

Clearway School

Elective List – Spring 2012

Hi Families and Students. This year, we are doing the elective selection differently. Many students have commented that our previous system contained many choices that did not end up happening because not enough students signed up and a lot of “choices” that they were assigned to based on their IEP’s.

This year we are attempting to improve the process and are “rolling out” a new system.

Students will get schedules on Tuesday that show all of their assigned classes- their academic classes, health (if required this semester), and those IEP-required classes (Orton-Gillingham reading, Jenn’s speech classes, Denise’s groups, tutorial, work-study and transition classes). Please note that some seniors, and students who leave Clearway early, receive less “choice” blocks.

They will use their schedule along with this document to select electives for each block for which they have a “choice”. Educational counselors will circle all blocks on the schedule for which the students have a “choice.” Please note: electives require a minimum number of participants to occur, and there could be an elective in each block that does not occur.

For each of these “choice” blocks, students should put down their 1st choice and their 2nd choice. Students will not be allowed to have the same elective multiple times in one semester (e.g. students cannot have “cooking” twice). On the line following the course description:

Place a “1” next to 1st choice

Place a “2” next to 2nd choice

Optional- place a “3” next to 3rd choice

Monday 5th Period (11:40 to 12:30)

Becky- Yearbook- Students will participate in all aspects of selecting, organizing, and compiling pictures and information to create a school yearbook. Individual portraits will be scheduled for all students. Yearbook staff will take candid shots of students, staff, and school happenings.

Hailie- Jewelry Making I- This class is an introduction class for jewelry making. Students will learn terminologies and learn how to use different tools. This class will give students general knowledge through multiple hands-on jewelry making exercises. Jewelry I gives you multiple techniques to help students understand and perform many of the tasks that they will be faced with while working in the jewelry industry.

Julianne- Intro to Film- In this survey class on the conventions of movie making, students will learn to “read” movies. From camera angles to mood lighting, sound effects and special effects , the class will look at four major genres in film (drama, thriller, comedy, western) and focus on specific conventions for each film.

Roberta- Art History- Students in this class will learn about major artistic movements through readings and discussion. They will then work to create their own art work inspired by the movements that they study.

Monday 6th Period (12:50 to 1:40)

Allegra- Girl's Health- This is a required class for some students, but students can elect to be in this class as well. This class will focus on physical health including growth and development, physical activity and fitness, nutrition, and reproduction and sexuality. In addition students will explore safety and prevention including disease, injury, and violence prevention as well as drug, tobacco, and alcohol prevention.

Becky- da Vinci's Inventions- In this class we will learn about Leonardo da Vinci and his inventions. By studying his life and the time period during which he lived, we will gain insight into his fascinating ideas. We will investigate the science behind his inventions and look at how people have brought his ideas to life.

Louie- Comedy Writing- Students will work to create scripts for short scenes and sketches. Students will receive feedback on their writing from the instructor and may even see portions of their work performed by classmates.

Roberta- Cartooning- Students will learn to develop characters in graphic illustration using pencil, pen, watercolor, etc. Each student will formulate her/his own character and learn to create people, animals and objects. Students will be introduced to the elements of cartoon sequences including character, frames, story boards, story line, and creating a book.

Monday 7th Period (1:40 to 2:30)

Academic Support- This class provides an opportunity for students to complete homework while receiving support and feedback from a Clearway instructor.

Louie- Improv Theater-In this class, students make it up as they go along. Class time is spent playing improvisational games to build cooperation and focus. This work aids in self-expression and understanding of the self and others.

Roberta- Basic Drawing (Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Levels): Students will learn the fundamentals of composition, line, rhythm and shading utilizing various mediums (pencil, charcoal, pen & ink, etc.). They will keep working on the difference between “seeing” and looking.

Vin- Ancient Civilizations- This class will use film, literature and discussion to explore several ancient civilizations, including those found in the Americas, Asia, Africa, Europe and elsewhere. Students will be encouraged to make comparisons and contrasts between cultures studied and current socio-cultural institutions and issues.

Tuesday 5th Period (11:40 to 12:30)

Becky- Yearbook- Students will participate in all aspects of selecting, organizing, and compiling pictures and information to create a school yearbook. Individual portraits will be scheduled for all students. Yearbook staff will take candid shots of students, staff, and school happenings.

Julianne- *The Olympic Games*- Over the centuries, the Olympics have taken on many different responsibilities. There have been highly politically charged games, including 1936, 1972 and 1980. There have been really fascinating and bizarre mascots and branding techniques. This class will explore what it means to be a representative of your country based solely on talents, how the games affect the host country and the desire for each person to be the best in the world. By simultaneously promoting national pride and fostering a spirit of unity as a global community, the Olympics have a unique and profound effect on the whole world.

Louie- *Oral Interpretation of Literature*- We will work on reading aloud to an audience. Learn how to share your interpretation of a short story, essay, and poem. This class is for any student interested in drama who loves performing great literature for a group.

Trevor- *Introduction to Music Production*- Students will learn the basics of audio software such as *GarageBand* and *Logic*, and use their skills to create original recorded music. Concepts of song structure will also be discussed.

Tuesday 6th Period (12:50 to 1:40)

Louie- *Improv Theater*- In this class students make it up as they go along. Class time is spent playing improvisational games to build cooperation and focus. This work aids in self-expression and understanding of the self and others.

Nick- *Animal Shelter* (2 periods- must also have a “choice” Tuesday 7th period): Students will volunteer at an animal shelter in Milton. Students will perform a variety of roles including cleaning as well as grooming and taking care of the animals. Students will earn credit for service hours for their work (limit 3 students). Students cannot be in animal shelter on two days.

Roberta- *Oil Stick*- Students will use oil sticks (oil paint in a stick form) to create wonderful artwork. They will study famous artists who have used oil paint and use this study as a basis for inspiring their work.

Trevor- Intro to Guitar- In this course, students will learn basic skills on the guitar. Topics covered will include the parts of the instrument, tuning, and basic chord formations. Students can use their skills to play along in class to songs they enjoy. The primary focus will be on acoustic guitar.

Tuesday 7th Period (1:40 to 2:30)

Louie- Sketch Comedy- Sketch Comedy: Use the tools of improvisation to develop comic scenes. Make it up as you go along and then try it again! If you like comedy, acting, and skits, this class is right for you.

Nick- Animal Shelter (2 periods- must also have a “choice”- Tuesday 6th period) - Students will volunteer at an animal shelter in Milton. Students will perform a variety of roles including cleaning as well as grooming and taking care of the animals. Students will earn credit for service hours for their work.(limit 3 students). Students cannot be in animal shelter on two days.

Roberta- Basic Drawing (Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Levels) - Students will learn the fundamentals of composition, line, rhythm and shading utilizing various mediums (pencil, charcoal, pen & ink, etc.). They will keep working on the difference between “seeing” and looking.

Trevor- Classical Music and Performance- Students in this class will study great works of classical music. Students with experience playing instruments can share their performances of famous classical pieces. STUDENTS WITHOUT EXPERIENCE WITH INSTRUMENTS CAN SIGN UP AS WELL!!!

Vin- Cooking- Students will prepare a variety of dishes, with a focus on developing skills in the kitchen. Emphasis will be placed on encouraging students to safely and comfortably use various cooking tools, to make basic dishes that they can modify to suit their own tastes. (Students who sign up for this class should be prepared to make dishes that were prepared during the first term.)

Wednesday 5th Period (11:40 to 12:30)

Allegra- Service Learning- This class will focus on the many different ways students can participate in community service. Students will identify organizations, programs and causes on both a local and national level and explore ways of performing direct service. In addition, students will research root causes of their issue and policies designed to address the problems. The class will take responsibility for educating the Clearway School community about their work and will assist with several school activities on an as-needed basis. Students will have many opportunities to take on leadership roles throughout the semester.

Becky- Physics of Flight- Have you ever wondered how airplanes fly? In this class we will explore the physics of birds, planes, gliders, and other flying machines. We will also explore the history of flight, from Leonardo da Vinci's human powered helicopter, to the Wright brothers, to space shuttles. You do not need to have taken any physics to be part of this class.

Louie and Trevor- Theater Performance (most students signing up for this class will take part in a "double period" with rehearsal also happening Wednesday 6th period): This Semester, Clearway shoots for combining music with theater. If your interest is acting, playing an instrument, and/or singing, please sign up. This semester, students will work to prepare for and then perform an adaptation of *Into the Woods*. Students will learn how to prepare characters, work as part of an ensemble, and evaluate performances. When not practicing lines, students will work on sets, costumes and props, and improve their improvisation skills.

Nicole- Sports Skills- Students signing up for this class should be prepared to go outside even in cold and harsh weather. Students will practice and participate in a variety of sports including soccer, tennis, basketball, and baseball. Focus will be on skill-building, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Vin- Boys' Health- This is a required class for some students, but students can elect to be in this class as well. This class will focus on physical health including growth and development, physical activity and fitness, nutrition, and reproduction and sexuality. In addition, students will explore safety and prevention including disease, injury, and violence prevention as well as drug, tobacco, and alcohol prevention.

Wednesday 6th Period

Academic Support- This class provides an opportunity for students to complete homework while receiving support and feedback from a Clearway instructor.

Peer Tutoring- Students in this class will write on the line below if they are interested in being a “tutor” or a “tutee” and the subject in which they hope to work. Students will be paired and will sign a “contract” indicating the expectations for the tutoring relationship. Students will meet on a weekly basis for tutoring and classroom teachers will consult to ensure important skills are targeted. The focus of this class is on building positive, helping relationships.

Louie- *Theater Performance* (most students signing up for this class will take part in a “double period” with rehearsal also happening Wednesday 5th period): This Semester, Clearway shoots for combining music with theater. If your interest is acting, playing an instrument, and/or singing, please sign up. This semester, students will work to prepare for and then perform an adaptation of *Into the Woods*. Students will learn how to prepare characters, work as part of an ensemble, and evaluate performances. When not practicing lines, students will work on sets, costumes and props, and improve their improvisation skills.

Nick- *Animal Shelter* (2 periods- must also have a “choice” Wednesday 7th period): Students will volunteer at an animal shelter in Milton. Students will perform a variety of roles including cleaning as well as grooming and taking care of the animals. Students will earn credit for service hours for their work (limit 3 students). Students cannot be in animal shelter on two days.

Trevor- *Instrumental Performance/Band*- In this listening and performance-based class, students will be introduced to a range of musical styles. Musical concepts will be introduced, and students will use them to experiment with different styles on their own instruments. Bring harmonicas, flutes, guitars, basses, etc. All instruments welcome. Students will be invited to perform at Arts Night but are not required to do this.

Wednesday 7th Period (1:40 to 2:30)

Julianne- *Philosophy of The Matrix*- What is “reality”? Why are the pills blue and red? What are the ethical dilemmas behind Cypher’s choice? This class will explore the differences and similarities between the ancient absolutism of Plato and the modern relativism of Nietzsche - all through the action packed allegorical movie, *The Matrix*. Students taking this elective will need permission to see parts of the R-rated *Matrix* movies.

Louie- *Set Construction*- This class will help build props and sets for the Clearway play presented at a future Arts Night. Students will get stage crew training for a role behind the curtain.

Nick- *Animal Shelter* (2 periods- must also have a “choice” Wednesday 6th period): Students will volunteer at an animal shelter in Milton. Students will perform a variety of roles including cleaning as well as grooming and taking care of the animals. Students will earn credit for service hours for their work (limit 3 students). Students cannot be in animal shelter on two days.

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Vin- *Personal Finance and Investments*- In this course, students will explore a variety of financial concepts and issues. They’ll define and differentiate between stocks, bonds, mutual funds, commodities and other investment instruments. They’ll explore borrowing and banking options, investigate political/economic issues like federal deficit spending, and work to understand the relationships between many of these areas.

Thursday Gym- Not changing Until After February Break

Friday 1st Elective (10:40 to 11:20)

Julianne- *Philosophy of The Matrix*- What is “reality”? Why are the pills blue and red? What are the ethical dilemmas behind Cypher’s choice? This class will explore the differences and similarities between the ancient absolutism of Plato and the modern relativism of Nietzsche - all through the action packed

allegorical movie, *The Matrix*. Students taking this elective will need permission to see parts of the R-rated *Matrix* movies.

Kerry- Community Service Nursing Home- (Double period that extends through Friday 2nd Elective) - Students will socialize with residents through games, crafts, and music activities. Students will learn about some of the professional roles at the nursing home. Students will reflect upon the needs of the residents, and identify how our group can meet some of those needs. Students will earn credit for service hours for their work. Students interested in careers in the social services or helping professions should consider this elective.

Louie- Outdoor Sports (Double Period that extends through Friday 2nd Elective)- (Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Hiking, Golf): Over the course of the semester students will spend four to six weeks each on a variety of outdoor sports activities including cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, golf. All equipment and instruction is provided. Students must be prepared to take part in **ALL** activities in **ALL** weather.

Rune- Introduction to Digital Photography- Students will learn how to take interesting photographs using digital equipment. Elements of composition, design, and color will be stressed. Students will work with editing software to manipulate their images and create pieces that reflect their individual point of view.

Vin- Cooking- Students will prepare a variety of dishes, with a focus on developing skills in the kitchen. Emphasis will be placed on encouraging students to safely and comfortably use various cooking tools, to make basic dishes that they can modify to suit their own tastes. (Students who sign up for this class should be prepared to make dishes that were prepared during the first term.)

Friday 2nd Elective (11:20 to 12:00)

Haille- Life Skills Math- Some students will be assigned to this class based on their IEP's. Other students may elect to sign up. This class focuses on using money, comparative shopping, and concepts related to time. Some students may work on increasing fluency with math facts and increasing proficiency with a calculator as well.

Kerry- Community Service Nursing Home- (Double period that extends from Friday 1st Elective)- Students will socialize with residents through games, crafts, and music activities. Students will learn about some of the professional roles at the nursing home. Students will reflect upon the needs of the residents, and identify how our group can meet some of those needs. Students will earn credit for service hours for their work. Students interested in careers in the social services or helping professions should consider this elective.

Louie- Outdoor Sports (Double Period that extends from Friday 2nd Elective)- (Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Hiking, Golf): Over the course of the semester students will spend four to six weeks each on a variety of outdoor sports activities including cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, golf. All equipment and instruction is provided. Students must be prepared to take part in **ALL** activities in **ALL** weather.

Nick- Cooking- Students will prepare a variety of dishes, with a focus on developing skills in the kitchen. Emphasis will be placed on encouraging students to safely and comfortably use various cooking tools, to make basic dishes that they can modify to suit their own tastes.

Rune- Introduction to Digital Photography- Students will learn how to take interesting photographs using digital equipment. Elements of composition, design, and color will be stressed. Students will work with editing software to manipulate their images and create pieces that reflect their individual point of view.

Description of Speech and Language Electives

Most students at Clearway are assigned to a speech and language group to address language processing or pragmatic language (social language) areas. Below are descriptions of some of the speech and language electives to which students are assigned. All classes are taught by Jennifer Batore, Clearway's speech and language pathologist.

Genre Studies: Mystery - In this class, students will learn about the intriguing genre of mystery in both fiction and reality. Students will seek to tease apart clues to solve mysteries in literature, explore real life mysteries (the Bermuda triangle, Bigfoot, etc), learn about famous mystery authors, and write their own mysteries as part of this class. This class focuses on reading comprehension, pragmatic language, and writing.

Character Perspectives in Modern Films - Students will go beyond the traditional story basics (such as setting, characters, and events) and analyze the crucial character reactions that propel the plot forward in several modern films. While watching films, students will work to develop deep understandings of characters through perspective taking, pragmatic language, and theory of mind. This class focuses on social skills, pragmatic language, language processing and expressive language. Students will not be making their own films in this class.

Game Design - Students will expand their board game and card game horizons in this class. Students will sharpen their skills at group game play all while learning about different games through exploration and research. Students will ultimately create their own games following a specific design process, and teach fellow classmates how to play these games. This class focuses on social skills, executive functioning, and expressive language.

Toastmasters - Students will explore effective ways of public speaking by producing original speeches and practicing explicit public speaking skills and strategies. Each student will present speeches to the class, and may even opt to deliver speeches in a larger group setting (e.g. a community meeting). Students will also learn how to be a supportive audience member and a thoughtful critic of peer speeches. This class focuses on oral language, pragmatic language and written language.

Debate - Students will learn the basics of formal debate procedures while constructing arguments for modern issues of debate (campaign spending, debt relief, etc). Students will learn to analyze topics from multiple perspectives, find evidence supporting their ideas, and deliver arguments in teams to win in three formal debate challenges. This elective focuses on language processing, expressive language, perspective-taking, and pragmatic skills.

Advertising - Students will learn about advertising techniques to attract an audience used in print, tv, and radio ads. Students will analyze the effectiveness of modern advertisements, and design their own advertisements in the form of slogans, pitches, printed ads, reviews, radio ads, and commercials. This class focuses on pragmatic language, language processing, oral language, and written language.