

The Vanguard School Junior High Clubs

Forensics: The Vanguard Junior High Forensics Team is an acting and speech team. Students in grades six, seven, and eight compete with other schools in a variety of events, all of which help students 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 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Throughout the season, students will participate in four Saturday regional competitions. Participation is dependent on student memorization and grade eligibility.

Junior High Play: Part of the junior high English curriculum is to read a play by William Shakespeare. In alignment with this curriculum, junior high students will 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. The stage crew helps to build the sets and assists backstage during the performance. Staff members from various departments assist with directing, stage, make-up, costumes, and more. The work and learning culminate with two exciting performances to public audiences.

Matchwits: Matchwits provides our junior 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 junior 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.

Rocketry: The Vanguard School's 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 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. 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 fundraising to offset the costs for building and flying more complex competition rockets and travel to the national competition in Virginia if they qualify.

Spring Musical: Our spring musical gives junior high and high school students the opportunity to work together as cast and crew on a children's musical. This musical is performed for our elementary students and for the general public.

Student Council: The Vanguard School 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 into their position 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 lead the council's 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?