



MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ORIENTATION 2017-2018

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Welcome Future MS Parents!

# THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

What makes a middle school **unique**?



Philosophy



Program format



People



*Great middle schools are built by people who enjoy working with adolescents!*



# GATE AND CHALLENGE PROGRAM



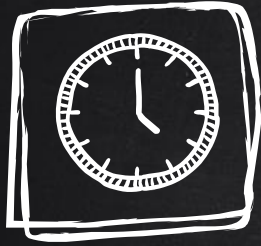
Identification of Student Needs and Strengths



Instructional Strategies



Differentiation Strategies



# BLOCK SCHEDULE

- X Longer Blocks of Instructional Time
- X Eliminate transition time
- X Increase positive school climate by decreasing behavior incidents
- X Increase use of technology and project based learning
- X Higher student achievement
- X Increased retention of learning – moving from “knowing to doing”



# WHERE DO THE KIDS GO?

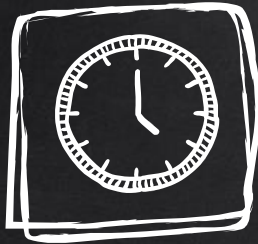
## MONDAY SCHEDULE

- ✓ Students attend all classes for a shorter block

## TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY SCHEDULE

- ✓ Students attend 3 core academic classes per day
- ✓ Academic classes are scheduled before lunch
- ✓ Exploratory classes, Advisement and PE are in the afternoon
- ✓ Wednesdays are modified days with dismissal at 1:30
- ✓ Students have 3 min Passing Periods





# BLOCK SCHEDULE

## SCHEDULE FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> TRIMESTER - SPRING 2018

MONDAYS- NO HOMEWORK HALL OR STUDY HALL

Week Beginning	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI
Feb 19	No School President's Day	1 T 2 3 6 7	4 T 1 2 A	3 T 4 1 6 7	2 T 3 4 6 7 No Homework Hall
Feb 26 1:30 Dismissal All Week	1 2 3 4 A A YAT Assembly Conferences	1 T 2 3 A Conferences	4 T 1 2 A No Homework Hall Conferences	3 T 4 1 A No Homework Hall Conferences	2 T 3 4 A Conferences
Mar 5	1 2 3 4 T 6 7 No Homework Hall No Study Hall	1 T 2 3 6 7	4 T 1 2 A	3 T 4 1 6 7 No Homework Hall	2 T 3 4 6 7 MS Dance
Mar 12	2 3 4 A 6 7 Cultural Assembly Please see special schedule	1 T 2 3 6 7	4 T 1 2 A	3 T 4 1 6 7 No Homework Hall	1 2 3 4 A A Grade Cut-off Jug-A-Thon 1:30 Dismissal
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>					
Apr 9	1 2 3 4 T 6 7 No Homework Hall No Study Hall	1 T 2 3 6 7	4 T 1 2 A	3 T 4 1 6 7 No Homework Hall	2 T 3 4 6 7 A Progress Reports
Apr 16	1 2 3 4 A 6 7 Advisement Comp.	1 T 2 3 6 7	4 T 1 2 A	3 T 4 1 6 7	2 T 3 4 6 7
Apr 23	1 2 3 4 T 6 7 No Homework Hall No Study Hall	1 T 2 3 6 7	4 T 1 2 A	3 T 4 1 6 7	2 T 3 4 A 1:30 Dismissal T.O.Y. Dinner
Apr 30	1 2 3 4 T 6 7 No Homework Hall No Study Hall	1 T 2 3 6 7	4 T 1 2 A	3 T 4 1 6 7	2 T 3 4 6 7
May 7	1 2 3 4 T 6 7 TOYON No Homework Hall No Study Hall	1 T 2 3 6 7 TOYON	4 T 1 2 A TOYON	3 T 4 1 6 7 No Homework Hall	2 T 3 4 6 7 No Homework Hall
May 14 Musical Week	1 2 3 4 T 6 7 No Homework Hall No Study Hall	1 T 2 3 6 7 No Homework Hall	4 T 1 2 A No Homework Hall	3 T 4 1 6 7 No Homework Hall	2 T 3 4 6 7 No Homework Hall
May 21	1 2 3 4 T 6 7 No Homework Hall No Study Hall	1 T 2 3 6 7 No Homework Hall	4 T 1 2 A No Homework Hall	3 T 4 1 6 7 No Homework Hall	2 T 3 4 6 7
May 28	No School Memorial Day	1 T 2 3 6 7	4 T 1 2 A	3 T 4 1 6 7 No Homework Hall	2 T 3 4 6 7 Grade Cut-off No Homework Hall 8 <sup>th</sup> Dinner/Dance
June 4 No Tutorial This Week	1 2 3 4 SB A SB = Softball Game 1:30-2:30	4 <sup>th</sup> @ Knott's 8 <sup>th</sup> Breakfast 1 2 3 4 6 7	1 2 3 4 A	8 <sup>th</sup> @ Disneyland 1 2 3 4 6 7	Last Day 1:30 Dismissal

No Zero Period P.E. on any 1:30 dismissal day

# MATH DEPARTMENT



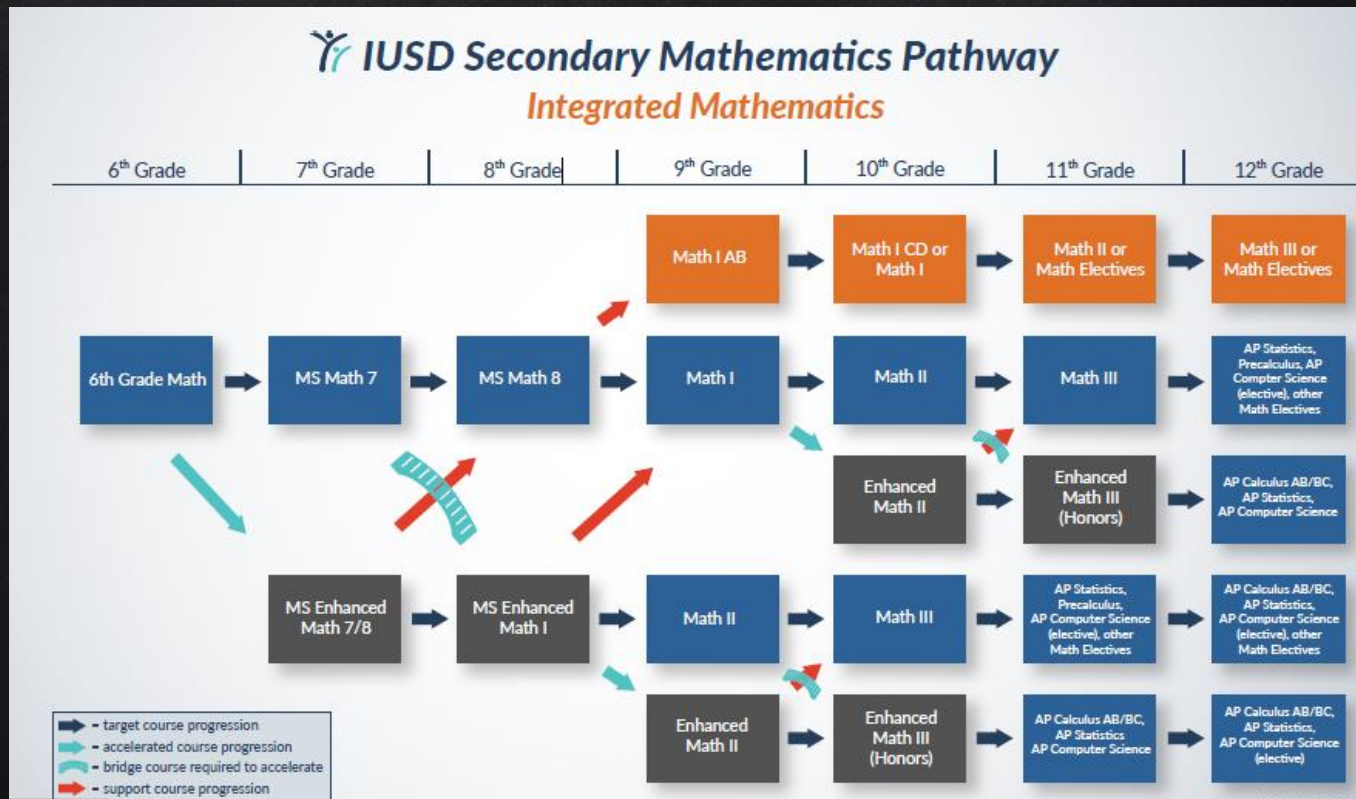


- X Comprehensive course aligned with the California Common Core Standards and integrating the new math pathways.
- X Students will experience algebraic reasoning in equation solving and graphing functions, operations using integers and rational numbers, number theory, proportional relationships, applying percents, collecting, displaying and analyzing data, probability, measurement and geometry.
- X The Integrated Mathematics Pathway offers the opportunity to focus on developing conceptual understanding and to help students see how the disciplines of mathematics are intertwined. Our existing middle school programs already use an integrated approach and thus, our high school programs would become a more natural extension of these programs, provided additional rationale for selecting this pathway through grade 12



# MS MATH PATHWAYS

- [http://www.iusd.org/education\\_services/math-pathways/index.html](http://www.iusd.org/education_services/math-pathways/index.html)



# SOCIAL SCIENCE





# SOCIAL SCIENCE

- ✓ Students expand their understanding of history by studying the birth of the major western and non-western ancient civilizations.
- ✓ Continued emphasis is placed on the geography, religion, achievements, political system, economy, and social structures of each unique culture. The goal is to learn the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred around the world during this time period.
- ✓ Videos, art, symbolism, language, performance and simulations are incorporated at every turn to involve students more fully.
- ✓ Assignments are tailored to encourage the development of note-taking, organization, critical thinking skills, and expression and are designed to prepare the students for success in the next level of classes.

# LANGUAGE ARTS







# LANGUAGE ARTS

- X Classes are literature based and are aligned with the social studies curriculum. The program incorporates significant literary works and emphasizes not only the integration of thinking, listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills but also a multidisciplinary integration.
- X Students encounter literature from many genres and receive a mixture of culturally diverse works, including novel studies, anthologies, and expository texts.
- X Spelling and language mechanics are taught through direct instruction.
- X Student assessment will include written assignments, research-based projects, comprehension questions, and open-ended projects.



# SCIENCE





# SCIENCE

- ✓ Emphasis on science process skills – earth science, ecology, and ocean ecosystem.
- ✓ Science fair project is required for all sixth graders.
- ✓ Emphasis is on making the connections and seeing the relationships between concepts and ideas.
- ✓ The interdisciplinary thematic teaching approach helps students investigate high interest problems that show students how scientific principles are applied.
- ✓ Instruction will stress scientific thinking processes and strive to help students develop critical thinking skills with problem solving, decision-making, and research and inquiry. As students move through the program, they tackle more sophisticated thinking processes using experimental manipulative and other laboratory oriented projects that are related to current scientific issues.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- X The Physical Education Department at Vista Verde has developed a co-educational based instructional program designed to encourage lifetime involvement in physical activity called “Fit for Life!”
- X Students participate in a curriculum which includes a variety of individual and team sports, including: basketball, flag football, soccer, volleyball, softball, floor hockey, team handball, Frisbee, dance, bocce ball, cooperative games, and cardiovascular and resistance training activities. Students also receive instruction in a variety of health and fitness related concepts.
- X PE instruction is enhanced through the addition of our own PE Paraprofessional, Coach Dave.





# MUSIC







# EXPLORATORY CLASSES

- X Variety of exploratory classes designed to allow students to experience a variety of activities and skill development
- X All sixth grade students take instrumental or vocal music as their exploratory class.
- X Most exploratory classes change each Trimester allowing students to take multiple classes each year.



MUSIC



# CERAMICS



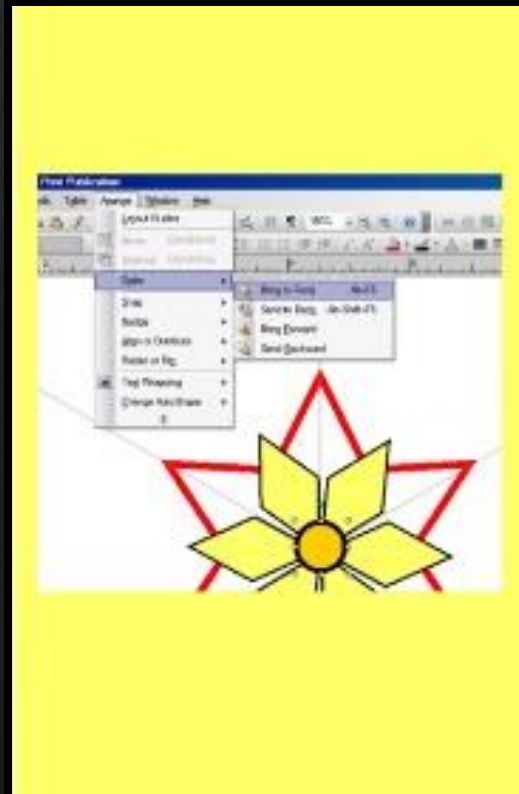
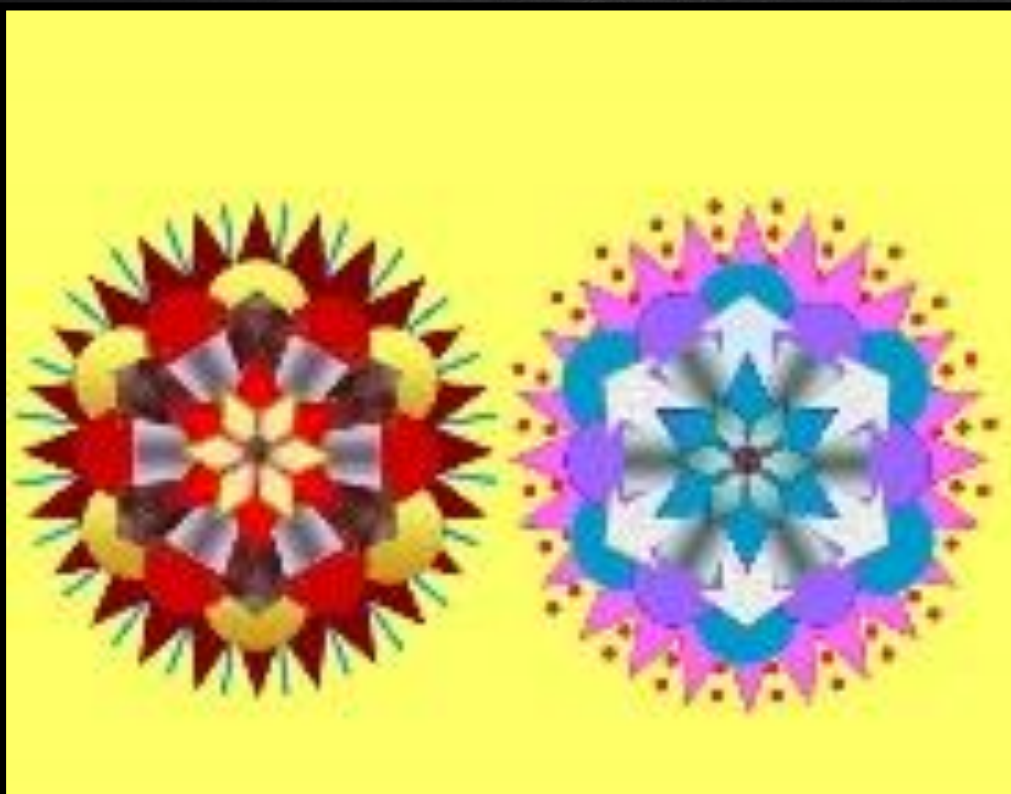


✂️ CULINARY ARTS ✂️

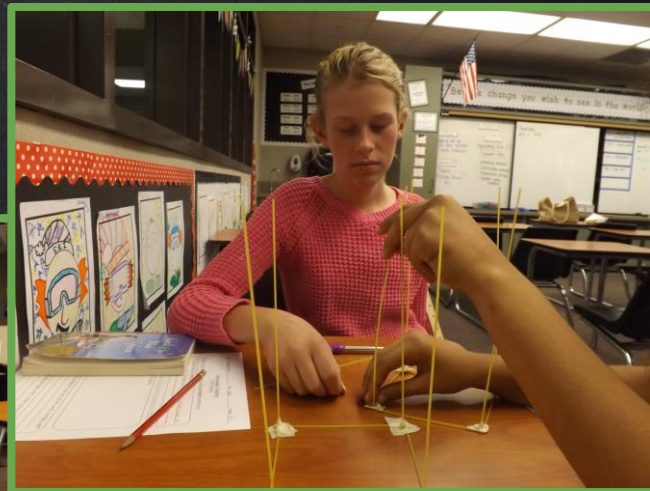
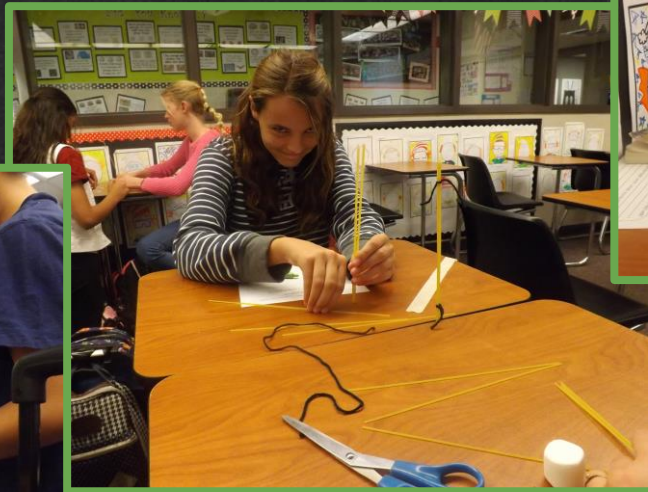


FINE ARTS / PORTRAITURE





GRAPHIC ARTS



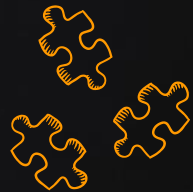
STEM





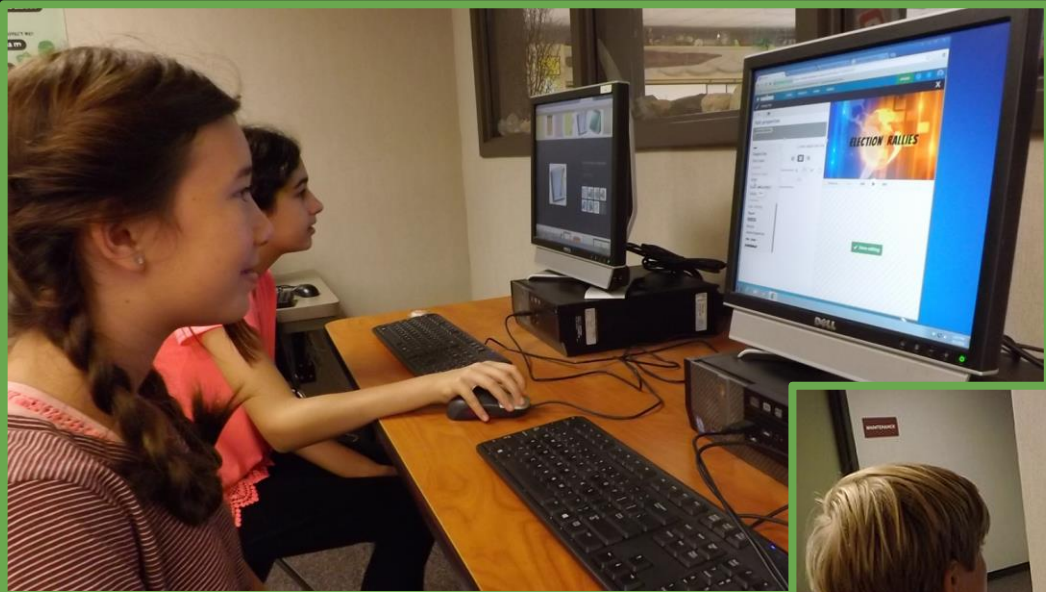
# JOURNALISM





# TECH GAMES





# VISTA VERDE TELEVISION



YEARBOOK, GRADE 7 & 8



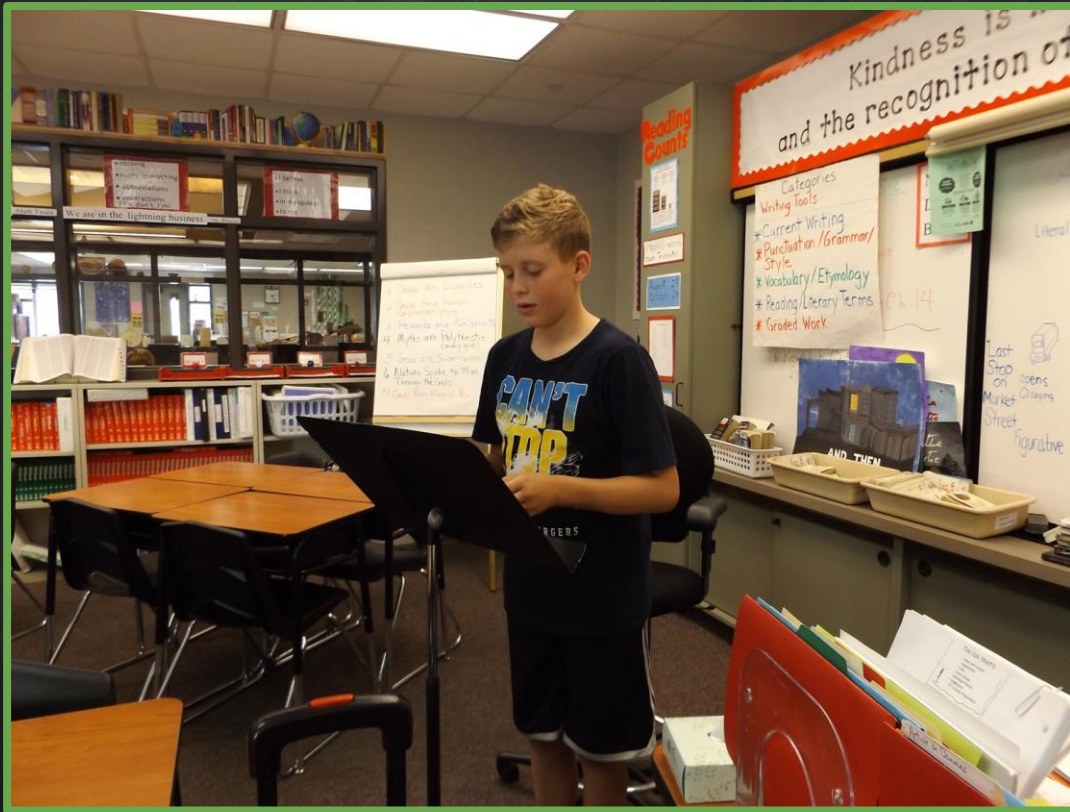


# LEADERSHIP & ASB STUDENT COUNCIL

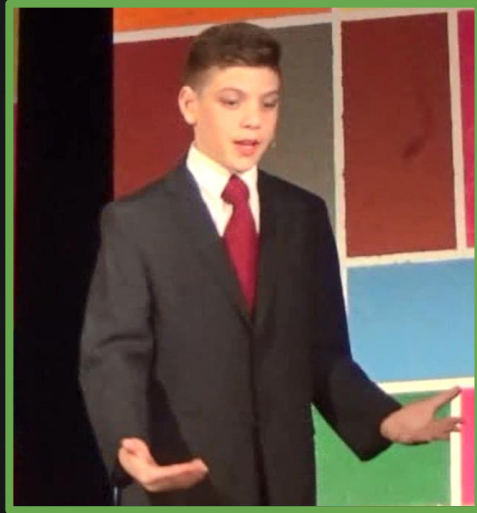




# SPANISH 1, GRADE 8



# SPEECH & DEBATE



MUSICAL THEATRE





# STUDY SKILLS

# SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS



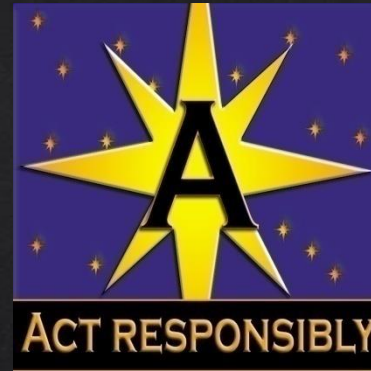


# COUNSELING SERVICES

- X Project Success – Small group counseling services for personal and social support
- X Small Group Counseling (New Student Groups, Academic Success Groups)
- X After School PASS Mentoring Program
- X Classroom Guidance (Goal Setting, Career Exploration, 8th Grade High School Transition)
- X Character Education



# MS STAR



# OTHER MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- X Advisement
- X Club Viking
- X Sixth Grade Science Camp
- X Toyon Honors Science Camp
- X District Science Fair

- X "STAR" Student Conference
- X Team Kids and Service Learning
- X Middle School Conference
- X Astounding Inventions



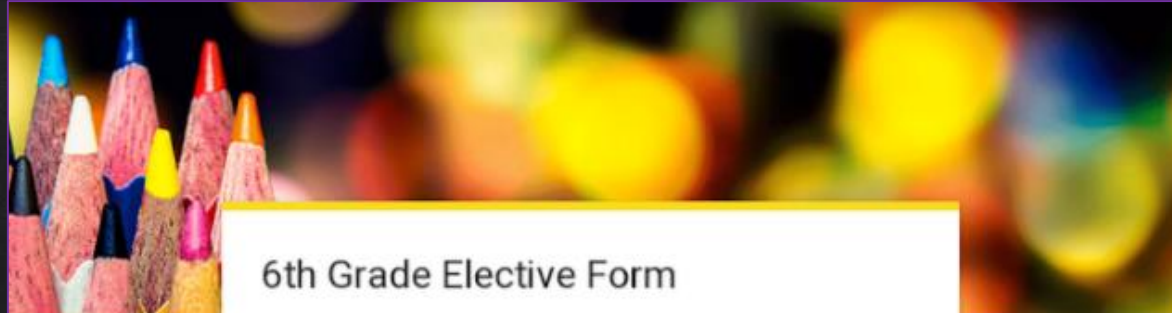
# REGISTRATION PACKET

## X Check for Due Dates!

- ✓ 6th Grade Students (each trimester)
- ✓ Elective is Music (Instrumental or Vocal)
- ✓ Participation for Symphonic Orchestra or Band is by audition (June 2017)
- ✓ The registration link for electives will go live on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and will close on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.



# REGISTRATION ONLINE FORM



## 6th Grade Elective Form

Fill out this form to let your counselor know what elective you are interested in. Sixth grade students are to select one music elective for the duration of their 6th grade year.

**\*Required**

**Last Name**

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

**First Name**

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

**Student ID Number (10 Digits)**

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_



# COMMUNICATION

- X Newsletter (sent to your e-mail)
- X Student Planner
- X Student Progress Reports (every six weeks)
- X Email and Phone calls
- X Advisement (Parent Conferences)
- X Homework Posted – Canvas
- X Parent Portal – MyIUSD.org



*Commitment to providing  
a positive school experience,  
academic excellence,  
social responsibility, and  
strategies for lifetime learning  
for every student.*

*“Open For Learning All Year Long”*