

THE VANGUARD SCHOOL JUNIOR HIGH

2021-2022 ELECTIVES

Academic Skills: Academic Skills provides junior high students the opportunity to learn, practice, and apply various proven techniques and approaches to improve their academic skills and enhance their standardized test preparation. Students will engage in daily exercises that expand their critical thinking and problem-solving skills and apply these skills in real time to their core classes and standardized testing.

Art: Students will study 2D and 3D art. The 2D art will focus on a strong drawing element as well as painting and printmaking. On the 3D side, students will engage in one sculpture per semester. The study in 3D will be focused on the process around sculpture components, including drawn image, construction of an armature, modeling, and patinas.

Choir: Choir will focus on the development of young voices. We will work as a team to create a unified sound, while studying varying repertoire, sight reading, and simple music theory. We will present two concerts per semester.

Computer Science Discoveries: Computer Science Discoveries (CS Discoveries) is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Students will also learn coding and how to develop digital games and animations which facilitate collaboration, critical thinking, and trouble shooting skills which are all valuable talents to have for life.

Drama: Drama will take students on an introduction to Theatre. They will explore acting through character work, team building exercises, different techniques, and improvisation games. Students will also get a baseline for the history of theatre (Greek, Medieval, Classic, and Contemporary) and explore playwriting and directing.

Geography: This course will focus on the physical and cultural geography of the world. Students will study the changes from the Classical period to Modern maps, as well as learn about significant archaeological finds from across the world.

Instrumental Music: Students will be instructed on the proper techniques of tone production, intonation, balance, and blend. Students will learn what it means to perform in a large ensemble and will learn how to perform their part while playing alongside other musicians performing different parts at the same time. We will present a concert at the end of each semester.

Life Skills: Life Skills is designed to help increase student knowledge in the skills we use in everyday life, including budgeting, organizing, art appreciation, self-care, cooking, and beyond. In this class we will emphasize planning and related skills that will help students have the tools to aid them throughout their years at Vanguard and beyond so they can be successful contributors to society.

Rocketry: The rocketry elective will introduce students to the exciting world of aerospace engineering. Students will apply Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) principles to build and fly up to three model rockets of increasing complexity while learning the principles of rocket history, aerodynamics, propulsion, and craftsmanship. Rocket launches will take place on the fourth Saturday of each month in conjunction with the Colorado Springs Rocket Society (COSROCS).

THE VANGUARD SCHOOL JUNIOR HIGH

2021-2022 ELECTIVES

Word Processing: This typing course starts with finger placement and provides an overview of how to type different letters, numbers, and symbols quickly, accurately and without looking at a keyboard.

Yearbook (Teacher Approval Required): Yearbook class is an opportunity to express your creativity while preserving your junior high memories. You will gain skills in graphic design, photography, layout, editing, and journalism, all while learning how to work together as a team towards one goal!