



## SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS Grades 7-8

### 2021-2022

#### CORE CLASSES

Students will receive instruction in: **Language Arts, Math, Physical & Health Education, History, and Science.** **Personalized Pathways** ensure that each learner is given the challenge and support needed for academic success at Spring Valley Academy and beyond. Support classes may be assigned an elective class depending on academic needs. English Language Learners fall into this category and will be assigned an **English Language Development (ELD)** class as their elective.

*The elective choices are subject to change. The following are tentative course offerings for the 2021-2022 school year:*

#### ELECTIVE CLASSES

##### ASB (ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY): *(Application Required)*

ASB an elective class for students who demonstrate leadership qualities. The ASB class is designed to give these school leaders the necessary skills to carry out their specific duties, as well as to prepare them for leadership opportunities in the future. Students will learn about student government, meeting skills, goal setting, event planning and promotion, communication, problem solving, human relations, parliamentary procedure, and other leadership related skills. Students will have the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in the course to design and coordinate the student activities at Spring Valley Academy.

A completed application form and the approval of your ASB Advisor and counselor are required for enrollment in this course. Any student enrolled in ASB who receives an F or U or a G.P.A. below a 2.0 on any quarter report card will be transferred from student leadership class to an available elective. Any student enrolled in ASB who receives a D or N on any quarter report card will be placed on probation. [ASB Application](#)

##### YEARBOOK: *(Application Required)*

Seventh and eighth grade students are invited to apply to be on the yearbook staff. This is a competitive process that is a yearlong commitment and includes an application and a **teacher recommendation**. You must be an A or B student with no Ns or Us in Citizenship. You **MUST** be a team player who is committed, creative, an excellent writer and willing to work extra hours to meet approaching deadlines, and attend evening school events. Yearbook staff members will participate in photographing school events, creating and designing layouts using our iMac computers, and writing copy for yearbook articles. This is a leadership opportunity that will look great on high school and college applications. [Yearbook Application](#)

##### MEDIA/BROADCASTING: *(Application Required)*

Seventh and eighth grade students are invited to apply to be on the Media/Broadcast Team. Media/Broadcast explores the ever-growing world of digital media. The class will focus on the effect of audio and visual media in the world. The curriculum will include podcasting, public speaking, contributing to the morning broadcasts, video editing, advertising, movie making, photojournalism and digital storytelling. This is a competitive process that is a yearlong commitment and includes an application and a teacher recommendation. You must be a hard-working student with no Ns or Us in Citizenship. You **MUST** be a team player who is committed to creating content for the broadcast for weekly deadlines. [Media Application](#)

## **VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS:**

### **CONCERT BAND**

Band is meant for ALL students who want to learn how to play a musical instrument. This course is also open to both beginners and students with prior music experience. At our school, ***All students can borrow an instrument for free.*** In addition to concerts, band students have the opportunity to perform around their community and take special trips together. Most importantly, band gives you a space to make new friends, work as a team, and grow as a musician and a person. \*Our Band has the following instrument choices: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion.

### **SONIC EXPRESSIONS (for Peer Leaders)**

Sonic Expression is a unique class that is meant to develop student leadership skills through teaching! The class is a specialized music class for our students with some special needs where peer leaders (YOU!) take the lead in teaching your peers (with special needs) how to play different instruments and read music. Peer leaders will be mentored by the music teacher to develop their leadership and musical skills throughout the year. This is a great class for students that like helping others!

### **MUSIC PRODUCTION**

Music Production is a brand new class meant for students that are interested in creating their own music in a variety of styles. We will explore numerous types of music including hip hop, latin, rock, pop, and music from video games and movies. Students will create their own beats and melodies online using music software and learn how to produce music as well. Student projects will be showcased throughout the year around school and in the community.

### **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

If you've always wanted to play the drums, this is the class for you! In percussion ensemble, students will learn how to read music and play all types of percussion instruments, including different types of drums and instruments like the xylophone, tambourine, triangle, congas, bongos, maracas, etc. Students in the group will perform in numerous concerts throughout the year and will showcase their skills at special events

### **BEGINNING STUDIO ARTS**

This class will introduce students to a wide range of visual art mediums including watercolor, tempera, printmaking, digital art, ceramics, pen and ink, charcoal, pastel, and others. Students will learn how to express themselves using visual rhetoric, the principles of design, and the elements of art. Art history and art appreciation will be explored by students as they learn how to analyze, critique, and compose art.

### **ADVANCED STUDIO ARTS *(placements will be made at the discretion of the teacher)***

This class is for students who have taken Beginning Studio Arts and are serious about learning all they can about visual rhetoric. Students in this class will learn how to use their art to communicate ideas and be persuasive. Advanced Studio Arts students will learn to use the investment theory of creativity, the creative process, and research to create original art in response to contemporary issues. Students in this class will also build on technical art and design skills they developed in Beginning Studio Arts.

### **DANCE/STEP**

Students will learn a variety of styles of dance like STEP, African dance, tap, jazz, ballet and lyrical. The class will focus on knowing correct terminology, proper technique and putting each style of dance into a routine that students will then perform. No prior dance experience is necessary.

## **LANGUAGE ACQUISITION:**

The mission of the Language Acquisition department is to develop the ability of the students to communicate in Spanish. Students will gain insights into the properties, operations and craft of the language. Learners gain exposure to various Spanish-speaking cultures and learn about the diversity of the world in which we live.

### **PHASE 1: Beginning Spanish**

Students at this level have no understanding of Spanish.

Students will begin to develop their Spanish proficiency through extensive interaction in the target language.

### **PHASE 2: Beginning Spanish 2**

This class is designed for students who have successfully completed Phase 1.. Students must be able to communicate about self, others and everyday life orally and in writing. Students must be able to participate in a simple conversation using vocabulary and structures from Phase 1. Students must be able to read short stories and texts (emails, advertisement, etc) about familiar topics introduced in Phase 1.

### **PHASE 4: Spanish for Spanish Speakers**

This class is designed for the student who is a native Spanish speaker and can speak in both English and Spanish, but can not read and write fluently in Spanish. It is recommended that the student be nearly fluent.

### **PHASE 5: Advanced Spanish for Spanish Speakers**

Have basic knowledge of reading and writing in Spanish. Must be able to speak Spanish fluently. The focus of this course is on using language for active communication; language skills are applied to activities rather than tied to mastery of specific subject matter.

Para este nivel el estudiante debe tener un conocimiento básico de escritura y lectura. El estudiante debe ser hispanohablante (hablar español). El enfoque de este curso es usar el lenguaje de una manera comunicativa; las habilidades del estudiantes serán aplicadas en actividades/proyectos y no vinculadas en un tema en específico.

## **TECHNOLOGY:**

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

The Computer Science program features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Students will first learn the basics of various computer science languages such as block languages (Scratch, Code.org, and Agent Cubes), HTML, and CSS to create simple app or website projects. They will then use the design cycle to target needs in the community for a final culminating project highlighting the programming skills they learned.

## **SERVICE LEARNING:**

### **LIBRARY AIDE** *(Application Required)*

Library monitors are responsible for checking-in and checking-out library books to students, they help put books back on the library shelves, deliver passes and books to classrooms and assist other students that have questions concerning the library. [Service Learning Application](#)

### **OFFICE AIDE** *(Application Required)*

Provide support and assistance in the Front Office or Counselor/AP's Office. Students will assist office staff with clerical tasks, deliver passes and greet the public. Students must have good citizenship and attendance to be considered for this position. [Service Learning Application](#)

### PEER BUDDY (Application Required)

Students work collaboratively in our Special Education program under the supervision of the teacher and paraprofessionals. Peer Buddies assist with classroom activities, small group instruction and tutoring. They must be positive role models in the class and around the school. In this position, students must be willing to engage with a variety of students and adults. If you would like to participate as a peer buddy during the music class, pick Sonic Expressions as your elective choice. [Service Learning Application](#)

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (clubs)**

### **Eagle Attack Squad!**

If you can play the tunes and miss a class, you could be a part of the Eagle Attack Squad! This is a Pep Band that helps the rest of SVA find their school spirit. You never know when the Eagles might show up at your classroom door!

### **Small Ensembles**

Every year groups of kids form their own bands and music clubs to compete, practice more, and build friendships. The best groups get to perform at our year-end concert!

### **BOYS TO MEN**

Boys to Men is a community of dedicated men who are able to guide and support young, often fatherless boys on their journey to manhood. The community based mentoring approach give boys a variety of male role models who show up consistently, tell the truth about our struggles as men, ask the boys what kind of man they want to be, praise them for their gifts, support them when they screw up, and encourage them to become the man they want to be. Boys to Men meets once a week during the school day.

### **ADL No Place For Hate Club**

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) started its school program “No Place For Hate” in 1999 to help schools combat hate, bullying and bias. Spring Valley Academy is proud to be one of 1,600 schools nationwide to be an official “No Place For Hate” school. This student-led group tries to promote a positive and safe school community by leading school-wide activities, attending trainings and providing support to their classmates. These school leaders believe that school should be a safe and inclusive place where everybody is valued for who they are.

OTHER AFTERSCHOOL/LUNCH CLUBS INCLUDE:

Flag Football	Soccer	Basketball	Crafts	Art
STEP Dance	Computers	Homework Club	Anime Club	Gaming Club