

# **Aliso Viejo Middle School**

## **2021-2022 ELECTIVE GUIDE**

**Grades 6, 7, 8**



**CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**San Juan Capistrano, California**

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# Building Learning and Study Skills

By the time a student is in middle school he/she should expect one hour of homework nightly. Homework is one way for a student to master a skill or a subject through extended practice. The time of day selected for studying should match your child's concentration level. Some children like to dig into homework when they get home and others like to have some down time prior to starting assignments. The most important thing is for a family to establish a homework routine. Having homework scheduled for a specific time daily helps students stay organized and takes the stress off of learning. Below are some simple and effective tips for scheduling homework:

- Using your AVMS AGENDA to write in both short term and long term assignments. Work backwards from the due date and schedule study sessions focusing on the tasks required to complete the given assignment.
- Check CANVAS daily for posted assignments and handouts (teachers use CANVAS differently).
- Use RISE time to get support on priority stamped subjects, a jumpstart on your homework, make-up quizzes or tests, or participate in enrichment during the school day.
- Estimate the amount of time required to prepare for each assignment.
- Tackle the tough stuff first.
- If your child has a long term reading assignment schedule reading sessions of so many pages per day ending with a short discussion period summarizing what they have read.

Easy ways to make studying more productive are:

- Flash Cards: Use for vocabulary, key points, and/or math terms.
- Memory Shortcuts: Create devices like acronyms (e.g. HOMES for the Great Lakes: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior).
- Preview Reading: Scan the headings, subheadings, and illustrations.
- Self-Quizzing: Make up anticipated test questions.
- Notes: Pull out key words and phrases from the text book and presentations.

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# Home/School Communications

Home/School Communication is a key to a child's success in school.

- **AVMS School Messenger:**

AVMS Messenger is an emailing program that is designed to improve communication between our school and community. You will be reminded of special events and activities such as concerts, testing, picture day, or minimum days. School Messenger is also used in case of emergency. You do not have to sign-up for this correspondence. Please make sure your Parent Portal account has your most accurate email, so you can be sure to receive these messages.

- **AVMS Agenda:**

Students write in assignments that are posted in the classroom daily. Agenda's will be given to students during walk-through registration. We ask for a \$10 donation at registration. Student agenda's will be used for Tutorial stamps.

- **AVMS Canvas**

AVMS Canvas is an on-line agenda and grade program. Canvas has proven to be an invaluable tool for parents and students. All AVMS teachers use Canvas differently to provide information regarding school assignments and grades. Please reach out to specific teachers through Canvas email if you have questions regarding your child. Canvas is meant as a resource, but ultimately students need to stay organized with their agenda and follow-up with their teacher if they see an error.

- **FOLLOW US**

Follow Us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter: [@alisoviejofalcons](#)

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# Required Courses of Study

## Grade 6

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Social Science
5. Physical Education
6. Elective

## Grade 7

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Social Science
5. Physical Education
6. Elective

## Grade 8

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Social Science
5. Physical Education
6. Elective

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# AVMS Electives Summary

A wide range of electives are offered at AVMS. Following is a summary by grade level. A detailed description for each class can be found on the following pages.

## Grade 6

### Exploratory Wheel - Quarter

Designed to provide enrichment and exposure to a variety of curricula. Exploratory wheel and elective courses are offered dependent upon student pre-registration sign-up, facilities, and staffing. Students have four different courses and will rotate to a new class each quarter.

- Art
- Drama
- Computer Applications
- Home Arts Intro

### Music Electives – Year

- Band 6
- Orchestra
- Beginning Chorus

## Grade 7 and 8

### Year Long Electives-Year

- Advanced Drama
- Art
- Career and Technology Investigation
- Culinary Arts
- Forensics Science
- Robotics
- Video Production

## Grade 7 and 8

### Music Electives - Year

- Band 7/8
- Orchestra 7/8
- Beginning Chorus

### Year Long electives that include Prerequisites/Requirements

(noted in class description)

## Grade 7

- Student Leadership (ASB)
- Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL)
- Advanced Art (portfolio required)
- Advanced Chorus (tryout)
- Spanish 1A
- Yearbook

## Grade 8

- Student Leadership (ASB)
- Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL)
- Advanced Art
- Advanced Chorus
- Office Aide
- PE Aide
- Spanish 1 (High school level course)
- Spanish 1B (second half of Spanish 1A)
- Yearbook

**Choose ALL electives carefully as program changes for these classes will not be permitted during the school year**



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# AVMS Electives

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Exploratory Wheel (Quarter)

#### Art

This course introduces a variety of media techniques: drawing, painting, lettering; two and three dimensional design; and a number of craft experiences. As students become acquainted with the elements and principles of art, they gain basic understanding of art concepts pertinent to our present-day society as well as the past.

#### Computer Applications

Each student will develop beginning and intermediate computer skills. The class will explore a variety of computer applications and investigate the power of computers in daily life. Students will create and manipulate images, explore elements of basic graphic design, develop and reinforce basic computer skills.

#### Drama

Students are taught the history of theatre, stage areas, and basic theatre terminology. They learn positioning, as well as the significance of movement, voice, and facial expression on stage. Basic elements of theatre are presented through a variety of theatre activities.

#### Home Arts - Introduction

This one quarter class is designed to acquaint the students with practical food preparation experiences as well as the functional application of the basics of good nutrition, label reading, manners and table setting. This course also includes the construction of a simple sewing project.

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Electives (Year)

### 6th Grade Band

This class is for 6th grade students with or without experience who would like to play a wind or brass instrument. Most students in this class will have begun their study in elementary school, but students are encouraged to switch to some of the less familiar instruments such as oboe, bassoon, French horn, trombone, baritone and tuba during the year. Some of the instruments listed are available through AVMS for student use. Students will perform traditional and popular music, attend field trips, and study music theory and history in a fun and structured environment. **A limited number of concerts outside of the school day are a required part of this class.**

### 6th Grade Orchestra

This class is for 6th grade students with or without experience who would like to play a string instrument. Most students in this class will have begun their study in elementary school, but students are encouraged to switch to some of the less familiar instruments such as viola, cello and bass. Some of the larger and more expensive instruments, such as those listed above, are available for student use through AVMS. Students will perform traditional and popular music, attend field trips, and study music theory and history in a fun and structured environment. **A limited number of concerts outside of the school day are a required part of this class.**

### Beginning Chorus

This class is for 6th grade students with or without singing experience. Students will be taught correct sitting and standing postures. Proper breathing techniques will be taught as they relate to correct tone production. Students will perform traditional and popular music, attend field trips, and study music theory and history in a fun and structured environment. **All choir students will be required to perform in selected concerts outside the school day.**

**Electives are based on staffing and are not guaranteed.**

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# AVMS Electives

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### 7/8 Elective (Year)

#### Advanced Drama

This class is for serious drama students who are interested in the dynamics of performance. Students will study all aspects of theatre including, but not limited to, acting, technical theatre skills, stagecraft, stage management, script writing, dance, vocals, characterization, and pre/post production planning. Critiques of movies and plays will be included, in addition to instruction in critiquing of oneself and one's peers. Students will perform scenes, monologues, improvisation, and skits, as well as participate in at least one full-length play or musical evening performance. **Students are required to attend after school rehearsals prior to evening performances.**

#### Art

Advancement of the student's technical skills in art is the focus of this class. Students will explore concepts in art in both a 2D and then 3D format. For example, design a 2D animation character and then build the character out of polymer clay. All students will get the basics in drawing, as well as the elements of art and principles of design. Media will include pencil, pen, pastels, paper mache, wood, clay, mosaics, oil paint and watercolor.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade students may enroll in Advanced Art with an art teacher recommendation.**

**Electives are based on staffing and are not guaranteed.**

#### Career and Technology Investigation

This course allows students to investigate careers and innovative technology used in high-demand employment sectors. Students will spend time utilizing these exciting modules to complete project and work based learning activities that incorporate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) concepts. Each module includes use of equipment such as 3D Printers, Robotic Arms, CNC machinery, Laser Engravers, etc. Students will also learn related software such as CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) CAM (Computer Aided Machining) and Solidworks, to name a few. This course will assist students in planning for College and Career pathways throughout high school and college.

#### Culinary Arts

The Culinary Arts program is a yearlong elective designed to provide in-depth experience in food preparation and service. This class will focus on the various food preparation techniques that will allow the students to have hands on experience with a variety of different foods from understanding how ingredients work together in a recipe to using their creativity to create new recipes. The students will acquire skill in the use of a variety of different tools and equipment while planning and preparing their own menus. The goal of this class is to broaden the student's exposure to a variety of different foods and preparation techniques while teaching them to work independently in the kitchen as well as providing them with the opportunity to explore Culinary Arts as a career.

**7/8 Electives Continued on next page**

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## 7/8 Electives (Year) Continued

### Robotics

In the yearlong Robotics and Engineering elective, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will learn basic engineering principles and utilize those concepts to construct a variety of robots using the VEX IQ robotics kits. Students will develop teams work and problem solving skills while learning to innovate in a classroom setting. Working in groups, students will utilize the engineering design process and collaborate to come up with designs that best accomplish the challenges presented to them as they incorporate their engineering knowledge to design and build their robot and then compete with other groups in the challenges. As students gain more experience with the robotic kits, they will be asked to accomplish increasingly complex challenges.

### Video Production

In this course students will learn advanced techniques of video production, storyboarding, scripting, filming, and editing. Students will work hands on as they work step by step through the process of a short film projects. In addition, student will learn digital skills such as basic coding, website creation, and keyboarding. Students will also be responsible for producing weekly school news.

### Forensic Science

This course will focus on Crime Scene Investigation skills. Students will learn about the following topics: processing crime scenes, drawing scale models, fingerprinting, detecting blood, blood typing, blood spatter patterns, handwriting analysis, impressions, tool marks, trace evidence, anthropological forensics, and DNA evidence. They will also learn about the

process of the United States judicial system and the role of forensic specialists and forensic careers.

## 7/8 Music Electives (Year)

### 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

This class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade wind, brass and percussion students. Instruments are available through AVMS for student use such as oboe, bassoon, French horn, trombone, baritone and tuba. Students will perform traditional and popular music and continue their study of music theory and history. Students who participate in Advanced Band may also join our after-school Jazz Ensemble. **A limited number of concerts outside of the school day are required part of this class.**

### 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra

This class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Some of the larger and more expensive instruments such as the viola, cello, and bass are available through AVMS for student use. Students will perform traditional and popular music, attend field trips, and continue their study of music theory and history. **A limited number of concerts outside of the school day are a required part of this class.**

### Beginning Chorus

This class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with or without singing experience. Students will be taught correct sitting and standing postures. Proper breathing techniques will be taught as they relate to correct tone production. Students will perform traditional and popular music, attend field trips, and study music theory and history. **All choir students will be required to perform in selected concerts outside the school day.**

**Electives are based on staffing and are not guaranteed.**

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## Electives with Prerequisites/Requirements 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Advanced Art**

This program is designed for students that have one year experience in middle school. This course will let students explore and work in a variety of art mediums from drawing and painting to digital art. Students will develop a portfolio that exhibits their art styles and range of techniques. Students will develop strong expressive techniques by using the elements of art and principals of design.

**Requirement – 7<sup>th</sup> grade art or portfolio**

### **Advanced Chorus**

The choir is designed for students at the intermediate level with one year minimum of middle school singing experience.

All students will review correct sitting and standing postures. Proper breathing techniques will be reviewed as they relate to correct tone production. Students will have the opportunity to learn and perform solos, duets, trios, and small group numbers.

**All choir students will be required to perform in selected concerts outside the school day.**

**Admission Audition Required**

### **Yearbook**

Students enrolled in this course will have the opportunity to create and publish the school yearbook. Activities include establishment of theme, creating and conducting student surveys, taking photographs, understanding elements of effective layout and design, sales of the yearbook and eighth grade dedication ads, and publicity. Students will use an online yearbook program and will be asked to meet strict deadlines. Yearbook students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic and citizenship grades in all classes. **Application required.**

### **Student Leadership (ASB)**

Associated Student Body, or ASB, teaches the principles and dynamics of leadership to elected/appointed students. ASB officers will be enrolled in this yearlong class and will perform a variety of services at AVMS. This includes planning and overseeing the school activities, budget, conducting and participating in weekly business meetings, organizing and implementing student activities, events, fundraising, and charity drives. Students will learn leadership techniques and represent their school at AVMS, in the community, and at annual conferences.

**Admission by application and teacher recommendation. Students must maintain a 2.75 grade point average and have an outstanding grade in citizenship.**

### **Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL)**

Peer Assistance Leadership, or PAL, is a program that teaches students to be resources to one another and to create supportive environments that promote healthy, positive decision making. Students will be enrolled in this yearlong class and work side-by-side with ASB members to create a positive learning environment at AVMS through student centered activities and events, and community work and out-reach. The PAL class teaches leadership skills, interpersonal communication skills, problem solving techniques, critical thinking skills, and community service. **Admission by application and teacher recommendation. Students must maintain a 2.75 grade point average and have an outstanding grade in citizenship.**

**Electives are based on staffing and are not guaranteed.**

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## Electives with Prerequisites/Requirements

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade only

#### Spanish 1A

This class provides students the opportunity to study Spanish grammar, pronunciation, simple conversation, and practical expression. Spanish 1A is paced to allow for building a strong foundation for future foreign language learning. This course is the first of a two year sequence. Students enrolling in Spanish 1A are making a commitment to continue in Spanish 1B in their eighth grade year. Students must earn at least a “B” each quarter to continue to Spanish 1B. ***Requires an “A” or “B” in English.***

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only

#### Office Aide

This program offers practical experience in school office clerical duties. Office aides will assist the office in a variety of duties: delivering items around campus, maintaining communication between the office and classroom teachers, operating some of the office equipment, sorting and delivering mail, and helping the office staff as needed. Office aides are expected to maintain satisfactory academic and citizenship grades in all classes, or will be placed in an alternative elective.

***Requires application***

#### PE Aide

This elective allows students to assist the PE teacher in a variety of duties. Students will be responsible for assisting students in the locker room, setting up and demonstrating PE activities, and assisting students that are struggling with PE activities.

***Requires Application***

#### Spanish 1B

The class is the second class in a two year sequence. **Students must have successful completion of Spanish 1A (grade of A or B)** in order to register in this class. This class provides students the opportunity to study Spanish grammar, pronunciation, simple conversation, and practical expression. Spanish 1B is paced to allow for building a strong foundation for future foreign language learning. Students who complete this class with an A or B will receive Spanish 1 credit and will be able to transition into Spanish I.

#### Spanish I

##### **(High school level coursework)**

This course offers students without any previous formal Spanish the opportunity to study and acquire the basic principles of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. Students will also learn about culture, conversational techniques, and grammar concepts as determined by the first year textbook, *Realidades*, and the Language Learning Continuum. This is the same curriculum as the course taught at the high school level.

Students who receive a yearly cumulative grade of “A” or “B” will be recommended to advance to the second year of the language in high school. These students will also receive course credit toward meeting the foreign language requirement for college admission. Students will not, however, receive unit credit toward meeting the required 220 units for high school graduation. ***A or B in English required for admission. Once classes are formed if there is space available other criteria will be used for admission.***

Electives are based on staffing and are not guaranteed.

