



Middle School Course Catalog

2025-2026



The Mission of the Vacaville Unified School District is to graduate all students with the knowledge and ability to act responsibly, earn a living, and continue learning by providing a rigorous standards-based educational program through a collaborative partnership of families, community, and staff.

Board of Education

Nancy Dunn, President
Santiago Serrato, Vice President
Amy Tran Russell, Clerk
Daniel Garcia
Michele Guerra
John Jansen
Audra Orr

Superintendent

Ed Santopadre



Sierra Vista

301 Bel Air Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687
(707) 453-6260
(707) 449-1810 (fax)

Kara Dinwiddle, Principal
Diana Moore, Assistant Principal



Vaca Peña Middle School

200 Keith Way
Vacaville, CA 95687
(707) 453-6270
(707) 451-9501 (fax)
(707) 453-7156 (counseling)

Jennifer Purdy, Principal
Mark France, Assistant Principal
Leslie Fitz, Dean
Leonie Wellman, Counselor



Willis Jepson Middle School

580 Elder Street
Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 453-6280
(707) 447-7128 (fax)
(707) 453-6282 (counseling)

Melissa Mainini, Principal
Joe Cooney, Assistant Principal
Jackie Carmona, Dean
Anita Kelly, Counselor

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Sierra Vista

Mission Statement

At Sierra Vista K-8, we are a safe, brave and rigorous learning space for all.

Objectives

- Every student will be actively involved in creating and promoting a safe, orderly environment that enhances learning.
- Every student will demonstrate the social skills necessary to act responsibly in the school and community at large.
- Every student will meet or exceed the promotion criteria necessary to transition successfully into high school.

School Wide Rules

Be Positive
Be Accepting
Be Wise
Be Safe



Vaca Peña Middle School

Mission Statement

Vaca Peña, a comprehensive middle school that prepares students to be risk takers that are actively engaged in the academic process and social experiences of secondary education.

Objectives

- Every student will challenge themselves academically to ensure their readiness for high school and beyond.
- Every student will apply appropriate social skills and demonstrate respect, consideration, and empathy for their peers.
- Every student will work to maintain a safe and orderly environment where respect for diversity is practiced.

School Wide Rules: The Panther Pact

Be RESPECTFUL of yourself, others, property, and our school
Be RESPONSIBLE, on time to class, and prepared to work with the proper class materials
Be COMPASSIONATE to others through empathy, resiliency, and care for others
Behave in a SAFE and cooperative manner
Be PROUD to be a Panther



Willis Jepson Middle School

Mission Statement

The mission of Willis Jepson Middle School, through a partnership of students, families, staff, and community, is to ensure that every student has the skills to build a strong social and academic foundation to transition into a successful high school student and responsible member of the community. This mission is accomplished by providing a challenging, standards-based curriculum that meets individual needs and is delivered in a safe environment by a dedicated, nurturing staff.

Objectives

- Every student will be actively involved in creating and promoting a safe, orderly environment that enhances learning.
- Every student will demonstrate the social skills necessary to act responsibly in the school and community at large.
- Every student will meet or exceed the promotion criteria necessary to transition successfully into high school.

School Wide Rules

Students will show pride in Willis Jepson Middle School

1. Students will respect themselves, others, and property.
2. Students will be in their seats, quiet and ready to work when the bell rings.
3. Students will follow all directions and rules.
4. Students will bring only the required materials to class and do all assignments.

General Information

Middle School Course Requirements

Two Year Program

7th Grade Required Courses*

English - year
Mathematics - year
Physical Education - year
Science - year
Social Studies - year
Health/AVID - 1 semester
Electives - 1 semester

8th Grade Required Courses*

English - year
Mathematics - year
Physical Education - year
Science - year
Social Studies - year
Electives - 2 semesters

Full Year Electives

Academic Development (VP)
AVID 8 Elective (SV, VP, & JEP)
AVID Excel (VP, JEP)
Beginning Guitar (JEP)
Beginning Piano (JEP)
Chamber Orchestra/Concert Orchestra 2 (VP
& JEP)
Concert Band (SV, VP, & JEP)
Concert Orchestra (SV, VP, & JEP)

Choir (SV, JEP)
Elective Wheel 6th & 7th Grade (SV)
Jazz Band (VP, JEP)
Leadership (VP, JEP)
Multimedia Journalism (JEP)
Math Art (SV)
Symphonic Band (JEP & VP)
Yearbook (VP)

Semester Electives

Academic Development (VP)
Advanced Foods (JEP)
AVID 7 Essentials (VP)
Beginning Foods (JEP)
Beginning Percussion (VP)
Career Discovery through Lab Exploration
(VP & JEP)
Creative Expression (VP)
Clay & Sculpture (VP)
Exploring Spanish (VP)

Health (1 Qtr.) and AVID Essentials (1 Qtr.) 7th
Grade (JEP)
Introduction to Art (JEP & VP)
Introduction to Arts & Crafts (JEP)
Introduction to Computer Technology (SV)
Introduction to Metalworking 1 (JEP)
Introduction to Metalworking 2 (JEP)
Marching Band (VP)
Mixed Chorus (VP)

Exploring Stem (JEP & SV)

*Students in intervention classes may not be required to meet all of the above course requirements.

Clubs and Activities

The following is a list of clubs and activities that may be offered during the student's FlexTime, Study Hall and/or Homeroom class or after school.

Art Club (VP & JEP)

Book Club (VP)

Chess Club (SV & JEP)

Christian Club (JEP)

Club Rainbow (JEP)

Community Service Club (VP)

College & Career Club (JEP & VP)

Crochet Club (JEP)

Cross Country Club (VP)

Debate Club (JEP)

Diversity Club (VP)

Drama Club (JEP)

Drill Club (JEP)

Drumline (JEP)

Dungeons & Dragons (JEP)

Esports (JEP)

Gaming Club (VP)

#ICanHelp (VP)

Homework Club (VP)

Mariachi (JEP)

Panther Newscast (VP)

Robotics Club (VP)

Running Club (JEP)

Student Council (VP & SV)

WEB:Where Everyone Belongs (VP)

Wrestling Club (JEP)

Yearbook (SV)

High School Graduation Requirements

1. To graduate from high school, a student must pass Integrated Math 1.
2. To graduate from high school, a student must earn a total of 220 units during grades 9-12.
3. Included in the required 220 units must be passing grades for the subject areas listed below.

English – 40 units

Social Studies – 30 credits, including:

- a. 10 units of Modern World History, Culture, and Geography in grade 10
- b. 10 units of US History in grade 11
- c. 5 units of Government in grade 12
- d. 5 units of Economics in grade 12

Mathematics – 20 units

- a. Integrated Math I
- b. One additional year (Integrated Math II or Business Math)

Science – 20 units, including:

- a. 10 units in Earth/Physical Science or the year course of Chemistry or Physics.
- b. 10 units in Biology/Life Science or Human Anatomy and Physiology-P or agricultural science classes

Physical Education – 20 units

- a. 10 credits in grade 9 required
- b. 10 credits in grade 10 required

Fine Arts – 10 units **or** Foreign Language – 10 units (*Fine Arts courses include Music, Art, Drama, Photography, or Architectural Design.*)

Community College & University Entrance Requirements

Community College:

Admission to California community colleges is open to anyone who is a high school graduate, has a high school equivalency certificate, or is 18 years of age or older, and shows evidence of being able to benefit from instruction. Community colleges also admit students in 9-12 grades for educational enrichment with a Special Admissions Form from their school (principal/counselor) and parent/guardian signature. All inquiries concerning application, admission, and registration should be sent to the direction of the Office of Admissions and Records. Students in grades 9-12, taking community college courses, are required to have a 2.0 GPA at the high school level.

California State University:

Undergraduate Admission – Qualification for admission based upon:

- Graduation from high school
- Meeting the A-G requirements with a 2.5 GPA or higher (some schools accept students with 2.0-2.49)
- Additional educational requirements may be required for impacted programs.

University Of California:

Undergraduate Admission – Qualification for admission based upon:

- Graduation from high school
- Meeting the A-G requirements with a 3.0 GPA or higher
- Additional educational requirements may be required for impacted programs.

A-G Subject Requirements:

Completion of the following courses with a grade of “C-” or better

- A. 4 years: College prep English
- B. 3 years: College prep Mathematics (Integrated Math 1, 2, 3; 4 years recommended)
- C. 2 years: College prep Social Studies (including 1 year of US history or 1 semester of US history and 1 semester of Government)
- D. 2 years: Science with laboratory (including 1 year of physical science and 1 year of biological/life science)
- E. 2 years: Language other than English (2 years in the same language; 3 years recommended)
- F. 1 year: Visual and performing arts (art, dance, drama/theater, or music)
- G. 1 year: College prep elective (an additional class from any of the subject areas)

Assessments

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

On January 1, 2014, the California Education Code I Section 60640 established the CAASPP system of assessments. The primary purpose of the CAASPP System is to assist teachers, administrators, students, and parents by promoting high-quality teaching and learning through the use of a variety of assessment approaches and item types. The CAASPP – CalEdFacts web page provides a more detailed overview of the system.

Here is the link to the CAASPP-*CalEdFacts* web page: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>

Scheduling Policy

Vacaville Unified School District schedules students into classes without regard to race, creed, color, sex, religion, or disability. The inability to speak the English language is not a barrier to enrollment or participation in a vocational program.

Poliza de Programación

El Vacaville Unified School District programa a los estudiantes sin tener en cuenta raza, creencia, color, sexo, o desventaja. La incapacidad de hablar el idioma inglés no impedirá la matriculación o participación en un programa vocacional.

Programs

English Language Learner Program

Structured English Immersion classes are available for students whose native language is other than English and have been enrolled in California schools for less than one year. English Language Development classes are available for individuals with English language development needs. The focus of these classes is on the development of language acquisition through the use of instructional approaches designed to meet the student's needs. In addition, students may receive language support in other courses to allow them to complete graduation requirements.

Special Education

Special Education courses are provided for students who have exceptional learning needs and who have an active individualized educational plan (IEP). Turn to the Course Description section for a general description of all course contents, including specific courses in the Special Education section. Specific course outlines are available at your student's school site. Specific areas of individual emphasis, course selection, and pacing may be discussed with the student's IEP team.

Extra Curricular Eligibility

All students in grades 7-12 who participate in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities must be currently enrolled in a minimum of (5) semester periods (courses). In addition, they must demonstrate satisfactory academic performance and satisfactory progress toward meeting graduation requirements. Eligibility is also dependent upon the student maintaining a minimum grade point average of 2.00 in all courses. Middle school eligibility follows the "Rule of 90" which requires students to be present 90% of the ongoing school year.

A 2.00 grade point average in all courses means that all courses in which the student is enrolled are included in the computation. This computation uses a 4.00 scale for the grade of A. A student can receive an F grade and still be scholastically eligible to participate in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities.

Course Descriptions

Course Legend:

P-UC (a-g) and CSU Course

XL - Accelerate Course

Unless otherwise indicated, courses are available at all sites

Business Technology

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

(1 sem) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

This project-based course is designed to introduce students to basic computer concepts, usage, and software applications. Students will also learn the keyboard through the touch system, with emphasis on proper techniques and habits. Students will study the historical development of the computer; identify parts of the computer, care of the computer, and how the computer works. Students will also learn the basics of word processing and multimedia presentations. Internet searching, web page analysis, and ethical use of computers will provide the students with a broad base of computer appreciation.

English

ENGLISH 7

(JEP, SV & VP) (1 year)

English 7 offers an integrated reading, writing, listening, and speaking curriculum. The standards-based study of literature (including both narrative and expository reading) will provide varied opportunities for learning and the development of critical thinking skills. Writing assignments will allow students to discover their own voice as they experience a wide range of audiences, purposes, and forms. Classroom activities will include frequent opportunities for active speaking and listening. Direct punctuation, usage, and grammar instruction will be included as needed to improve student writing and speaking. Vocabulary and spelling lessons will be linked to literary selections and student writing. Students will be guided and encouraged to become active and willing readers, writers, speakers, and listeners.

ENGLISH 8

(JEP, SV & VP) (1 year)

Prerequisite: English 7 (1 period): None

English 8 offers an integrated reading, writing, listening, and speaking curriculum. The standards-based study of literature will provide varied opportunities for learning and development of critical thinking skills. Writing assignments will allow students to discover their own voices as they focus on persuasive responses to literature writing opportunities. Classroom activities will include frequent opportunities for active speaking and listening. Direct punctuation, usage, and grammar instruction will be included as needed to improve student writing and

speaking. Vocabulary and spelling lessons will be linked to literary selections and student writing. Students will be guided and encouraged to become active and willing readers, writers, speakers, and listeners.

ENGLISH 8XL

(JEP & VP) (1 year)

Prerequisite: 1. A teacher recommendation provides an overall evaluation of the student's readiness to succeed in an accelerated program. This evaluation considers factors such as motivation, attitude, commitment, completion of assignments, and self-discipline. Students may also be asked to submit a written essay as part of the recommendation process.

2. Attendance: Attendance will be considered to the extent that performance is or is not inhibited.

3. Grades & Testing: In the first three-quarters of the seventh grade, a student must have achieved a minimum of two "A's" and one "B." The fourth quarter grade must not be lower than a "B." CAASPP scores are also taken into account.

Students who self-recommend to the English 8XL class do not need to complete teacher recommendations.

English 8XL students will move at an accelerated pace and will be expected to produce work of greater depth and intensity. When considering placement of a student into the English 8-XL class, the school will take into consideration all three of the criteria listed above and place a student into the appropriate class. The school administration's determination of proper placement will be final. Eighth-grade students who fail to maintain a "C" average in the XL class will be rescheduled into other classes suited to their aptitudes and interests.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT INTERMEDIATE (JEP) / AVID Excel (VP)

(1 year) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

English Language Development (ELD) Intermediate / AVID Excel is a course designed for English Learners in seventh and eighth grade with reasonable proficiency in English. This course is a combination of students with **ELD levels 1, 2, or 3 and have been identified for fewer than 5 years.** It is supplemented by the regular English 7 core curriculum and offers an integrated reading, writing, listening, and speaking curriculum. The meaning-based study of literature will provide varied opportunities for learning and development of critical thinking skills. Writing assignments allow students to discover their own voice as they experience a wide range of audiences, purposes, and forms. Classroom activities include frequent opportunities for active speaking and listening. Students learn the essential vocabulary to perform in those skill areas. Direct instruction in punctuation usage and grammar is included, as needed, to improve student reading, writing, and speaking. Vocabulary and spelling lessons are linked to literacy selections and student writing. Students ask and answer questions, make interpretations, perform analysis, complete summaries, develop vocabulary, and engage in reflections about their readings. Students are guided and encouraged to become "real" readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. Teachers provide lessons for English Learners to develop English language proficiency. The overall goal of ELD instruction is for students to learn English at the level of a native speaker.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT TRANSITIONAL (JEP) / AVID Excel (VP)

(1 year) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

English Language Development (ELD) Transitional / AVID Excel is a course designed for English Learners in

seventh and eighth grade with reasonable proficiency in English. This course is a combination of **ELD levels 1, 2, or 3, who have been identified as long-term English Learners for more than 6 years.** It is supplemented by the regular English 8 core curriculum and offers an integrated reading, writing, listening, and speaking curriculum. The meaning-based study of literature will provide varied opportunities for learning and development of critical thinking skills. Writing assignments allow students to discover their own voice as they experience a wide range of audiences, purposes, and forms. Classroom activities include frequent opportunities for active speaking and listening. Students learn the essential vocabulary to perform in those skill areas. Direct instruction in punctuation usage and grammar is included, as needed, to improve student reading, writing, and speaking. Vocabulary and spelling lessons are linked to literacy selections and student writing. Students ask and answer questions, make interpretations, perform analysis, complete summaries, develop vocabulary, and engage in reflections about their readings. Students are guided and encouraged to become "real" readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. Teachers provide lessons for English Learners to develop English language proficiency. The overall goal of ELD instruction is for students to learn English at the level of a native speaker.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT 1 - STRUCTURED

(JEP) (1 year) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

English Language Development (ELD) 1-Structured: is one of two concurrent courses offered for students in the structured English immersion program; the other course is English Language Development (ELD) 2: This is the foundation course. Students in this class have little or no previous exposure to English; therefore, the focus of this class is on providing students with literacy skills essential for language acquisition. Students begin by learning the alphabet, commands, pronunciation, and classroom vocabulary and routines; and advance to manipulating grammatical structures and groups of words to form sentences. This course counts toward graduation requirements for English.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT 2

(JEP & VP) (1 year) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

English Language Development (ELD) 2: is a course for English Learners. This course emphasizes oral language development, writing, grammatical, and reading skills. Students learn the essential vocabulary to develop language arts skills. They read simple dialogues and basic paragraphs. Using the dialogues, they role play, and ask and answer simple questions. They learn to give and respond to commands and follow instructions in English. Pronunciation is stressed.

Home Economics

BEGINNING FOODS

(JEP) (1 sem) 7th-8th grade

Prerequisite: None

The student will develop skills in food preparation, meal management, nutrition, and the selection and storage of a variety of foods. This class is for the student who wants a more complete background in introductory foods.

INTERMEDIATE FOODS

(JEP) (1 sem) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: Beginning Foods with a "C" or better

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Beginning Foods with a grade of 'C' or better. In Intermediate Foods, students will build upon the foundational skills acquired in the previous course, focusing on advanced food preparation techniques, enhanced kitchen skills, meal planning strategies, and nutrition awareness.

Students will also have the opportunity to explore multicultural foods, delving into the diverse culinary traditions from around the world. This class is perfect for those who are passionate about food and enjoy the culinary arts. Join us in this exciting journey of flavors and skills, where you'll gain valuable life skills while indulging your love for cooking and eating.

Industrial Technology

INTRODUCTION TO METALWORKING 1

(JEP) (1 sem) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

Introduction to Metalworking 1 is a beginning course for those students who have not had metalworking previously. The course is designed to teach the students the fundamentals of working safely and efficiently with hand and basic power tools, the importance of preplanning, and to introduce them to the meaningful occupational opportunities available in the various fields associated with metal and metal products.

INTRODUCTION TO METALWORKING 2

(JEP) (1 sem) 8th grade

Prerequisite: Introduction to Metalworking 1 with a "C" average

Introduction to Metalworking 2 is a second course in metalworking. It is designed to review and expand upon the basic course and to introduce more sophisticated hand tools, power tools, and more complicated techniques and processes. The occupational areas of metalworking are further expanded and investigated.

EXPLORING STEM: GATEWAY TO ROBOTICS

(JEP, SV) (1 sem at Jep, Semester at SV) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

This is a beginning course in robotics. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem-solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building, and programming of beginning-level robot systems. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program, and document their progress. Student-designed robots will be programmed to compete in various courses and competitions.

Math

MATH 7

(JEP, SV & VP) (1 year) 7th grade

Prerequisite: None

Instructional time in Math 7 will focus on four critical areas: 1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; 2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and 4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

MATH 7 ADVANCED

(JEP, SV, & VP) (1 year) 7th grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, test scores, and placement test

Math 7 Advanced is designed to prepare accelerated math students for advanced study in mathematics. Students completing this course will be prepared for the Integrated Math 1 course in 8th grade. Students will focus on the following areas: 1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; 2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and 4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. This course will enable students to reach Calculus or another college-level course by their senior year of high school. Students who fail to maintain a C average may have their placement reviewed to determine continued placement in advanced math.

MATH 8

(JEP, SV & VP) (1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and test scores

Instructional time in Math 8 will focus on three critical areas: 1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; 2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; 3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity and congruence and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

INTEGRATED MATH 1

(JEP, SV, & VP) (1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, previous course grades and test scores or Math 7 Advanced

Integrated Math 1 topics include recognizing and developing patterns using tables, graphs, and equations. Mathematical modeling is stressed as a methodology for approaching the solution to problems. Students will explore operations on algebraic expressions and apply mathematical properties to algebraic equations. Students will problem-solve using equations, graphs, and tables and investigate linear relationships including comparing and contrasting options and decision-making using algebraic models. Reinforcement of topics from

two-dimensional geometry is integrated into this curriculum. This includes applications from the areas of area and perimeter, the Pythagorean Theorem and its applications as well as geometric proportion. Finally, introductory instruction in the area of mathematical probability is provided to reinforce the use of fractions and numerical modeling. Technology will be used to introduce and expand upon the areas of study listed above.

MATH SUPPORT

(VP) (1 sem) 7th - 8th grade

This elective course is designed to provide students with support in mastering foundational skills in Mathematics. Emphasis is placed on skills and concepts required to solve grade level math problems.

MATH LAB

(SV) (1 year) 7th - 8th grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, test scores, previous course grades

This elective course is designed to provide students with extra support in Mathematics. Emphasis is placed on reinforcing concepts and skills to help students be successful in their current Math classes.

Non-Departmental

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

(VP) (1 or 2 semesters) 7th - 8th grade

Prerequisite: Teacher/Counselor Recommendation

This elective course is designed to assist students in meeting their educational goals. Emphasis is placed on communication skills, organization, goal setting and time management, progress monitoring, note taking and study skills.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) 8 Elective

(JEP, SV & VP) (1 yr) 8th grade

Prerequisite: AVID enrollment the previous year or selection based on recommendation by teachers or counselors, appropriate standardized math and English scores, and interview by an AVID instructor

AVID elective courses at all grade levels are designed to prepare students for entrance into four-year colleges and universities. The courses emphasize rhetorical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion strategies, tutorial inquiry study groups, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, college study skills and test-taking strategies, note-taking, and research. AVID students, generally, come from groups underrepresented at our four-year colleges and universities. They are enrolled in a rigorous academic program while being given a support system in the AVID classes through tutorials, coaching in note-taking, organization and study skills, analytical writing, collaborative work, and college counseling. All AVID seniors are required to develop and present a portfolio representing their years of work in the AVID program as well as complete the requirements for the Seminar course.

AVID Excel

(VP) (1 yr) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: Students must be designated as English Learners or recently reclassified English Learners

AVID Excel students are designated English Learners and generally come from groups underrepresented at our four-year colleges and universities. A part of AVID Secondary, AVID Excel is a middle school English Language Development program for long-term English Language Learners designated to accelerate academic language acquisition, bridge into high school AVID, increase access to college preparatory coursework, and empower students to be successful in a global society. AVID Excel curriculum focuses on six learning strands: reading, writing, oral language, academic vocabulary, study skills, self-determination/leadership, and college readiness skills through explicit instruction in English language development and cognitive academic language.

CAREER DISCOVERY THROUGH LAB EXPLORATION

(JEP, VP) (1 Semester) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

Career Discovery through Lab Exploration integrates academics with STEM Engineering, Health Science, Architecture, and Construction. The College and Career Ready course provides a student experience that develops career-ready practices through career exploration in the context of project-based learning. All knowledge and skills are based on industry sector and pathway standards to promote college and career readiness.

ELECTIVE WHEEL

(SV) (1 year) 7th grade

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to expose students to a different elective mini-course each quarter. The mini-courses are AVID Essentials, Exploring the Cosmos, Life Skills, and Mat Art.

HEALTH/ AVID Essentials

(JEP & VP) (1 Semester) 7th grade

Prerequisite: None

Health (1 quarter)

Health focuses on wellness, self-esteem, refusal skills, and drug/alcohol awareness. Students will focus on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers, building self-esteem and self-reliance, refusal skills, communication skills that support open discussions with parents and family members, emotional and mental maturity, physical wellness, including eating and exercise, understanding the effect of bullying on both victim and bully, handling stress, understanding the effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on their physical, mental and emotional well-being, recognizing safety issues and avoiding potentially dangerous situations., and handling self in an emergency.

AVID Essentials (1 quarter)

AVID elective courses at all grade levels are designed to prepare students for entrance into four-year colleges and universities. The courses emphasize rhetorical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion

strategies, tutorial inquiry study groups, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, college study skills and test-taking strategies, note-taking, and research.

LEADERSHIP

(JEP & VP) (1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and application

This course is designed to be an educational training program for leadership students. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the instructor trains 8th-grade students to serve as positive role models, motivators, and mentors for current 7th and 8th-grade students. Leadership students will develop leadership, communication, and presentation skills.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

(JEP, SV, & VP)(1 sem) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: Good attendance and behavior record, counselor approval required

The course is designed to give students broad experiences in-office procedures under the guidance of a school secretary.

TEACHER'S ASSISTANT (TA)

(JEP, SV, & VP)(1 sem) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: Good attendance and behavior record, counselor and teacher approval required

The course is designed to give students broad experience in various classroom activities under the guidance of the teacher.

WHY TRY

(VP)(1 sem) 8th grade

Prerequisite: Counselor recommendation

This course will provide a systematic approach for students to self-evaluate academic, behavioral, and social success based on a template of school-wide expectations versus present levels of performance. Students will be guided through a process of incremental goal setting with a methodology to evaluate progress toward academic, behavioral, and social goals on a weekly basis.

YEARBOOK

(VP)(1 year) 7th-8th grade

Prerequisite: Application accepted by Yearbook Advisor

This course produces the middle school yearbook. Every aspect of production, including planning, design, art journalism, photography, bookkeeping, advertising, and sales, is performed by the students under the instructor's guidance. This is an opportunity to experience the real world of production and deadlines.

MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISM

(JEP)(1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and application

Students participating in this course will develop a comprehensive knowledge of desktop publishing skills and techniques. Students will be introduced to the world of mass media and print journalism including blogs, podcasts, news articles and yearbooks. Students will develop “hands on” experience while working as a team to plan, design and edit the pages of the Jepson Middle School yearbook using publishing software. Class activities and individual/group projects will immerse students in the world of journalism. In conjunction with the work done for the yearbook, students will learn about researching, interviewing, reporting, writing, proofreading, editing, digital photography, layout and design in order to generate news articles in a student newsletter. Articles and other works will be published both in print and online news. At the conclusion of this course, students will have the skill and practice to be discerning news consumers and critical thinkers. College and career information will be discussed for a possible future career in journalism.

Physical Education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Grade 7)

(JEP, SV & VP)(1 year) 7th grade

Prerequisite: None

This introductory course focuses on three major areas of development for the student: motor skills and movement knowledge; self-image and personal development; and social development. Physical Education for Life incorporates the physical, social, and emotional changes rapidly occurring at this level, taking into account students' variations in size and motor skill ability. The framework emphasis for seventh-grade physical education is meeting challenges and making decisions, therefore students will focus on individual risk-taking activities and individual sports.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Grade 8)

(JEP, SV & VP)(1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

This introductory course focuses on three major areas of development for the student: motor skills and movement knowledge; self-image and personal development; and social development. At this stage, students are able to focus on common group or team goals, working together to solve problems during group activities. The framework emphasis for eighth-grade physical education moves toward team-related activities, including defensive and offensive strategies. Students are encouraged to continue participation in group activities because all aspects of the personal development of eighth graders, both physical and mental, are still evolving.

Science

EXPLORING THE COSMOS: AN INTRODUCTION TO SPACE SCIENCE

(SV) (1 sem) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

This course provides an exciting journey into the wonders of space exploration, designed for 7th and 8th grade students. Through a blend of interactive lectures, hands-on activities, student labs, projects, and multimedia presentations, students will explore various aspects of space science, from the basics of our solar system to the frontiers of modern space exploration.

SCIENCE 7

(JEP, SV & VP)(1 year) 7th grade

Prerequisite: None

This course will focus on life science concepts and other strands that support various areas of life science. The course content will include cell biology, genetics, evolution, earth and life history, and structure and function in living systems. In addition, science classes will emphasize investigation and experimentation. Science classes are intended to be hands-on courses, which will give students an understanding as well as practical application of science concepts.

SCIENCE 8

(JEP, SV & VP) (1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

This course will focus on physical science concepts and other strands that support various areas of physical science. The course content will include motion, forces, structure of matter, earth and the solar system, chemical reactions, chemistry of living things, periodic table, density, and buoyancy. In addition, science classes will emphasize investigation and experimentation. Science classes are intended to be hands-on courses, which will give students an understanding as well as practical application of science concepts.

Social Studies

WORLD HISTORY 7

(JEP, SV & VP)(1 year) 7th grade

Prerequisite: None

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

WORLD HISTORY 7 - DUAL LANGUAGE

(Jep) (1 year) 7th grade

Prerequisite:

- *Students who are bilingual and can read, write, and speak in Spanish may apply*
- *Students previously enrolled in an elementary dual immersion program are automatically placed in this course*

Students in grade 7 study the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia from 500-1789 AD. After reviewing the ancient world and how archaeologists and historians uncover 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.

In dual language education programs, students are taught literacy and academic content in English and a partner language. The goals of dual language are for students to develop high levels of language proficiency and literacy in both program languages, to demonstrate high levels of academic achievement, and to develop an appreciation for and an understanding of diverse cultures.

US HISTORY 8

(JEP, SV & VP)(1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

Students in grade eight study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I. After reviewing the development of America's democratic institutions founded in 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.

US HISTORY 8XL

(VP)(1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisites: 1. Teacher Recommendation: The teacher's recommendation will consist of an overall evaluation of the student's ability to succeed in an accelerated program. This evaluation will take into account factors such as student motivation, attitudes, commitment, completed assignments, and self-discipline.
2. Attendance: Attendance will be considered to the extent that performance is or is not inhibited.

3. Grades: In the first three-quarters of the seventh grade, a student must have achieved a minimum of two "A's" and one "B." The fourth quarter grade must not be lower than a "B."

When considering placement of a student into the US History 8-XL class, the school will take into consideration all three of the criteria listed above and place the student into the appropriate class. The school administration's determination of proper placement will be final. Eighth-grade students who fail to maintain a "C" average in the XL class will be rescheduled into other classes suited to their aptitudes and interests.

Students in grade eight study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I. After reviewing the development of America's democratic institutions founded in 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

US HISTORY 8 - DUAL LANGUAGE

(Jep) (1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisite:

- *Students who are bilingual and can read, write, and speak in Spanish may apply*
- *Students previously enrolled in Dual Language History 7 are automatically placed in this course*

Students in grade 8 study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I. After reviewing the development of America's democratic institutions founded in 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.

In dual language education programs, students are taught literacy and academic content in English and a partner language. The goals of dual language are for students to develop high levels of language proficiency and literacy in both program languages, to demonstrate high levels of academic achievement, and to develop an appreciation for and an understanding of diverse cultures.

Special Education

ENGLISH 7/8

ENGLISH 7/8, INDIVIDUALIZED SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION

(1 year at each grade level) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: Individual Educational Plan (IEP)

English 7 and English 8 are year-long courses. English offers an integrated reading, writing, listening, and speaking curriculum. The meaning-based study of literature will provide varied opportunities for learning and development of critical thinking skills. Writing assignments will allow students to discover their own voice as they experience a wide range of audiences, purposes, and forms. Classroom activities will include frequent

opportunities for active speaking and listening. Direct punctuation, usage, and grammar instruction will be included as needed to improve student writing and speaking. Vocabulary and spelling lessons will be linked to literary selections and student writing. Students will be guided and encouraged to become active and willing readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. This course is designed to assist students in meeting their educational needs as outlined in their individualized education plans. Literature selections, videos, and optional novels are not limited to approved grade levels.

MATH 7/8

MATH 7/8, INDIVIDUALIZED SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION

(1 year at each grade level) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: Individual Educational Plan (IEP)

Math 7 and Math 8 are year-long courses. These mathematics courses are designed to develop the necessary skills for further study in mathematics. These courses provide intensive assistance to those students who need to develop skills in the use of, and understanding of, fractions, decimals, whole numbers, and mixed numbers. Topics include algebra and functions, measurement and geometry, statistics and probability, and mathematical reasoning and language. This course is designed to assist students in meeting their educational needs as outlined in their individual educational plans. The individual educational plan identifies the specific goals and objectives for each student. Literature selections and videos are not limited to approved grade levels.

SCIENCE 7, INDIVIDUALIZED SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION

(1 year) 7th graded

Prerequisite: Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

This course will focus on life science concepts and other strands that support various areas of life science. The course content will include cell biology, genetics, evolution, earth and life history, and structure and function in living systems. In addition, science classes will emphasize investigation and experimentation. Science classes are intended to be hands-on courses, which will give students an understanding as well as practical application of science concepts. This course is designed to assist students in meeting their educational needs as outlined in their individualized education plans. Literature selections and videos are not limited to approved grade levels.

SCIENCE 8, INDIVIDUALIZED SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION

(1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisite: Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

This course will focus on physical science concepts and other strands that support various areas of physical science. The course content will include motion, forces, structure of matter, earth and the solar system, chemical reactions, chemistry of living things, periodic table, density, and buoyancy. In addition, science classes will emphasize investigation and experimentation. Science classes are intended to be hands-on courses, which will give students an understanding as well as practical application of science concepts. This course is designed to assist students in meeting their educational needs as outlined in their individualized education plans. Literature selections and videos are not limited to approved grade levels.

WORLD HISTORY 7, INDIVIDUALIZED SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION

(1 year) 7th grade

Prerequisite: Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Students in grade seven study the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia from 500-1789 AD. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which archaeologists and historians uncover 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 is designed to assist students in meeting their educational needs as outlined in their individualized education plans. Literature selections and videos are not limited to approved grade levels.

US HISTORY 8, INDIVIDUAL SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION

(1 year) 8th grade

Prerequisite: Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Students in grade eight study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I. After reviewing the development of America's democratic institutions founded in 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. This course is designed to assist students in meeting their educational needs as outlined in their individualized education plans. Literature selections, videos, and optional novels are not limited to approved grade levels.

Visual and Performing Arts

CREATIVE SCULPTURE

(VP) (1 sem) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

Creative Clay/Sculpture is a course designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of design in the third dimension. Learners will experience a variety of clay techniques. Curriculum and lessons will be designed to explore historical and cultural significance. Learners will acquire skills in written and verbal evaluative procedures.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

(VP) (1 sem) 7th-8th grade

Prerequisite: None

Creative Expression is a course designed to broaden the learner's art experiences. Introduction to Art is a recommended prerequisite. The students will advance in their understanding and awareness. Skill level will mature producing a higher level of learning. Progress toward refined techniques will result.

INTRODUCTION TO ART

(JEP & VP)(1 sem) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

Introduction to Art is a basic course that introduces students to the arts. Curriculum and lessons are designed to stimulate and explore the use of our creative brain. The fundamentals of design; line, value, shape, texture, and color are explored. Students will work in a variety of mediums and learn specific techniques. Current and historical trends will be studied.

INTRODUCTION TO ARTS AND CRAFTS

(JEP & VP)(1 sem) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

Arts and Crafts is a course designed to acquaint students with the visual arts. The focus will be on the elements of design and the manipulation of various mediums. Cultural and historical references are an integral part of the curriculum.

INTRODUCTION TO SPEECH AND DRAMA

(VP) (1 sem) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

Speech: Students deliver well-organized formal presentations employing traditional rhetorical strategies (eg; narration, exposition, persuasion, description). Student speaking demonstrates a command of standard American English and the organizational and delivery strategies outlined in California State Content Standards. Working in a safe environment where critique focuses on positive feedback and reflection will allow students to use communication to assist in contributing to themselves and the community.

Drama: Units will begin with a presentation of the learning targets, pre-assessment of the California State Content Standards, and student goal-setting. Students will have a variety of opportunities to show growth toward each of the curricular standards targeted in this unit. It is my hope that we can create an environment in which the students will learn more about themselves and their world; build self-confidence by discovering and developing a variety of talents, and improve the ability to appreciate and work with others collaboratively.

A donation of \$5.00 is requested to support needs for art supplies/costuming/props for future performances. You will receive a receipt of the donation upon request.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

(JEP & VP) (1 year) 7th- 8th grade (7th grade only by special consent of instructor)

Prerequisite: One year of Concert Orchestra, and consent of the instructor

Requirement: Mandatory attendance at all performances

Chamber Orchestra is a performance-oriented class where technical skills are refined and a higher level of artistic awareness is learned. Students gain these insights and skills through a variety of styles of music. Individual testing will be done on advanced scales, etudes, concert music, music history, theory, and

performance procedures. Assigned performances are required. In many cases, students must provide their own instrument, supplies, and accessories.

CONCERT BAND

(JEP & VP)(1 year) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: 1-2 years Elementary School Band or consent of the instructor

Requirement: Mandatory attendance at all performances

In Concert Band skills are developed through the study of scales and technical exercises, daily rehearsal procedures, and exposure to a wide variety of musical styles appropriate for intermediate band students. All students are to participate in assigned performances. In many cases, students must provide their own instrument, supplies, and accessories. (Flutes, Clarinets, Saxophones, Trumpets, and Trombones are not supplied.)

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

(JEP & VP)(1 year) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: 1-2 years Elementary School Strings, or consent of the instructor

Requirement: Mandatory attendance at all performances

Concert Orchestra emphasizes stringed instrument proficiency through the use of scales and exercises that develop right and left-hand techniques. Daily rehearsal procedures are used to maximize effective learning. Students are introduced to a variety of concert music that corresponds with their technical development. Individual testing will be done on scales, exercises, classroom music, theory, and history of music. Assigned performances are required. In many cases, students must provide their own instrument, supplies, and accessories.

MIXED CHORUS

(JEP, VP, SV)(1 Sem, SV Year long) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

Requirement: Mandatory attendance at all performances

This course is open to students who demonstrate an interest in vocal music and learning to sing in a choir. Students will study beginning vocal production, sight reading, ear training, and expressive singing. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of standard choral literature.

SYMPHONIC BAND

(JEP & VP)(1 year) 7th- 8th grade (7th grade only by special consent of the instructor)

Prerequisite: One year of Concert Band and consent of the instructor

Requirement: Mandatory attendance at all performances

This is a performing organization where technical skills are perfected with emphasis on the style of music studied. All students are to participate in assigned performances. This organization will prepare and perform music for concerts and will acquire the necessary skills to take part in a marching parade band. Students may gain the opportunity to prepare for participation in jazz band. In many cases, students must provide their own instrument, supplies, and accessories. (Flutes, Clarinets, Saxophones, Trumpets, and Trombones are not supplied.)

BEGINNING PIANO

(JEP)(1 year) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

ALL students are welcome and do not need past music experience! Students will be given the tools needed to play piano confidently at the beginner level by the end of this course. This class will teach the basics of reading music and utilizing listening skills for all students. We will explore different music styles and genres along with the history of music itself. Skills that will be developed in this course are: rhythm, ear training, technique, sight-reading music, music theory, and performing.

BEGINNING GUITAR

(JEP)(1 year) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

ALL students are welcome and do not need past music experience! Guitar is one of the most versatile instruments in music. Students will learn a wide variety of musical styles and genres, as well as hone their skills in the following facets of guitar playing: rhythm, strumming and fingerstyle technique, chord shapes, melody technique, reading music, reading tablature, and ensemble playing.

JAZZ BAND (A-Period)

(JEP)(1 year) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: Prior experience of your instrument is strongly recommended

Requirement: Mandatory attendance at all performances

Discover one of our country's only true American art forms, Jazz, also known as Black American Music. Students will be taught improvisation and a variety of different jazz eras and styles.

MARIACHI BAND (Study Hall)

(JEP)(1 year) 7th- 8th grade

Prerequisite: None

Requirement: Mandatory attendance at all performances

Discover the cultural roots of Vacaville through Mexican Mariachi music. Violin, guitar, guitarron, bass, trumpet and singers. Beginners welcome!