

Name _____

Clearway School
61 Chestnut Street
West Newton, MA 02465

ELECTIVE CHOICES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST SEMESTER 2011-12

REQUIREMENTS

Tutorial

Each student meets with his/her Educational Counselor at a regularly scheduled weekly meeting. The goal of these meetings is to promote self-advocacy and self-awareness by providing a forum to discuss interests, goals, strengths, areas of support required, and concerns. Educational counselors provide regular contact and updates to families.

1 period

Gym Class

Gym classes occur on Thursday afternoon and each year students are provided 3 or 4 gym options from which to choose. Gym classes typically last for 12-16 weeks before students are provided an opportunity to select again. Gym options in recent years include units in fencing, rock climbing, karate, soccer, weight training, and use of personal fitness machines.

2 periods

ASSIGNED ELECTIVES

Students may be assigned to some of the following electives based on sending school system requirements, age requirements, or IEP requirements.

Vocational Exploration (Typically 11th graders)

Students will participate in several vocational activities to help strengthen job readiness skills including obtaining/completing job applications, practicing interviewing skills, learning job terminology, identifying work environment expectations, and problem solving difficult/awkward job situations. Tours of local companies will extend the experience from the classroom to the real world, including visits to Clearway School workstudy sites. Successful completion of this class is required for participation in the work-study program.

1 period

Transition Planning / College Applications (Typically 12th Graders)

Students will research and tour local postgraduate programs including community colleges, four-year colleges, work training programs, technical programs, and work. They will receive assistance with the college application process including references, transcripts, college essays, and activity sheets. They will also evaluate college disability centers in relation to their own needs. As a class, seniors will support each other through what can be both an exciting and anxious time.

1 period

Work Study (Typically 12th Graders and 2nd Semester Juniors)

Students experience various job duties in a "real work environment." Work-Study sites are individually developed for each student based on his/her needs, interests, and skills. Students have worked previously at Newton-Wellesley Hospital and Newton Community Service Center. Students typically will work 3 hours per week and will receive academic credit for their work. Work-Study students will meet weekly with their transition counselor to discuss any work-related issues.

4 periods

Group on Adolescent Issues

Selected students will meet with the school social worker to discuss common issues in adolescent growth and development, particularly as pertains to their own experience. Group topics might include mindfulness, conflict resolution skills, multiple intelligences, adapting to change, leadership, bullying and cyberbullying..

1 period

Social Group

Selected students will meet with the school social worker in an activity-based group, which will focus on social and peer interactions, how to make and keep friends, and tolerance and acceptance of peers.

1 period

Pragmatic Language

Students who receive speech and language services related to pragmatic language will either receive instruction using a "pull-out" model in which they receive direct, explicit instruction in pragmatic skills or will receive pragmatic language instruction embedded within an academic or elective class. Focus in pragmatic language is on nonverbal and verbal aspects of communication exchanges.

1 period

Language Processing

This class focuses upon a variety of topics including note-taking, utilization of reference materials, comprehension strategies, planning, strategies for memorizing information and recalling information, and organization skills. Instruction can be provided in a pull-out model for students who need direct, explicit instruction in skills. Students may later focus on implementation of skills by being supported by the Speech and Language Pathologist within the academic classroom instead of through a "pull-out" model.

1 period

Orton-Gillingham Reading Tutorial

This class is provided in individual or small-group settings. Students work closely with a teacher using a systematic, phonetic approach to reading and spelling. Students work on reading individual phonemes as well as words and passages containing these phonemes and spelling related words. Frequent assessments are designed to chart mastery of different phonemes.

1 period

Health

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.

1 period

ELECTIVE CHOICES

Please rank order 15 or more choices from the list below. We will try to accommodate your wishes. WE NEED 15 CHOICES AT THE MINIMUM.

Community Service Related Electives

1. Service Learning Project

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.

1 period _____

2. Animal Shelter

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.

2 periods _____

3. Nursing Home Service Project

Students will travel to a local nursing home. There, 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.

2 periods _____.

4. Student Parliament Advisory Group

Students who sign up for this elective will bring the student voice to policy decisions and issues that affect the community at large. This group will also organize events that improve the climate of the community.

1 period _____.

5. Peer Tutoring (Tutor)

Students signing up for this elective should have a strong desire to assist a peer. Students will participate in a brief (1 period) training where they will learn about the role of a peer tutor, the importance of confidentiality, and some strategies for assisting a tutee. Each student will be paired with one peer with whom they will meet on a weekly basis. Peer tutors will be asked to schedule meetings with the academic teacher of the tutee and the supervisor of the tutoring program as well. Students will earn credit for service hours for their work. STUDENTS: WHEN FILLING OUT YOUR ELECTIVE LIST, PLEASE INDICATE THE SUBJECTS IN WHICH YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE TUTORING. STUDENTS MAY INDICATE THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY – KURZWEIL, DRAGONSPEAK, GOOGLE APPS, KEYBOARDING, ETC.

1 period _____.

6. Peer Tutoring (Tutee)

Students signing up for this elective should have a strong desire to work with a peer to get help in an academic subject. Students will be paired with one peer with whom they will meet on a weekly basis. Tutees will be asked to sign a tutoring contract indicating their commitment to the program. STUDENTS: WHEN FILLING OUT YOUR ELECTIVE LIST, PLEASE INDICATE THE SUBJECT(S) IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE HELP. STUDENTS MAY INDICATE THAT THEY WOULD LIKE HELP WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY – KURZWEIL, DRAGONSPEAK, GOOGLE APPS, KEYBOARDING, ETC.

1 period _____.

Performing Arts Related Electives

7. Theater Performance

This Semester – Clearway shoots for combining music with theater. If your interest is acting, playing an instrument, and/or singing, please sign up. This class will perform a play/musical to be chosen to match the size of the available cast, culminating in an evening performance for families and members of the community. Students will learn how to prepare characters, work as part of an ensemble, and how to evaluate performances. When not practicing lines, students will work on sets, costumes and props, and improve their improvisation skills.

1-2 periods _____.

8. 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.

1 period _____.

9. 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.

1 period _____.

10. Playwriting

Help create a future Clearway production! We will write a short play together. Using a variety of creative tools we will strive to finish it for production. We are shooting for the 3rd straight year in which we have a student-written show performed at Arts' Night in June!

1 period_ _____.

11. 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.

1 period _____

12. 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.

1 period _____

13. Scene Study

This is an important class for budding actors and actresses. We will spend the semester working on a scene. Students will learn about motivation, sense memory and movement within the scene.

1 period _____

14. Chorus

Students in this class will choose songs they would like to learn to sing that feature both solo voice singing and harmonizing. Students may participate in a culminating performance at the end of the semester.

1 period _____

15. Instrumental Lab

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.

1 period _____

16. Rock Band

Students will work together to rehearse and prepare a performance for Arts Night. Instrumentation of the group will be tailored to students' strengths, and the focus will be on developing skills for playing in an ensemble.

1-2 periods _____

17. 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.

1 period _____

18. Introduction 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.

1 period _____

19. 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.

1 period _____

Fine Arts and Crafts Related Electives

20. Collage

Students will explore ways to bring together existing images in new ways. We will utilize mixed media (magazines, pencil, and paint) to create art, paying close attention to composition and color.

1 period _____

21. Painting

Students will learn painting techniques using acrylic paints. Students will paint on canvas as well as paper and will learn to mix paint to attain variation of color.

1 period _____

22. Art History

This class will survey the relationship between art and its historical period. Students will study some of the great artists, identify their style and incorporate that knowledge into their own work. Serious interest only!

1 period _____

23. Fashion Design (Beginning or Advanced Levels)

Students will learn the basics of fashion design including gouache design and swatches. The class may include visits to the fashion design program at a local college.

- 1 period _____
24. **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.
1 period _____
25. **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.
1 period _____
26. **Watercolor**
Students will use watercolor as a medium and will learn and practice watercolor techniques such as wet on wet, washes, scumbling, and stippling. Still life, portraits, and animals will be executed with watercolors.
1 period _____
27. **Jewelry Making**
This class is an introduction to the art of jewelry making. Students will be exposed to different tools and materials as they create jewelry in hands-on exercises.
1 period _____
28. **Clay**
This class will use various methods to work with clay. Please note that this class will be taught by Roberta and will be taught at Clearway.
1 period _____

Applied Academic and Life Skills Choices

29. **Bunker Hill Community College Presents: Writing Skills II**
This course will use an adapted outline from the Writing Skills II course at BHCC. Assignments will be taken directly from the college course, as will the text and the lessons. This course seeks to develop language skills needed to communicate effectively in college study, in the professions and in the business world.
1 period _____
30. **Toastmasters (Public Speaking)**
Students will learn the principles of public speaking and then practice a piece to present to the class as a whole. Assistive technology could be used to assist the presentation. Students may choose to present to a larger group as well including presenting at community meeting. This course will be taught by Clearway’s speech and language pathologist, Jennifer.
1 period _____
31. **Job Stories**
Students will identify members of the community who have jobs of interest to Clearway and the members of this class. They will contact these members and prepare questions that they will use to understand the path to these professions. Students may also coordinate so that individuals can present their stories at school-wide meetings.
1 period _____
32. **Test Preparation Including MCAS, Accuplacer, PSAT and SAT**
The focus of this class will be working with students to practice test-taking skills. Students will learn different problem-solving strategies and then apply these strategies to problems drawn from these types of standardized tests. Students can sign up for this class because of interest in improving performance in any of these assessments.
1 period _____

33. **Assistive Technology**

This class targets specific areas which are affected by a student's learning disabilities. Depending on need, students may explore digital planners, read-aloud software and methods of obtaining digital text, writing software such as word prediction and organizational tools, keyboarding programs, software to build math fluency and comprehension, and various calculators. This class will be individualized to meet specific needs and students may be assigned to this class based on need or IEP.

1 period _____

34. The Campaign

Calling all future power brokers! Students in this class should have an interest in politics and marketing. Students will be given a fictional candidate running for a real political position. Mission: Get the candidate elected. The class will call for the creation of print ads, commercials, debate preparation, surveys, and web design. Students will explore great and not-so-great famous campaigns.

1 period _____

35. Introduction to Advertising

Advertisements use mass media to influence consumers. In this class, students will examine some of the ads that shook the world over the last 100 years. Students will learn about direct and internet marketing, brand and political advertising, and public service ads. Students will explore the concept of marketing towards a targeted audience.

1 period _____

36. Mock Trials

Students will participate in the mock trial program. They will research the defense and prosecution arguments for a specified case or question of law. They will practice questioning witnesses and conducting cross-examinations. They will learn to make objections and how jury trials proceed. The class will split into teams.

1 period _____

37. Debate Club

Students will learn debate procedure and the various roles in formal debate. They will learn to make opening and closing statements, arguments and rebuttals, research and prepare topics from current or historical events, and take part in debates as debate teams. They will receive feedback about their performance.

1 period _____

38. Game Design

Students will study famous strategy board and card games. They will then be asked to design and create a game with a clear objective using the steps of the design process, including research. Students will play the games designed in class in order to gain information important for re-design.

1 period _____

39. The Talk Show

Students will analyze various talk shows and then prepare for their own simulated talk show. Students will prepare questions, invite guests (from Clearway and its community), and then interview guests in taped-segments, which they will analyze later. This class will be taught by Jennifer, Clearway's speech and language pathologist.

1 period _____

40. "You-topia" (Designing a Better World)

This elective is designed to facilitate students' creation of a new nation from the ground up. Over the course of the semester, students will lay the foundation for the nation's way of life, promote tourism to the nation by enticing the student body to travel there, and ultimately transform a classroom into the nation for a day of student entertainment in which its citizens, customs, foods, and culture will be showcased. The elective will focus on group collaboration and decision making, while also allowing students to take on creative projects independently through various mediums (acting, poster making, video, skits).

1 period _____

41. Connecting with Geography

How are New Orleans and Cairo similar? Why is Antarctica a continent? This class will explore and practice basic geographical terms and concepts; then connect them to historical and current events. Lessons will use various materials including texts, workbooks, videos, the internet, and- of course- maps.

1 period _____

42. Cowboys and “Indians”

The struggle between European explorers and the native populations has become one of the main themes of American history. It is part of our art, mythology, and heritage. We will explore the facts and fantasies centering on the American West, using film, literature, and other sources.

1 period _____

43. World Religions

Learn about the major religious traditions found worldwide today: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and other less well-known traditions. Examine the beliefs, practices, and values of these groups in order to understand the worldviews and ways of life of the people who practice them.

1 period _____

44. The Contemporary World

Every day we hear about economic crises, scientific discoveries, conflicts, political movements, national and international agreements, and hundred other events that have a real impact on our lives. This class will explain the events of the day, seeking to tie them together and understand their import.

1 period _____

45. Academic Support

This class will focus on organizational and assistive technology strategies that can support students in completing homework. This will be individualized based on particular need. Students may use the class to support daily completion of nightly homework assignments or to support the completion of long-term projects, research, and essays. Students should be prepared to bring homework assignments to class. Students may be assigned to this class based on need or IEP.

1 period _____

46. Spanish Language and Culture

Students will get to have a very interactive approach to Spanish and Latin culture. Some useful vocabulary and sayings will allow students to introduce themselves, and ask questions of others in Spanish. The class will also expose students to videos and pictures of different festivities in Mexico, Columbia, and other Latin cities, while letting them enjoy modern music, salsa dancing, art, and food such as empanadas, ceviche, salsas, and guacamole from different regions.

1 period _____

47. Astronomy

Students will learn about the universe, its history, and its parts. Units will include the stars, the moon, the sun, the planets, theories of how the universe began, and how scientists learn about space. Students will participate in hands-on activities, research, and Internet-based activities.

1 period _____

48. Solar Cars

In this class students will design and build a model solar car. They will learn about the physics of vehicles and will investigate various solar energy systems. Finished cars may participate in a race at the end of the year.

1 period _____

49. School Newspaper

Students will work as a group to produce a school newspaper containing feature stories, interviews, news stories, and opinion pieces. Other features could include puzzles, cartoons, and horoscopes.

1 period _____

50. Shakespeare

Many people think that Shakespeare is for the elite reader. In fact, when he wrote, he was writing for the masses. This class will read some of the work of “The Bard of Avon,” view some of his plays as videos/DVDs, and see some of the updated material, like West Side Story, that have emerged from his writings.

1 period _____

51. Poetry Slam!

In this course, we will look at the various elements of poetry, focusing on both reading and writing it effectively. This course will end with a series of poetry readings and a poetry slam or two!

1 period _____

52. Life Skills Math

This class will focus on areas of math including telling time and time management, budgeting, taxes, and credit. This class is open to all students who are interested in improving their consumer math skills even those students whose regular math class contains life skills units.

1 period _____

53. Extra Math- Focus on Computation

Students in this class are signing up for an additional math class because they would like to improve their numeracy and computational skills. This class will be individualized so that each student can focus on his/her individual needs. Students may work to become more fluent with their times tables or division facts, improve their skills with the four operations with whole numbers, improve their work with integers, fractions, and decimals.

1 period _____

54. Fantasy Sports

Work with statistics, crunch numbers, buy and sell players depending on value and compete along-side friends. No previous fantasy sports experience required.

1 period _____

55. Introduction to Psychology

How does the mind work? What do different parts of the brain do? These essential questions will be explored throughout this class. Students will examine stages of development, social psychology, and personality development.

1 period _____

56. Cooking

This class will function on a "30 minute meal" format, during which students will produce a variety of nutritional items. Emphasis will be placed on safe use of kitchen materials, creativity and increasing independence.

1 period _____

57. Food Blog/Podcast

Do you like cooking, eating, and talking about both? This class is for you. We will prepare and sample food and then work on blogs and podcasts of our experiences. Whether you are a budding chef or critic, this class will be a lot of fun.

1 period _____

Physical Activity Choices

58. Sports Skills

Students will participate in a variety of sports including football, basketball, soccer, and tennis. They will learn new skills and work on teaching skills they have mastered. Students will participate outdoors in all types of weather conditions including cold and wet weather. Emphasis will be on teamwork, skill building, and sportsmanship.

Students who sign up for this class must be prepared to exercise even in bad weather.

1 period _____

59. Running

Students will research and discuss running technique, fitness, and nutrition. We will set individual goals based on current ability, work to reach these goals, and set new ones every few weeks. **Students will run in all weather with the exception of heavy rain and/or snow.** On days when weather prevents us from running, we will talk about running technique, nutrition, and watch various clips of historical running moments and movies.

1 period _____.

60. Stretching for Relaxation and Concentration

Enjoy fifty minutes each week learning a variety of stretching routines to reduce stress and allow the mind to focus.

1 period_____.

61. Frisbee Disc Sports

In this elective students will sample all eight disc sports. We will spend two weeks learning and playing each of the events: Freestyle, DDC, Self-Caught Flight, Accuracy, Distance, Golf, Discathon, and Ultimate.

1 period_____.

62. Outdoor Sports (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.

1-2 periods_____.

63. Basketball

This elective is open to students of all ability levels. Students will learn basic skills and take part in brief scrimmages.

1 period_____.

Name _____

My Elective Choices in Preferential Order

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

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13. _____

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15. _____

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17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

Thursday Gym

Please select 2 of the following – First choice and second choice

A. Boston Sports Club- (Students must be 14 years-old or older)- Students travel to this local facility where they first do aerobic work and then students utilize other equipment as their pursue their personal fitness plans.

B. Fencing- Students travel to a local fencing facility where they learn the basic of fencing- vocabulary, technique, form, and basic drills. This class is open to students of all levels and experience.

C. Sports- Each week students will participate in a different sports activity including basketball, soccer, football, Frisbee, and baseball. Students should be willing to participate in a variety of activities.

D. Karate- Students travel to a local Karate studio where they learn basic skills of the art. Students stretch, practice forms, and then take part in short games or matches. The class is open to students of all levels and experiences.

E. Nature Sports (Hiking, Canoeing, and Kayaking)- Students will take part in a unit on canoeing and kayaking during September and early October. They then will hike local trails in parks nearby including Cold Springs and Hale Reservation. This gym elective will hopefully promote a respect and enjoyment of the outdoors.

First choice for gym: _____

Second choice for gym: _____