

CROCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
2024-2025
Core Course Descriptions

Table of Contents

[Mathematics](#)

[Science](#)

[English](#)

[Social Studies](#)

[Physical Education](#)

Mathematics

Common Core 6

The **CC6** class is a rigorous course that covers one year's worth of standards over the course of the school year. Students in grade 6 focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division, and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting and using expressions and equation; and (4) developing an understanding of statistical thinking. Depending on course performance and assessment results, students will then be recommended for either CC7 or CC 7/8 Compressed as 7th graders.

Common Core 7

The rigorous **CC7** class covers one year's worth of standards in the course of the school year. Students in grade 7, focus on four critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two-and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Depending on course performance and objective measures, students will then be recommended for either CC8 or Algebra 1 as 8th graders.

Common Core Compressed 7/8

The **CC 7/8** course is a compressed class, which means that the grade 7 and grade 8 curricula detailed above are compressed into a single year-long course. Therefore, the curriculum moves at a faster, more challenging pace and does not go as deeply in-depth. Students who successfully complete CC7/8 Compressed will be placed in Algebra 1 as 8th graders.

Common Core 8

The rigorous **CC8** class covers one year's worth of standards in the course of the school year. In grade 8, students will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with linear equations and solving linear equations and systems of linear

equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two-and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. This course prepares students to take Algebra I in 9th grade.

Algebra 1

The **Algebra I** course covers a full year of Algebra. This fast-paced course prepares students to take Geometry in high school. Algebra I is designed for students who have demonstrated a clear aptitude at this stage in their mathematics development and have demonstrated that they are prepared for the rigors of a fast-paced mathematics course. Students have also demonstrated a strong work ethic, as evidenced by consistent and successful homework completion, frequent class participation, perseverance in problem-solving situations, and self-motivation to complete work both in and out of class for the scope of the upcoming year. Students in Algebra 1 will focus on four critical areas: (1) deepening and extending understanding of linear and exponential relationships; (2) contrasting linear and exponential relationships with each other and engaging in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions; (3) extending the laws of exponents to square and cube roots; and (4) applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. A commitment to the course and its depth of content, along with good time management and study skills, is essential to your child's success in this course.

Science

Science 6

Following the Integrated Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), incorporating the 5 E's in our curriculum; Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate, our major year-long theme is understanding how earth and life systems interact. Specific units of study include: Systems and Subsystems in Earth and Life Science, Earth Systems Interactions Cause Weather, Cause and Effects of Regional Climates, Effects of Global Warming on Living Systems. All efforts are made to deliver the curriculum in an engaging, hands-on experience whenever possible. All students in 6th grade further learn the scientific method and create a Scientific Investigation project with the potential to compete in the San Mateo County STEM Fair.

Science 7

Following the Integrated Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), incorporating the 5 E's in our curriculum; Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate, our major year-long theme is understanding how energy flows through organisms within ecosystems. Specific units of study include: Organisms and Nonliving Things are made out of Atoms, Energy Flow in Organisms, Sustaining Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a changing world, Matter Cycles through Organisms and Rocks, and Natural Processes and human activities shape Earth's resources and ecosystems. All efforts are made to deliver the curriculum in an engaging, hands-on experience whenever possible. All students in 7th grade further create an Engineering Design Project with the potential to compete in the San Mateo County STEM Fair.

Science 8

Following the Integrated Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), incorporating the 5 E's in our curriculum; Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate, our major year-long theme is the history of life on Earth. Specific units of study include: Evolution Explains Life's Unity and Diversity, Non-Contact Forces, Objects Move and Collide, and Sustaining Local and Global Biodiversity. All efforts are made to deliver the curriculum in an engaging, hands-on experience whenever possible. All students in 8th grade further create a Scientific Investigation or Engineering Design with the potential to compete in the San Mateo County STEM Fair.

English

English 6

6ELA covers vocabulary and grammar development, fiction reading and writing strategies, personal essay writing, nonfiction reading, and informational and literary essay writing. Class novels include Freak the Mighty, Dragonwings, and The Biography of Temple Grandin. Students will also participate in book clubs as well as independent reading. Speaking and listening skills will be emphasized by way of oral presentations.

English 7

7ELA covers vocabulary/grammar, realistic fiction reading and writing strategies, nonfiction reading and informational essay writing, and argumentative writing. Students will learn Socratic Seminar and debate skills. Class novels include The Giver, When Stars are Scattered, and The Outsiders.

English 8

8th grade ELA 8th graders continue to hone their skills in both reading and writing. They will have the opportunity to craft narrative, informational, and argumentative writing through the essay-writing process. Research skills are emphasized during several writing assignments. They will also learn to annotate higher-level informational and literary texts. They will have the opportunity for pair, small group, and whole-class oral presentations and discussions. Class novels include *Look Both Ways*, *Call of the Wild*, and a historical fiction unit along with various themed short stories from a variety of perspectives. Vocabulary formed from Greek and Latin roots is emphasized throughout the year. Grammar is embedded in writing.

Social Studies

Social Studies 6

In 6th Grade Social Studies, we get to study Ancient Civilizations! Throughout the course of the year, we will focus on Early Humans, Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Judaism and the Israelite Kingdoms, Ancient India, Ancient China, Ancient Greece, Rome, and the Origins of Christianity. History, geography, culture, ethics and belief systems, and social and political systems are emphasized and integrated within each unit of study.

Social Studies 7

7th grade Social Studies covers the medieval era, including the fall of Rome & Byzantine era, the rise of Islam, West African civilizations, China after the Han dynasty, feudal Japan, Korea, medieval Europe, Renaissance, Reformation and Meso-American civilizations. History, geography, culture, ethics & belief systems, and social & political systems are integrated and emphasized within each unit of study. The National Geographic textbook is supplemented with primary source documents. Skills include corroboration with other sources, contextualizing, and close reading, research writing and presentation skills, as well as context-building hands-on activities.

Social Studies 8

In 8th Grade Social Studies, we study the history of the United States. In addition to studying historical events, we learn about U.S. government, civics, and geography and current issues. Throughout the course of the year we focus on Native Americans, Colonial America, Foundations of U.S. Government, the "Declaration of Independence" and the American Revolution, the U.S. Constitution, Early Presidents, Westward Expansion, The Regions: West, North and South, Slavery and the Civil War, Reconstruction and the Gilded Age (1870-1900). We continue to build on skills developed in 7th grade such as corroborating, contextualizing, close reading, researching, writing, creating presentations and effective studying.

Physical Education

The Crocker Physical Education Program is designed to address the CALIFORNIA STATE PHYSICAL EDUCATION STANDARDS and SHAPE NATIONAL STANDARDS. Our program provides instruction in fitness & fitness concepts, wellness & mindfulness, team & individual sports, and recreational activities for enjoyment while building positive peer relationships and developing a strong self-concept.