

New Vista Middle School



2021-2022

Elective Course Descriptions

nv.lancsd.org

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

- Open to 7th & 8th graders
- Requires student application & parent permission.

AVID is an academic elective focused on four main components: common core academic instruction, tutorial support, organizational skills, and motivational activities/college field trips. AVID targets students in the academic middle, with the desire to go to college, and be successful. AVID students learn to become more organized, collaborate with other students, maintain a leadership role on campus, bring up grades, participate in tutorials with college tutors, and attend field trips to college campuses & other places throughout the school year.

Student Requirements for the AVID Elective:

- Complete an application
 - Participate in an interview
 - Maintain a GPA of 2.0 & higher
 - Maintain excellent citizenship
 - Attend school on a daily basis
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AVID EXCEL (A branch of the AVID System)

AVID EXCEL specifically focuses on our English Learners to help accelerate academic language acquisition. The AVID EXCEL course is taken in middle school and targets critical reading skills as well as academic vocabulary development.

Student Requirements for the AVID Elective:

- Complete an application
 - Participate in an interview
 - Maintain a GPA of 2.0 & higher
 - Maintain excellent citizenship
 - Attend school on a daily basis
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Art • Open to 7th and 8th graders

The art elective is designed to encourage students to build self-confidence and discover their own personal artistic abilities while studying great artists of the world.

Band • Open to all grades

Band is a full year of music instruction on instruments. Ownership or rental of instruments is encouraged although some school instruments will be available. This class develops skills on a variety of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Emphasis is given to providing a strong fundamental approach to their instrument.

Business Careers • Open to 7th & 8th graders

Learn the important life-skill of managing your money and empower yourself to make informed decisions for your Financial Future! Learn about Jobs, College and Careers, Money Management, Budgeting, Bank Account Basics, Saving & Investing, Spending & Consumer Awareness, Credit & Debt, Loans, Taxes, Insurance, the Stock Market, Starting a Business, and more!

Choir • Open to 7th & 8th graders

This course is an entry-level choir for both male and female students interested in vocal music performance. The following musical skills for ensemble singing will be stressed: proper breathing, pleasant vocal production, blend and balance, expansion of range, good intonation, and ear training. Participation in various performances is a requirement of the class.

Guitar • Open to 7th & 8th graders

Guitar is a full year course covering the basics of the instrument and an application of essential music fundamentals. Students will learn the basics of playing the guitar, reading music notation, chord symbols, and tablature.

Ethnic Studies • Open to 7th & 8th graders

This course covers an in-depth study of ethnic groups, history, culture, achievements, contributions, barriers, and strategies to overcome barriers. Students learn that we are descendants of many cultures, races, religions, and that ethnic groups are bonded by a democratic vision of liberty, equality, and justice.

Guided Study Hall • Open to 7th & 8th graders

This course is a support class provided by teachers for students who need a quiet environment during the school day to complete assignments. Students will also focus on study skills.

Medical Detectives & APP Creator • Open to 7th & 8th graders

Students will develop the conceptual and instructional understanding to solve medical mysteries (CSI) and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health. Students recognize computer science as a means to computationally analyze and develop solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development.

Multi-media • Open to 7th & 8th graders

Students will communicate and express in a variety of media forms and combined media using various tools and processes, for specific purposes, intentions, and audiences. This elective produces our video announcements.

Office Aide/Student Aide • Open to 7th & 8th graders

This elective selects only those students who demonstrate excellent citizenship and work ethic. Serving as a student aide under proper guidance and conditions provides students with valuable training for future employment. Student aides provide valuable services such as running errands in a professional manner, answering the phone and directing calls to the appropriate secretary, answering student questions, directing students to proper office areas, answering visitor questions, and assisting new students in finding their lockers and classes.

PLUS Leadership Program (ASB) • Open to 7th & 8th graders

The PLUS class is offered through the SAFE SCHOOLS Peer Leaders Uniting Students program. Students who are invited to this elective are from a variety of backgrounds, who work together implementing activities to develop understanding, connections, identity and purpose among students, staff, and the community. They are mentors for new students, have the opportunity to learn important career and life skills, and help to change school culture to support a safe school environment for all students. ASB students are essential in planning and running school activities and dances for the year. Students will learn the essentials of business meetings, hold elections, and serve as student officers.

Spanish 1A • Open to 7th & 8th graders

This introductory course is intended for students who want to want to speak Spanish. During the year students will begin to understand, speak, read and write in Spanish. They will be able to express themselves on basic topics that include: introducing themselves, daily activities, school and immediate environment, people (friends, family, others), leisure activities, and Hispanic culture.

Spanish 1B • Open to 8th graders who have successfully completed Spanish 1A

Students will continue to utilize the skills they learned in Spanish 1A as they develop a deeper understanding and usage of Spanish in reading, speaking, and writing. *Special note: Seventh-grade students who take both Spanish 1A and 1B at NVMS will complete the Spanish 1 requirement for high school & college.

Teen Leadership • Open to 7th & 8th graders

Designed to teach students to build personal responsibility and leadership skills through role plays, group activities, public speaking, and project based learning. Students will understand how to develop a healthy self-concept and relationships; understand elements of emotional intelligence and project a positive personal image; define and demonstrate the need for strong social skills and a way to channel the power of social media; build public speaking and communication skills; develop an understanding of principle-based decision making; and learn to build and attain needs-based goals, both personally and professionally. Students will develop leadership skills and a commitment to active and positive citizenship through community service projects. Students will demonstrate knowledge of aspects of peer mediation and conflict resolution. Students' understanding of the principles of LeadWorthy are assessed in a variety of ways, including completion of student manual assignments and assessments, writing, community based projects, and public speaking.

Web Design/STEM/CODE HS • Open to 7th & 8th graders

This elective is geared for students who are interested in careers in the math, science, technology, and engineering fields. This elective focuses on computer applications, programming, new technologies, and more.

Yearbook • Open to 7th & 8th graders

Yearbook courses cover topics that assist students in understanding design elements, planning coverage of annual events, developing a theme, journalistic features, and photography in school yearbooks. Yearbook courses present students with an opportunity to produce a book that captures the moments of the year's events at their school sites. The students in the yearbook class are primarily responsible for the school yearbook. Desirable yearbook staff qualifications include the willingness to give and receive feedback, the ability to follow through and complete responsibilities in a timely manner, a commitment to quality, the willingness to use personal time to accomplish assigned tasks, and the ability to work in a team. Students must feel comfortable learning and applying cutting edge digital and internet based technology.
