

PVA 6th Grade Elective Offerings for 2023-2024 School Year

All students will take 7 classes every day, including the following:

Language Arts, Math, Science, History, PE, ICT (computers), and one elective of choice.

Please take the time to carefully review elective descriptions. The middle school counselor and administration are available to answer questions you might have about the courses offered.

All courses will be tentatively offered based on demand and PVA staffing.

Beginning March 22 through March 31, students should log into their own HAC account and select 1 elective choice. If interested in an elective that requires a **separate application (designated**)**, students should select their second choice elective and the application elective will be prioritized, if accepted.

Exploratory Art (1/2 year)	Students investigate a wide range of media and techniques, from both an historical and contemporary perspective, as they engage in the art-making processes of creating two-dimensional works, which may include drawing, painting, printmaking, and/or collage. This is taken in the same year as Exploratory Spanish, there is no full year option.
Exploratory Spanish (1/2 year)	This course provides opportunities for exposure and self-development through the study of Spanish language and culture. Students will be able to engage in basic skills in listening and speaking activities. Students will also be introduced to in reading and writing Spanish. This is taken in the same year as Exploratory Art, there is no full year option.
STEM/STEAM	In this class, we use creativity and critical thinking to solve real world problems. Students are introduced to many new technologies which they use to create their own unique designs. Our summative grades are primarily project-based and we “learn by doing.” Students are also exposed to a wide variety of careers in STEM fields. There are no prerequisite skills for any grade level of middle school STEAM. Example projects include Classroom Furniture Redesign, Robotics, Bridge Design Competition, Shipping Crate to Tiny House, Mark Rober Inspired Electronic Gadget. The focus for 6 th grade level STEAM is “Intro to Design Technology, Problem Solving, Teamwork & Communication.”
News Crew/TV Pro**	Students in this class will work together to create scripts, brainstorm ideas for news segments, make team goals, and ultimately make awesome news shows for the entire school to enjoy. It goes beyond just what you see on the TV. We have a director, camera crew, people who run the switch, title slides, audio, the extremely important show editor, and many more jobs that we all work together to manage. It’s very much a <u>team effort</u> , lots of fun, and kind of like becoming part of a family .
Middle School 101	The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop learning strategies, critical-thinking skills and problem-solving skills to enhance their performance in academic and nonacademic endeavors.
Band 1 (Beginning Band)	In this class we will be learning the fundamentals of music and performance through band instruments. After a brief instrument selection process, each student will be assigned an instrument for the class. Once assigned an instrument each student will be using the fundamentals of music in various ways to create quality performances in class and during concerts.
Guitar 1	In this class we will be learning the fundamentals of music and performance through playing the guitar. Each student will be provided with a guitar in class to use daily at school. This class will provide each student with a basic proficiency on guitar playing, fundamentals on music, and how to read guitar tabs.
Yearbook**	This full-year course offers students an introduction to the basic elements of visual communication and the print world. Students will learn the fundamentals of photography as they document important events from the school year. Students will develop their communication skills via reporting, writing, class discussions, presentations, and publications. Students will create the yearbook and a variety of narrative projects that show how photography and the written word combine to inform society. Students who are in yearbook for a second time will take on leadership roles and will practice more advanced photography skills. There are no prerequisite skills required. Yearbook students will be expected to volunteer to photograph 1 afterschool activity per quarter.

The Exploratory Art and Exploratory Spanish courses are the **only** PVA middle school courses offered for a half year. If a student is registered for one, they will automatically be placed in the other one that year.

PVA 7th Grade Elective Offerings for 2023-2024 School Year

All students will take 7 classes every day, including the following:

Language Arts, Math, Science, History, PE, ICT (computers), and one elective of choice.

Please take the time to carefully review elective descriptions. The middle school counselor and administration are available to answer questions you might have about the courses offered.

All courses will be tentatively offered based on demand and PVA staffing.

Beginning March 22 through March 31, students should log into their own HAC account and select 1 elective choice. If interested in an elective that requires a **separate application (designated**)**, students should select their second choice elective and the application elective will be prioritized, if accepted.

Studio Art	Students investigate a wide range of media and techniques, from both an historical and contemporary perspective, as they engage in the art-making processes of creating two-dimensional works, which may include drawing, painting, printmaking, and/or collage.
Beginning Spanish	The purpose of this course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered, and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course.
STEM/STEAM	In this class, we use creativity and critical thinking to solve real world problems. Students are introduced to many new technologies which they use to create their own unique designs. Our summative grades are primarily project-based and we “learn by doing.” Students are also exposed to a wide variety of careers in STEM fields. There are no prerequisite skills for any grade level of middle school STEAM. Example projects include Classroom Furniture Redesign, Robotics, Bridge Design Competition, Shipping Crate to Tiny House, Mark Rober Inspired Electronic Gadget. The focus for 7 th grade level STEAM is “Robotics & Biotechnologies.”
News Crew/TV Pro**	Students in this class will work together to create scripts, brainstorm ideas for news segments, make team goals, and ultimately make awesome news shows for the entire school to enjoy. It goes beyond just what you see on the TV. We have a director, camera crew, people who run the switch, title slides, audio, the extremely important show editor, and many more jobs that we all work together to manage. It’s very much a <u>team effort</u> , lots of fun, and kind of like becoming part of a family .
Creative Writing	Creative writing is a course that focuses on creating a portfolio of work over the course of the year. Students will learn how to craft interesting characters, engaging plots and realistic dialogue. They will also engage in the peer editing process and help publish the school literary magazine, The Collective. This class will have enough time to work on assignments during school, but it <i>is</i> a writing heavy course and background information and desire should be a factor in choosing this class as an elective.
Band 1 (Beginning Band)	In this class we will be learning the fundamentals of music and performance through band instruments. After a brief instrument selection process, each student will be assigned an instrument for the class. Once assigned an instrument each student will be using the fundamentals of music in various ways to create quality performances in class and during concerts.
Band 2 or 3 (Symphonic and Concert Band)	In this class we will be developing higher level performance skills through music. This will be done through daily playing, in class assessments, and concerts. Each student will be using skills learned in Beginning Band to further their musical knowledge and ability. In addition, this ensemble will have the opportunity to perform at MPA in the Spring.

See reverse side for additional elective choices.

Jazz Band**	In this class we will be developing higher level performance skills through music. This will be done through daily playing, in class assessments, and concerts. Each student will be using skills learned in Beginning Band or other ensembles to further their musical knowledge and ability. In addition, this ensemble will have the opportunity to perform at MPA in the Spring.
Guitar 1 or 2	In this class we will be learning (or expanding upon) the fundamentals of music and performance through playing the guitar. Each student will be provided with a guitar in class to use daily at school. This class will provide each student with a basic proficiency on guitar playing, fundamentals on music, and how to read guitar tabs.
Yearbook**	This full-year course offers students an introduction to the basic elements of visual communication and the print world. Students will learn the fundamentals of photography as they document important events from the school year. Students will develop their communication skills via reporting, writing, class discussions, presentations, and publications. Students will create the yearbook and a variety of narrative projects that show how photography and the written word combine to inform society. Students who are in yearbook for a second time will take on leadership roles and will practice more advanced photography skills. There are no prerequisite skills required. Yearbook students will be expected to volunteer to photograph 1 afterschool activity per quarter.

Students that successfully complete Beginning Spanish in 7th grade and Intermediate Spanish in 8th grade may be eligible for one high school language credit, equivalent for Spanish 1. This option is meant for those that wish to pursue three to four credits of a world language in high school, ideally for those interested in Honors Spanish 3 or AP Spanish as an upperclassman.

****Separate application is required. Jazz Band requires Band teacher approval.**

PVA 8th Grade Elective Offerings for 2023-2024 School Year

All students will take 7 classes every day, including the following:

Language Arts, Math, Science, History, PE, ICT (computers), and one elective of choice.

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All courses will be tentatively offered based on demand and PVA staffing.

Beginning March 22 through March 31, students should log into their own HAC account and select 1 elective choice. If interested in an elective that requires a **separate application (designated**)**, students should select their second choice elective and the application elective will be prioritized, if accepted.

Studio Art	Students investigate a wide range of media and techniques, from both an historical and contemporary perspective, as they engage in the art-making processes of creating two-dimensional works, which may include drawing, painting, printmaking, and/or collage.
Intermediate Spanish	The purpose of this course is to enable students to continue to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered, and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course.
STEM/STEAM	In this class, we use creativity and critical thinking to solve real world problems. Students are introduced to many new technologies which they use to create their own unique designs. Our summative grades are primarily project-based and we “learn by doing.” Students are also exposed to a wide variety of careers in STEM fields. There are no prerequisite skills for any grade level of middle school STEAM. Example projects include Classroom Furniture Redesign, Robotics, Bridge Design Competition, Shipping Crate to Tiny House, Mark Rober Inspired Electronic Gadget. The focus for 8 th grade level STEAM is “Green Architecture & Power/Energy Technology.”
News Crew/TV Pro**	Students in this class will work together to create scripts, brainstorm ideas for news segments, make team goals, and ultimately make awesome news shows for the entire school to enjoy. It goes beyond just what you see on the TV. We have a director, camera crew, people who run the switch, title slides, audio, the extremely important show editor, and many more jobs that we all work together to manage. It’s very much a <u>team effort</u> , lots of fun, and kind of like becoming part of a family .
Creative Writing	Creative writing is a course that focuses on creating a portfolio of work over the course of the year. Students will learn how to craft interesting characters, engaging plots and realistic dialogue. They will also engage in the peer editing process and help publish the school literary magazine, The Collective. This class will have enough time to work on assignments during school, but it is a writing heavy course and background information and desire should be a factor in choosing this class as an elective.
Band 1 (Beginning Band)	In this class we will be learning the fundamentals of music and performance through band instruments. After a brief instrument selection process, each student will be assigned an instrument for the class. Once assigned an instrument each student will be using the fundamentals of music in various ways to create quality performances in class and during concerts.
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See reverse side for additional elective choices.

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Yearbook**	This full-year course offers students an introduction to the basic elements of visual communication and the print world. Students will learn the fundamentals of photography as they document important events from the school year. Students will develop their communication skills via reporting, writing, class discussions, presentations, and publications. Students will create the yearbook and a variety of narrative projects that show how photography and the written word combine to inform society. Students who are in yearbook for a second time will take on leadership roles and will practice more advanced photography skills. There are no prerequisite skills required. Yearbook students will be expected to volunteer to photograph 1 afterschool activity per quarter.
W.E.B. (Where Everybody Belongs)**	Students in this class, our W.E.B. leaders, will act as school leaders helping sixth graders with the transition to middle school, welcome incoming students to PVA, assist in elementary classes, and help enrich the middle school with a sense of community.

Students that successfully complete Beginning Spanish in 7th grade and Intermediate Spanish in 8th grade may be eligible for one high school language credit, equivalent for Spanish 1. This option is meant for those that wish to pursue three to four credits of a world language in high school, ideally for those interested in Honors Spanish 3 or AP Spanish as an upperclassman. It is not recommended for eighth graders to start Beginning Spanish.

****Separate application is required. Jazz Band requires Band teacher approval.**