



Coloma Community Schools  
Coloma Junior High School

Coloma, Michigan 49038  
Peter Olsen, Principal

# Coloma Comets

## Course Description Guide

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Coloma Junior High School  
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# Class of 2015 & 2016 Graduation Requirements

4 credits of Language Arts

4 credits of Math

3 credits of Social Studies

3 credits of Science

1 credit of Health/Physical Education

1 credit of Visual, Performing, Applied Arts, Computer Education, or Online Learning Experience

2 credits of World Language\*\*

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18 total

+9\*\*

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27

Students will earn 18 credits for the above required courses. \*\*In addition students will be required to earn 9 more credits in career preparation/elective courses. 27 out of 30 credits are required for graduation. \*\*2 credits of World Language are required for the class of 2016. 1 credit of World Language is strongly recommended for any students who are planning to attend a college/university.

# NCAA

## Coursework Requirements

### DIVISION I

#### **16 Core-Course Rule**

##### **16 Core Courses:**

4 years of English.

3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).

2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).

1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.

2 years of social science.

4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy).

#### **Division I Eligibility:**

\*\*All students entering college on or after August 1, 2008 must have completed **16 core courses** in high school.

\*\*Students with a minimum GPA of 2.0 after graduation must have either a combined SAT® score of 1010 or sum ACT score of 86.\*

### DIVISION II

#### **14 Core-Course Rule**

##### **14 Core Courses:**

3 years of English.

2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).

2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).

2 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.

2 years of social science.

3 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy).

\*\*Beginning August 1, 2013, students planning to attend an NCAA Division II institution will be required to complete 16 core courses.

#### **Division II Eligibility:**

\*\*All students entering college on or after August 1, 2005 must have completed **14 core courses** in high school.

\*\*Standards require a minimum GPA of 2.0 and a combined minimum SAT score of 820 or sum ACT score of 68.\*

# Coloma Junior High School Grading Scale

A = 4.0 (96-100)

A- = 3.7 (90-95)

B+ = 3.3 (87-89)

B = 3.0 (83-86)

B- = 2.7 (80-82)

C+ = 2.3 (77-79)

C = 2.0 (73-76)

D+ = 1.3 (67-69)

D = 1.0 (63-66)

D- = .7 (60-62)

F = .0 (Below 60)

# 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade Course Selections

## Language Arts

**Title:** Language Arts      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0

Language Arts builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing. Students will practice and apply their language skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Introduction to various types of literature will also be discussed.

## Mathematics

**Title:** Pre-Algebra      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0

Pre-Algebra will introduce students to new ideas and approaches to problem solving that will serve as the foundation in all future math classes. Topics that will be covered, but not limited to are: rates, ratios and proportionality, solving graphic and linear equations, study of sets of numbers, inequalities, quadratic functions, basic geometry and spatial relationships.

**Title:** Algebra I      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0

Students learn the important mathematical concepts and problem solving skills necessary to verbally, pictorially, and graphically express relationships between quantities. Students will understand the various types of models, such as linear, quadratic, cubic, radical, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric. Algebra students are required to explain the step-by-step process of solving all problems to demonstrate that they have a thorough understanding of the math concepts.

## Science

**Title:** Science 8      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0

Eighth grade Science is a general science course. Topics range from Chemistry to Earth Science. Students can look forward to an activity-oriented class. Science skills are practiced and acquired through lab work and special projects.

## Social Studies

**Title:** U.S. History      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0

Students will study United States history. Topics of study may include: the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Reconstruction. Geography, civics, government, and economics will also be presented and discussed within the historical context.

## Health

**Title:** Health      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0

Health is designed to increase students' awareness of their personal health. Students become educated about the steps to, and the benefits of, a healthy life style. Class topics will include: mental health, physical fitness, nutrition, alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, disease, reproduction, and systems of the body.

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selections

## Language Arts

**Title:** English 9:      2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0

Students will be exposed to various types of literature, fiction and non-fiction, and become familiar with literary elements. Students' abilities to communicate in written form will be challenged, emphasis on grammar, vocabulary building, organization, and content. Oral skills will also be stressed throughout the course.

## Mathematics

**Title:** Algebra I                      **Length:** 2 Trimesters                      **Credits:** 1.0

Students learn the important mathematical concepts and problem solving skills necessary to verbally, pictorially, and graphically express relationships between quantities. Students will understand the various types of models, such as linear, quadratic, cubic, radical, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric. Algebra students are required to explain the step-by-step process of solving all problems to demonstrate that they have a thorough understanding of the math concepts. This class prepares students for future math classes as well as translating solutions to real life contexts.

**Title:** Geometry                      **Length:** 2 Trimesters                      **Credits:** 1.0  
**Pre-requisite:** Algebra I

Geometry is the traditional follow-up to Algebra. Designed to strengthen the student's deductive reasoning and written argument skills while studying mathematical properties. Students will use visualization and drawing skills to model geometric solutions for real-world situations. Various proof formats are introduced and compared throughout the class.

## Science

**Title:** Physics Essentials                      **Length:** 2 Trimesters                      **Credits:** 1.0

Students will explore specific topics that fall under broad scientific categories that include to: Environmental Science, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. Students will participate in classroom discussion and laboratory activities.

## Social Studies

**Title:** World History                      **Length:** 2 Trimesters                      **Credits:** 1.0

Understanding the antecedents of today's modern world gives students a historic framework to draw upon when evaluating current events. World History emphasizes the political, economic, social, and religious development of the world's civilizations from the early fertile crescent to the Cold War and its aftermath.

## Computers

**Title:** Computer Applications      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0

Students learn to utilize Microsoft Applications. Students work through self-paced modules in Microsoft Office: word processing, spreadsheet, and database software. Employability skills, internet research techniques, and email etiquette are other topics of discussion.

## World Language

**Title:** Spanish I      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0

Emphasis will be on vocabulary building with some concentration on geography, grammar, culture, music, and cuisine. Students will be working towards fluency by practicing spoken, written, listening, and reading skills throughout the year. Recognizing, understanding, and appreciating diversity will also be encouraged, highlighting the United States as part of a global community.

**Title:** Spanish II      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0  
Pre-requisite: Spanish I

Vocabulary building will continue, with more emphasis on grammar and written expression. Students will continue to work towards fluency through more in depth and intense practice reading, writing, and speaking.

**Title:** French I      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0

Students will engage in activities that are embedded in real life situations and make frequent use of authentic media, enhancing vocabulary acquisition and language comprehension. Classroom focus will be on three modes of communication: interpersonal, presentational and interpretive. Students will also practice building skills in the areas of: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will participate in a variety of cultural activities, encouraging a more global perspective.

**Title:** French II      **Length:** 2 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.0  
Pre-requisite: French I

Students' will further develop their skill and understanding of French through a more in depth study of grammar, oral communication, reading, and writing. Vocabulary building will continue. Students will increase their global knowledge through further study of French culture and current events.

# 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives

## Fine Arts/Humanities

**Title:** Art                      **Length:** 1 Trimester                      **Credits:** .5

Students will use a variety of media to enhance skills and develop creativity. Areas explored are 2D flat media such as basic drawing and painting, collage, and cartooning. Design and composition, color theory and basic traditional art elements are included. The 3D realm is explored through the mediums of sculpture, ceramics, textiles, and assemblage techniques. In addition, studies in graphic design, lettering, photography and architecture, are presented.

**Title:** Great Books                      **Length:** 1 Trimester                      **Credits:** .5

Great Books is designed to enhance reading comprehension skills, as well as personal enjoyment of reading. Four or more relevant novels are read and discussed as a class during the term. The novels selected explore contemporary issues of high interest. Class discussion will focus on analyzing novels and discussing types of writing.

**Title:** Band 8                      **Length:** 3 Trimesters                      **Credits:** 1.5

**Pre-requisite:** Previous enrollment in Band or teacher recommendation

Band 8 students will be required to participate in all band-related functions, i.e. concerts and seasonal programs, as well as home practice. Students will be expected to increase and improve their technical abilities, musical styles, and tone production. Students will be expected to participate in festivals sponsored by the Michigan Band and Orchestra Association. Individual members are also encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival.

**Title:** Band 9      **Length:** 3 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.5  
**Pre-requisite:** Previous enrollment in Band or teacher recommendation

Band 9 students must display satisfactory performance in eighth grade Band to qualify for ninth grade Band. A personal record of good class behavior and good attendance is essential. Each band member is expected to participate in:

**Marching Band:** Students will perform at all home football games and various parades throughout the year. Several styles of marching are demonstrated, along with contemporary marching music. Extra evening rehearsals are required during the marching season. Students will perform at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Marching Festival and several other band competitions. Pep Band is a continuation of Marching Band.

**Concert Band:** Students will study band literature, concepts of ensemble performance, ear training, musicianship, and technical achievement. Concert performances are scheduled throughout the year. The band participates in festivals sponsored by the MSBOA. Individual members are encouraged to participate in the annual MSBOA All-Star Band, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and Lakeland Fine Arts Festival.

**Title:** Choir 8 and Choir 9      **Length:** 3 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.5  
**Pre-requisite:** Previous enrollment in Choir or teacher recommendation

This full-year course is part of a comprehensive sixth through twelfth grade choral music curriculum. Choir students will acquire the basic skills and knowledge needed for successful participation in high school choir. Students will participate in at least four major concerts per year. In addition, the choir attends District Choral Festival. Singers can elect to go to Solo and Ensemble and the Junior High Choir Invitational.

**Title:** Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)      **Length:** 3 Trimesters      **Credits:** 1.5  
**Pre-requisite:** 9-10<sup>th</sup> grade student & teacher qualify

Students in JAG will be introduced to multiple post-secondary options. Exploration of these options will help students answer some common post-secondary questions i.e.: Is college the right choice for me? What jobs are in demand? All JAG students who successfully complete the course receive two college credits from Lake Michigan College. JAG students can potentially be rewarded with paid summer work experience to help them establish positive references and work histories.

## Science

**Title:** Environmental Science      **Length:** 1 Trimester      **Credits:** .5

Environmental Science focuses on current environmental issues affecting our world; particularly issues affecting our own community and school. Topics covered are: global warming, habitat destruction, and the quality of water, soil, and air. In addition to the exploration of current environmental challenges, students will investigate and implement possible solutions. All students will be expected to participate in classroom service projects.

## Social Studies

**Title:** Current Events      **Length:** 1 Trimester      **Credits:** .5

Students will use CNN and various editorials as resources for research. International, national, state, and local items are examined with the intent of interpreting the significance of these events. This course attempts to place current events within a historical perspective and suggests future implications of these events.

## Physical Education

**Title:** Physical Education      **Length:** 1 Trimester      **Credits:** .5

Students will have the opportunity to be physically active while learning rules and strategies for team and individual sports. Students have the option of taking additional terms of Physical Education as an elective.

Attention Parent/s or Guardian/s and Students:

As you begin discussion with your student/s regarding their plans for the future please consider the following information regarding the employment market and Coloma Junior High School's Academic Program:

The job market is more competitive than ever. Students not only need a strong academic foundation, they also need to show that they are aware of, and have participated in the growing need for community services. They also need to be able to demonstrate a more global understanding of their world.

The United States is moving at an accelerated rate to a more informational and technologically driven economy that requires high level skills for employment.

Today, young people will encounter many opportunities, as well as challenges, as they enter the workforce.

The new Michigan Merit Curriculum has expanded academic requirements and includes employment training through individually selected career paths. A Coloma Community School graduate, after four years of focus and dedication, can have the necessary skills to enter today's competitive job market and/or pursue a degree in higher education.

Each Coloma Junior High School student will have an opportunity to explore career interests and post-secondary education during a Career Unit in Health. Students will be utilizing online Career Cruising. The six Michigan Career Pathways will be reviewed, providing students with a compass for their investigation and information processing. After the unit is complete, each and every student will have created and developed an Educational Development Plan.

The staff at Coloma Junior High works hard to ensure that each student will take advantage of his/her individualized educational opportunity.

If you have any questions, please contact the Coloma Junior High School office at 269-468-2405.

Regards,

Peter Olsen