

Programs Descriptions at Marco Forster Middle School 2024 -2025

Elected Programs

ASB Program
AVID Program
CTE Program
Music Program

Musical Theater Program
PAL Program
Robotics Program

Spanish I Program
Video Production Program
Yearbook Program

Elected Programs

ASB Program [Questionnaire is required.](#) [ASB Code of Conduct Contract.pdf](#)

The Marco Forster ASB Leadership Program is an elective class that serves the school as the student council, providing representation and activities for the entire student body. The program focuses on leadership development, through an emphasis on planning techniques, decision-making skills, problem solving, organizational skills, group dynamics, principles of communication, budgeting and issues of public relations. The class emphasizes skill building, planning, implementation evaluation and experiential learning for the purpose of growing the individual students in the areas of respect, responsibility, service and initiative. An outgrowth of the program is the promotion and enhancement of a positive school climate. Students are expected to support school wide activities during lunch a minimum of two times per week. In addition, students are expected to support ASB activities before and after school a minimum of once a quarter.

Class size is limited. ASB student leaders are an inclusive and diverse group that represent our school demographics. Students will be chosen by a panel of MFMS Program teachers.

AVID Program [Questionnaire is required.](#)

Marco AVID is a program for hard-working students who want to go to college. AVID students will receive support for academic classes, build and practice academic skills, prepare for high-school and college success, and attend college and educational field trips. Students who will be first-generation college students will be given priority for enrollment. Expectations for AVID students and their parents are included in the [Marco AVID Contract](#). Marco AVID students must also be enrolled in a second program.

Industrial Arts Program 7th grade

After completing a comprehensive tool use and safety unit, students will be assigned wood and metal projects. Instructions on how to design and build each project will be given to the student step by step. Side projects are allowed with teacher's approval. Students have access to a wide range of tools and shop equipment during the course

Industrial Technology Program 8th grade

This course has been developed to cater to the student who seeks greater challenges in the fields of technology, tool use and design. Following a comprehensive tool, and general safety unit, students are given the freedom to make their own design choices as they create wood and metal projects utilizing nearly all of the hand and power tools in the shop.

Music Program

Intermediate Band - This course is open to all sixth grade students. Seventh grade students who have not previously studied an instrument are also welcome. This course builds on basic music skills and concepts presented in Beginning Band with more instrument choices. Students will continue to develop greater musical understanding and mastery of their instrument. Music of increasing difficulty will be presented with instruction designed to increase the range, dexterity, endurance, tone quality and artistic interpretation. Attendance at evening performances is required.

Intermediate Orchestra - This course is open to all sixth grade students. Seventh grade students who have not previously studied an instrument are also welcome. This course builds on basic music skills and concepts presented in Beginning Orchestra with more instrument choices. Students will continue to develop greater musical understanding and mastery of their instrument. Music of increasing difficulty will be presented with instruction designed to increase the range, dexterity, endurance, tone quality and artistic interpretation. Attendance at evening performances is required.

Wind Ensemble (Advanced Band) - Continuing seventh and eighth grade music students will further develop technical proficiency on their instruments while gaining increased knowledge of music theory, as well as historical and cultural contexts of a variety of music. The Wind Ensemble will perform at school events, concerts, and festivals throughout the school year. Attendance at extra rehearsals and all performances is required.

Advanced Orchestra - Continuing seventh and eighth grade music students will further develop technical proficiency on their instruments while gaining increased knowledge of music theory, as well as historical and cultural contexts of a variety of music. The Advanced Orchestra will perform at school events, concerts, and festivals throughout the school year. Attendance at extra rehearsals and all performances is required.

Music in the 6th grade Wheel

Introduction to Orchestra. This course builds on basic music skills and concepts presented in elementary music with more instrument choices. Students will continue to develop greater musical understanding and mastery of an orchestra instrument. Music of increasing difficulty will be presented with instruction designed to increase the range, dexterity, endurance, tone quality and artistic interpretation.

Introduction to Band. This course builds on basic music skills and concepts presented in elementary music with more instrument choices. Students will continue to develop greater musical understanding and mastery of a band instrument. Music of increasing difficulty will be presented with instruction designed to increase the range, dexterity, endurance, tone quality and artistic interpretation.

Musical Theatre Program

Marco Musical Theatre is a program for aspiring performers. Theater students will receive foundational skills in all parts of being in a theater company. This includes learning the history of theater, the roles that occur on stage and the roles that occur backstage. Students will have an opportunity to perform in our productions as well as critique professional performances. You have a chance to shine by joining Marco Forster Musical Theatre.

PAL Program [Questionnaire is required.](#) [Contract](#)

In PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership), students are expected to support school wide activities and events during the PAL course. In addition, students are expected to support PAL activities and events before and after school and occasionally during lunch or PACE a minimum of once a quarter. Target areas include, but are not limited to, peer assistance, new student assistance, self-awareness, communication, raising awareness about issues, caring for others, community building, and socio-emotional health.

Class size is limited. PAL student leaders are an inclusive and diverse group that represent our school demographics. Students will be chosen by a panel of MFMS Program teachers.

Spanish I Program 8th Grade (Not for dual immersion students)

The main emphasis of the language is placed on (1) the mastery of the sound system, which is basic to pronunciation, (2) simple conversation and practical expression, (3) spelling and punctuation rules, (4) basic grammatical concepts necessary in speaking, and (5) an introduction to the short, simple reading selections. 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 requirements for college admission. Students will not, however, receive "unit credit" toward meeting the required 220 units for high school graduation.

STEAM Programs

Career Technical Investigation Program

- In the Career Tech elective, students will learn valuable computer technology skills and be exposed to the high-paying and in-demand career opportunities that exist in the field. Throughout the year-long course. Career Tech is designed specifically to the student that is highly interested in 21st century technology skills, all the while, providing a career pathway to high school courses that are eligible to receive college credits.
- **3-D Design:**
- Students will have the opportunity to work with cutting-edge technology to create their own 3-D designs. This hands-on experience can provide them with valuable skills in design and digital modeling.
- **Graphically Designed T-shirt Production:** The inclusion of graphic design projects, such as creating T-shirts, adds a creative element to the course. It introduces students to the practical application of their skills in real-world scenarios.
- **Game Design and Coding:** Incorporating coding skills through game design provides a fun and interactive way for students to learn programming. It combines technology education with a popular and engaging platform.
- **Adobe-Generated Animations:** Learning how to create computer-generated animations is a valuable skill in the digital age. This can open up opportunities in various industries, from entertainment to advertising.
- **Image Customization with Adobe Photoshop:** Adobe Photoshop skills are widely used in many professional fields. Teaching students how to customize images enhances their graphic design abilities.

- **Video Creation and Editing:** The ability to create and edit videos is a crucial skill in today's digital landscape. This component of the course prepares students for content creation and multimedia projects.
- **Drones and Robotics:** Engineering solutions to real-world problems using robotics and drone flight adds a practical and hands-on element to the course. This can spark interest in engineering and technology-related careers.
- **College Credit Pathway:** Mentioning a pathway to high school courses that are eligible for college credits is a great incentive for students. It emphasizes the practicality and potential long-term benefits of the elective.

Robotics Program

Robotics and Engineering Academy

Explore the thrill of technology and innovation with our MFMS Robotics and Engineering Academy—a year-long adventure tailored for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders! This isn't your ordinary program; it's a dynamic playground of creativity, challenge, and discovery. Imagine your child diving into a world where every day sparks curiosity, where they craft, code, and conquer robotics projects alongside their peers. Our Robotics Academy is custom-built for those who thrive on hands-on action, teamwork, and the thrill of technology-driven engineering.

In this immersive journey, students don't just learn—they become problem-solving maestros and trailblazing innovators. Picture them designing and programming robots using the VEX IQ platform, tackling exciting challenges like crafting lightning-fast robotic race cars, devising mountain-scaling marvels, creating robotic systems for earthquake rescues, and engaging in the adrenaline-pumping "Clash of the Battle Bots" competition. And it doesn't stop there. Through hands-on experience with computer coding, your child will breathe life into their creations, mastering Python programming, 3D printing, game design, and drone flight. Plus, they'll have the chance to advance into our specialized course, where they'll dive deeper into the authentic world of robotics and engineering.

Advanced Robotics (7th and 8th grade)

In the Advanced Robotics and Engineering Academy, students will harness the power of the Advanced VEX EXP platform. They will become problem solvers and innovators through challenges such as castle crashers, up and over, and engaging in the adrenaline-pumping "Clash of the Battle Bots" competition. They will be learning to code robots using C++, exploring 3D printing wizardry with Solid Works, unraveling the mysteries of drone flight and coding, character and game design with Blender, electronic circuitry, and shaping their career goals in technology. This isn't just about building robots; it's a gateway to the future! The advanced robotics/engineering course is a stepping stone to competitive high school robotics teams, paving the way for your child's journey towards a tech-driven, impactful career.

Art Graphic Design

The world is filled with so many different forms of art – including digital art. In this course, you'll explore this special genre of art found in everything from advertising to animation to photography and beyond. Additionally, you'll tap into your creative side to create digital art and make it come alive!

Yearbook Program (Year Course - Grades 6/7/8)

Students learn aspects of yearbook design and production. These aspects include, but are not limited to publication design, journalistic writing, organizational skills, and teamwork. These assignments could include: collecting and taking photographs, conducting interviews, writing captions and stories, organizing the information into well designed page-layouts, meeting deadlines, and editing. No experience is needed in order to apply and leadership opportunities are available. Class work time may be required outside of the regular class period.

Computer Applications Introduction (6th Grade Wheel Program)

Course Objective: A quarter course which provides an introduction to computer concepts and terminology, information technology, and software applications used in the fields of arts, media, entertainment, business and industry. In addition, this course includes windows, Google Doc Word processing, Google Sheets analysis, Google Forms *Web Design, Google Slides presentation management, and Screencastify recording/presentations.. In addition, this course will investigate VAPA CTE courses such as Video Production, Graphic Design, Digital Photography, and Photoshop. The intention of this course is to expose students to CTE semester or year courses such as Video Production, Digital Photography, and Graphic Design. These courses continue into the high school CTE programs within CUSD.

Intro To Video Production (6th Grade Wheel)

This is an entry-level course that will serve as a basic video/film/audio production. The goal of the course is for the student to develop the ability to capture great video images and audio, and to be able to edit those two elements together to tell a story. Students will produce a Marco Forster Middle School weekly news broadcast for the entire school population to view. Adobe Premiere Pro will be used to produce a final video edit.

Video Production (Grades 7 and 8 Semester or Year)

This is an entry-level course that will serve as a basic video/film/audio production. The goal of the course is for the student to develop the ability to capture great video images and audio, and to be able to edit those two elements together to tell a story. Students will produce a Marco Forster Middle School weekly news broadcast for the entire school population to view. Adobe Premiere Pro will be used to produce a final video edit.

Pre-enrolled Programs Dual Immersion Program

-Spanish Dual Immersion - 6th grade

A one-year course of study for Spanish speakers with an emphasis on literature. Students will participate in learning activities that emphasize meaningful communication, fluency, critical thinking skills, cultural awareness and will use their oral reading, and writing skills to complete projects and to interpret literature.

-TWIS 1 - 7th grade

This course is designed for Native and Heritage Spanish language speakers and students in the Dual Immersion Program. The class will be conducted entirely in Spanish to develop and improve the overall Spanish linguistic skills that the students already possess. Students in this class will learn the standard grammatical aspects, the mechanics (punctuation), and spelling of the Spanish language.

-TWIS II Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1A/1B - 8th grade

This course is designed for Native and Heritage Spanish language speakers and students in the Dual Immersion Program. The class will be conducted entirely in Spanish to develop and improve the overall Spanish linguistic skills that the students already possess. Students in this class will learn the standard grammatical aspects, the mechanics (punctuation), and spelling of the Spanish language.

Mandated Programs

ELD Programs - ALD , ELD, AVID EXCEL

Resource Program

Support Programs - Reading Strategies, Math Support

The Board of Trustees desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the District's academic and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any District school or school activity, discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or bullying based on a person's actual or perceived ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. For questions or complaints, contact Equity Compliance Officer: Rich Montgomery, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resource Services, 33122 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, 949-234-9373, rjmontgomery@capousd.org ; Title IX Coordinator: Rich Montgomery, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resource Services, 33122 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, 949-234-9373, rjmontgomery@capousd.org and Section 504 Coordinator: Refugio "Cuco" Gracian, Executive Director, Cultural Proficiency, Equity, Access, SEL, 33122 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, 949-234-9250, ccgracian@capousd.org.