

# VANDENBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Elective Course Descriptions

All courses are yearlong

### **ART:**

Join us on a journey around the world and through time as we explore the power of the visual arts. Blending hands-on experiences with new technologies, students will create exciting and innovative projects. From character design to video games, fashion to 3D printing, clay to woodworking, students will learn the importance of good design and the impact the arts have on our lives. Sign up to become part of this fun and educational experience.

### **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. *Prerequisite: Passing grades in all classes*

### **Band Beginning Band:**

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:**

Learn how to vocalize in a group setting. They will learn how to read and sing music using standard notation and solfège 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.

### **Drama:**

Learn how to become effective storytellers. Students will learn about the different aspects of drama and professional performance. Sample class activities include script writing, read-throughs, performing, projects and playing improvisation games. There is the possibility of performing in a spring play, in which students can choose whether to act, direct, work on props, costumes, etc.

### **Exploratory Family and Consumer Science (Home Ec):**

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.

### Folklorico Dance:

Explore the large variety of dance styles of Mexico and their historical and geographical roots. Through active participation students will get to experience the culture of baile folklorico and learn the significance of the music and costumes of each region. This course is designed to develop beginning dance skills for regional dance styles in Mexico and basic performing skills. Throughout the course students participate in individual, pair, and group dance performances.

### 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 fretboard. 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:

Develop leadership abilities through collaborating, planning, organizing, and hosting activities such as spirit weeks and fundraisers. Student leaders have the opportunity to run for leadership positions and to carry out the responsibilities of their positions while representing the interests of their class, grade, and school. During the year, student leaders will learn about and research inspiring community, national, and global leaders. Most importantly, as a student leader, you will be directly involved in fostering and maintaining VMS' positive school spirit. *Prerequisite: student must demonstrate positive behavior.*

### Publications:

Learn fundamentals of journalism while producing the VMS yearbook and VMS Student Newspaper. Class activities include conducting interviews, taking photos of school activities, and promoting yearbook sales. Theme Development, Coverage Planning, Design and Layout, Photo Management, and Camera use and care are areas of focus.

### Spanish A&B Welcome:

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. *Prerequisite: must meet English grade level standards.*

### STEM: (Stem is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

Get involved making some really cool projects including models that fly and shoot over buildings, and rockets that fly so high you can barely see them. You will learn the steps used by engineers and scientists to design, test and improve the performance of your creation. This will involve learning how to use some great tools to make your projects including wood working tools in our fully equipped workshop. You will make 3D models on your device and make them come alive with our five 3D printers. We will have exercises that teach you how to write programming code, including blockly and text based, to enable you to make webpages and write code to guide the flight path of drones, and movement of robots. You won't want to miss this opportunity which will leave lasting memories.

### STRINGS – Orchestra (Beginning Strings and Advanced Strings):

Students 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/organizing/displaying books, and learning how to perform simple repairs on books. Every library aide will help students and teachers find books they need, and will be taught about VMS Library's shelving system and the Dewey Decimal System to do so efficiently. A library aide will make recommendations based on favorites, but also based on specific genres and tropes. Library aides will help organize, set up, run, and take down book fairs and other events. They will also decorate both according to seasonal holidays and awareness events. They may also assist in the textbook room, help process new books, and perform a variety of other tasks. Ideal candidates should have good attendance, English skills, creativity, and a love of books and reading. Being bilingual would be a big plus!

**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: [Spanish A&B Welcome](#)**

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). *Prerequisite: Spanish A.*