



# Marco Forster Middle School

## Program Descriptions

### 2026 - 2027

#### MFMS PROGRAMS

ASB	AVID	CTE	INDUSTRIAL ARTS	MUSIC
MUSICAL THEATER	PAL	ROBOTICS	SPANISH	YEARBOOK

Class	Description
<b>ASB</b> <b>Grades 6/7/8</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<b>AVID</b> <b>Grades 6/7/8</b>	<p><u><a href="#">Questionnaire is required.</a></u></p> <p>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 <u><a href="#">Marco AVID Contract</a></u>. Marco AVID students must also be enrolled in a second program.</p>
<b>Industrial Arts</b> <b>7th grade</b>	<p>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</p>

<b>Industrial Technology</b> <b>8th grade</b>	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.
<b>Intermediate Band</b>  <b>6th grade &amp; 7th (by request)</b>	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.
<b>Intermediate Orchestra</b>  <b>6th grade &amp; 7th (by request)</b>	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
<b>Wind Ensemble (Adv. Band)</b>  <b>Continuing 7th &amp; 8th grade students</b>	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.
<b>Advanced Orchestra</b>  <b>Continuing 7th &amp; 8th grade students</b>	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.
<b>Musical Theatre</b>  <b>Grades 6/7/8</b>	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.
<b>PAL</b>  <b>Grades 6/7/8</b>	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. <i>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.</i>

<b>Stagecraft</b> <b>Grades 7 &amp; 8</b>	This course trains the student in set construction, set painting, and design. Students explore designing the other aspects of a theatrical experience in this course. Students have the opportunity to work on various backstage crews during rehearsals and productions, but it is not required through the class.
<b>Spanish I</b> <b>8th grade</b>  (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.
<b>Spanish for Spanish Speakers</b> <b>8th grade</b>  (not for Dual Immersion students)	This yearlong college preparatory elective is designed to further develop and improve the overall Spanish linguistic skills students already possess. Students in this class will not only learn the standard forms of the language, but will also explore and expand their understanding of the Hispanic world and its presence in the United States through literature, history, geography, and cultural units. Students will participate in learning activities which emphasize meaningful communication, fluency, critical thinking skills, cultural awareness, and positive self-image. This course is designed to create bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural students. 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.
<b>Intro to Web and Social Media Programming and Design</b>  <b>Grades 6/7/8</b>	This middle school introductory course on social media and web development equips students with foundational skills in graphic design, web development, and digital citizenship. Students will learn essential graphic design principles, create content for various social media platforms, and develop basic HTML skills to build simple web pages. Emphasis is placed on responsible online behavior and digital safety, preparing students for more advanced studies in this CTE pathway.
<b>Career Technical Investigation (CTE)</b>  <b>Grades 6/7/8</b>	<p>The Career Tech elective equips students with essential computer technology skills and introduces them to high-paying, in-demand careers. This year-long course is perfect for those passionate about 21st-century tech, offering a pathway to high school courses that can earn college credits. This elective combines creativity, technology, and practical experience, preparing students for advanced opportunities in tech and beyond.</p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3D Design: Create digital models using cutting-edge technology.</li> <li>• T-Shirt Production: Apply graphic design skills to real-world projects.</li> <li>• Game Design &amp; Coding: Learn programming through interactive game creation.</li> <li>• Adobe Animations &amp; Photoshop: Master animation and image editing for creative industries.</li> <li>• Video Editing: Develop skills for multimedia and content creation.</li> <li>• Drones &amp; Robotics: Solve real-world problems with hands-on engineering projects.</li> </ul>

<b>CTE (continued)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction to Robotics</b>  <b>Grades 6/7/8</b>	<p>Discover the excitement of technology and innovation at the MFMS Robotics and Engineering Academy! This year-long program, designed for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, offers a hands-on journey into the world of robotics, coding, and engineering. Students will design and program robots with the VEX IQ platform, tackle challenges like building race cars, mountain climbers, earthquake rescue systems, and competing in the thrilling "Clash of the Battle Bots." They'll also learn Python programming, 3D printing, game design, and drone operation, gaining real-world skills and a passion for innovation. With teamwork, creativity, and advanced problem-solving at the core, students can even progress to specialized courses for deeper exploration. Let them build, code, and conquer in this one-of-a-kind experience!</p>
<b>Advanced Robotics</b>  <b>Grades 7 &amp; 8</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Yearbook Program</b>  <b>Grades 6/7/8</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Exploratory Wheel</b>  <b>6th &amp; 7th grade</b>	<p><b>In this course, students will take a rotating combination of classes, designed to provide introductory exposure to a variety of curricula. Please note that as staffing and enrollment change, the number of electives offered in the course of the wheel may change. The following is a list of classes that <u>may</u> occur on the 6th/7th grade wheel.</b></p> <p><b>Computer Applications</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Career and Technology Exploration (CTE)</b> This course introduces students to a variety of career pathways and essential technical skills for the modern workplace. Through hands-on projects and real-world applications, students will explore fields such as engineering, graphic design, and more. They will develop foundational skills in</p>

## Exploratory Wheel (continued)

problem-solving, communication, and teamwork while using industry-relevant tools and technologies. This course inspires students to discover their interests and prepare for future academic and career opportunities.

**Drama** In this class students learn the basics of drama, beginning with movement, pantomime, improvisation, and progressing on to monologue, dialogue, and scene work. Students will become familiar with the stage areas, body position, and theater terminology.

**Music Theory** - 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 instrument. Music of increasing difficulty will be presented with instruction designed to increase the range, dexterity, endurance, tone quality and artistic interpretation.

**Intro to Robotics** This interactive students to the world of robotics using the VEX IQ platform. Students will learn to design, build, and program robots to solve exciting challenges. Through hands-on activities, they will explore key STEM concepts, including mechanical engineering, sensor integration, and coding logic. The course emphasizes creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration, preparing students for robotics competitions and future innovation. Perfect for beginners and budding engineers alike!

**Intro to Web** This middle school quarter-long course on web development equips students with foundational skills in graphic design, web development, and digital citizenship. Students will learn introductory graphic design principles and develop basic website skills to build simple web pages. Emphasis is placed on responsible online behavior and digital safety, preparing students for more advanced studies in this CTE pathway.

**Spanish** This class provides students the opportunity to study foreign language on an introductory level. The course covers basic conversational skills, vocabulary building, history, customs and geography of the countries. The course is designed to be the first exposure to foreign languages.

**Woodshop** After a safety unit is completed, students will learn to design and build basic wood projects using hand tools and machines provided in our shop. Students will also learn to apply finishes to their projects in order to protect them.

**DUAL IMMERSION PROGRAM:** If you are participating in the dual immersion program, you will automatically be placed in your dual immersion classes. If you wish to take an additional elective class, you will need to request a 0 period during registration.