**Vanguard Junior High Clubs**

**Engineering Club:** The Vanguard High School Engineering club leads an introduction to programing class for all interested junior high students. These engaging hands-on classes cover topics like block programing with Sphero and Easy C as well as C++ Arduino robots. Students get to build and compete against fellow students with the robots that they program.

**Forensics:** The Vanguard Junior High Forensics Team is an acting and speech team. Students in grade 6, 7, and 8 compete with other schools in a variety of events, all of which help students to hone their *public speaking skills, creative story telling skills, and literary interpretation skills*. Students who wish to join must have a parent/guardian signature on the consent form and pay the one-time team dues of $100. Practices are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:15-4:00. Throughout the season, students will participate in four Saturday regional competitions.  Students’ participation is dependent on student memorization and grade eligibility (CHASSA rules). For more information contact Kristina Thompson ([Kristina.Thompson@TheVanguardSchool.com](mailto:Kristina.Thompson@TheVanguardSchool.com)).

**Junior High Play**: Part of the Junior High English curriculum is to read a play by William Shakespeare. In alignment with this curriculum, the Junior High students will then produce that same play.  All actors and stage crew are Junior High students.  The abridged script stays true to Shakespearian English.  Auditions are held, and actors are cast into the various roles.  Rehearsals are held; lines are memorized; characters are developed.  Stage crew helps to build the sets and assists back stage during the performance. Staff members from various departments assist with directing, stage, make-up, costumes and more.  High School students also help to support in these areas. The work and learning culminate with two exciting performances to public audiences.

**Matchwits:** Matchwits provides our Jr. High students the opportunity to compete against other schools in a Knowledge Bowl-style competition. Students compete in teams and operate a buzzer system to answer challenging questions concerning history, literature, science, language arts, geography, math, and the arts. Our school competes against other Jr. High teams in the Central Colorado Athletic League (CCAL). Students are invited to audition for the team in early fall. Once teams are selected, we practice weekly and participate in four matches over the course of the school year.

**Math Olympiad**: Mathletes will dive deeper into math and logic. We cover rather difficult types of problems. They learn short cuts and tricks to solve problems easier. We play logic games and puzzles. Overall, we want to encourage students to see the fun in math. They take a contest once a month for 5 months. The results are submitted online to the Math Olympiad headquarters, where they are scored against hundreds of thousands of middle school students all across the globe. In May, we receive our results and have a celebratory party.

**Rocketry:** The Vanguard School model rocketry club offers students the opportunity to learn about, build, and fly model rockets.  Beginning rocketeers (sport rocketry) start with simple rockets under the guidance of experienced mentors and graduate to increasingly complex and powerful models.  Experienced rocketeers may join the competition teams for the Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC), a nation-wide rocketry competition open to junior high and high school students.  The club meets for build sessions after school on Fridays from 1:30 to 3:30.  Launches are usually on Saturday mornings, either with the Colorado Springs Rocket Society (COSROCS) at Challenger Middle School or at the TARC team launch site in southeast Colorado Springs.  Students in sport rocketry pay nominal dues to cover some build supplies and provide their own kits and rocket motors.  Students on the TARC teams will have higher dues (approximately $80/year) and are expected to participate in fund raising to offset the costs for building and flying more complex competition rockets and travel to the national competition in Virginia if they qualify.

**Student Council**: The Vanguard Junior High Student Council (StuCo) offers civic minded students the opportunity to plug-in to the beating heart of student government.  The adventure begins by choosing to serve your fellow students. Candidates then run in-classroom elections for the position of Homeroom Representative or they throw their hat into the ring for one of four officer seats and are elected by the greater junior high to run the council for the year. These positions include the Treasurer and Secretary offices, for which any student in the seventh or eighth grade may run, and the eighth grade President and seventh grade Vice-President offices, who serve as flagships for the councils' weekly meetings and all special events. Good luck and remember that the year is only as great as you make it. Why not take a direct hand in making it great!

**Junior High sports**

Fall: Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Girls/Boys Cross Country

Winter: Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball

Spring: Girls Soccer, Boys Lacrosse, Girls/Boys Track and Field