

# 7th and 8th Grade Elective Descriptions 2025-2026

## *Vista View Middle School Course Descriptions 2025-2026 School Year*

Vista View Middle School's elective program consists of semester-long and year-long classes. Every effort is made to honor individual students' requests for elective classes; however, scheduling conflicts, staffing, and limited enrollment may make it necessary to modify requests.

### **Fine Arts/Best Buddies**

A Fine Arts/Best Buddies elective course is an elective class designed around fostering friendships between middle school students and their peers with special needs. Students will engage in art projects where shared interests, experiences, and activities are promoted while learning about the basic principles and techniques of art (i.e. drawing, painting, and design).

### **Culinary Arts**

Culinary arts is a course designed to introduce students to nutrition, ingredient selection and preparation, and meal planning. Knowledge of safety and sanitation, cooking terminology and techniques, use and care of equipment, measuring methods, and acceptable social practices related to food serving are developed. Students will practice 21st-century skills including reading and understanding food labels, decision making and time management skills, collaboration and teamwork, as well as how to apply this knowledge through hands-on cooking experiences.

### **Media Technology/Yearbook (7th & 8th Grade)**

Media Technology is designed to provide students the experience in design and layout of the school yearbook, promotion program pamphlet, student binder reminder cover, and school flyers. This course requires students to engage in photography, use design programs such as eDesign from Herff Jones.

*Selection Criteria: Application and selection process required (students must have good citizenship (all S's and O's) and maintain a 3.0 grade point average). See front office for application or click on link.*

[Required Application](#) Media Tech/Yearbook Application

### **ASB/Leadership (7th & 8th Grades)**

Students organize events for the PRIDE Program and create posters for school spirit days and other school events. Students in the leadership class will make decisions that affect all students at Vista View. Students will also be required to attend after school and weekend functions (up to 40 hours a semester) as part of our commitment to various community service projects. Interested students must have a 3.0 grade point average and good citizenship.

*Selection Criteria: Open to all students; Application and selection process required. See front office for application or click on link.*

[Required Application](#)

### **Beginning Band**

Want to learn how to play a band instrument? Beginning Band gives students the opportunity to learn or continue their skills on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments! In this class, beginning band students will learn the basics of reading music, practice the fundamentals of playing a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument, and make tons of new friends. Beginning Band will perform in at least 3 concerts a year, and is open to students of all playing levels - no experience is required! All 6th grade students signed up for band will go to Beginning Band regardless of experience (Westmont students included).

*Selection Criteria: Open to all students*

### **Advanced Band (7th & 8th Grade)**

In this class, students will continue to improve the skills they learned in Beginning Band. Students will perform more advanced music and perform in at least 4 concerts a year including the OVSD District Music Festival, and have the opportunity to participate in the OVSD Honor Band. The instruments available include a variety of brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments in this ensemble, and previous experience and/or an audition will be required to join Advanced Band if necessary and/or appropriate.

*Selection Criteria: Open to all 7th & 8th grade students; Application and selection process required.*

### **Beginning Strings (6th-8th Grade)**

Want to learn how to play a string instrument? String Orchestra gives students the opportunity to learn or continue their skills on violin, viola, cello, bass, and piano! In this class, string orchestra students will learn the basics of reading music, practice the fundamentals of playing a string instrument, and make tons of new friends. String orchestra will perform in at least 3 concerts a year, and is open to students of all playing levels - no experience is required! All 6th grade students signed up for strings will go to Beginning Strings regardless of experience.

*Selection Criteria: Open to all students*

### **Advanced Orchestra (7th-8th Grade)**

In this class, students will continue to improve the skills they learned in Beginning Strings. Students will perform more advanced music and perform in at least 4 concerts a year including the OVSD District Music Festival, and have the opportunity to participate in the OVSD Honor Band. The instruments available include violin, viola, cello, bass and piano. Previous experience and/or an audition will be required to join Advanced Orchestra if necessary and/or appropriate.

*Selection Criteria: Open to all 7th & 8th grade students; Application and selection process required. Piano by audition in June 2024.*

## **e-Sports**

This class will expose students to a wide variety of skills including mindfulness, team work, and critical thinking through competitive video gaming. Using the Esports Performance Academy (EPA) curriculums with holistic coaching, students will explore their passion for gaming while integrating SEL, ELA, NGSS, and Computer Science concepts. Students will gain experience of this fast growing industry and will have real knowledge of the future careers in eSports. There is a place for everyone in this elective regardless of their gaming skill levels as long as they are willing to work together and respect each other in a competitive setting. Commitment to participation and attendance is important as we have matches scheduled with other schools. You might be asked to come play outside of class time during the day depending on the schedule with other schools. You must also keep up with your other academic classes in order to fully participate in the practice sessions. Titles played in 7th/8th grade team: Chess, Rocket League, SuperSmash

*Selection Criteria: Open to all students with good attendance and citizenship grades.*

## **Robotics**

In Robotics Class, students engage with a wide range of robotic equipment and technologies, including Lego Spike Prime and Lego Mindstorms EV3. They build and code over ten different projects, bringing their creative ideas to life. With Hummingbird Robotics, students work with computer chips and electrical components to enhance their programming skills. They also explore CoDrone, where they learn to code and fly drones safely. Discussions on air movement and direction cover key concepts like throttle, pitch, yaw, and roll.

Additionally, students dive into programming with Word Blocks, Python coding, and Raspberry Pi, offering a comprehensive adventure in robotics. What will you build next? *Selection Criteria: Open to all 7/8 students. No returning students allowed*

## **Dance**

In the Dance elective class, students will improve their dance skills in styles like jazz, modern, contemporary, tap, and hip-hop. Students will focus on body awareness, coordination, and rhythm, and will get to perform in original dance pieces. Students will also learn basic improvisation and stage presence, working together on scenes and group projects that mix dance and theater. Plus, students will watch professional performances to inspire creativity and appreciation for the performing arts.