



**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**COURSE  
DESCRIPTION  
BOOKLET**

**2024 - 2025**

# Gateway Community Charters, Inc.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lillie Campbell, President  
Bruce Mangerich, Vice President  
Jack Turner, Secretary  
Mark Anderson, Treasurer  
Harry Block, Director

## **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

Jason Sample, Superintendent/CEO  
Omaira Reyna, CBO  
Morri Elliott, Assistant Superintendent  
Joi Tikoi, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Heather Gold Ed.D, Chief of Learning  
Matt Taylor, Chief of Staff & Strategy Officer

## **Community Outreach Academy Middle School**

3800 Bolivar Avenue  
North Highlands, CA 95660  
(916) 286-1908

### **Administration**

Dr. Daniel Diego, Principal  
Jade Johnston, Vice Principal

### **Support Staff**

Tanya Sirotina, Administrative Assistant  
Svitlana Muzychenko, Parent Liaison  
Anna Topov, Student Support Provider  
Elona Bilai, Site Manager  
Pavlo Rubtsov, Registrar  
Deanna Budnikov, Attendance Clerk

COA Middle School is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals. Programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic group, identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, or mental or physical disability.

# CONTENTS

<b>Message from Administration</b> .....	4
<b>Course Schedules</b> .....	5
<b>Course Descriptions:</b> .....	6
<b>Course Descriptions: Electives</b> .....	10

*Please note: We attempt to make this book as accurate as possible. However, there may be changes due to enrollment, staffing, changes in requirements, etc.*

## **MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION**

Hello and Welcome to Community Outreach Academy Middle School, The middle school years bring about many developmental challenges for students. As a school community, Community Outreach Academy (COA) Middle School is committed to meeting both the social and academic needs of our students during this important time. To help us foster the growth of your child, we have many distinct course and program offerings that create an environment in which your child will thrive.

COA is a fully accredited public charter school that utilizes state adopted curricula and participates in the state mandated standardized testing. Over the last two years, we have been working diligently to align what we teach to the newly adopted Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). As a result, we offer a rigorous academic program that is accessible to students of all abilities. Some of our distinct course offerings include Russian at multiple levels, Ukrainian, Project Lead the Way (3D printing, engineering class), Study Hall and Reading Intervention classes, Art, Leadership, Journalism, and a number of others which you will find within this catalog.

The purpose of this course catalog is to provide you and your child(ren) with a description of our program so that together you may make choices that result in a rigorous, well-balanced education.

Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education! We wish you a successful school year!

Dr. Diego

## **MISSION & VISION**

### **Mission**

Gateway Community Charters (GCC), and the Community Outreach Academy (COA), were founded with a commitment to develop the academic talents of its students, while nurturing their appreciation and understanding of their rich cultural heritage, and the place they take as citizens in our state and nation. In providing a multicultural education, including curriculum representing the student's language and literature of their heritage, delivered in a supportive environment, the faculty will develop the student's ability to apply lessons as they grow and maximize their individual social, academic, and personal development and contribute to our diverse community.

**Vision**

The vision of Community Outreach Academy Middle School is to successfully implement a program that fosters high academic achievement and strong character education in a safe, nurturing environment. Our vision is for faculty, staff and parents to work together to ensure our students receive the most optimal educational experience possible. The program will seek to retain the most highly qualified teachers and offer faculty opportunities to grow professionally in order to best educate our students.

**STUDENT SCHEDULES****Sample 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Period</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Period</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Period</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Period</b>
Science 6	P.E. 6	ELA 6	World History 6	Math 6	Technology

**Sample 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Period</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Period</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Period</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Period</b>
Science 7	P.E. 7	ELA 7	Russian	Math 7	World History 7

**Sample 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Period</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Period</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Period</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Period</b>
Math 8	P.E. 8	Science 8	ELA 8	U.S. History 8	Art

*Please note that these are just example schedules. Depending on course offerings and the needs of the student, their schedule may vary.*

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: CORE CLASSES

## English Language Arts (ELA)

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 6

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** English 6 is a common core standards aligned course. This class will emphasize reading increasingly complex texts over the course of the year, preparing students for high school, college, and careers beyond. Students will read a variety of texts from different genres, including fiction, drama, poetry, and non-fiction while learning to interpret meanings. Students will analyze things such as Character and character motivation; conflict and plot development; theme development; symbolism; and the importance of historical/cultural context in literature. Students will also work on more grade-level grammar and vocabulary skills in addition to complex writing skills and editing/reviewing personal work and peer work.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 7

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** English 7 is a common core standards aligned course. The focus will be on reading and analyzing specific literature and texts, which will include strengthening students' reading fluency and comprehension. Students will also work on more complex writing skills and edit/review personal work and peer work while also working on further development of grade-level grammar skills and vocabulary. In this class, students will use strategies to construct the meaning of unfamiliar words, analyze elements and style of different genres of literature, use text evidence to analyze, infer, and synthesize ideas. 7th grade students will learn to examine texts more closely and use details from the text in order to develop ideas, analyze, and make inferences. In addition, they will work to analyze the relationships between elements within one text and across multiple texts while supporting this analysis by citing evidence from the text.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** English 8 is a common core standards aligned course that focuses on the purposes and strategies involved in creating great writing. Students will read various texts such as essays, speeches, biographies, and other types of historical, scientific, and technical material. Focus will be on the content of the piece as well as techniques such as: point of view, figurative language, theme, and characterization. The class will also explore non-fiction readings with a focus on content as well as text features, organization, the use of details and evidence, rhetorical devices and the credibility of each piece. Writing instruction will focus on using text as evidence

and writing citations, the narrative, expository and persuasive essays, and the use of technology to produce, edit, and publish work.

## Math

### **MATH 6**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 6

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** This class is designed to prepare students for Math 7. Students will learn techniques to solve both mathematical and real-world problems. The focus will center 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 equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. In addition, students will build critical thinking by engaging in a balance of practical application, conceptual understanding, and procedural fluency.

### **MATH 7**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 7

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** This class is designed to prepare students for Math 8. Students will continue to build on techniques to solve both mathematical and real-world problems. The focus of this class will center on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing 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. In addition, students will continue to build critical thinking by engaging in error analysis and mathematical reasoning. The course will provide, through mathematical reasoning, a balance between basic skills, conceptual understanding, and problem solving.

### **MATH 8**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Math 8 is designed to prepare students for Algebra I. Math 8 offers students a healthy review of integers, fractions/decimals and the order of operations. Overall, this course will center on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, 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. Furthermore, students will learn to simplify algebraic expressions, solve one, two and multistep equations, learn to evaluate

exponents, including negative and fractional exponents, and graph linear equations and inequalities and solve systems of linear equations and inequalities.

### **Integrated Math 1**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Algebra is designed to give students the requisite skills that provide a foundation for all future mathematics courses. Students will explore writing and solving multi-step equations and inequalities, solve and graph linear equations, systems of linear equations and linear inequalities. Students will evaluate exponents, including negative and fractional exponents, and they will add, subtract, multiply and divide polynomials. Students will solve quadratic equations, by graphing, factoring, completing the square and the quadratic formula.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **WORLD HISTORY 6**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 6

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In World History 6 students will deepen their understanding of the Earth and its peoples through the study of history, geography, politics, culture, and economic systems. This class will focus on major turning points that shaped the ancient world to modern times. These topics will provide students with the opportunity to identify aspects of the world around us, and to explore history and how it affects us today.

### **WORLD HISTORY 7**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 7

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In World History 7 Students will learn about world religions, geography, economics, government, and achievements. This class will emphasize critical thinking, reading, writing, outlining, note taking, writing composition, and collaborative learning as students study major turning points that shaped the ancient world to modern times. These topics will build on those from 6th grade as students explore history and how it affects us today.

### **U.S. HISTORY 8**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In US History 8, students will learn about American history from Colonial times to 1914. The primary focus during the first semester is the American Revolution and how the Constitution was created. The second semester concentrates on the causes and effects of the Civil War. The class uses primary and secondary sources to learn about the people, places and events that created the United States. In addition, this course focuses on the major ideas, issues, and events that shaped the founding of the nation. Furthermore, students will view American history through the lens of people who were trying—and are still trying—to fulfill the promise of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Throughout their eighth-grade United States history and geography course, students will confront the themes of freedom, equality, and liberty and their changing definitions over time. As students learn American history from the late



1700s through the end of the nineteenth century, they will develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills that will enhance their understanding of the content.

## **SCIENCE**

### **SCIENCE 6**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 6

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In this class, emphasis will be on interaction between living systems and their physical environment. In addition, students will continue to learn to make claims based on evidence and justify their reasoning (CER). Students will investigate phenomena and learn about the following topics:

- Objects in Space
- Forces and Movement in Space
- Force and Motion, Newton's Laws and Energy
- Electricity and Magnetism, Earth Systems
- Rocks and Minerals,
- Plate Boundaries and Movement

### **SCIENCE 7**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 7

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In Science 7, students will learn to broaden their curiosity to help prepare them for 8th grade and high school. Students will be observing, experimenting, theorizing and developing explanations. The class will focus on the following concepts:

- Using scientific language in written and oral communication to present scientific findings.
- Accurately describing the general functions of the different cell components.
- How organisms pass on their genes.
- Explaining the primary functions of different organs and systems in the human body.
- Orally listing out the different forms of energy and their sources.
- Explaining how the different types of energy can be detected.
- Describe biodiversity and how living things respond to environmental changes.
- Identifying patterns in nature and explaining their connections.
- Understanding differences between weather and climate.
- How elements are arranged on the periodic table.

### **SCIENCE 8**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In Science 8, students will develop scientific understandings and investigate grade level concepts, such as: motion, forces and density. Students will study the

internal structure of atoms and how they bond together and explore general principles in chemistry as well as the structure of the universe and the solar system, including the life-cycle and internal structure of stars. Students will continue to develop understanding of core ideas learned in previous grade levels. Students will also continue to deepen their understanding of phenomena and how to make claims based on evidence and reasoning.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6, 7, & 8**

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 6, 7, & 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In Physical Education, students will have the opportunity for social interaction, cooperation and competition. This course also teaches sports and games, and provides opportunities to improve skills in those movement activities. Teacher feedback and assessment is provided so that students can transfer their skills into high school and adult sports and recreation.

## **ELECTIVES**

### **Project Lead the Way (PLTW)**

**Teacher:** Mr. Coder/Mr. Romero

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 7 & 8

**Length:** Full year/Semester

**Prerequisites:** Good behavior and academic standing (C's or above)

**Course Description:** This project based class introduces students to concepts in 3D design and modeling in Autodesk Inventor, 3D printing slicing software such as Idea Maker, Cura Prusaslicer, and the principles of 3D printing. Other elements include engineering design and modeling, and flight and space.

### **ART**

**Teacher:** Kropinova

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** Good behavior

**Length:** Full year

**Course Description:** This elective will last a full-year and includes high amounts of hands on application. The course will follow the California Visual Arts Standards and students will practice two and three-dimensional art forms and digital art, including drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. In addition there will be an element of Art History embedded.

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Kalafatis

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** Good behavior and academic standing

**Length:** Full Year

**Course Description:** This course is designed to engage students in creative writing. Throughout the course, students will learn to develop their creative writing skills and participate in a range of fun writing activities. Students in this course will also work on weekly Husky Newsletters and other publications.

### **CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)**

**Teacher:** To be determined

**Class Restrictions:** 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** Good behavior and academic standing

**Length:** Full Year

**Course Description:** This elective is designed to provide students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. Students will have the opportunity to engage in various units designed to simulate real world careers and provide students with hands-on experiences. Topics may include: design and marketing, flight technology, home maintenance fundamentals, culinary arts (cooking), nursing, pharmacology, sports medicine, and veterinarian medicine.

### **DANCE (LESSONS OF RHYTHM AND DANCE)**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Kurganskaya

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Length:** Full year

**Course Description:** This course is designed to help students learn different types of dance culture such as folk dance, modern dance, and ballroom dance elements while also promoting the use and development of the Russian language. Students will engage in assignments and projects related to dancing, presentations, and they will have the opportunity to dance and perform.

### **DRAMA**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Ivanko

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Length:** Full year

**Course Description:** This class is for students who want to (and have parent permission) to perform in front of an audience of young children. Drama students will learn parts to plays, get to work as a team, and have opportunities to perform for our C.O.A. elementary school students. They can also help with behind the scenes items such as set design and costumes.

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (ELD)**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Senina, Mrs. White

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** Classification as Level 1 or Level 2 English Learner

**Length:** Full year

**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide designated support for English learners. Students will learn how English works and how to use English. Students will work on oral and

written language, vocabulary, reading strategies and comprehension. Activities will be a mix of collaborative and individual practice.

### **ENRICHMENT (YEARBOOK AND HUSKY NEWS JOURNALISM)**

**Teacher:** Mr. Keane

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** Good behavior and academic standing

**Length:** Full year

**Course Description:** In this course, students will get to participate in creating the school yearbook. Some students will get a chance to be a photographer for the school. Students will work on writing captions for pictures and designing layouts for their yearbook pages. Students are pre-screened and expected to have excellent behavior and be model representatives of our school. In addition, they will work on the weekly Husky News. They may be asked to interview staff, take surveys, and do research in preparation for videos and weekly Husky News episodes.

### **LEADERSHIP**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Armenta, Mr. Kalafatis

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** Good behavior and academic standing

**Length:** Full year

**Course Description:** Students will develop leadership and personal skills. This class will be involved in planning, organizing, and leading school rallies and assemblies. Students will also work to promote school events such as Spirit Days and the Husky Games. In addition to school activities and spirit, students will learn to function as a team of leaders by learning about public speaking and communication. Students will also learn about the need for personal and professional goal-setting as well as what they set and achieve their goals. All of these skills combined will allow them to have a strong foundation for leadership and success in their futures.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Teacher:** Mr. Gauthier

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 7th

**Prerequisites:** None

**Length:** Full year

**Course Description:** This course is designed to teach students the fundamentals of photography. The course will begin with emphasis on the evolution of photography and teaching students how to use and care for cameras. Students will learn to recognize the elements of great photography and will take pictures in a range of subjects and different settings. This course will help students hone their natural interests in photography and learn to see the world through their camera lens. They will also learn to develop their own unique point of view and gain insight into the artistic thinking that makes for good photography. There will also be an emphasis on developing empathy as an artist because it is important to attempt to understand the world through the eyes of others.

### **RUSSIAN**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Kurganskaya

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Length:** Full year

**Course Description:** This course is designed to help students learn and maintain Russian language. Students will engage in projects, language practice, presentations, and writing. Emphasis will be placed on grammar, writing, speaking, and reading.

## **RUSSIAN/ETIQUETTE**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Kurganskaya

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Length:** Full year

**Course Description:** This course is designed to help students deepen and develop their understanding of etiquette while also maintaining a focus on the Russian language. Students will engage in projects and activities designed to build stronger character and help them to become positive, respectful scholars. Students will also engage in language practice, presentations, and writing as they learn about various concepts related to etiquette.

## **STUDY HALL**

**Teacher:**

**Class Restrictions:** Grade 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Length:** As needed

**Course Description:** This course is designed for students who need support in the core academic areas. They will be utilizing two computer programs, as well as receiving small group instruction and support on assignments for their core classes. The goal of the course is to reteach foundational skills and provide tutoring and time to catch up with work in order to help students be successful in their other classes.

## **TEACHER ASSISTANT (TA)**

**Class restriction:** Grade 8

**Prerequisites:** Good behavior. As and Bs in all classes.

**Length:** Semester/year

**Course Description:** This option is meant to provide students with valuable experiences to prepare them for life and the real world. Students enrolled as a TA, will help with classroom duties, errands, and other work. Teachers may choose for their TA to assist other teachers if needed. Course options will be limited and may include electives, regular classes, and the school office. Enrollment is dependent on strong academic standing and maintaining good behavior.

## **UKRAINIAN**

**Class Restrictions:** Grades 6 - 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Length:** Full year

**Course Description:** This course is designed to help students learn and maintain Ukrainian language. Students will engage in projects, language practice, presentations, and writing. Emphasis will be placed on grammar, writing, speaking, and reading.

