participants will transform roles into the technical aspects of a student driven Arts Night!

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**Jeremy- Role-playing Games-** Remember when you were younger and you could pretend to be anything you wanted? Well, those days are back. Come join the role-playing games elective and we'll explore dungeons, fight dragons, loot treasure, and roll a lot of dice. If you want to work on your acting, if you like telling a good story, or if you just want to smash zombies with a giant sword, you should give RPGs a try.

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**Roberta- Silk-screen (double period- this class continues from 6<sup>th</sup> period) -** Students will learn the techniques of silk-screening. They will learn how to print multiples of an image they design. Since this art form takes time, please sign-up if you can commit to both periods.

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**Trevor-Intro to Guitar -** In this course, students will learn basic skills on the guitar. Topics covered will include the parts of the instrument, tuning, and basic chord formations. Students can use their skills to play along in class to songs they enjoy. The primary focus will be on acoustic guitar.

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#### **Thursday Gym (12:50 to 2:20)**

**Boston Sports Club-** Students walk to Boston Sports Club. Here they are required to take part in a cardiovascular activity prior to participating in muscle conditioning or weight-training. **STUDENTS MUST BE 14 TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM.**

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**Karate-** students travel to Clark's Self-Defense where they will receive training in Kempo Karate. They will warm-up, learn forms, play games, and earn belts.

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**Nature Sports-** Each week students will take part in activities that foster an appreciation for nature. Students will participate in canoeing, kayaking, hiking. When the weather gets cold, students will take part in snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing at Weston Ski Track.

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**Rock Climbing-** Students will travel to a rock gym in Watertown and train on an artificial rock wall. They will learn techniques, safety, and terms. Students older than 13 will belay peers. Students/families will need to sign a release to participate in this activity.

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*Team Sports-* Students will take part in a rotation of activities including soccer, football, basketball, and Ultimate. Students will learn warm-up activities and stretches and also participate in scrimmages.

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### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Elective (10:40 to 11:20)**

**Bobbie-Community Service Nursing Home-** (*Double period that extends through Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Elective*) - Students will socialize with residents through games, crafts, and music activities. Students will learn about some of the professional roles at the nursing home. Students will reflect upon the needs of the residents, and identify how our group can meet some of those needs. Students will earn credit for service hours for their work. Students interested in careers in the social services or helping professions should consider this elective.

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**Jeremy- Circus Arts-** Circus arts continues! Whether you're a beginner or a pro, this is the class to improve your juggling, balancing, spinning, tumbling, and more. This session will include all the objects and skills we've worked on so far, but will also introduce some clowning and more partner balancing. All are welcome, whether you've taken this class before or not.

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**Jenn- Toastmasters (high school)** -Students are assigned to this class but others can sign up as well. Students in this class will have a great time practicing the “do’s” (and spotting the “don’t’s”) of public speaking. With media examples of effective public speaking, students will try to emulate some great contemporary speakers. Students will also have the opportunity to write their own speeches, spoken word poems, etc, and for those that want to speak in front of the Clearway community, support will be provided.

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**Pam- Clearway Gourmet-** Develop a website with recipes developed and tested in the kitchen. The focus will be on selecting recipes, testing them in the kitchen, developing procedures and making them available for access online.

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**Rune- Board Game Creation-** Are you creative and love games? Does creativity always help you remember information? Students will be given educational challenges such as modeling famous historical events or creating models/simulations of different topics. Take on challenges such as making Monopoly a better model of capitalism.

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### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Elective (11:20 to 12:00)**

**Bobbie- Community Service Nursing Home-** (*Double period that extends from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Elective*) - Students will socialize with residents through games, crafts, and music activities. Students will learn about some of the professional roles at the nursing home. Students will reflect upon the needs of the residents, and identify how our group can meet some of those needs. Students will earn credit for service hours for their work. Students interested in careers in the social services or helping professions should consider this elective.

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**Jenn- Toastmasters (middle school)-** Students are assigned to this class but others can sign up as well. Students in this class will have a great time practicing the “do’s” (and spotting the “don’t’s”) of public speaking. With media examples of effective public speaking, students will try to emulate some great contemporary speakers. Students will also have the opportunity to write their own speeches, spoken word poems, etc, and for those that want to speak in front of the Clearway community, support will be provided.

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**Jeremy- Circus Arts-** Circus arts continues! Whether you're a beginner or a pro, this is the class to improve your juggling, balancing, spinning, tumbling, and more. This session will include all the objects and skills we've worked on so far, but will also introduce some clowning and more partner balancing. All are welcome, whether you've taken this class before or not.

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**Jules- Cooking-** Students will prepare a variety of dishes, with a focus on developing skills in the kitchen. Emphasis will be placed on encouraging students to safely and comfortably use various cooking tools, to make basic dishes that they can modify to suit their own tastes.

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**Peter- Extra Support-** This class is different than academic support. Students begin the semester by identifying an academic area upon which they would like extra support. Topics to select from include writing, math, test-preparation (including SAT and ACCUPLACER), or learning about a high-interest topic from on-line resources (e.g. Khan Academy, EdX, etc.). Peter will work with students to develop targeted goals. This class will be capped so that Peter can provide individual attention.

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