Further Learning Opportunities (FLO) 2025-26

Background:

Middle School is an important time in life for all students. We believe in the need for “down-time” for students, and also for students to participate in things such as Girl/Boy Scouts, church activities, sports, arts, music, recreational activities, etc.

In addition to these understandings, we want to be clear about daily expectations and further learning opportunities:

- Everyday, students should complete any assigned homework, or other work not completed in class.
- Everyday, students will read for 30 minutes, outside of class-assigned material.
- Our Grading is Mastery Based. This means:
  - Any student not demonstrating Mastery, should still be working to fully understand the concepts, standards or skills in every class. If a student needs help, the student needs to ask.
  - Any student meeting Mastery should be completing Extension opportunities provided by the teacher, or co-constructed with a teacher. If a student is ready for Extension, and not aware of an opportunity, the student needs to ask.
- If families feel that their students need more structure or time filled once school is over, we are able to offer additional, supplemental opportunities known as “Further Learning Opportunities” for students.

Purpose:

The purpose of Further Learning Opportunities at VIDA is to provide additional high-quality supplemental activities for students to engage within a more independent fashion to help achieve the **Vision** we have for the future of our students.

Further Learning Opportunities	Description	How to Access
6 Dimensions Product Design	The 6 Dimensions of Product Design were developed to elevate the ability & skill of all students to produce more sophisticated physical prototypes. The intent is that these skills will transfer to the projects that happen across campus, as well as throughout life.	There is also a link on the VIDA website for future quick access. You may also CLICK HERE

Personal Brand website	The purpose of “Curating your Vida” is to encourage students to develop a positive online presence in the digital world through structured online opportunities that include: Curating & Sharing Work, Digital Citizenship, and sowing the seeds of a Personal Brand. The primary vehicle for this will be through the creation of a website (formally referred to as “Digital Portfolio”). There will be times that VIDA will assign tasks and development to be done on their websites during Monday Touching Base time in Design Labs. Often there will not be enough time to complete this fully, and students are expected to build out, add to, and develop their websites on their own time.	“Curating Your Vida” Resource & Explanation (CLICK HERE). **Please note that VUSD offers a safe & protected website development platform through Google Sites. It is a family decision if students use an outside platform (ie: Weebly, Wix, etc).**
BrainPop	BrainPop is a group of educational websites with over 1,000 short animated movies for students in grades K-12 (ages 6 to 17), together with quizzes and related materials, covering the subjects of science, social studies, English, math, engineering and technology, health, and arts and music.	www.Brainpop.com Students go to the website and log in through their Google accounts.
NEWSELA	Newsela allows students to keep up-to-date on current events with specially curated stories that are adjustable to their lexile levels. In addition to current events, Newsela also has content-specific articles in science, ELA, and social studies. Students can also take short multiple-choice quizzes at the end of their readings.	Students can login with their Google information. CLICK HERE for more on Getting Started.
Thrively	Thrively is an online student-centered platform for students to gain an understanding of their personal strengths, interests and aspirations. Students have the opportunity to take ownership of learning through goal setting, build social-emotional skills, and build purpose through career pathways and action plans. Students build real-world skills through coursework that is laid out in multiple lessons that follow their interests and passions through reflection and/or projects.	There is a link on the right-hand side of the VIDA website for future quick access. To Login: **Step 1:** Have students go to www.Thrively.com/login **Step 2:** Students next click on the Google button to login.

	There will be times that VIDA will assign lessons and reflections to be done in Thrively during Monday Touching Base time in Design Labs. Often there will not be enough time to complete these fully in that time and students are expected to complete them independently. Dr. Chagala will be given a monthly report to follow-up with students as needed.	**Step 3:** Students select their school email address, for example, StudentName@vistausd.org. They then should click on the blue Next button and follow the prompts. For help logging in: (Click Here) For more program details: (Click Here)
Prodigy Math	Prodigy is a free to use, curriculum-aligned, adaptive, online, RPG (Role Playing Game) style video game. Players will get to watch their very own wizard grow stronger, learn new spells and acquire new equipment while facing ever more powerful opponents, all by answering math questions!	Prodigy offers 3 types of free accounts: Teacher, Student, and Parent. Go to https://play.prodigygame.com/ to create a free Prodigy Account. If you are a parent, you will be able to link to your child's account and see their progress. If the teacher is using it at school, you can use your child's username and password to also link with the teacher. CLICK HERE for more on Getting Started.
Community Access	Since we opened, we have offered suggestions for summer activities to help keep the skills and minds of our students sharp and avoid "summer slide." These are a small sampling of activities that can be changed and engaged with for all times of the year.	
School Clubs	Clubs are a good way for students to stay connected with adults & other students with their same interests.	We are running a more limited number of Clubs due to Covid. Check out our latest offerings CLICK HERE *Keep in mind students can start their own clubs and pitch teachers to be advisors. Historically the majority of clubs on campus have been student driven.
AP²EX	This is an 8th Grade specialized award that stands for "Achievement in Product & Process Excellence." It is recognition of students leaving VIDA as true designers.	AP²EX Website