

San Ramon Valley Unified School District



Middle School Course Catalog
6th - 8th grade
2023-2024



SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
699 Old Orchard Drive, Danville, California 94526
Educational Services
(925) 552-5071 ÿ FAX (925) 743-3902

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. We have been very pleased with the academic success of our students as well as with the development of a positive school culture. District staff and teachers have worked diligently and creatively in order to provide what we feel is an outstanding middle school academic program.

Some of the teachers may request donations to help defray the cost of some consumable materials or materials taken home. These materials provide benefits or experiences to the student above and beyond the regular curriculum. Please see your student's Site Donation List.

This course catalog contains information regarding course requirements and a brief description of each class by department. We are confident that your child's middle school experience will be a successful one at the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

[Charlotte Wood Middle School](#)

600 El Capitan
Danville, CA 94526

[Diablo Vista Middle School](#)

4100 Camino Tassajara
Danville, CA 94506

[Gale Ranch Middle School](#)

6400 Main Branch Parkway
San Ramon, CA 94582

[Iron Horse Middle School](#)

12601 Alcosta Blvd.
San Ramon, CA 94583

[Los Cerros Middle School](#)

968 Blemer Road
Danville, CA 94526

[Pine Valley Middle School](#)

3000 Pine Valley Road
San Ramon, CA 94583

[Stone Valley Middle School](#)

3001 Miranda Avenue
Alamo, CA 94507

[Windemere Ranch Middle School](#)

11611 East Branch Parkway
San Ramon, CA 94582

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ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

CORE

6th Grade Core (English Language Arts/ Reading/ History-Social Science)

The 6th grade core curriculum is standards based and taught in a three period time block that blends the content of English Language Arts and History-Social Science. The courses are taught by one teacher and provide a transition from elementary to middle school. Through the writing process, students learn explicit strategies to help them find meaningful subjects to write about. In addition, they learn ways to structure their writing, revise, edit and publish. They also learn spelling strategies and proper conventions. Students discover meaning in literature and history by connecting their reading to personal experiences and prior knowledge. The English Language Arts program includes comprehension strategies in fiction and non-fiction and an exploration of genres. The integrated, activity-based History-Social Science curriculum begins with the study of early humans and focuses on ancient civilizations through the rise of the Roman Empire.

Schools: ALL

7th Grade Core (English Language Arts/History-Social Science)

The 7th grade core curriculum is standards based and taught in a two period time block, which blends the content of English and history-social science, reinforcing the reading, writing, and analytical-cognitive skills necessary for both. Skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening are taught in the context of literature and medieval history studies. The English curriculum includes reading comprehension, literary analysis, and instruction in several standards-based writing types, including summary, persuasive, narrative and response to literature. Spelling, vocabulary, and grammar are also included in the course of instruction. The history-social science curriculum focuses on history from the fall of the Roman Empire to the Age of Reason in the beginning of the 18th century, and includes instruction on the Roman Empire; Medieval Europe; the rise of Islam; Medieval Africa, Japan, and China; Mesoamerica; Europe during the Renaissance; the Reformation and Scientific Revolution, the Age of Exploration, and the Age of Reason.

Schools: ALL

8th Grade Core (English Language Arts/History-Social Science)

The 8th grade core curriculum is standards based and taught in a two period time block which blends the content of English and history-social science, reinforcing the reading, writing, and analytical-cognitive skills necessary to both. Course content includes a study of novels, poetry, and state writing types integrated with the study and research skills necessary for analysis. While studying historical events from the founding of the nation to World War I, students will analyze the development of Constitutional Democracy, with an emphasis on individual rights, an understanding of the political system and ways in which citizens can participate in and influence government. Students examine the gradual expansion of the US and its subsequent shaping and influence on foreign policy. Emphasis is on cause and effect, chronology, and an appreciation for how the past influences current events.

Schools: GR, IH, LC, PV, SV, WR

ENGLISH

English

Grade: 8

The eighth grade English course emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, and analytical-cognitive skills. Course content includes a study of novels; poetry, creative writing and expository writing, integrated with the study and research skills necessary for analysis. The curriculum and presentation methods support district standards and state benchmarks.

Schools: CW, DV

Reading

Grades: 6-8 (Administrative Placement Only)

This is a support class designed as an intervention to provide reading support and remediation in reading and/or writing skills. This course is taken in place of an elective.

Schools: GR, IH, PV, WR (Pass/Fail) LC, SV (grades 7 & 8 only)

HISTORY

US History

Grade: 8

While studying the periods preceding from the founding of the nation to World War I, students will analyze the development of Constitutional Democracy, with emphasis on the importance of securing individual rights and an understanding of the political system and ways in which citizens can participate in and influence government. Students will examine the elements that led to the expansion of the existing borders of the United States and how this affected our relationship with other countries. Emphasis will be placed on cause and effect, chronology, and an appreciation for how the past influences current events.

Schools: CW, DV

MATH

Click [here](#) to view the California State Math Standards. All courses will have a strong emphasis on having the students demonstrate the [Standards for Mathematical Practice](#). Click here for the District's Math Pathways for [middle](#) and [high school](#) students.

Course 1 Math

A rigorous grade-level course designed to provide students with a strong mathematical foundation to meet 6th Grade California State Math Standards. Areas of focus include (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.

Schools: ALL

Course 2 Math

Course 2 math is the on grade-level math course and prepares students to take future higher level math courses. Students will not only learn the math standards but will continue to develop higher order thinking skills and build fluency around the 8 mathematical practices. This course covers all of the 7th grade California State Math Standards. The topics addressed in this course are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ratios and proportional reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geometric figures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• percentages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• area and volume
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• integers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• probability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rational numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• statistics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• expressions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• performance tasks to develop higher order thinking skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equations and inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of the “8 mathematical practices

Schools: ALL

Course 3 Math

This course is for students who have completed Course 2 math. Course 3 math is the on grade-level math course and prepares students to take future higher level math courses. Students will not only learn the math standards but will continue to develop higher order thinking skills and build fluency around the 8 mathematical practices. This course covers all of the 8th grade California State Math Standards. The topics addressed in this course are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• real numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• congruence and similarity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• equations in one variable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• volume and surface area
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• equations in two variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scatter plots
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• data analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Triangles and the Pythagorean theorem	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• performance tasks to develop higher order thinking skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• transformations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• development of the “8 mathematical practices

Successful completion of this course will prepare students to take Algebra 1 in 9th grade.

Schools: ALL

Algebra 1

Highly recommend: Successful completion of Course 3 Math

The course content includes working with properties of real numbers, problem solving using real world applications, solving and graphing linear equations and functions, writing linear equations, solving and graphing linear inequalities, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, working with exponents and exponential functions, quadratic equations and functions, radicals, statistics, probability, and connections to geometry. Practical applications are addressed through the solution of word problems or performance tasks.

Schools: ALL

Math Support

Grades: 6-8 (Varies depending on site – Administrative Placement Only)

A course designed as an intervention to provide support and remediation of math concepts and skills. This course is taken in place of an elective course. Students enrolled in math support are concurrently enrolled in a grade level math course.

Schools: ALL (GR IH LC WR – Pass/Fail)

SCIENCE

Science 6

6th Grade Science is a year-long, inquiry-oriented integrated science course based on the CA NGSS Preferred Integrated Model. It is rooted in student observation of phenomena and utilizes [3-dimensional learning](#) blending the Science and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Disciplinary Core Ideas.

Students will investigate the overarching theme of interactions between and among organisms and earth's systems, and the effects of those interactions. Included in this curriculum are four storylines based on the following instructional segments found in the framework: (1) *Systems and Subsystems in Earth and Life Sciences*, (2) *Earth System Interactions Cause Weather*, (3) *Causes and Effects of Regional Climates*, and (4) *Effects of Global Warming on Living Systems*.

Schools: ALL

Science 7

7th Grade Science is a year-long, inquiry-oriented integrated science course based on the CA NGSS Preferred Integrated Model. It is rooted in student observation of phenomena and utilizes [3-dimensional learning](#) blending the Science and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Disciplinary Core Ideas.

Students will investigate the overarching theme of Earth's natural processes and human activities that cause energy to flow and matter to cycle through Earth's systems. Included in this curriculum are four storylines based on the following instructional segments found in the framework: (1) *Organisms and Nonliving Things are Made of Atoms*, (2) *Matter Cycles and Energy Flows through Organisms and Rocks*, (3) *Natural Processes and Human Activities Shape Earth's Resources and Ecosystems*, and (4) *Sustaining Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing World*.

Schools: ALL

Science 8

8th Grade Science is a year-long, inquiry-oriented integrated science course based on the CA NGSS Preferred Integrated Model. It is rooted in student observation of phenomena and utilizes [3-dimensional learning](#) blending the Science and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Disciplinary Core Ideas.

Students will investigate the overarching theme of processes that change Earth's systems at different spatial scales today also caused changes in the past. Included in this curriculum are four storylines based on the following instructional segments found in the framework: (1) *Objects Move and Collide*, (2) *Noncontact Forces Influence Phenomena*, (3) *Evolution Explains Life's Unity and Diversity*, and (4) *Sustaining Local and Global Biodiversity*

Schools: ALL

WORLD LANGUAGE

World Languages

Grades: 7-8

These two middle school courses are designed to introduce the student to everyday communication skills in a world language and culture. The 1A and 1B courses together are equivalent to the first year of high school world language.

World Language 1A - Year-long

Grade: 7

In this course, students will be introduced to the World Language and culture using a communicative approach. Students will learn a World Language through a variety of formats, for example: reading, writing, speaking, listening, singing, playing games, performing skits, watching videos, doing projects, and experiencing cultural activities. Please be advised that this is an academic elective and students will have quizzes, exams, and daily homework. Promotion to World Language 1B will be open to students with a B- or above and/or teacher recommendation.

Spanish: ALL French: CW, DV, GR, IH, PV, SV, WR Chinese: GR

World Language 1B - Year-long

Grade: 8

This course is the second of a two-year middle school program. World Language 1B is open to students with a B- or above in World Language 1A and/or teacher recommendation. In this course, students will build upon prior knowledge of the World Language and World Language culture using a communicative approach. Students will continue to learn a World Language through a variety of formats, for example: reading, writing, speaking, listening, singing, playing games, performing skits, watching videos, doing projects, and experiencing cultural activities. Please be advised that this is an academic elective and students will have quizzes, exams, and daily homework. Promotion to World Language 2 in high school will be open to students with a B- or above and/or teacher recommendation.

Spanish: ALL French: CW, DV, GR, IH, PV, SV, WR Chinese: GR

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

ART

Art - Painting, drawing, & sculpture 2D & 3D

Grades: 7-8

Art 1 is an exploratory skills-based, visual art course that introduces students to a variety of media, skills and tools. Students will also learn about art history and the value of art in various cultures. Students will gain skills in understanding and valuing their own art and the art of others. Class assignments are based on the California Visual Art Standards and introduce students to the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design.

Schools: CW, DV, GR, LC, PV, SV (Semester); WR (Year-long)

Art 2 - Painting & drawing 2D

Grades: 7-8

Highly Recommend: Successful Completion of Art 1 or by teacher recommendation

Students apply artistic processes and skills at a more sophisticated level, using a wide variety of media, to communicate meaning and intent to works of art based on the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. Students continue to develop more advanced skills and compositional strategies based on the foundation of Art 1 to create more individualized works of art with more advanced applications. Assignments are based on the California Visual Arts Standards.

Schools: CW (Semester); DV, LC (Year-long)

Art 2D

Grades: 7-8

This two-dimensional art class explores the Elements of Art and Principles of Design with a wide variety of media and tools. Artists and cultures will be incorporated as student's experiment with their own creativity in different forms and styles. Assignments are based on the California Visual Arts Standards.

Schools: IH(semester); WR (Year-long)

Art - Sculpture 3D

Grades: 7-8

This three-dimensional art class focuses on the application of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design expressed in a wide variety of sculptural media. Students work with varied techniques to create original works of art, cultivating an appreciation for good design, craftsmanship and creative problem solving skills. This course is aligned with the California Visual Art Standards.

Schools: CW, DV, IH, GR

Art - Advanced

Grade: 8

Highly Recommend: Successful Completion of one year of Art

Students demonstrate a mature understanding of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design in a rigorous series of lessons. Students increasingly incorporate their own perspectives and style as they explore creative expression. Art history and culture and aesthetic valuing form a significant part of the course. Students demonstrate an advanced level of artistic skill. A variety of 2D and 3D media will be introduced. Assignments are based on the California Visual Art Standards.

Schools: DV, IH, PV (semester); CW, IH, LC, WR (year-long)

Clothing 1- Semester

Grades 7-8

Clothing is a hands-on class where students learn the basics of both hand and machine sewing. Emphasis is on learning basic hand sewing skills, simple embroidery, following a pattern, and creating a piece of clothing. The class will also focus on methods to repair or transform damaged items to extend their use, teaching students to reuse and recycle.

Schools: PV

Crafts 1 - Semester

Grades: 7-8

Crafts is a hand-on class in which students use a wide variety of materials and develop skills to produce creative projects. Students will also learn about the importance of crafting in many cultures as they explore areas such as mask making, weaving, paper sculpture, metal repousse and book-making.

Schools: PV

Dance - Semester

Grades: 7-8

This is a beginning level dance elective. The course includes training in basic dance techniques and an introduction to a variety of dancing styles. Students will be expected to perform and choreograph routines in class.

Schools: PV

DRAMA

Drama

Grades: 7-8

Students work together collectively to create complex characters, develop well-structured storylines, augment acting skills, and give dramatic expression to their original ideas. The course focuses on structured group work, improvisation, character development, voice and speech training, analysis and interpretation of dramatic literature, and individual growth as a performer. In addition, students will explore past and present dramatic traditions and practices in various cultures and become familiar with stage terminology and acting conventions. This class may require after school rehearsals and performances.

Schools: DV, GR, IH, PV (semester); CW, SV, WR (year-long)

Drama, Advanced

Grades: 7-8

This performance-based class leads students through the collective process of playmaking and advanced character development. Students learn to interpret scripts dramatically, to analyze plot, genre and themes of dramatic literature. This course helps students form solid acting technique, fosters creative collaboration with fellow actors, and gives performers the unforgettable experience of an encountering an audience. This class will require some after school rehearsals and will have mandatory performances for all class members.

Schools: PV(semester); DV, IH (year-long)

Stagecraft

Grades: 7-8

Students will learn the principles of set construction and design, lighting, sound, costumes, make-up, publicity, and stage management using the latest technology particular to theater arts. Students will learn how to produce a clear, unified aesthetic that combines personal style and practicality for stage. As a technical theatre team, students will be entrusted with the real responsibility of planning a cohesive design for a school production. Students will work within a budget and against time constraints to realize their vision onstage. During performances, students will serve as “run crew”, operating the lighting and sound systems, taking charge backstage with scene changes and prop organization, as well as cuing actors. This class will require after school time the week before the show at dress rehearsals, and attendance at all performances to run the show.

Schools: CW, IH (Semester); DV, SV, WR(yearlong);

Musical Theater

Grades: 7-8

In this performance based class, students will learn about the history and development of theatre and musical theatre while sharpening their skills in acting, singing and dancing. Students will research, direct, and perform in musical and non-musical projects throughout the semester, culminating in a showcase at the end of the course.

School: CW, IH

MUSIC – INSTRUMENTAL

Cadet Band – Year-long

Grade: 6

Cadet Band is our beginning-level woodwind, brass and percussion ensemble. Most students will begin the class on basic instruments such as the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion. In an effort to expand our instrumentation students will have the opportunity to begin oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor/baritone saxophone, baritone/euphonium and tuba. This course will review the basics of musicianship including rhythm and note reading that were learned in elementary school, then progress to include the more advanced concepts of dynamics, tempo, articulation, blend, balance and intonation. Students will learn music in a variety of genres. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: ALL

Concert Band – Year-long

Grades: 7-8

Concert Band is our intermediate-level woodwind, brass and percussion ensemble. Students will perform music of all styles and will continue to hone fundamental skills while continuing to grow into more advanced players. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: CW, DV, GR, PV, SV, WR

Guitar

Grades: 6-8

This class is open to all students who would like to learn the basics of guitar -- note reading, chords, and fundamentals of music. Students will be responsible for individual practice and performance during class, in addition to group instruction. Students must provide their own acoustic guitar. We will perform evening recitals in December and May.

Schools: CW; IH(Ukulele)

Jazz Band – Year-long

Grades: 7-8 Prerequisite: Audition required

Jazz band is open to 7th and 8th grade musicians who have prior playing experience and who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, piano, bass or drums. Students will learn about different styles of jazz and jazz history. Improvisation is another key component to the jazz experience. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: DV, IH, LC, WR

Orchestra – Year-long

Grades: 6-8

String Orchestra is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who play violin, viola, cello or string bass. We play a variety of music with an emphasis on classical literature. Beginners are welcome and there is no audition required. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: ALL

Symphonic Band – Year-long

Grades: 7-8

Symphonic Band is our advanced wind band. Students will perform advanced literature of all styles. Emphasis will focus on technique and performance in order to prepare students for the high school ensemble. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: ALL

MUSIC – VOCAL

Boys Chorus – Year-long

Grades: 6-8

Open to all boys who are interested in learning how to sing. Auditions are not required and no prior experience is necessary. Boys will learn basic techniques to improve their voices, note and rhythm reading, performance skills, and self-confidence. A wide variety of music based on the changing voice will be performed. Participation in regularly scheduled performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: DV

Girls Chorus - Year-long

Grades: 7-8

Open to all 7th/8th grade girls who are interested in learning how to sing. Auditions are not required and no prior experience is necessary. Students will learn basic techniques to improve their voices, note and rhythm reading, performance skills, and self-confidence. A wide variety of

music will be performed. Participation in regularly scheduled performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: DV

Mixed Chorus – Year-long

Grades: 7-8 (also available to 6th graders at CW, and WR)

This class is open to all students who are interested in learning how to sing. Auditions are not required and no prior experience is necessary. Students will learn basic techniques to improve their voices, note and rhythm reading, performance skills, and self-confidence. A wide variety of music will be performed. Participation in regularly scheduled performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: CW, IH, SV, WR

VIDEO

Video Production

Grades: 7-8

Highly Recommend: Application, teacher recommendations as well as possible interview and sample of student writing may be required for schools marked with *

The main goal of this class is to provide for school wide communication through a school news show that features announcements and clips of middle school life. In this hands-on class, students will learn the basics of television production, use of camera equipment, script writing, editing video/video effects/video graphics, designing and organizing both live and recorded programs. This is a fast paced class for students who are willing to work as a team in a professional manner to make a daily and/or weekly show happen. This is a class that asks the student to be responsible, use initiative, and be willing to pitch in and help wherever needed. The work may involve some time outside of class, before, after, and during school.

Schools: GR, IH, PV(Semester); CW, WR(year-long)

Broadcast Journalism - Year-long

Grades: 7-8

Highly Recommend: Application, teacher recommendations as well as possible interview and sample of student writing

Students will produce videos for school and personal projects. This class will emphasize projects for school-wide distribution, including a video yearbook and school news broadcast. Students will be responsible for attending and documenting a variety of school events, both during and after school. Students will have significant time to work on projects of their own choosing, and will become proficient with increasingly sophisticated editing techniques and equipment.

Schools: CW, DV

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTERS/TECHNICAL ARTS

Advanced Tech I - Semester

Grades: 7-8

This class is designed to give seventh and eighth grade students a broad exposure to current and emerging technologies and careers. Students will be inspired to continue on the Technology pathway into high school, college and career. Because of the wide variety of hands-on, project-based modules to choose from, this class has appeal for both boys and girls. Examples of possible projects include, but are not limited to: 3D Printing, T-shirt Design, and CO2 Dragster Design. Possible units include, but are not limited to: Structural Engineering, CNC Milling and Architectural Design.

Schools: GR, IH, LC, PV

Advanced Tech II - Semester

Grades: 7-8

Prerequisite: At least one semester of Advanced Tech I and teacher recommendation.

This unique class is designed to allow students to work on a variety of technology and career related independent projects. Under the guidance of the technology teacher, students will choose

projects to work on in class. These projects can be an expansion of what is learned in Advanced Technology I or from another field of interest.

Schools: IH

Artificial Intelligence- Semester

Grades: 7-8

Can a machine behave like a human? Explore and interact with exciting artificial intelligence to solve real-world problems. Students will explore different types of AI and learn to build AI applications in this hands-on class. Students will learn about the human brain and human behavior, natural language processing and analytics to create thinking machine applications.

School: LC

Computer Applications - Semester

Grades: 7-8

Students who enroll in this class may explore in-depth digital drawing, databases, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, word processing, and multimedia software. In the year-long course students may be exposed to web design, animation, sound, and music.

Schools: CW, LC, PV(Semester); DV (year-long)

Computer Projects/Multimedia Development and Design - Semester

Grades: 7-8

Students will explore design thinking in this hands-on digital making class. Using an interactive approach to solving problems and testing ideas, students may learn program design, control structures and game development. Additionally, students may build a micro controlled or computer controlled device (robot). Students will learn to use computer technology for creativity as well as for solving problems in a fun, project-based environment.

Schools: IH, LC, PV(semester); DV, WR (year-long)

Computer Science

Grades: 7-8

Students will explore algorithmic thinking in this hands-on coding course. Using an iterative approach to solving problems and testing ideas, students will learn program design, control

structures, functions, loops, data structures and algorithms. Students will learn to use computer programming for creativity as well as for solving problems in a fun, project based environment.

Schools: DV, GR, IH, LC, PV (Semester); WR(year-long);

Media and Graphic Design

Grades: 7-8

The class is a hands-on introduction to the principles and techniques of graphic design for print and digital media. (At Stone Valley, this class covers the production of the school's yearbook. Charlotte Wood will offer a quarter of digital photography within the year.)

Schools: CW, GR, IH, LC, PV, SV(semester); WR(year-long)

Robotics

Grades: 7-8

This class will explore the exciting field of robotics. This program focuses on applied inquiry, motivated design, communications, technology, scanning, mapping, and more. Students will be able to experience the hands-on program while progressing through activities designed to teach programming, behaviors, systems, control sensors, and feedback. They will also address key technology and science standards.

Schools: DV, GR, LC

OTHER ELECTIVES

AVID

AVID - Advancement via Individual Determination

Grades: 7-8

Prerequisite: Counselor/Teacher recommendation, application and interview

AVID is a year-long program that helps prepare students "in the middle" with potential for success in a rigorous secondary curriculum for four-year college eligibility. It is an academic elective program based on writing as a tool of learning, inquiry method, and collaborative grouping. The three main components of the program are academic instruction, tutorial support, and motivational activities.

Schools: CW, IH, WR

CULINARY

Foods 1

Grades: 7-8

This is an introductory course to food preparation and nutrition. Students will study the basic food groups, terminology, cooking & baking methods and techniques, nutritional choices, sanitation, kitchen safety, etiquette, budgeting, care and use of kitchen equipment, and laundry. This program encourages team work and self-evaluation as kitchen teams are involved in practical cooking lab experiences.

Schools: CW, DV, GR, PV, SV (Semester); WR (Year-long)

Foods 2 - Semester

Grades: 7-8

This is a hands-on food preparation course that builds on skills learned in Foods 1. Students will study nutrition, meal planning, etiquette, consumer economics, and advanced cooking techniques. Students will also have the opportunity to plan and prepare individual courses as well as meals.

Schools: DV, GR, PV, SV

Foods B: Baking

Grades: 7-8

Designed for all beginning bakers, students will learn all aspects of bakery from sweet desserts to yeast bread dough. They will practice cake decorating skills and dessert presentation and get to eat what they bake!

Schools: CW, DV, IH (semester); WR(year-long)

Foods C: Meals

Grades: 7-8

Students of any cooking experience level will learn and practice cooking dishes that are typically served throughout the day. We will explore recipes and menus from around the world.

School: IH (semester); DV

EXPLORATORY WHEEL

Exploratory Wheel - Year-long

Grade: 6

Sixth grade Exploratory Wheel is a year-long course made up of introductions to different elective options open to students when they become 7th and 8th graders. The wheel spokes are designed to expose students to a wide-range of learning opportunities, to develop their practical, hands-on skills, and to teach them to work cooperatively with others. Each Exploratory Wheel rotates in a pre-set schedule, with the number and type of wheel spokes varying at each site. Wheel spokes may include, but are not limited to: Living Skills, Computers, Music, Art, Drama, Speech, World Languages, Technology, Basic Technology Skills and Video Production. The curriculum is based on California standards wherever applicable.

Schools: ALL; IH, LC, SV, WR (Pass/Fail)

LEADERSHIP

Leadership

Grades: 7-8 (Application required)

Leadership engages in specific school and community activities related to spirit and service. These activities offer opportunities for the student to display and exercise skills of leadership, teamwork, networking, self-evaluation, responsibility and accountability. In addition, leadership students learn the basic concepts of accounting and presentation skills. Emphasis is placed on fostering ethics and self esteem within the class, as well as the school and community.

Leadership is responsible for student body funds, dances, spirit days, and community public relations activities. Leadership representatives sit on various groups and councils.

Schools: SV (Semester); CW, DV, GR, IH, LC, PV, WR (Year-Long)

Medical Technology

Grades: 7-8

Students learn about technical practices and advances in medicine. Students are provided with an overview of the medical profession. Students will be exposed to various careers in the field of medicine. Career opportunities and pathways will be highlighted through field trips and guest speakers. Students begin to learn how to assess and manage patients. In this course, students will be receiving training in CPR and basic first aid. Students will be empowered through the learning of these potentially life saving skills.

Schools: PV

PUBLICATIONS

Publications/Yearbook - Year-long (By application only)

Grades: 7-8

The focus of this year-long elective course is the production of the school yearbook. The class is open to students who complete an application process. The student staff is responsible for all aspects of the yearbook, including writing, photography, layouts, production, and distribution. Producing the yearbook involves careful planning, teamwork, writing, digital photography, and use of advanced technology. When the yearbook is completed, spring publications projects may include school calendar, photography techniques, movies, and various projects extending publication expertise. Homework is not regularly assigned, although students work under pressure of deadlines and must be able to work independently and as a team.

Schools: LC (Semester); CW, DV, GR, IH, PV, SV, WR

21st Century Design

Grades: 7-8

This course offers students the opportunity to use their creativity to design solutions to some of our global problems. Students will design suitable landscapes in response to an ever-changing climate as global warming has become a reality. Students will decide how kids in even the poorest countries will have access to plenty of food, clean water and medical care. Students will create space modules for human occupation as competition for space and resources on Earth intensifies. They will create energy efficient cities, buildings and/or vehicles. Students will use everyday tools and equipment to engineer models of some of their designs. This course also gives students the opportunity to hone their business skills. By collaborating with other students and using their public speaking skills to “pitch” their ideas, students will try to persuade their classmates that their particular design should be selected for implementation.

Schools: LC (Semester); WR (Year-long)

Environmental/Marine Studies – Semester

Grades: 7-8

This course offers students an opportunity to go deeper into science topics related to the environment. Ecology, resource conservation, interdependence of organisms, recycling, alternative energy, and the importance of biodiversity are emphasized with hands on activities. Global challenges like population growth, climate change, and extinction are among the timely topics discussed. Students will look for solutions to problems as they find out that “I can make a difference!” The study of marine habitats, conservation and adaptations is a favorite in the class. Students also enjoy planting, maintaining and experimenting in our “outdoor classroom” which includes a greenhouse, composting and hydroponics. Digital labs, speakers, games, and field trips add to the variety of learning experiences offered in this class.

Schools: IH, SV (Semester); WR (Year-long)

Forensic Science

Grades: 7-8

In this class, emphasis is on understanding the underlying scientific theories of forensic science, with special emphasis on investigating skills such as hair analysis, DNA fingerprinting, and the casting of bite, tire, and shoe prints. The course will also feature guest speakers and the use of biotechnology equipment such as electrophoresis chambers.

Schools: DV, GR, LC (Semester); WR (year-long);

SPEECH AND DEBATE

Speech and Debate

Grades: 7-8

Public speaking is used as a tool to help students better understand effective communication. Critical thinking, thesis development and dynamic delivery skills are the foundation of all public communication. Students will learn audience analysis, and become equipped with the tools necessary to speak effectively in a number of formats. In Debate, students will gain confidence through learning the art of argument. Students will set aside biases and emotionalism that undermine effective arguments, examine issues systematically, and identify the merits of respective positions.

Schools: DV, GR, PV, SV (semester); WR (year-long)

STUDY SKILLS

Study Skills - Semester (Administrative placement only)

Grades: 7-8

This intervention class is designed to support academically at-risk students. Students cannot self-select this course. Curriculum for this course may include suggestions for organizational skills, goal setting, note taking, listening strategies, and independent study strategies for short and long-term assignments. This class will also support students in completion of assignments during the school day. Students may be required to be prepared with reading material in class each day.

Schools: CW, DV, GR, IH, LC, PV (Semester), WR (Year Long)

TEACHER/OFFICE AIDE

Teacher/Office/Media/Peer Support Aide

Grades: 8

Students work in the classroom or office to assist teachers or office staff in various duties. See each school site for specific descriptions and requirements.

Schools: ALL

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The middle school physical education program is a comprehensive, inclusive, and sequential physical education system that will prepare every student for a lifelong commitment to physical

activity, health, and well-being. It will promote an active lifestyle, improved motor skills development and better cognitive performance. Physical education is an integral part of the overall education program for every student and provides one of the few opportunities for every student to develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to lead a physically active lifestyle.

PE Grade 6

The emphasis at grade 6 is on the application of movement and motor skills in lead-up or modified games along with folk and line dancing, stunts and tumbling, and fitness. The critical elements for each motor skill as well as concepts and principles related to biomechanics, motor development, motor learning, and game tactics are taught. Cognitive knowledge that supports each area will also be taught.

Schools: ALL

PE Grade 7

The emphasis at grade 7 is on multicultural dancing, individual and dual physical activities, track and field, combatives, and adventure/outdoor activities, and fitness. The critical elements for each motor skill as well as concepts and principles related to biomechanics, motor development, motor learning, and game tactics are taught. Cognitive knowledge that supports each area will also be taught.

Schools: ALL

PE Grade 8

The emphasis at grade 8 is on team activities, square dancing, and gymnastics/tumbling, and fitness. The critical elements for each motor skill as well as concepts and principles related to biomechanics, motor development, motor learning, and game tactics are taught. Cognitive knowledge that supports each area will also be taught.

Schools: ALL

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Resource Programs

Grades: 6-8

Resource Classes are offered to students identified as needing special education services through push-in (also referred to as co-support taught classes, when a resource specialist attends general education classes as support to resource students) or pull-out (a separate class used as a tutorial period) support. A student's special education IEP (Individual Education Plan) team determines placement in either or both resource models for each student's program.

Schools: ALL

Special Day Class

Grades: 6-8

Special Day Classes offer small group instruction of course content in the four basic academic areas (English, social studies, math, and science) and incorporate study and basic skills using general education curriculum standards, as well as objectives and goals outlined in a student's

IEP. The IEP team will recommend the number of academic content courses for each individual student. Special Day Class placement in either a non-severely handicapped or a severely handicapped setting is determined by assessed need and driven by goals developed through the IEP process.

Schools: ALL