



# Venado Electives

ASB Leadership. Art. Photojournalism. Video Production.  
Ceramics. Chorus. Concert Band. Symphonic Band. Concert  
Orchestra. Symphonic Orchestra. Aide. Intro to Sign Language.  
Exploring Culinary Arts. Drama. Exploratory Computers.  
STEAM. Speech & Debate. Other World Languages through  
Blending Learning

# Want to experience 2 Electives instead of just 1??

## Consider signing up for Zero Period P.E.

Students enrolled in Zero Period P.E will have the opportunity to take two electives.

Enrollment is limited and priority is given to students in Directed Studies, AVID, ELD Support, or Title I Intervention Classes (Reading Lab, Math Lab, or Study Skills)



## Yearlong Electives

	<u>Chorus</u>	
	<u>Concert Band</u>	<u>ASB Leadership</u>
<u>Ceramics</u>	<u>Concert Orchestra</u>	<u>World Languages</u> <u>through Blended</u>
<u>Video Production</u>	<u>Symphonic Band</u>	<u>Learning</u>
<u>Art</u>	<u>Symphonic Orchestra</u>	<u>Teacher or Office Aide</u>

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Click the class to  
learn more.

## Trimester Wheel Electives

<u>Wheel #1</u>	<u>Wheel #2</u>
<u>Intro to Sign</u> <u>Language</u>	<u>Exploratory Computers</u>
<u>Exploring Culinary Arts</u>	<u>STEAM</u>
<u>Drama</u>	<u>Speech &amp; Debate</u>

# Yearlong Electives





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# ASB Leadershi p

Develop, plan, & implement  
student activities to make  
school fun!

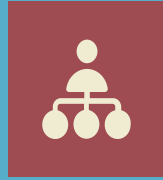


Click  to go back to electives list

# Click the links to see more about the class



[Course  
Description](#)



[Why take this  
class?](#)



[Student  
Responsibilities](#)



[Meet your  
Teacher](#)



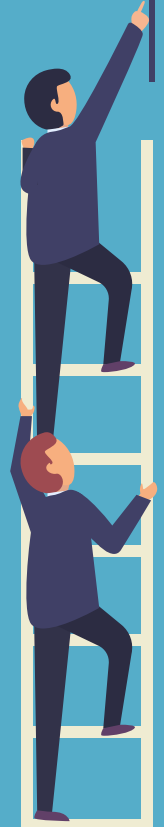
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## ASB Leadership

- Leadership is a yearlong class
- Emphasis is on the development of school wide activities, which enhances self-esteem and school spirit within our school environment.
- Students learn about leadership styles and techniques, parliamentary procedures, budget planning and organizational skills.
- Leadership students work together to develop, plan, and implement a variety of student activities.
- Students who are successful in this course are motivated self-starters, willing to go the extra mile for the school, can work cooperatively and respectfully in committees, and have a positive attitude.



[Click to go back to main leadership slide](#)

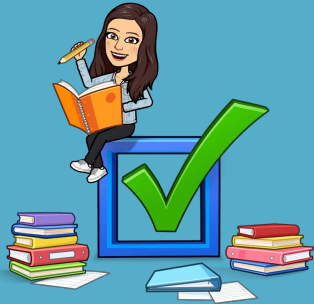


Click  to go back to electives list

# Why take this class?

## Build Leadership Skills

- Public Speaking
- Teamwork
- Creativity
- Goal Setting
- Planning
- Kindness
- Productivity
- Compassion
- Problem Solving
- Advertising



## Student Driven Class

- This class is student driven, meaning its up to the students in the class to create the fun! They are the ones that create and implement all student activities such as events, spirit days, community service projects, fundraisers & more



[Click to go back to main leadership slide](#)

 [Click to go back to electives list](#)

# Some Responsibilities of Students in ASB Leadership



## School Jobs

Line monitors, recycling, new Student Tours, morning announcements,



## School Events

Create & implement events such as spirit days (every Friday), lunch time games, dances, talent show & more!



## Monthly Newscast

Be part of filming and creating our newscast of events & important information



## Service Projects

Create & implement service projects that help our school & community



## Advertising

Creating posters, graphics for flyers/instagram promoting our events. Decorate the school.



## Be the Role Model

Students in this class are the role models of the school & have high expectations of being respectful, tolerant, and courteous of others



[Click to go back to main leadership slide](#)

# Mrs. Sarah Chade



Hello! So great to see that you are interested in leadership! We will have so much fun together next year!

## Facts about me:

- Masters in Teaching from UC Irvine
- 6th year teaching at Venado Middle School
- I was in ASB through all of middle and high school

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# Art

Students will explore and develop understanding of a variety of artistic techniques and mediums.

Techniques will include drawing and painting and sculpture.

Mediums may include graphite, tempera and acrylic paint, watercolor, and more.


Students will also engage in developing academic literacy in the elements of art and principles of design, art history, careers, and criticism.

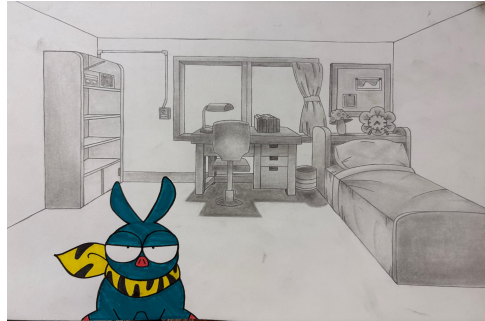
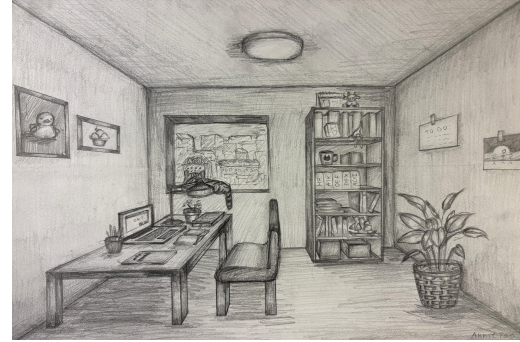
Students with all levels of artistic skill are welcome to join this class to explore, experiment, and create an artistic voice.

See examples of student work on the next slides



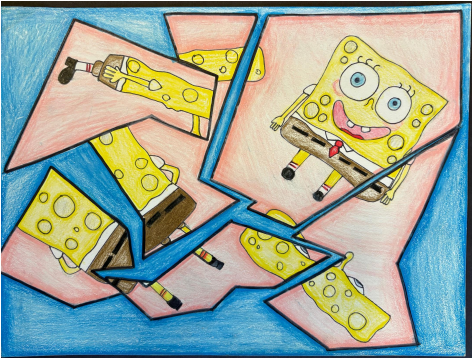
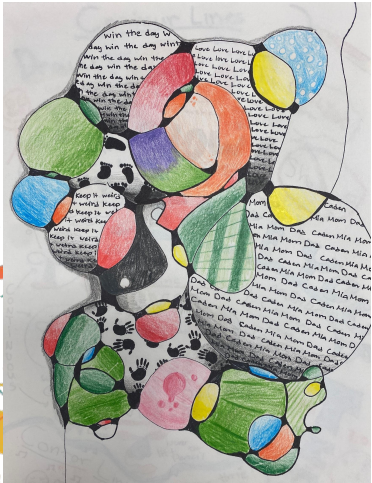


Click  to go back to electives list





Click  to go back to electives list



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# Ceramics

Students will develop personal expression and creativity using the medium of ceramics.

Students will develop necessary skills to work with ceramics with emphasis placed on design, form, function, and artistry.





 [Click to go back to electives list](#)



Click  to go back to electives list

# Video Production

Students learn and utilize technology to create, produce, act, direct, and edit short videos.

Will be able to use Adobe Premier and digital editing to convey a message, tell a story, and achieve communication goals.

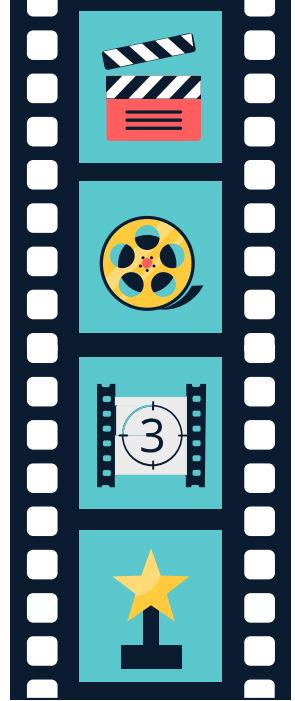
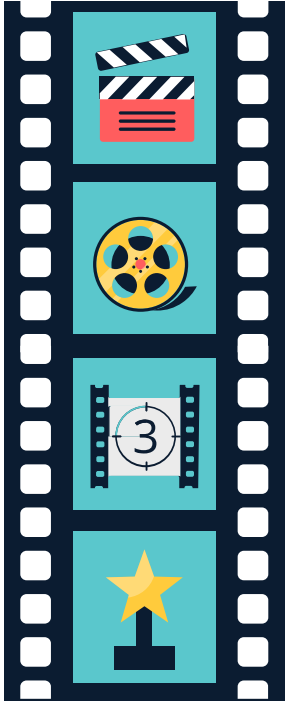
Projects include montages, parodies, PSA's, commercials, interviews, animation, and more.

In considering this elective students need mature behavior, strong work ethic, works well with others and time management skills.



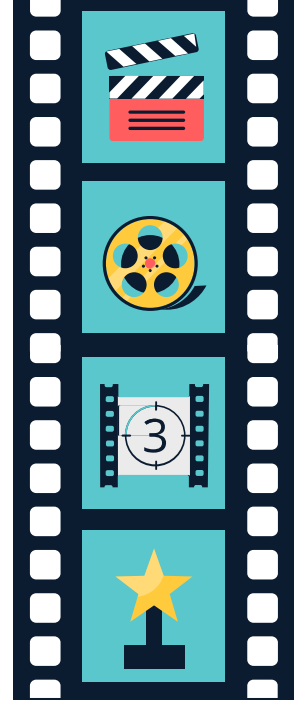
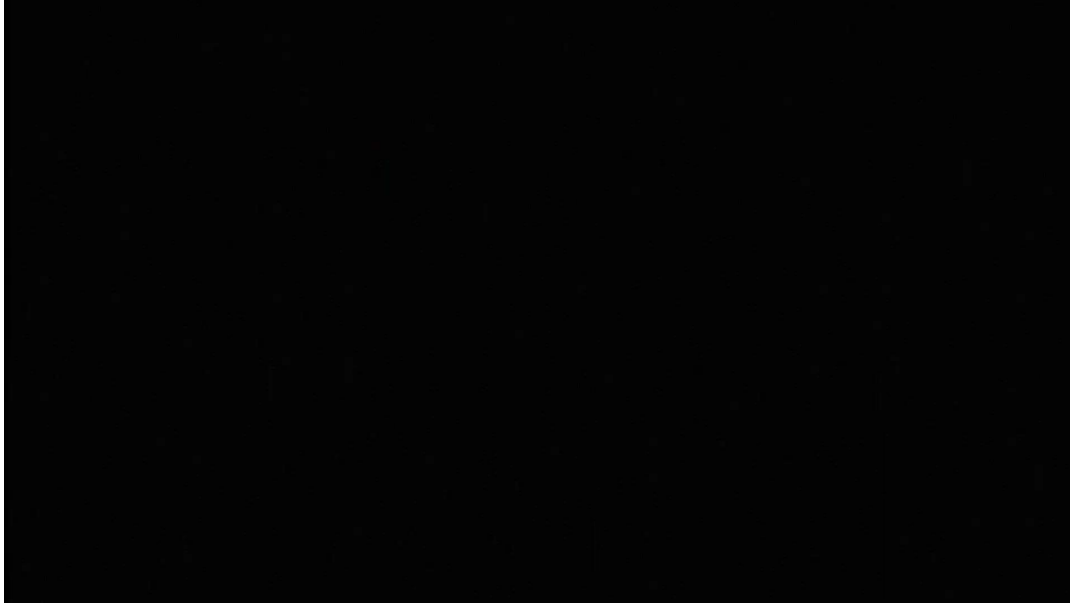
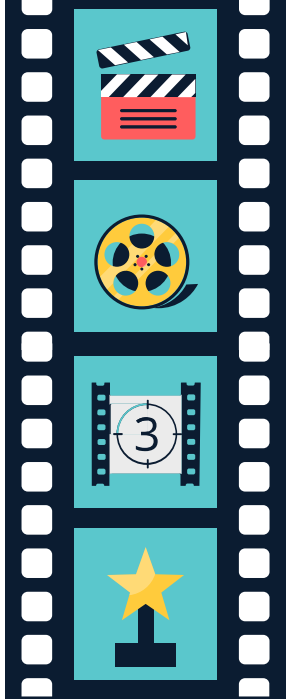
Click  to go back to electives list

## PSA Example



Click  to go back to electives list

## Silent Film Example





Click  to go back to electives list



## Ms. Maciel

Hello! So great to see that you are interested in the Arts! We will have so much fun in the class!

Little facts about me:

- ❖ Bachelors in Art Education from CSUF
- ❖ 1st year at Venado
- ❖ 5th year teaching
- ❖ I love to paint!



Click  to go back to electives list

# Chorus


- **Chorus** is for all levels of students who love to sing and have ***FUN!***
- We will sing classical, folk, foreign language, jazz, pop and Broadway music.
- 4 performances throughout the year.
- All students will participate in a Broadway Revue in May.
- All levels of singing and music reading welcome!
- There is also an opportunity for students enrolled in chorus to join our Jazz Ensemble. Click this [link](#) to find out more!

***Click here to see Venado music alumni testimonials!***

• ***MUSIC DEPARTMENT VIDEO!***





Click  to go back to electives list.

# Concert Band

- **Concert Band** is for any level band student interested in having ***FUN*** and playing symphonic, movie, and pop music.
- **Beginning wind, percussion players and non-music readers are welcome!**
- Enroll in this class to play a wind or percussion instrument.
- Piano players are welcome and encouraged to learn a new instrument of their choosing.
- 4 performances throughout the year.
- Students may use their own instrument, rent, or borrow one from the school if available.
- There is also an opportunity for students enrolled in band to join our Jazz Ensemble. Click this [link](#) to find out more!

***Click here to see Venado music alumni testimonials!***

***MUSIC DEPARTMENT VIDEO!***



Click  to go back to electives list

# Symphonic Band

- **Symphonic Band** is an advanced level class for students who want to have **FUN** playing a wind or percussion instrument, and perform symphonic, movie and pop music.
- 4 performances throughout the year.
- Students may use their own instrument, rent or borrow one from the school if available.
- Students must be recommended by their elementary or middle school music teacher.
- ***Symphonic band students perform in a district music festival in March.***
- There is also an opportunity for students enrolled in band to join our Jazz Ensemble. Click this [link](#) to find out more!

[Click here to see Venado music alumni testimonials!](#)

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT VIDEO!**



Click  to go back to electives list

# Concert Orchestra

- **Concert Orchestra** is for any level string student who wants to have ***FUN*** playing symphonic, movie, and pop music.
- **Beginning string players and non-music readers are welcome!**
- 4 performances throughout the year.
- Piano players are welcome and encouraged to learn a new instrument of their choosing.
- Students may use their own instrument, rent, or borrow one from the school, if one is available.
- There is also an opportunity for students enrolled in orchestra to join our Jazz Ensemble. Click this [link](#) to find out more!

*Click here to see Venado music alumni testimonials!*

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT VIDEO!**



Click  to go back to electives list

# Symphonic Orchestra

**Symphonic Orchestra** is an advanced level class for string students who want to have FUN playing symphonic, movie and pop music.

- 4 performances throughout the year.
- Students may use their own instrument, rent or borrow one from the school if available.
- Students must be recommended by their elementary or middle school music teacher.
- ***Symphonic orchestra students perform in a district music festival in March.***
- There is also an opportunity for students enrolled in orchestra to join our Jazz Ensemble. Click this [link](#) to find out more!

**[Click here to see Venado music alumni testimonials!](#)**

**[MUSIC DEPARTMENT VIDEO!](#)**



Click  to go back to electives list

# Jazz Ensemble



- **Jazz ensemble** is for students who have an interest in jazz, latin jazz, funk, rock and pop music.
- A jazz student must be enrolled in the choir, bands or orchestras to be eligible to enroll in the Jazz Ensemble.
- The Jazz Ensemble is an IPSF class and meets during Zero Period before the school day starts; it is not an elective course as part of the students' schedule.
- Any and all instruments are welcome!
- 6 to 8 concert performances throughout the year.
- ***Jazz ensemble students perform in a district music festival in March.***
- ***ALL Instruments welcome!!!***
- Venado is 1 of **ONLY** 2 middle jazz ensembles in all of Irvine Unified!

[Click here to see Venado music alumni testimonials!](#)

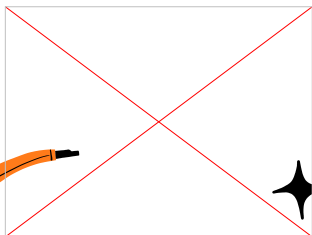
**MUSIC DEPARTMENT VIDEO!**



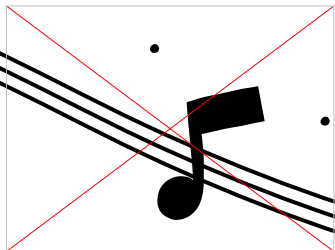
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# Venado Music Alumni Testimonials

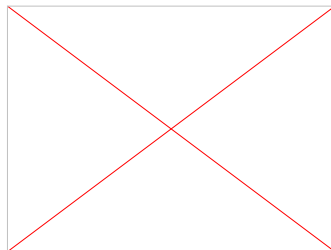
**Sarah Nedderson, Trumpet**  
Venado Music Alumni  
Concert Band, Symphonic Band  
& Jazz Ensemble



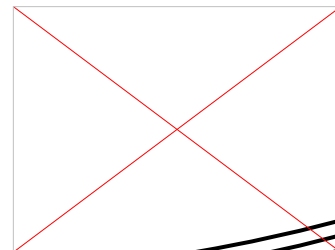
**Genevieve Velarde, Voice**  
Venado Music Alumni  
Choir



**Yoni Cohen, Percussion**  
Venado Music Alumni  
Concert Band, Symphonic Band  
& Jazz Ensemble



**Rachel Nakatsukasa, Bass & Voice**  
Venado Music Alumni  
Symphonic Orchestra  
& Jazz Ensemble

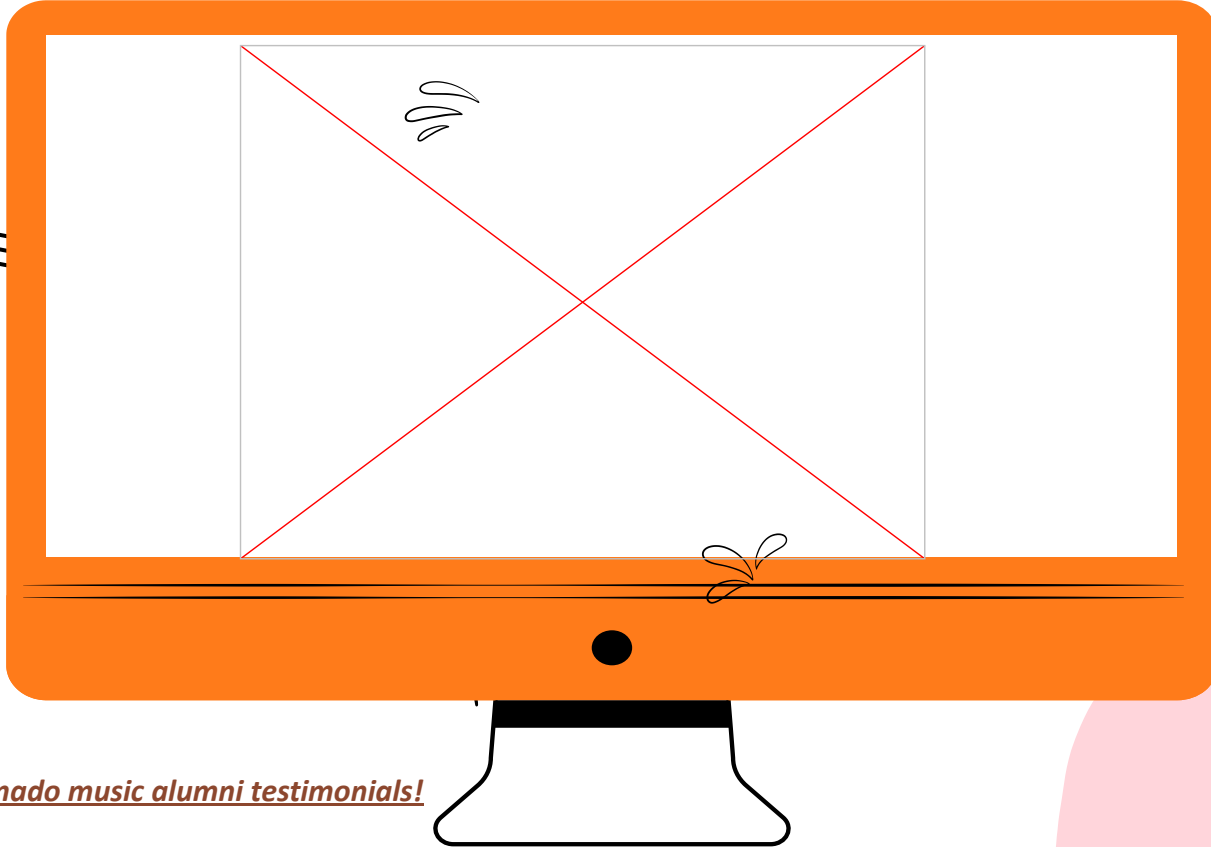


**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**  
**VIDEO!**



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# Music Department Video



[Click here to see Venado music alumni testimonials!](#)

Click  to go back to electives list

# Mrs. Rebecca Venlet



Hello! So great to see that you are interested in MUSIC! We will have so much fun together next year!

## Facts about me:

- Received Bachelor Degree and Music Credential in Music Education from CSU Long Beach
- 11th year teaching at Venado Middle School
- 19th year teaching in IUSD
- My main instrument is the French Horn & Trumpet
- Mommy to 2 super cute kids named Jimmy & Josephine

For More Information about the Venado  
Music Program  
Email me at  
[rebeccavenlet@iUSD.org](mailto:rebeccavenlet@iUSD.org)

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**  
**VENADO**



Click  to go back to electives list

# Field Trips & Opportunities

- 8th Grade trip to Disney Studio Soundtrack Workshop
- Instrumental & Choral Music Festivals
- Performances & collaboration with DF, GT & Irvine HS music departments
- District, County and State honor choir & orchestra audition opportunities
- Much, Much MORE!!



[Click here to see Venado music alumni testimonials!](#)

**[MUSIC DEPARTMENT VIDEO!](#)**

Click  to go back to electives list

## Award winning & superior ensembles for all grades & skill levels to enjoy!

- 31-34% of school population enrolled in music yearly
- 2025 Music Festival Ratings:
  - Choir - Superior
  - Symphonic Orchestra - Superior
  - Symphonic Band - Unanimous Superior
  - Jazz Ensemble - Excellent

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT VIDEO!**





# Photojournalism

Click the number to find out more about this class!

01

COURSE DESCRIPTION

02

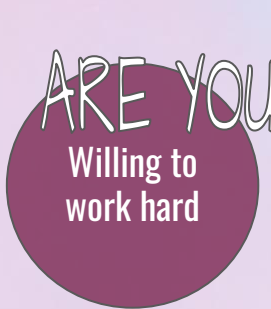
WHY TAKE THIS CLASS?

03

INFORMATIONAL VIDEO

04

MEET YOUR TEACHER



# Course Description

Photojournalism is a year-long course that provides an introduction to the art and principles of digital photography and how to use original photography to tell a story. Students will learn to use different software applications, including PhotoShop, to enhance and manipulate photos.

With the help of publishing software, students will use their photography and writing skills to create the design and layout of our annual yearbook. Students should be proficient writing and in using computers, and have some experience with or interest in using photo editing and/or publishing software.

Because Yearbook students work collaboratively within groups and with the advisor to create the school yearbook, this course requires that students are creative, work well in a self-directed classroom, and are able to meet established timelines for completion of work. Students are responsible for using digital cameras to take pictures at school events and for using computers to design the yearbook, including layouts, photos, captions and more. Students enrolled in this class must be self-motivated and responsible for effectively managing their time.



# WHY TAKE THIS CLASS?

## LEARN *REAL WORLD* SKILLS

- Photography & Editing
- Event Planning
- Leadership
- Marketing
- Graphic Design
- Journalism

## BE PART OF A TEAM

- Make new friends
- Be a leader
- Help others
- Celebrate milestones

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Make people feel seen
- Bring attention to people and classes around campus
- Create a book people will buy and keep for DECADES!



Watch this video to learn more!

Photojournalism/  
Yearbook Elective  
Promotional Video





# HELLO!



**Mrs. Engle**

Jennifer Engle has taught Language Arts at Venado for ten years and has taught Photojournalism for the last 7 years. Mrs. Engle loves Photojournalism because it provides a unique opportunity for students to take on leadership roles, teach themselves and their classmates new skills, and become independent learners and writers!





# Student Aide

(8th grade

only)

Are you helpful, responsible, trustworthy, and organized?

Do you demonstrate the HONOR Code?

If so, Venado staff members need your help!

Student Aide - get approval from the classroom teacher  
you want to help

Library Aide - get approval from Mrs. Crammer

Office Aide - get approval from Mrs. Saenz



# World Languages through IVA Online, Blended Learning (8th grade only)

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Want to learn another language?

Spanish 1

Korean 1

Chinese 1

French 1

Considered an elective, and maximum 2  
electives in IUSD, so you can't take Zero  
Period PE.

[San Joaquin School IVA Course Catalog](#)

# Trimester Electives

## Wheel #1

Intro to Sign Language  
Exploring Culinary Arts  
Drama

## Wheel #2

Exploratory Computers  
STEAM  
Speech & Debate



# Intro to Sign Language-

## Trimester Wheel #1 (Intro to Sign Language, Exploring Culinary Arts, Drama)

Students enrolled in this elective will rotate and spend a trimester in each of the three classes: Intro to Sign Language, Exploring Culinary Arts, & Drama.

American Sign Language introduces basic conversational skills, as well as provides some insight into Deaf Culture. Students will learn basic signs, finger spelling, and sentence structures that would be useful when interacting with deaf students at Venado and in the community. Through teacher modeling, sign videos, sign games, structured dialogues, and deaf/hearing student interactions, students will develop both receptive and expressive American Sign Language skills.



Click  to go back to electives list

Click the links below to learn the  
**TOP FIVE REASONS TO LEARN ASL**

**AMERICAN  
SIGN  
LANGUAGE**

5

4

1

>>>>

2

3

**CLICK TO  
RETURN**



Click  to go back to electives list

**Reason**

**5**

**CLICK TO  
RETURN**



**You can talk  
with your  
mouth full.**



Luis: "What are you doing today?"

Robbie: "I'm going to a baseball game."

Luis: "Nice, sounds like fun. Are you going with your family?"

Robbie: "Yes. What are you doing?"

Luis: "I want to sleep all day!"

Click  to go back to electives list

>>>>

Reason

4



You can talk  
under water.



**Alex S:** "Do you have a dog?"

**Alex R.:** "No, but I want a big dog. Do you have a dog?"

**Alex S:** "Yes, I have 2 dogs; one big, one small dog."

Click  to go back to electives list

>>>>

# Reason

# 3



## You can talk through windows.



**Joseph:** "What's your favorite candy?"

**Victor:** "My favorite is KIT KAT"

**Joseph:** "Oh, that's my favorite too. What is your favorite movie?"

**Victor:** "My favorite movie is Vivo."

**Joseph:** "Oh, I have never watched that movie."



Click  to go back to electives list

# Reason

# 2



Your conversations are not interrupted by loud environments.



**Aissa:** "Where are you from?"

**Rei:** "I'm from Japan. Where are you from?"

**Aissa:** "I'm from America. Where were you born?"

**Rei:** "I was born in Japan. Where were you born?"

**Aissa:** "I was born in California - here."

Click  to go back to electives list

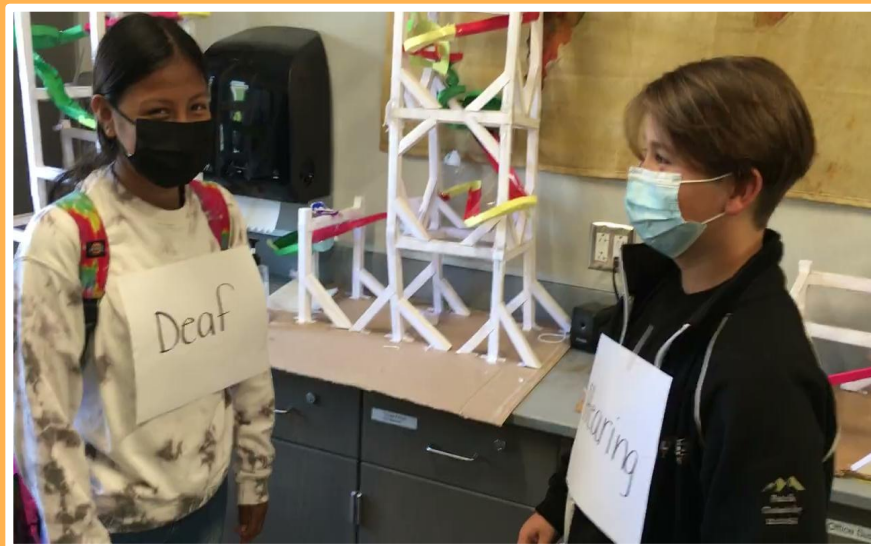
## Reason

1



You can make  
some new  
Deaf friends.

(Venado is home to 30 DHH  
students from all over Orange  
County.)



**Maddox:** "What is your name?"

**Crystal:** "My name is Crystal. What is your name?"

**Maddox:** "Maddox. Nice to meet you."

**Crystal:** "Nice to meet you."

## Mrs. Dicker

Hello! I'm so thrilled that you are considering ASL as your elective. This trimester course could possibly inspire your future career!

Some facts about me ...

- I have worked for the Orange County Deaf and Hard of Hearing program for 27 years.
- I teach Reading and English to the DHH students at Venado and one ASL class for hearing students.
- I have been married for 27 years and am a proud 'mom' to my rottweiler, Carly, cockatiel, Walter, and horse, Sugarbear.
- A few of my favorite things are the Anaheim Ducks, Pepsi, and Shabu Shabu.

# Meet your Teacher

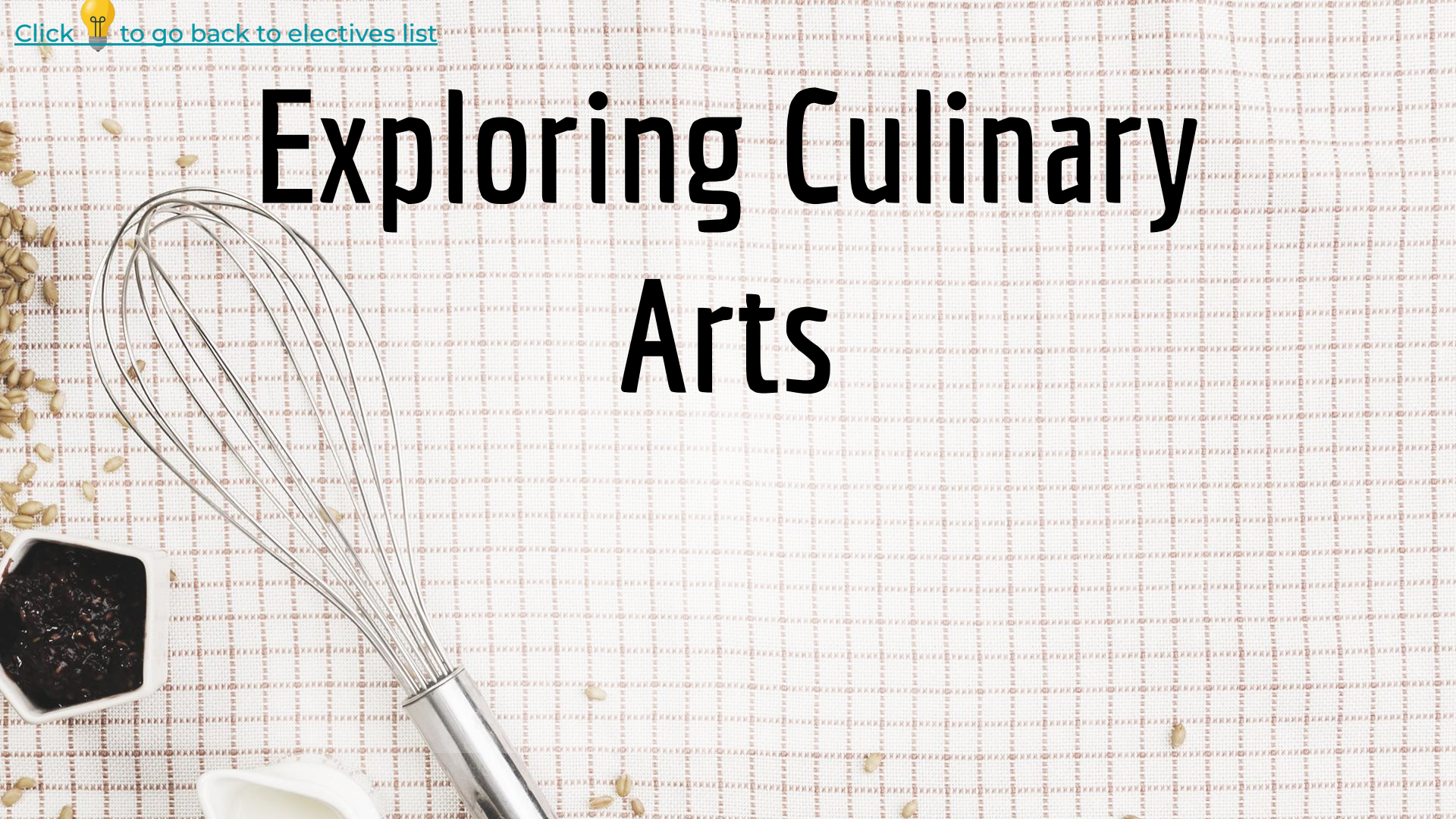
CLICK TO RETURN





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# Exploring Culinary Arts





01 [Course Description](#)

03 [Meet your Teacher](#)

02 [What we do in class](#)

Click the links to find out more about this fun class!!



# Course Description

In this class students will learn to create delicious dishes and desserts selected from a culturally diverse menu. In addition to learning the essential life skill of cooking, students will also learn about kitchen safety and sanitation, have opportunities to strengthen collaborative skills, and will gain an enriching and challenging hands-on learning experience.



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# In our Culinary Class, we cultivate . . .

Responsibility



Essential Life Skills



Cultural Experiences



Teamwork



Growth Mindset



Delectable Dishes



[Click to go back to main culinary slide](#)



# Meet your Teacher

Hello! My name is Mrs. Baranski. I have been teaching math at Venado since 2012. I love combining my passion for math with my love for cooking. My goal is to help students learn basic life skills, while also teaching them the math behind cooking methods and techniques.





Click  to go back to [electives list](#)



# Drama

Bringing Creativity to  
Life



Click  to go back to electives list

# Click the numbers to find out more about this fun filled class!

01

**Class**

**Description**

In drama, we  
become...



02

**Class Activity**

**Examples**

Monologues!

03

**Student**

**Testimonials**


Find out past students  
experiences



04

**Meet your  
Teacher**

Harry put a bitmoji of  
yourself saying hi  
here.

Click  to go back to electives list

# In drama, we become

## Screen writers

We write and illustrate original storyboards and comedic sketches!

## Actors

We perform and learn to build our public speaking voices!



## Film Critics

We watch films and analyze them for spine, structure, and theme!

## Improvisers

We play games! Yes, games. Students learn to think on the fly and improvise scenes.

Click  to go back to electives list

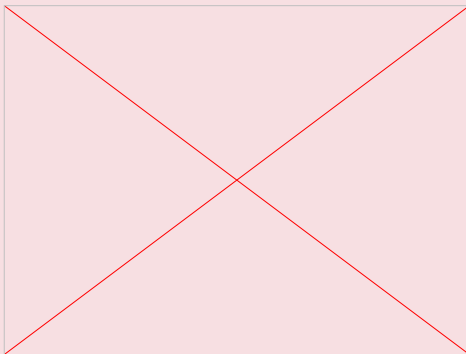


# Monologue Examples!



**Laura - “The Breakfast Club”**

**Sumo - Motivational Speech**



**Chloe - “School of Rock”**

Click  to go back to electives list

## Student Testimonials: What is something you will remember 5 years from now after taking this class?



“In five years from now, I will always remember how this class has taught me to be a more confident speaker & presenter”

“The social interaction. This class has more talking and more fun than any other class. I have made a ton of new friends.

“The pantomiming. I loved the skits and the acting outside of the classroom. In a way, I got to ‘get my hands dirty.’ I just became more confident to ask questions or give responses”



Click  to go back to electives list

# Mr. Upshaw

Hello everyone,

I am super excited that you are considering Drama! Here are some facts about me

- ★ Received my bachelors degree in History at Reed College and teaching credential from CSULB
- ★ I have been teaching for 3 years
- ★ Love hiking, running, camping, and spending time with my family!





# Venado Middle School

Mrs. Crammer

# What is Exploratory Computers?

Exploring Computer Science is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics.

Rather than focusing on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus on the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. The goal of Exploring Computer Science is to develop in students the computational thinking practices of algorithm development, problem solving and programming within the context of problems that are relevant to the lives of today's students.



# Students are introduced to the following activities/programs!

Google Docs, Sheets,  
Slides, Drawings, etc.

01



04

JavaScript



Media & Advertisement

02



05

Artificial Intelligence &  
Basic Gaming Theory

HTML

03



	A	B	C
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

06

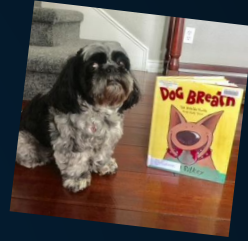
Spreadsheets

# Mrs. Crammer

I'm looking forward to meeting you!

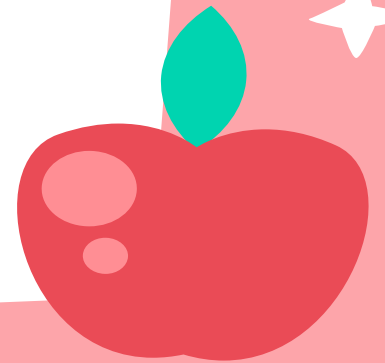
## Fun Facts:

- ★ I love traveling with my family
- ★ Running with my dog Lola-Bear
- ★ Watching basketball (especially the Lakers)
- ★ I grew up in Southern California and went to Long Beach State University with an M.A. in Library Science & Media Leadership. Go 49ers!



# STEAM Wheel

Wheel #2 Course



[Click !\[\]\(125d701e9425b54c764340b5671b38cd\_img.jpg\) to go back to electives list](#)

IF YOU CAN  
DREAM IT  
YOU CAN  
DO IT

If you can dream it, you can build it in MS STEAM. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. During the course, students will take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process using various technologies. Students will have the opportunity to design, build and problem solve using CAD software, various coding languages, 3D printers, laser cutter, various robots, and Arduinos. We will also be exploring various STEAM careers and opportunities outside the classroom.

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A deep dive into problem solving and designing using 3D printers, laser cutter, VEX and link bots. We will also be exploring careers in STEM.

**CAREERS IN STEM**





# Mr. Le

“STEAM ignites the imagination and sets the soul on fire. It allows students to create endless ideas. And it allows students to explore the world through their fingertips! The possibilities that it provides for learning are limitless!”

- Mr. Le
- 5th year at Venado!
- Sports Fanatic!
- Love to travel!




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# Speech and Debate

Learn how to properly  
communicate and  
exchange ideas





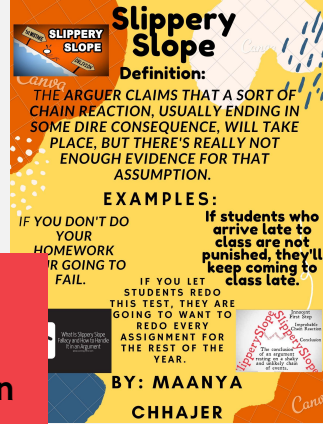
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# What is Speech & Debate?

In this course, students will explore the various elements of speech and debate through various individual and collaborative formats. Students will learn public speaking strategies to help them deliver and write speeches on various topics and genres, such as informative, narrative, and persuasive, that can reach an audience. The class will also include a debating section that will allow students to collaborate with a team of their peers with the goal to prepare and deliver debates. By the end of this course, students will have further developed their critical thinking, speaking, listening, and research skills that will provide them with tools to better share their individual, unique voices with others.



# Four Skills That You Will Take Away From This Course



## Public Speaking

This course is dedicated to refining public speaking skills



## Research

Expect to conduct scholarly research on topics to present.



## Debate

Students will learn how to exchange ideas in an academic debate



## Literacy

This course is designed for students to also read and analyze written speeches.

# Mr. Beckman

Hello! So great to see that you are interested in Speech and Debate! We will have so much fun together next year!

Facts about me:

- Received Bachelors in History from CSU Fullerton & a Masters in Teaching from Chapman University.
- I love playing sports, reading, being with my family, and going to church.
- I have been teacher for 13 years.



Click  to go back to electives list



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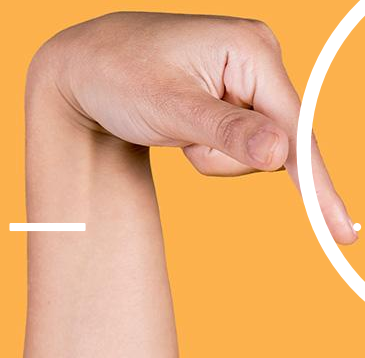
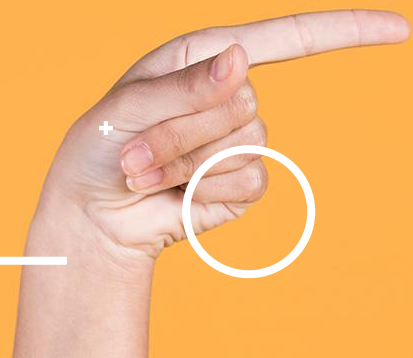
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# American SIGN LANGUAGE 1

*ASL 1 (8th grade only)*

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# Click the links below to learn more about ASL



**Course Description**



**Top 5 Reasons to Learn  
ASL**



**Meet your Teacher**

# ASL Course Description



American Sign Language introduces basic conversational skills, as well as provides some insight into Deaf Culture and famous Deaf people. Students will learn basic signs, fingerspelling, and sentence structures that would be useful when interacting with deaf students at Venado and in the community. Through teacher modeling, sign videos, sign games, structured dialogues, and deaf/hearing student interactions, students will develop both receptive and expressive American Sign Language skills. Materials used in this class are the same ASL materials used at the high school and college levels throughout the U.S.



CLICK TO  
RETURN

