

# **VANDENBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **Elective Course Descriptions**

All courses are yearlong

### **AEROSPACE MODELING:**

Aerospace Modeling is an introduction to technology, engineering and mechanical systems using a variety of modeling and design activities. This includes an introduction to the various engineering fields and basic concepts, which comprise each field. Fields include aerospace and aeronautics. Basic concepts include math, reasoning, design, construction and testing. Each unit will culminate with hands-on projects such as student built rockets and planes.

### **ART:**

Join us as we explore the world of visual art through it's' history, representation in culture, and conceptual ideas. Students will begin to learn how to communicate through art's visual elements as we create projects using different styles of drawing, painting, ink, and building with clay, carving, woodworking, sculpture, and new technologies. Projects are different from year to year.

### **AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination):**

AVID is a college readiness program designed to prepare students for the rigors of higher education through reading, inquiry, writing, and collaboration. Students learn ways to approach challenging material, discuss and problem solve with peers, enjoy fun group activities designed to encourage collaboration and ways to serve the community. In addition, they explore career and college options. Interested students must apply and meet acceptance criteria.

### **BAND - BEGINNING:**

Students in Beginning Band will learn how to read music and play either a woodwind, brass-wind, or a percussion instrument. They will learn the fundamentals of parade marching and participate in two community parades in and around Lompoc along with performances at our school. No experience is required, just a desire to learn and play music in a friendly and supportive environment. School instruments are available to borrow for the duration of the class.

### **CONCERT BAND:**

This is an advanced class for students who have had at least one year of playing a band instrument. Concert Band students will learn about the many facets of music that go into creating a quality performance including how to create good tone, improve intonation, play with excellent technique, rhythm, and expression. Students will play and perform a variety of repertoire while exploring the many styles of music including classical, popular, and jazz. Students will represent their school at Music Festivals and in local community parades. School instruments are available for this class if needed.

### **CHOIR:**

Students will learn how to vocalize in a group setting. They will learn how to read and sing music using standard notation and solfege syllables. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of music including popular and classical and may sing in a language other than English. Students will learn about the many facets of music that make up a quality performance including rhythm, intonation, tone quality, blend and balance, and expression. Students will represent their school in local performances in and away from school.

### **COMPUTER APPLICATIONS:**

Students learn basic hardware and software of computers, including computer coding for students of all levels. Emphasis will be on introducing students to real world technology applications that include use of technology tools to achieve specific goals. Students will collaboratively work on projects face to face and online. Projects may include coding, 3-D printing, robotics, lazer cutting, video, music and picture editing.

**DRAMA:**

Drama students learn how to become effective storytellers. Sample class activities include script writing, performing, and playing improvisation games.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE (HOME ECONOMICS):**

Home Economics is a hands-on, activity based life skills class. Content areas include Foods and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles, Interior Design, Child Development, Personal and Family Relationships, Consumer Education and Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation. There are 16 different computer modules throughout the room. You and one other student will complete the activities that are included in the module you choose. When that content is completed, you will rotate to another topic. Food labs are included.

**GUITAR – BEGINNING:**

Students will learn how to play an acoustic six-string guitar. They will learn how to read music while learning the notes in first position on the fret board. They will learn how to strum and play easy chords as well as play simple pick patterns while playing songs. Singing is encouraged but not required. School instruments are provided for this class but students are encouraged to have their own for home practice.

**LEADERSHIP/ASB:**

Leadership students develop leadership abilities through collaborating, planning, organizing, and hosting activities. Student leaders have the opportunity to run for leadership positions and to learn the responsibilities of their positions while representing the interests of their class, grade, and school.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Publications students learn the fundamentals of journalism. Sample class activities include conducting interviews, writing entertainment reviews, and participating in the VMS Student News. Students also learn the principles of photography and design while creating the VMS yearbook.

**SPANISH A:**

Students develop basic skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. They do this by exploring the various cultures of Hispanic people around the world. Daily activities include; listening to native speakers on audio and video; singing songs, playing games, practicing vocabulary through partner and group activities, and studying different cultures. Students who enroll in Spanish as a seventh grader and continue in the same Foreign Language Program as an eighth grader may enter the high school at a higher level in that language.

**STRINGS – Orchestra (Beginning and Advanced):**

Student will learn how to play either a Violin, Viola, Cello, or String Bass. They will learn how to read music while learning the mechanics that go into playing a string instrument with a bow. Students in this class will learn about the many facets that go into creating a quality musical performance including, creating good tone, using advanced bow techniques, improving intonation, rhythm, and expression. Students will play from a variety of repertoire including classical and popular music. Students will represent their school at music festivals as well as participate in concerts at our school. School instruments are available to borrow for the duration of the class.

**The following are only available to 8<sup>th</sup> graders**

**LIBRARY AIDE:**

This elective is open to eighth grade students who would like to work in the Library. Duties include checking books in/out to students and faculty, accurately shelving books, learning how to create new book records and Accelerated Reader labels in the computer and perform simple repairs on books. Every library aide has their own section of the library for shelving and will learn how to keep their shelves in order. They will help students and teachers find books they need. Being able to suggest titles would be an added bonus in a library aide! Ideal candidates should have good attendance, English skills, and a love of books and reading.

**OFFICE AIDE:**

Students who serve as our office aides are the first point of contact for the public. As such, they are required to be professional, responsible, self-directed, and positive role models not only in the office, but campus wide. They must maintain adequate grades and behavior along with demonstrating an ability to follow direction; file, deliver call slips, and follow office protocols. Prerequisites: GPA of 3.0 or higher and clean behavior record.

**SPANISH B:**

This course is a continuation of Spanish A that further develops the student's conversational skills in Spanish. Students are expected to actively participate in all activities. Spanish A & B prepares students for Spanish Level 2 at the high school. (A grade of C or better in both courses is required in order to advance to Spanish Level 2 at the high school).

**TEACHER'S AIDE:**

Students assist teachers with classroom duties. Teachers will select their teacher's aide from the list of students' requests.