

## **VK8 ELECTIVES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Physical Education** - The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which include, but is not limited to: Fitness Activities, Educational Gymnastics and Dance, and Team Sports. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

**Art** - Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students practice, sketch, and manipulate the structural elements of art. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provides a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture- Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

**Chess** - "Checkmates" is designed to build a chess community for any Vineland K8 student who has an interest in learning or improving their game of chess. Chess is a fun, historic, and complex game that develops logical and strategic planning and decision-making, patience and concentration. Beginners will learn board set up, piece movement and special moves, opening principles and basic checkmate patterns. Intermediate and advanced players will focus on tactics, strategic tactics, middle and endgame strategy with an eye towards tournament play. Engaging lessons, demonstrations, chess puzzles, and gameplay will be used to develop love and appreciation of the game and support all learners.

**Creative Writing** - This course offers an intensive, workshop-driven experience for writers who are ready to be challenged and to grow within a community of dedicated peers. Students will produce original fiction, poetry, personal narratives, and creative nonfiction while sharpening voice, deepening imagery, strengthening character development, and exploring thematic complexity. Through sustained drafting, critique, and purposeful revision, writers will move beyond strong fundamentals toward refined, polished work.

**Dance** - This dance elective offers a comprehensive introduction to dance, fostering both technical skill and artistic expression. Students will explore various dance styles, including lyrical, hip hop, and jazz, while also learning fundamental dance technique and exploring elements of dance history.

**Games for the Win** - Research shows that learning and playing games is not just fun. It helps children organize and build their abilities, problem-solve, strategize, and learn to concentrate. Children who play games must interact well with others, manage their emotions, and develop ideas of fairness and equity. Gameplay supports social-emotional development; an area schools have been asked to incorporate in their curriculum since the pandemic. This elective course Will have focus games each quarter such as Card Games, Chess, Word Games such as Scrabble, and Board Games. Play will be rotated between players and build into tournaments where possible. *Games for the Win* will also incorporate logic, crossword, and Sudoku games on shorter days. Leadership opportunities may be fostered by having students learn games they can teach to younger children. *Games for the Win* will seek to give students experience with a broad spectrum of games, challenges, and opportunities to increase their self-knowledge abilities, and, indirectly, their joy in learning and excitement about being in school.

**Green Studies/Environmental Science** - is a project-based, cooperative learning class that focuses on stewardship and protection of the environment in all facets – air, water, land and the ecosystems of Florida. We incorporate botany-the learning of plants through our Pine Rockland, Edible Gardens, and A Plant in Every Classroom. Our projects include The Fairchild Challenge, NASA's Growing Beyond Earth, Everglades Challenge, Vineland's Edible Garden, Vineland's Pine Rockland, and Recycling Rangers. Field experiences and collaborations may include Everglades National Park, Sea to Slough Program, Biscayne Nature Center Sea Grass Exploration, Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden. The Deering Estate, and Miami Zoo. We build partnerships and collaborate with community resources including the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (UF/IFAS), Miami Metro Zoo, and the Everglades Educational Department.

### **Intensive Reading**

\*Students who score FAST Level 1 or Level 2 in ELA are required to participate in Intensive Reading which will take the place of one elective.

\*\* Level 1-4 ESOL students are required to participate in Developmental Skills, which will take place of one elective.

**Modern Orchestra** -Students explore high-quality music literature written or transcribed for string orchestra. Study includes the development of foundational instrumental ensemble techniques, performance skills, music literacy, performance skills, and increasing aesthetic awareness through study, rehearsal, and performance of a variety of high-quality orchestra literature. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

**Office Aid** – A few, carefully selected students will be enrolled in this course that helps the school's main office in a variety of tasks that are essential to the efficiency and effectiveness of our main hub. These students must have excellent attendance, integrity, and comply with the school's uniform policy, as they often provide some of the first impressions that visitors get upon entering the school.

***\*Counselor recommendation required.***

**Spanish 1** – In this high school level course, Spanish 1 introduces students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

**Television Production** – TVP is an exciting course that gives students the opportunity to express themselves creatively using technology. This class will explore how to produce high quality multimedia such as digital images, animations, and videos. This class is responsible for producing the televised morning announcements seen throughout the school. ***\*Must be able to be at school by 8 AM for three weeks each quarter.***

**Yearbook** – This course allows students to serve as journalists and historians as they learn to select content and layouts to highlights and historians as they learn to select content and layouts to highlight the year in review for the school's Memory Book.

**VEX Robotics and STEM** - The VEX Curriculum is designed to help students explore the fundamentals of robotics and the engineering design process while learning to use industry- leading CAD software and VEX Classroom & Competition Robotics Kits. Students will walk through the design and build a robot to play a sport-like game, while also learning key STEM principles, and robotics concepts. At the culmination of the class, they compete head-to-head against their peers in the classroom, or on the world stage in the VEX Robotics Competition. The Computer Science component covers topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. Students engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Students dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, technology and engineering standards to hands-on projects. They work both individually and in teams to design solutions to a diversity of problems using 3-D modeling software and use an engineering notebook to document their work.