



Palmdale Junior High School



Course Description Book 2020-2021

Academies of the Antelope Valley schools will not discriminate against students on the basis of disability in any of its programs, services, and activities, including admission.

AAV Schools offer the full range of special education and related aids and services based on the individual needs of an enrolled student with a disability, and will inquire about a student's disability, if any, and related documentation only after the student has been accepted for enrollment and for the purpose of providing the student a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) and an equal opportunity to participate in AAV Schools services, programs, and activities.

For information regarding the District's efforts to comply with Section 504 and Title II, including responding to complaints of disability discrimination, please contact the office of Ms. Shandelyn Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services at 661-729-2321.

Antelope Valley Union High School District

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Antelope Valley Union High School District

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Palmdale Junior High Administration

Matthew Berryman, Principal

Teresa Howard, Vice Principal

About Antelope Valley Union High School District

The Antelope Valley Union High School District covers a geographic area from the Angeles Forest in the south, to the Kern county line in the north, and from the Ventura/Kern county lines in the west, to the San Bernardino county line in the east.

Approximately 23,000 students are educated in our eight traditional and three continuation high schools, with additional educational opportunities offered by our Career and Technical Education programs, Regional Occupation Program (ROP) and Adult Education campuses. We also offer options for 7th and 8th grade students via our Academies of the Antelope Valley - SOAR Junior High, Knight Junior High, Palmdale Junior High and AV Virtual Academy (7th-12th grades).



Palmdale Junior High School



Mission Statement

The mission of the Academies of the Antelope Valley (AAV) is to prepare every student for 21st century college and career expectations by providing a rigorous curriculum relevant to local and global workforce and economic demands through blended virtual and community-based learning opportunities.

Vision Statement

Palmdale Junior High Pacesetters will always challenge the status quo, and be the best at getting students ready for their future.

Introduction

Palmdale Junior High provides a supportive academically enriched environment with an emphasis in health careers, mathematics, science, and engineering.

- Free Public Charter School (AVUHSD) Serving Grades 7 and 8
- Prepares students for Palmdale High School and all AVUHSD Academy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs
- Graduates may be granted priority admission to AVUHSD CTE Academies, such as Palmdale High School's Health Careers Academy.
- Project-Based Instruction for Career and College Preparation
- Prepares Students to become Self-Directed Learners
- Academically Rigorous Environment
- Encourages Students to Pursue a College Education
- Engages Students in Stretching Themselves Intellectually

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where is the Palmdale Junior High campus located?

A: 2270 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, CA 93550

Q: How will Palmdale Junior High prepare the students for the rigor of high school coursework?

A: Students will be taught by highly qualified teachers using AVID strategies that support the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills. In addition, they will have the opportunity to participate in Health Careers related courses. These are junior high level classes that are exploratory in nature and focused on careers in Health Care as well as in the fields of science, technology, and mathematics.

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Q: Why is the curriculum focused on S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering & math) subject areas?

A: An emphasis in S.T.E.M subjects prepares students for more advanced high school and college courses and ultimately a successful future in today's high tech industries as the labor demand continues to grow in these career areas.

Q: Can you apply to Palmdale High School Health careers Academy even if you don't attend Palmdale Junior High?

A: Yes, applications are accepted from all students who apply, but admission is not guaranteed.

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Q: What can parents use in order to stay informed about their students grades?

A: Utilize PowerSchool to check academic progress in classes. PowerSchool is a web base tool intended to provide an additional way to communicate between student, parents, and teachers. PowerSchool can be accessed any place the parent/guardian or student can access the Internet. User name and initial password will be provided.

Information found on PowerSchool is the following:

- Attendance
- Assignments/Homework
- Grades
- Report Cards
- Schedule

Q: What can parents do to prepare students for junior high?

A: All of the following:

- Ask to see assignments, homework, and grades
- Help develop a routine for homework
- Utilize PowerSchool
- Communicate with the teachers and staff
- Encourage student to utilize their school planner
- Encourage your student to read and write

Q: How can parents get involved?

A: Any of the following:

- Serve on School Site Council
- Attending School Events
- Parent University
- Monthly Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Be a Parent Volunteer - **All volunteers for AVUHSD require approval by the Board of Trustees and successfully passing a background check.**

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Academies of the Antelope Valley – Palmdale Junior High
Promotion Requirements

7th Grade Curriculum	8th Grade Curriculum
English 7	English 8
Pre-Algebra, Algebra 7-8	Pre-Algebra, Algebra 7-8
World History and Geography 7	U.S. History and Geography 8
Life Science 7	Physical Science 8
Physical Education 7	Physical Education 8
AVID 7	AVID 8
Gateway to Technology	Gateway to Technology: Human Bio & Health 8

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COUNSELING

Palmdale Junior High School counseling is available to serve students in a variety of ways. Students may meet with the counselor individually, in groups, or through classroom presentations. The counselor also communicates with parents through in-person meetings, email, and phone conferences. Other areas covered are:

- Supporting academic achievement
- Conflict Resolution
- Crisis Intervention and referrals
- For help dealing with personal/social / emotional issues
- Goal Setting
- Monthly Parent /Teacher Conferences

PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS

Reports to students and parents are issued four times each semester as follows:

- 5th week (September and February) - Mid-Quarter **Progress Report**.
- 10th week (October and March) - Quarter **Report Cards** are issued halfway through the semester. These grades are NOT permanently recorded.
- 15th week (November and April) - Mid-Quarter **Progress Report**.
- 20th week (December and June) – Semester grades. These grades are permanently recorded on transcripts

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

Parents may log in to PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.avhsd.org> to access their child's grade and attendance information.

In order to create an account, you must have the parent Access ID and Password.

Please contact the office for your access code.

Palmdale Junior High Course Descriptions For Grades 7th and 8th

AVID

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. The purpose of this program is to provide support so all of our students have access to rigorous classes that challenge them and prepare them for higher education. The AVID elective is a class that supports this mission by providing specialized tutorials and helping students to develop organizational skills.

AVID curriculum is based on WICOR—writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. Students will participate in lessons designed to teach these learning strategies. They learn how to apply these strategies in their other classes. Here are some of the activities they will participate in:

- Writing: Cornell focused note taking, learning logs, quick writes, reflections, process writing, peer evaluation
- Inquiry: skilled questioning techniques, Costa’s Levels of Thinking, Socratic Seminars, Tutorials (see below), questions that guide research
- Collaboration: Socratic Seminars, Tutorials, Philosophical Chairs, group activities and projects, peer editing groups
- Organization: Binders and organizational tools, planners, graphic organizers, Tutorials, project planning, SMART Goals
- Reading: Deep reading strategies, note-taking, graphic organizers, vocabulary building, summarizing, and reciprocal teaching.

English 7

This course will utilize grade 7 Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. The course will include writing, vocabulary, and literature. It will also incorporate listening and speaking skills. The goal of this course is to prepare students for high school, college, and careers.

The Common Core State Standards can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finaelacssstandards.pdf>

English 8

English 8 aligns with the common core standards and 21st century skills. The course focuses on interaction with fictional & nonfictional texts, writing skills, speaking skills, and listening skills while utilizing creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking. Citing sources, the 5 paragraph essay, descriptive writing, argumentative writing and technology skills are some of the many skills that will be emphasized.

The Common Core State Standards can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finaelacssstandards.pdf>

Gateway to Technology

Gateway to Technology (GTT) is a Project Lead the Way program (PLTW) designed as a preengineering course which addresses the interest and energy of middle school students while incorporating national standards in mathematics, science, and technology (visit www.pltw.org). It is an activity-oriented program shows students how technology is used

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in engineering to solve everyday problems. During the GTT experience, students will gain the skills they need to develop, produce, and use products and services.

The GTT curriculum provides activities-based, project-based, and problem-based learning, a hands-on approach that is exciting and challenging for the student. The curriculum relates technology to students' daily lives. It promotes communication and collaboration by emphasizing a teamwork approach in the instructional units. This approach utilizes the strengths of each team member to accomplish the goals of the project while offering students learning challenges at all ability levels.

Students acquire knowledge and skills in engineering problem solving and explore requirements for careers in engineering.

GTT: Human Bio and Health 8

Introductory course intended to give the student a chance to explore the health care industry and the possible career paths within the industry. Students obtain skills required to succeed in a technologically advanced and changing society. Each student applies their knowledge by using several different types of advanced medical devices found in a clinical setting. Students explore the major career fields and are able to distinguish between technical, professional, and entry level positions within each area. Research pertaining to diseases and health careers is taught throughout the course. Students also build their medical vocabulary and learn about the anatomy and physiology of the major systems of the body. Introduction to Life Science: Human Bio and Health 7-8 is intended as a preparatory course for the Health Careers Academy at Palmdale High School.

Mathematics 7

This course follows the Common Core State Standards adopted by California for 7th grade math. It is designed to develop students computational, problem solving and analytical skills. Areas covered will be ratios proportional relationships, the number system, expression and equations, geometry, statistic and probability. The California Content Standards can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/ccsmathstandardaug2013.pdf>

Pre-Algebra 7-8

Open to grades 7th and 8th

This course is designed to prepare students with basic math and algebra skills for high school Algebra 1 and Geometry. It covers the California Common Core standards for 8th grade.

Instruction will include the following: the number system, expression and equations, functions geometry, statistic and probability. The California Content Standards can be viewed at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/ccssmathstandardaug2013.pdf>

Algebra 7-8

Open to grades 7th and 8th

Prerequisite: Placement based on a combination of teacher recommendation, prior grades, and Algebra Placement Test.

Algebra is a full year course devoted to building algebra fundamentals. Emphasis is on building a foundation of proper solving of equations, systems, quadratics, graphing functions, and data analysis and probability. Intertwined in the curriculum is problem solving strategies and logical thinking. Ipad technology will be used to assist with instruction through the Internet, graphing, calculators, and assistance in day to day organization of content. The California Content Standards can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/mathstandards.pdf>

Physical Education 7 and 8

Physical education goals for both seventh and eighth grade students are to improve strength, flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, coordination and balance. Students will experience team play by encouraging teamwork, cooperation, and fair play. Through physical education students will develop and encourage good sportsmanship. Skills taught through physical education can be used as foundations for lifetime sports and activities. They will also encourage good health, nutrition, and fitness habits.

7th Grade Focus- Demonstrate mature techniques, in the performance of all skills, demonstrate basic offensive and defensive strategies.

8th Grade focus- Demonstrate basic offensive and defensive skills and strategies in team physical activities.

The California State Standards for junior high Physical Education can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/pestandards.pdf>

Life Science

This course is intended as an introduction to Biology (the study of life and living things). We will use demonstrations, labs and projects as much as feasible to promote learning. Since this course is designed using projects and to prepare them for college in only 2 years, students will be expected to read and study textbook on their own time. Prerequisite for doing the labs/activities is that they have completed their note taking responsibilities. Textbook and 5th/6th grade science knowledge will be necessary for tests in addition to processing the material from class.

The California State Standards for junior high Physical Science can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/sciencetnd.pdf>

Physical Science 8

This course is intended as an introduction to chemistry (study of matter and energy) and physics (study of motion, energy and forces). We will use demonstrations, labs and projects as much as feasible to promote learning. Since this course is designed using projects and to prepare them for college NEXT year, students will be expected to read and study textbook on their own time. Prerequisite for doing the labs/activities is that they have completed their note taking responsibilities. Textbook and 6th/7th grade science knowledge will be necessary for tests in addition to processing the material from class.

The California State Standards for junior high Physical Science can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/sciencetnd.pdf>

World History and Geography 7

Students in grade seven study the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia in the years AD 500 to 1789. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which archaeologists and historians uncover

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the past, students study the history and geography of great civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout the world during medieval and early modern times. They examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. They learn about the resulting growth of Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings and the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science, and the dogma of belief. Finally, students assess the political forces let loose by the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and they learn about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today.

This course will utilize grade 7 Common Core State Standards for World History.

The Common Core State Standards can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finalelaccsstandards.pdf>

U.S. History and Geography 8

Students in this course study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I, with an emphasis on America's role in the war. After reviewing the Development of America's democratic institutions founded on the Judeo-Christian heritage and English parliamentary traditions, particularly the shaping of the Constitution, students trace the Development of American politics, society, culture, and economy and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences. They learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. They make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions. The California Content Standards can be viewed at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/histsocscistnd.pdf>