



2020 - 2021 ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

West Cary Middle School

Elective courses are not required subject areas like reading and math, but are optional courses that may be of interest to your child. Each middle school offers unique elective courses that your child can choose to take. The elective courses listed below are options for 6th grade students at West Cary. Your child will select either 1 Year-Long Elective or 3 Semester-Long Elective choices from this list (note that students will be enrolled in two semester-long electives -- one in each of the two semesters during the year). Certain semester electives consist of two quarter courses, and you will need to select both quarter courses -- see below. Your elementary school will support your child in entering their selections in our system. You can find more information on our school's website: <http://www.wcpss.net/westcaryms>.

It is important to note that the availability of elective courses is dependent upon each school's master schedule, and choosing an elective does not guarantee its availability in your child's individual schedule.

COURSE	COURSE DESCRIPTION
YEAR LONG ELECTIVES	
Arts Education Electives	
BEGINNING BAND (52862Y0A)	<p>Prerequisite: None. First-year instruction on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument including basic music reading skills, playing technique, rhythm, and musical terms. Students will prepare pieces that will be presented to an audience. Students should anticipate evening performances. Once school starts, students will choose an instrument: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion.</p> <p>NOTE: If your student already plays a band instrument, please contact the band teacher via the school website to see if the student qualifies for placement at the intermediate level.</p>
BEGINNING STRINGS (52762Y0A)	<p>Prerequisite: None. First-year instruction in strings (violin, viola, cello and bass) includes correct holding position, bow grip, selected major and minor scales, and rhythm studies. Appropriate use of musical terms, dynamic markings, and the parts and care of stringed instruments are emphasized. Students prepare a number of concert selections that are performed for an audience. Students should anticipate some after-school practice and evening performances.</p> <p>NOTE: If your student already plays a string instrument, please contact the string teacher via the school website to see if the student qualifies for placement at the intermediate level.</p>
SEMESTER ELECTIVES	
Arts Education Electives	
MUSIC EXPLORATORY (52092Y0K)	<p>Prerequisite: None. This course introduces students to the skills necessary for singing and playing music with accuracy and expression while interpreting the sound and symbols of music. Through the study of various genres and cultures, students will analyze, evaluate, and understand the music and concepts from other areas.</p>



INTRO TO THEATRE (53092Y0C)	Prerequisite: None. This is an exploratory class. It is an overview of theatre concepts. Students develop communication skills through the study of dialogue, mime, improvisation, speech & diction and role play. Students are also introduced to some elements of technical theatre.
VISUAL ARTS EXPLORATORY (54092Y0L)	Prerequisite: None. This course introduces students to the elements of art through a variety of media that may include: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, pottery, and weaving. Application of these elements to the students' own original artwork is the major emphasis while being introduced to art history and critical analysis of master work as well as their own.
Foreign Language Elective	
BEGINNING SPANISH (SPANISH BEGINNING LESS THAN 1 YEAR) (11402Y0)	Prerequisite: None. This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Major topics include greetings, colors, numbers, classroom objects, the calendar, telling time, weather expressions, the house, transportation vocabulary, feelings, animals, foods, questions and interrogatives, the family, holidays, art, and clothing. Students who complete this course successfully should next take Spanish-Beginning 1 Year.
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Electives: Business, Finance, Marketing, Computer Science, and IT Education	
COMPUTER SC DISCOVERIES EXPLORE/EXPRESS (BU012YA)	Prerequisite: Digital Literacy/Keyboarding & Basic Word Processing. This course introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem-solving, communication, and personal expression. As a whole, this course focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science and encourages students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression. Students are also asked to look outward and explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will see how a thorough user-centered design process produces a better application, how data is used to address problems that affect a large number of people, and how physical computing with bare circuit boards allows computers to collect input and return output in a variety of ways.
The following CTE semester electives consist of 2 quarter classes. You must select both quarter classes and together they count as one semester elective choice. For instance, if you want "Digital Literacy/Keyboarding & Basic Word Processing" you would select both "Digital Literacy" and "Keyboarding & Basic Word Processing."	
DIGITAL LITERACY/ KEYBOARDING & BASIC WORD PROCESSING (BU102YD and BU102YA)	Prerequisite: None. This course is composed of instructional modules designed to allow students to learn the touch method of keyboarding, basic digital literacy and computer knowledge, and basic word processing and document formatting skills.
INTRODUCTION TO OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY/ OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY APPLICATIONS (BU102YB and BU102YC)	Prerequisite: Digital Literacy/Keyboarding & Basic Word Processing. This middle school course is composed of instructional modules designed to provide hands-on instruction in digital literacy and software applications. The software applications include word processing, presentation software, and spreadsheets. English language arts and mathematics are reinforced.



Career and Technical Education (CTE) Electives: Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)	
<p>EXPLORING NUTRITION & WELLNESS/ EXPLORING CHILDCARE (FC012YB and FC012YE) [Offered 1st Semester ONLY]</p>	<p>Prerequisite: None. This course focuses on nutrition and wellness in Quarter 1 as students learn about multiple food groups, the six essential nutrients, food allergies, kitchen tools, and kitchen safety. In Quarter 2, students focus on early child care and education of young children (birth through grade five) as they learn about leadership skills and the unique leadership styles appropriate for different situations, write a resume and create a business card, and practice hands-on care skills such as picking up and holding, feeding, burping, and diapering infants and toddlers as well as giving first aid. Students are eligible to receive the American Red Cross® Babysitter certification upon successful completion of the course. English language arts and math are reinforced through reading, writing, listening, speaking, and calculations.</p>
<p>EXPLORING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS (this course is listed in PowerSchools as EXP INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS-CHILDCARE)/ EXP PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS & CAREERS (FC012YA and CC582YA) [Offered 2nd Semester ONLY]</p>	<p>Prerequisite: None. This course focuses on fostering good interpersonal relationships (e.g. healthy friendships with peers) and emotional wellbeing as students explore identity (e.g. self-concept and self-esteem), learning and communication styles, family types, goal setting, and personal wellness. Students will also identify interests and potential career aspirations and work on developing the real world skills they will need to be successful in whatever vocation they seek (e.g. critical thinking, etc.).</p> <p>Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness through authentic experiences.</p>
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Electives: Technology Engineering and Design Education (Tech.)	
<p>TECH 1: PROJECT REVIVE/EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY (TE012YC and TE012YA)</p>	<p>Prerequisite: None. These courses teach students to develop an understanding of the progression and scope of the many branches of technology. In group and individual activities, students will design solutions to technological issues through brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, problem solving, testing, and refining designs.</p>
<p>TECH 2: INVENTION & INNOVATION/EXPLORING ENGINEERING & DESIGN (TE012YD and TE012YB)</p>	<p>Prerequisite: Tech 1. These courses focus on applying the design process in the invention or innovation of a new product, process, or system. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, students focus on understanding how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. Emphasis is placed on brainstorming, visualizing, modeling, testing, and refining designs.</p>