Course Descriptions for Centennial Options Secondary Classes

At Options, we offer core and elective classes. Our “core” classes are math, science, English, Social Studies, and Spanish classes. Homeschooling in high school requires 120-180 hours of work for a one-credit core class. You can receive 1 high school credit for each high school level core class at Options. For each hour in the classroom, a core class will have 4 hours of homework per week, totaling 5 hours per week, 30 weeks = 150 hours of work.

The elective classes will have 1-2 hours of homework per week for each hour on site and will receive ½ high school credit for the high school student. A high school elective requires 60-120 hours of work. One hour in the classroom, two hours of homework, 30 weeks of the year = 90 hours of work.

Centennial Options sets high standards for our students. Our goal is to prepare these students for college-level classes. Our teachers have different standards, different policies on late work, and different communication styles, much like college professors. All of our Options secondary students have a Cherry Creek email and should use it to communicate with their teachers. Students will also be able to check PowerSchool for monthly grade updates.

The next step in their high school adventure would be concurrent enrollment classes at their local Community College. Students in high school can take college-level classes as soon as they can pass the accuplacer tests.

**Classes taught by Muriel Austad:**
**Beginning Guitar** for grades 6-12. **Must have your own 6-string guitar with steel or nylon strings. NO electric guitars.** Recommend tuning device, not required. Students will learn note-reading for treble clef, class for students with little or no experience. There will be 2 concerts per year.

- Homework: Practice 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week
- Supplies: 6-string guitar, tuning device

**Classes taught by Stan Baldwin:**
**Middle School Science** for grades 6-8. We will use the Glencoe Science Level Green textbooks (different than the last two years). This is a full curriculum class, meaning students do not need another science class at home. In-class time will consist of a combination of hands-on experiments, explanations of challenging concepts, with introduction to the process of lab
write-ups, scientific writing and record keeping. At home, students will read the chapter from the textbook, complete note taking sheets, finish lab write-ups, compose journal entries, and complete in-class tests.

Homework: Students can expect 1-2 hours of homework.
Supplies: paper, 4 function calculator, pens/pencils, metric/standard ruler, colored pencils / crayon / markers, access to Cherry Creek email account (will be provided)

**High School Biology** for grades 9-12. We will use the *Glencoe Biology* textbook. This is a full curriculum class, meaning, students do not need another science class at home. The course emphasizes the study and proper use of fundamental science concepts and tools, including weekly laboratory activities, as well as the introduction and reinforcement of concepts and principles in biology. In this class we will explore what life is and how it adapts to the surrounding environment. We will also cover human Anatomy & Physiology (A & P) and include curriculum from Gunther Von Haugens Body Worlds. This is a 2 period course and students must sign up for both periods to enroll in the course.

Homework: Students can expect 3–4 hours of homework, which includes lab reports, critical reading assignments and ethics reviews.
Supplies: paper, 4 function calculator, pens/pencils, metric/standard ruler, colored pencils / crayon / markers, access to Cherry Creek email account (will be provided)

**Computers:** This is a course for middle to high school students. We will first explore keyboarding, and teach proper keyboarding methods with the goal of bringing students wpm score to 30 – 40 words per minute. After that, the class will explore basic coding through the site code.org. Then, we can explore game program through scratch.org, or Computer Aided Drafting and 3D printing through TinkerCAD.org.

Homework: Students can expect 1-2 hours of homework with programing.
Supplies: flash drive and access to Cherry Creek email account (will be provided)

**Classes taught by Jane Culp:**

**High School English** for grades 9-12. High School English classes will study fiction and non-fiction selections from historical and modern authors. Writing will include basics of research writing, literary analysis, and business writing. Speaking opportunities will include sharing writing, giving short speeches, and preparing and giving multi-media presentations. Students will learn strategies and techniques for success in college, advanced training, and business. We will be using the *Elements of Literature, 4th course* (different than the last two years) for our textbook. Please supplement this course with grammar, spelling and vocabulary.

Homework: 30-45 minutes a day, 4 days a week
Supplies: 1” 3-ring binder with dividers, flash drive, highlighter, pocket folder, pack of 100 3x5 notecards, pens, pencils and paper
Middle School English for grades 6-8. Students will explore a variety of fiction and nonfiction works, including short stories, plays, poetry, biography, and technical writing. In conjunction with the readings, students will also complete writing and speaking projects such as:

- creating original fiction
- writing personal narratives
- presenting dramatic readings
- using media to present researched information

We will be using the Elements of Literature, 2nd course (different than the last two years). Please supplement this course with grammar, spelling and vocabulary.

Homework: 30-45 minutes a day, 4 days a week
Supplies: 1” 3-ring binder with dividers, flash drive, highlighter, pocket folder, pack of 100 3x5 notecards, pens, pencils and paper

The Junior Great Books – Level 2 is a strong, inquiry-based language arts program that refines and extends students' skills in reading, thinking, and communicating. Students work with complex ideas and rigorous texts. This is part two of a class we had in the 16-17 school year. Interpretive discussion used throughout the reading process will enhance students' abilities to understand literature. The guided practice in reading for meaning gives students strategies they can use when approaching literature on their own.

In addition to the emphasis on reading, this course will also include writing, speaking and listening. Enjoying the fun of learning is a priority.

Homework: hour or two per week
Supplies: 1” 3-ring binder with dividers, flash drive, highlighter, pocket folder, pack of 100 3x5 notecards, pens, pencils and paper

Myths, Monsters, and Mysteries
Semester 1: Read and compare myths from various cultures and identify symbols, metaphors and archetypes
Write and present a myth to classmates
Semester 2: Read and solve mystery stories by observing details and using logic and reasoning to draw conclusions
Write and present a mini-mystery to classmates
Work in teams to organize and evaluate data and to draw conclusions and create a report
Students will develop reading, writing, thinking, speaking and listening skills

Homework: hour or two per week
Supplies: 1” 3-ring binder with dividers, flash drive, highlighter, pocket folder, pack of 100 3x5 notecards, pens, pencils and paper
Classes taught by Stephanie Guise:

**Logic/Critical Thinking** for grades 6-8. Students will investigate logic and problem solving through fun classroom activities. Students will adapt and apply a variety of appropriate strategies to solve problems. They will make and investigate mathematical and logical conjectures, develop and evaluate arguments and select and use various types of reasoning. There will be an emphasis on activities related to The Habits of Mind resulting in intelligent decision making. Students will communicate their thinking coherently and clearly to teacher, and peers.

- Homework: 1 hour per week
- Supplies: ruler, graph paper, highlighter

**Pre-Algebra** for grades 7-9. Students will complete all of Pre-Algebra through home assignments 4 days per week. Students will study numbers and operations, relationships among numbers, and number systems. Prior mastery of basics math (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions) is essential for success. Parents are expected to assist students with homework and supplement in any weak areas. They will understand meanings and operations and how they relate to each other, and will learn to compute fluently. Students will be introduced to algebra concepts while learning to support their outcomes with steps shown. Upon completion of this course students will be prepared to study Algebra 1. We will be using the Saxon Algebra ½ textbook.

- Homework: 1 hour daily
- Supplies: ruler, graph paper, highlighter

**Geometry** for grades 9-12. This class will be a 2-block class (2.5 hours). Teacher uses her own syllabus in conjunction with multiple teaching resources. The McDougal Littell note taking and practice workbooks are provided by our site. This course is equivalent to a high school level Geometry course requiring homework necessary to complete assignments before class each week and complete a test about once a month.

- Homework: 1 to 1 ½ hours daily
- Supplies: ruler, graph paper, highlighter, protractor, compass, scientific calculator (any model)

Classes taught by Elissa Mattle:

**HS World History** for grades 9-12. *History Alive! World Connections* takes a global approach to the study of world history by exploring the inter-regional connections and global themes that connect our world today. Just as a filmmaker uses multiple lenses to tell a story, this program
invites students to begin with a wide-angle view to examine eras in world history and then zoom in to understand the development of events and interactions among the world’s people and cultures today.

Homework: 3-4 hours per week

**MS Medieval History** for grades 6-8. *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond* explores the legacy of civilizations from Europe, Africa, and the Middle East to Asia and the Americas.

Homework: 1-2 hours per week

**Cultural Connections** for grades 6-12. In this fascinating elective class students will learn about different cultures around the world. Students will learn about the cultural differences in geography, demographics, languages, celebrations, clothes, music, gestures, food, and more! Students will have several projects for homework and will present to the class.

Homework: 1-2 hours per week

**Home Economics** for grades 6-12. In order to meet the needs of today’s modern teenager, Home Economics will prepare the students with the knowledge, skills and attitude they will need in order to pursue related careers and become self-directed, resourceful, and independent adults.

Content to be covered: Home care, budgeting, kitchen skills, sewing skills, social etiquette, health and nutrition.

**Only 10 students will be allowed in each Home Ec class.**

Homework: > 1 hour per week, depending on the unit

Supplies needed: Sewing Machine, students won’t bring every week

Special Note: Please be aware that while we will be cooking occasionally, this is not solely a cooking class. However, since we will be preparing various foods- food allergies, religious choices and personal preferences are not able to be met.

Classes taught by Kate Redding:

**Level 1 Art** for grades 6-8. This class really is for students who have not had an art class with Ms. Redding, geared for kids coming out of elementary school. We will be learning how to use the vocabulary of art and be seeing our artwork in action.

Homework: There is homework in the art notebook every week. Every class has an art appreciation section when we look at art work and discuss it. Both the art talk and your homework are part of your grade.

Supplies: 9 X 12 spiral bound drawing notebook, some pencils, a good eraser, 2 fine point black Sharpies, 2 extra fine point black Sharpies, and set of colored pencils to be kept at home for homework
**Level 2 Art** for grades 7-12. They will build on the fundamentals that they learned this past year. This class is geared for students who have taken Ms. Redding's class and/or are ready to be challenged to be their own creative force.

Homework: There is homework in the art notebook every week. Every class has an art appreciation section when we look at art work and discuss it. Both the art talk and your homework are part of your grade.

Supplies: 9 X 12 spiral bound drawing notebook, some pencils, a good eraser, 2 fine point black Sharpies, 2 extra fine point black Sharpies, and set of colored pencils to be kept at home for homework

**Drawing Animals/Watercolor 101** for grades 6-12. New this year. First Semester: Drawing Animals. Let's get really good at this. There is so much to learn. Second Semester: Watercolor 101: We will be learning to paint with watercolor.

Homework: There is homework in the art notebook every week. Every class has an art appreciation section when we look at art work and discuss it. Both the art talk and your homework are part of your grade.

Supplies: 9 X 12 spiral bound drawing notebook, some pencils, a good eraser, and set of colored pencils to be kept at home for homework

**2D/3D Art** for grades 6-12. New this year. First semester 2-D fun: Collage, assemblage with some printmaking thrown in. This is about making your compositions by cutting and gluing. Second Semester: Sculpture 3-Dimensional art. Some drawing and much assembling required.

Homework: There is homework in the art notebook every week. Every class has an art appreciation section when we look at art work and discuss it. Both the art talk and your homework are part of your grade.

Supplies: 9 X 12 spiral bound drawing notebook, some pencils, a good eraser, and set of colored pencils to be kept at home for homework

**Classes taught by Jenni Strid:**

**Intro to Spanish** for grades 6-8. Students will complete homework with the goal of completion of half the curriculum amount of the Spanish I class. Class will be structured but less rigorous than Spanish I.

Homework: 1-2 hours per week

Supplies: spiral notebook + folder for keeping notes

**Spanish I** for grades 7-10. This is a full curriculum course, equivalent to a high school level class. We will be using the Realidades I textbook.

Homework: 3-4 hours per week
Supplies: spiral notebook + folder for keeping notes

**Spanish II** for grades 8-12. This is a full curriculum course, equivalent to a high school level class. We will be using the Realidades II textbook.
- Homework: 3-4 hours per week
- Supplies: spiral notebook + folder for keeping notes

**Spanish III** for grades 9-12. This is a full curriculum course, equivalent to a high school level class. We will be using the Realidades III textbook.
- Homework: 3-4 hours per week
- Supplies: spiral notebook + folder for keeping notes