



## West Rocks Middle School

### Encore Course Catalog

2018 – 2019

Course Name	Description
<b>Who Runs the World? Girls!</b>	In this course, students will use their strengths to work on becoming a female leader/role model.
<b>Classic Science Fiction</b>	Before Star Trek, before Star Wars, before today's science fiction movie blockbusters, the science fiction universe was created by authors like Isaac Asimov, Robert A. Heinlein, and Arthur Clark. These authors were writing about space travel before the first rocket was launched. Students will read some of the classic works that influenced and entertained generations of readers and fans of science fiction.
<b>Our Wonderful World of Words</b>	Want to discover new words and their meanings in order to increase your working verbal lexicon? Want to impress friends with new vociferous vocabulary venom? If anyone answered "yes" then this course is perfect.
<b>Go Native</b>	Make West Rocks Middle School grounds beautiful by planning, designing, and planting native plants.
<b>Building Words with Friends</b>	Come challenge yourself to learn new vocabulary words each week to play board games with your friends to master these new vocabulary words. Board game choices will differ each week and will feature, Scrabble, Words with Friends, Boggle, Bananagrams, Hangman, and Quizlet Live.
<b>Money Matters</b>	In this Encore Class, students will learn how money works in "The Real World". Topics will include: budgeting (expenses, trips, groceries, survival, etc), stock market, balancing a checkbook and spending vs. saving.
<b>Age of the Dinosaurs</b>	Do you love dinosaurs? Wish they were not extinct? Want to learn more about all of the incredible species that walked the earth long before humans did? In this course you will learn about all the different species and what life was like during the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous Periods.
<b>Building Character through Service</b>	Activities for students who want to make a difference in their community. You will learn about the pillars of character and apply it to the community around us. We will help many places including the Notre Dame Rehabilitation Center and the Open Door Shelter.
<b>Animal Husbandry and History of Pet Care</b>	You will learn about animal husbandry (care of farm animals) and domestic pet care in both ancient and modern times. The course will include a history of how animals have impacted our lives, basics of the five classes of vertebrates, and modern pet care.
<b>Introduction to Yoga (mindfulness)</b>	Looking for a way to get fit and stay healthy? Yoga is a great choice! We will begin with elementary poses and gradually advance at your own pace. Yoga connects the mind (helps to stabilize your emotions and improve concentration), body (improves your physical fitness and energy levels), and spirit (elevates your mental attitude).
<b>Music in America</b>	We will explore the impact music had in America throughout the decades. We will connect historical moments to the music of the times.

<b>Superhero or Supermodel</b>	Superhero or supermodel? Whether you are the biggest Marvel superhero expert or the biggest fan of the Next Top Model, this course is designed for you. Be prepared to learn how to draw a figure, create a moving wire and paper model. Using fabric or tissue paper, you will learn some basic rules of fashion and transform your model into an original superhero or supermodel. You may also have the chance to use your model to design an original comic strip.
<b>West African Drumming Ensemble</b>	This is an ensemble class. You will learn and play exciting rhythms on a variety of drums and percussion instruments.
<b>Theater Arts: From Script to Stage</b>	In this course, you will student the process of developing a show from start to finish. You will take the script and bring the show to life!
<b>Exploring Hispanic Culture</b>	Read the humorous book <a href="#">Cuba 15</a> about a girl whose family is planning a quinceanera that she has no interest in! End the course with the movie <i>Sweet 15</i> .
<b>Introduction to Different Types of Fitness</b>	Fitness training - be the best you can be! Learn the proper techniques to improve your fitness level.
<b>Get Ready for Your Future Today!</b>	Students will learn skills to improve social skills, self-esteem, and skills to prepare for their future.
<b>Let's All Compete!</b>	Do you enjoy competing against other students in your favorite subject? In this enrichment we will research the different competitions that are available to students and will help you enter to see if you can walk away a winner? (For example, "History Day!")
<b>Real World Math</b>	The goal is to take the math you learned in class and develop it further with problem solving activities. You'll find some familiar concepts and learn some ideas. All of the lessons are technology-based and can be completed in the classroom or at home. This is where you'll find the answer to, "When are we ever gonna need this?!"
<b>Strategy and Chess</b>	Chess is said to improve memory, raise IQ scores, better an individuals problem solving skills, and increase creativity. Join us as we learn the history of chess and strategies involved in bettering one's chess game. We will compete with one another and build our skills while having fun trying new moves and strategies.
<b>Planning a Trip</b>	In this Encore class students will be shown the proper gear needed and I will model all facets of preparation to plan their own excursion. Google maps, Harley Ride Planner and iMaps are used to map out the trip. Students will plan their own trip, determine their mode of transportation, and research where they want to go and what they want to see.
<b>Becoming an Expert Problem Solver</b>	Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you just weren't sure what to do? Classrooms usually have answer keys, but what about life? In this course, you will explore different strategies and routines that will help you to make the best decision possible, no matter how unfamiliar the situation. Join this Encore so just like Doctors, Detectives, and Lawyers, YOU can become an expert problem solver!
<b>History vs. Hollywood</b>	Stuents watch a recent film or parts of it, and are tasked with researching whether or not the filmmakers were accurate to the historical record. There's no shortage of fact-checkers: the internet is full of detectives eager to unearth and publicize distortions and other errors-of-fact.
<b>Classic Films in World History</b>	This class teaches events in world history. Students come to the realization that film can teach history and social studies can prepare us for film and literature. Two possible films are <i>Hidden Figures</i> and <i>A Beautiful Life</i> .
<b>Opera, Disney Movies, Classic Fairy Tales</b>	In this course we will read and discuss familiar fairy tales and compare them to their Disney Movie and Opera counterparts.

<b>Scrabble = Spellbinding Action</b>	The board game, <b>Scrabble</b> was invented in the 1940's. Since then, there have been over one hundred million sets sold. Scrabble is a word game that incorporates spelling, math, teamwork, and problem-solving. Do you have what it takes to be a Scrabble champion?
<b>Creative 'Free' Write</b>	Are you a story teller? Are you creative? Do you enjoy writing? Then Creative Free-Write is the Encore course for you! In this course students will be encouraged to write creatively about any topic they wish. Story starters and prompts will be provided for students having trouble thinking of ideas, but students are encouraged to think of their own ideas and stories and write about them. Unleash your inner story teller!
<b>Stock Market Olympics</b>	In this class, students will compete against one another in a stock market contest. This contest will incorporate concepts that directly relate to the math and science curricula. Students will utilize adding, subtracting, percentage, averages, and decimals, as well as the scientific method.
<b>Growth Mindset</b>	In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Lessons and activities online that focus on: determination, perseverance, growing your mind, goal setting, how the brain works, fixed vs growth mindset.
<b>News of Life</b>	In this course, students will read and write after reading current event articles of their choice. Students will explore and choose current event articles from the internet on any school appropriate topic. Article can include news, sports, entertainment, or any other topic of interest.
<b>Musical Interpretations</b>	Students will be able to interpret different genres of music by identifying uses of figurative language and by analyzing the songs' themes. Students will utilize <i>CLOSE READING SYMBOLS</i> to dig into the text and have a better comprehension of the song. At the end of the Encore unit, students will be able to write their own song lyrics which will utilize figurative language and focus on a theme.
<b>Fun with Math</b>	In this class, students will have fun playing math games, math brain teasers, and solving math puzzles. Do you love the challenge of Sudoku? Do you see people playing Dominoes and wonder how to play? Have you heard of Tangrams? This Encore class is not only for math lovers, but for students who are not quite "in love" with math ... come see what all the fun is about!
<b>From Page to Stage</b>	This is a poetry writing workshop that brings students through the writing process, and a finale presentation reading of work.
<b>Junk Box Wars</b>	Challenge your mind and imagination through engineering and design! Your group will receive a box of "junk" that you will use to create a device to perform a specific task! Tasks can include marble mazes, slingers, boats, egg drops, paper towers, zoom machines and many more!