



“On a Quest for Knowledge”
Together we Believe!
Together we Achieve!

HILLIARD COMSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

For further information, call or visit our school:

2750 West Steele Lane

Santa Rosa, California 95403

Visit our website @ www.hcms.srscs.k12.ca.us

Or www.comstockmiddleschool.weebly.com

Advisory Class Starts the Day

We start each day with a 13 minute advisory class with your student's 1st period teacher. The Advisory class gives students instruction in strategies to be successful in school based on our mottos of Respect, Responsibility and Safety. Each Friday, students have time to self-reflect on their work for the week, and get organized for the upcoming week.

Math

Each course is designed to support student's ability to access Algebra in the 8th or 9th grades. Class-work using state adopted texts; online support via ALEKS and after school tutoring are provided.

Areas that are covered include

Numbers and Operations: Rational and Real Numbers

Patterns, Relationships & Algebraic Thinking

Geometry & Measurement

Algebraic Thinking: Linear & Nonlinear Functions

Statistics, Data Analysis & Probability

Text: *Glencoe's California Pre-Algebra Math*

7th Grade Common Core Math Prepares students for the rigors of Algebra in either the 8th or 9th grades

8th Grade Common Core Math Continues support for Algebra in the 9th grade

8th Grade Algebra: some students are ready to tackle Algebra in the 8th Grade.

Spanish

Students are prepared for High School Spanish in 7th and 8th grade. Taking both classes makes students eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy when they graduate from High School.

Text: Realidades

California State Standards for Grades 7 & 8

- Students demonstrate the motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.
- Students demonstrate knowledge of movement concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activities.
- Students assess and maintain a level of physical fitness to improve health and performance.
- Students demonstrate knowledge of physical fitness concepts, principles, and strategies to improve health and performance.
- Students demonstrate and utilize knowledge of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activity.

Physical/Health Education: 7 & 8 Grade

Physical education significantly contributes to students' well-being; therefore, it is an instructional priority for California schools and an integral part of our students' educational experience. High-quality physical education instruction contributes to good health, develops fundamental and advanced motor skills, improves students' self-confidence, and provides opportunities for increased levels of physical fitness that are associated with high academic achievement. The Physical Education Model Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve affirms the standing of physical education; rigor is essential to achievement, and participation is not the same as education. Mastering fundamental movement skills at an early age establishes a foundation that facilitates further motor skill acquisition and gives students increased capacity for a lifetime of successful and enjoyable physical activity experiences. Similarly, the patterns of physical activity acquired during childhood and adolescence are likely to be maintained throughout one's life span, providing physical, mental, and social benefits.

Grading:

3 minute warm-up/jog:	2 points per day
Stretching/Exercises:	2 points per day
Aerobic run:	2 points per day
Activity:	4 points per day

English : 7th & 8th Grade

California Common Core State Standards Address

- Speaking Strategies
- Word Analysis
- Fluency
- Systematic Vocabulary Development
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing Strategies
- Listening

Written and Oral Language Conventions (Sentence Structure, Grammar, Punctuation, Capitalization, Spelling)

Students will work with texts and online sources, following the course pacing guide developed by the English Department. The course is a reading/language arts course designed to provide the instruction and strategies needed for students to be successful. This class will teach essential skills and content so that students may improve their abilities to read, write, listen, and speak academic English. Students are encouraged to read 30 minutes daily in their self-selected reading book. The course will also incorporate google apps , online novel writing, and more.

Texts:

- 7th Grade: *Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes: Bronze Level*
- 8th Grade: *Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes: Silver Level 2002*
- *Language!* For Intensive English Classes
- Selection Support: Sills Development Workbook
- Reader's Companion Workbook
- Independent Reading book & Accelerated Reader

- New up-to-date science labs
- Culinary Kitchen and course
- Project Make, Digital Storytelling and Drama electives
- Leadership program
- After school program run by The Boys & Girls Club featuring a “Maker’s Space” for creativity and innovation; Summer “Maker’s Camp” and StepUp Support course
- After school music class run by performers of the Santa Rosa Symphony
- State of the art cardiovascular exercise room
- Read-a-thon; Novel writing
- School Plays

21st Century Learning:

- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Communication
 - Creativity

Culinary Arts

This course provides foundational kitchen skills developed in partnership with the Culinary Arts teachers at our feeder high school. This skills include safety, sanitation and storage in food preparation; understanding culinary terms, measurements, utensils and other cooking items. Students will be able to demonstrate leadership skills and work collaboratively in teams. All this is done in an updated culinary arts classroom.

Band

Comstock's Band Program begins again this year. Music theory and performance in brass band, strings, and wind instruments will be taught. Participation at the annual Santa Rosa Rose Parade is the goal!

Project Make

The Project Make course is an outgrowth of the Maker movement which is a growing worldwide collective of people of all ages and backgrounds who are using simple and complex equipment, materials and technologies to find solutions to real-world problems as well as communicating their ideas, processes and findings with one another through various media. Project Make will provide a rich “making” environment, including access to diverse tools and materials from which students can develop and apply academic, aesthetic, technical and interpersonal skills by creating and building meaningful products appropriate to the middle school level.

Conditioning

Students work in our state of the art fitness room on fitness fundamentals, weight training, cardiovascular fitness and nutrition.

Visual Arts

Visual art projects are explored using various medium: Painting, drawing, ceramics, crafts and more.

Foundations for Success

Students explore three main topics: Digital Citizenship, Careers and Character. Students will demonstrate learning using Google’s GSuite collection of apps. They will create infographics, contribute content to online blogs and a teacher maintained Twitter account. They will share their work school-wide as Ambassadors for Digital Citizenship. They will show how kindness is at the core of digital citizenship, individual character and a happy life. They will also visit with professionals from around the globe using Google Hangouts.

What Makes Comstock Middle School A Great School?

Electives

Early College Magnet Prep:

8th Grade Only

This course is designed to accelerate students towards more challenging classes and encourage college prep courses and activities once they get to high school, especially feeding into Piner's Early College Magnet courses where students can earn credit at the Santa Rosa Junior College. This course has a proven record of bringing out the best in students by using discussion, study groups, tutors, study skills, critical thinking & inquiry and enrichment field trips. An application and interview are required for entrance into this course.

Leadership

This course is designed for those students who demonstrate leadership skills and would like to take part in planning events and programs. An application and teacher recommendations is required for entrance.

Digital Storytelling/Film Making

In this semester long elective, students will write, produce, pitch, direct, record, edit and share their own digital stories. Students will use both still and video cameras, lights, sound equipment, and computers. Students will work individually and in groups to produce video projects. Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts will be supported by the development of writing skills, narrative and expository text structures as well as literacy strategies such as summarization, synthesis of information and analysis. Twenty-first century learning skills are also emphasized: collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, digital and media literacy.

Performing Arts

In this exploratory course, students will learn acting techniques, vocal expressing, music fundamentals and group building skills. In addition, they will participate in acting exercises and games, perform scenes and participate in a small performing arts production.

- Dedicated and caring staff
- Safe campus utilizing BEST, Safe School Ambassadors and *"Chill Skills"*
- Strong curriculum based on state adopted best practices with highly qualified teachers, integrating 21st century skills" and online learning via "ALEKS" for Math and "Study Island" for English. Online access available at home via internet, SmartPhone/ipod/tablet.
- Advanced integrated courses
- Early College Magnet college preparation classes with Piner HS & SRJC
- *Agilent and SRJC MESA* mentoring in Math and Science
- Three computer labs plus wireless Collaborative learning center
- Free tutorial for all students

History

7th Grade: World History

The study of several societies, kingdoms, and empires from around the world, beginning with the rise of Rome and concluding with the age of Enlightenment. Students will investigate the interactions of culture, trade, scholarship, philosophy, religion, and conquest.

The end result will be the study of the Enlightenment. During this period, people came to understand that the natural state of man is one of freedom; thus all people are entitled to self-government and such governments must protect the inalienable rights of its people. These concepts are the foundations of the 8th grade US History curriculum.

Texts:

McDougal Little: World History Medieval & Early Modern

TCI Interactive Activities

Primary Sources

8th Grade: U.S. History

The study of the United States will start with the discoveries of America and the establishment of the 13 British-American colonies. The course continues through Revolution and the founding of the Republic, then takes a comprehensive look at the Constitution and US government. Next, students explore the growth of the nation through the first Presidencies, the industrial revolution, immigration, a rapidly changing society, manifest destiny, and sectionalism. Then the course will take an intense look at Slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Texts:

McDougal Little: Creating America

TCI Interactive Activities

Primary Sources

Science

7th Grade: Life Science

The California State Standards for Seventh Grade Science are studied, specifically Cell Biology, Genetics, Evolution, Earth and Life History, Structure & Function of Living Systems, Physical Principles in Living Systems and Investigation & Experimentation.

Texts:

CPO: Focus on Life Science

Labs

8th Grade Physical Science

The California State Standards for Seventh Grade Science are studied, specifically: Motion & Forces, Structure of Matter, Earth in the Solar System, Chemical Reactions, Chemistry of Living Systems, Atomic Model & Periodic Table, Density & Buoyancy, Investigation & Experimentation.

Texts:

CPO: Focus on Physical Science

Labs