



Ridgecrest Intermediate - Summer 2026

Grades 6 – 8

June 15th-July 10th (M-F), no class on 6/19 and 7/3

Teacher	Period 1 - 8:00-9:30	Period 2 - 9:40-10:55	Period 3 - 11:15-12:30	Period 4 - 1:00-2:15
Academic Chess - Staff		Chess \$250	Chess \$250	Chess \$250
LaRocca	Intro to Math 6 \$300	Keys to Success in 6 th Grade \$250	Jump Start to 6th Grade LA \$250	
Larson	Intro to Drawing & Painting \$320*	California Coastal Marine Science & Ocean Stewardship† \$270*	California Coastal Marine Science & Ocean Stewardship† \$270*	Intro to Drawing & Painting \$270*
Marsigian	Intro to Math 7 \$300	CSI \$250	CSI \$250	Jump Start to 6th Grade LA \$250
Ong	Pathway to Math 7/8 Accel \$300	Around the World \$270*	Around the World \$270*	Intro to Math 8 \$250
Sheftic	Pathway to Math 6 Accel \$300	Volleyball \$250	Basketball \$250	Intro to Math 7 \$250
Skalski	Pathway to Math 6 Accel \$300	Board Games \$250	Intro to e-sports \$250	Intro to Math 6 \$250
Tsudama	Coed Flag Football \$300	Intro to e-sports \$250	Board Games \$250	
Woodward	STEM Fundamentals \$320*	STEM Fundamentals \$270*	STEM Fundamentals \$270*	

Grades 7 – 8

June 15th-July 2nd (M-Th)

Instructor	Block 1 - 8:00-10:00	Block 2 - 10:30-12:30
SCROC	Introduction to Emergency Medical First Responder \$250	Introduction to Emergency Medical First Responder \$250
SCROC	Nextwave Fashion: Sew Much Fun! \$250	Nextwave Fashion: Sew Much Fun! \$250
Sears	Speech and Debate \$250	Creative Writing \$250

*Includes \$20 materials fee

†SPECIAL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT: Students starting after June 15th may not enroll in Marine Biology as mandatory safety instruction takes place the first three days of school.

Grades 6-8 Course Descriptions

June 15th-July 10th (M-F), no class on 6/19 and 7/3

ACADEMIC CHESS: Academic Chess Staff

Academic Chess welcomes students of all skill levels and provides a supportive environment where students learn, play, and develop strategic thinking. Students are introduced to advanced chess concepts such as tactics, planning, positional play, and tournament strategy while strengthening critical thinking, focus, and resilience. Each class includes interactive lessons followed by guided gameplay, allowing students to immediately apply what they learn. The program includes a friendly tournament where students compete to win medals, encouraging sportsmanship and healthy competition.

ANIME & STORYTELLING: INSPIRED BY AWKWARD!:

Mrs. Stavropoulos

Love **anime**, **comics**, and **storytelling**? This exciting summer class brings together **art**, **creativity**, and **character development** as we dive into the graphic novel *Awkward* by Svetlana Chmakova! What You'll Do:

- Explore the World of Awkward – Discuss themes of friendship, confidence, and middle school life
- Create Your Own Anime-Inspired Characters – Develop original characters with unique personalities and designs
- Learn Manga & Anime Drawing Techniques – Master expressions, dynamic poses, and storytelling through art
- Storyboarding & Comic Panels – Bring your ideas to life in comic-style scenes!

Parents, this course fosters creativity, literacy, and artistic skills in a fun and engaging way—perfect for young artists and anime enthusiasts! Students will gain confidence in both their storytelling and drawing abilities while having a blast with classmates.



Meet Mrs. S. - During the school year, she is at Ridgecrest Intermediate working as a school psychologist. This summer, she is very excited to get to know students in a whole different way, by stepping into the classroom as a teacher! She looks forward to jumping into reading for fun and

also finding ways that will help everyone feel better and more equipped to deal with the little stressors that come along.

AROUND THE WORLD: Mrs. Ong

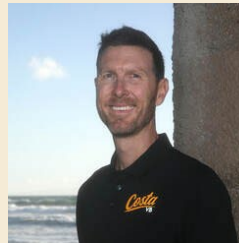
Taste mochi from Japan and scallion pancake from Taiwan. Make dancing dolls from Spain. Paint maracas from Mexico. Join us as we travel around the world investigating and experiencing art, geography, music, history, food, games and daily life as you travel with Mrs. Ong. If you had fun last year, come again this year as we will travel to different countries.



Ms. Ong loves to travel, and she thinks math is fun. That's why she really enjoys summer school. Come to her class and you will have lots of fun!

BASKETBALL: Mr. Sheftic

A fun, fast-paced 4-week summer program designed for middle school players (grades 6–8) who want to improve fundamentals, boost confidence, and play more competitive basketball. Sessions mix skill-building, small-group drills, team concepts, and weekly scrimmages in a positive, coach-led environment.



Mr. Sheftic teaches and coaches at Mira Costa High School currently teaching Algebra 2 and Geometry and has taught middle school math for 11 years before teaching high school. He also has coached for 15+ years, won a national championship at UCLA and played professional volleyball

traveling the world for 6 years before teaching.

BOARD GAMES: Mr. Skalski, Mr. Tsudama

Students will have fun while engaging in a variety of different board games. They will learn and discover the rules and strategies for each game and test their skills in playing them. Through playing and constructing their own games, students will develop problem-solving skills and teamwork in a creative and enjoyable environment.



Mr. Skalski is a 6th-grade Education Specialist at Ridgecrest Intermediate School, passionate about helping students grow into confident learners. He teaches Collab Math, Language Arts, and Support classes. This is his second year at RIS, and he has worked in Education for over 10 years in

various roles. He believes students can thrive when they have the right support and encouragement to push past their perceived limits and do even better. Outside the classroom, he enjoys jogging/running, sports, reading, and spending time with family.



Mr. Tsudama is a PE teacher at Ridgecrest. He coaches Girls Flag Football at PV High and had previous stints as a Defensive Coordinator for the South High Varsity football team in Torrance where they won a CIF

Championship in 2019 and as a Boys Basketball coach at Peninsula for 8 years. He is now using his passion for sports and video games to help cultivate enthusiasm from middle schoolers in those same areas. He is committed to his students to help develop skills in many domains.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL MARINE SCIENCE & OCEAN



STEWARDSHIP: Ms. Larson This course introduces students to the marine ecosystems of the California coast, including kelp forests, tide pools, and sandy beach

habitats. Students will explore marine life, ecosystem interactions, and human impacts through engaging, inquiry-based activities.



Ms. Larson has a passion for marine science and hands-on learning, with experience in ocean-based education and California coastal ecosystems. She enjoys connecting classroom learning to real-world experiences and inspiring students to explore, understand, and protect the ocean.

CHINESE RED DRUMS: Ms. Wei

Chinese Red Drums symbolize power and luck. They are commonly used for ceremonies, celebrations and special events. Students will have hands-on experience playing the drums in this workshop. Students will learn several beats each session in preparation of a performance on the final day.



Ms. Wei has been teaching Chinese in the PVPUSD district for 19 years in various schools. Currently, she is the Chinese Teacher at the Palos Verdes High School. She enjoys seeing students applying the language and culture they have learned in their daily life. Ms. Wei is so excited to bring two cultural workshops to the

Summer Intermediate Program which were well-received by her high school students.

COED FLAG FOOTBALL: Mr. Tsudama

Get ready for an action-packed and fun-filled introduction to flag football! This class is designed for middle school students of all skill levels, whether you're new to the game or already have some experience. Students will learn the fundamentals of flag football, including passing, catching, running, and flag pulling, all while focusing on teamwork, sportsmanship, and having fun.

CSI: FORENSIC LAB LESSONS: Ms. Marsigian

Are you ready to use your problem-solving skills to help solve a crime? This hand-on class will teach students about real-life forensic lab techniques from blood typing to DNA fingerprinting. These lab skills will be used to analyze evidence and find out who did it.

Melinda Marasigan is a six-year veteran middle school educator with an academic background in Anthropology from CSU East Bay. Her unique expertise bridges the gap between the study of human biology/culture and the practical investigative techniques used in forensic science. She is thrilled to offer students a hands-on, scientific look at what it really takes to work a crime scene.

INTRO TO DRAWING AND PAINTING: Ms. Larson

In this class, I will guide students through the fundamentals of drawing and painting while encouraging creativity and self-expression. Students will learn how to use shapes, shading, texture, and perspective to create detailed drawings, and will explore color theory and painting techniques using a variety of materials. Through hands-on projects and daily sketch prompts, students will build confidence in their artistic abilities and complete original artwork, including a final piece that combines the skills they have learned.



Ms. Larson has a passion for arts and enjoys helping students explore creativity through drawing and painting. She strives to create a supportive and engaging classroom where students can build confidence, learn new techniques, and express their ideas through art.

INTRO TO E-SPORTS: Mr. Skalski, Mr. Tsudama

Immerse yourself in the dynamic world of e-sports with our Middle School Esports course! Designed for gaming enthusiasts, this class combines the excitement of gaming with valuable skills in teamwork, communication, and strategic thinking. Students will explore popular esports titles on the Nintendo Switch, learn about gaming culture, and develop their gaming prowess in a supportive and structured environment. Join us for an engaging and educational journey into the thrilling realm of e-sports!

INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE: Ms. Wei

Have you ever wondered why Chinese people love to use red lanterns and decorations in their New Year celebrations? Why do they love to eat dumplings, noodles and other food in their daily life and New Year? Why do people say that Chinese uses English Alphabetic letters for its pronunciation? Why do people say writing Chinese characters is just like drawing or playing puzzles? If you want to know the answers, this Chinese Intro Course is for YOU no matter whether you have NO or little Chinese learning experience. You will have a chance to learn the most widely spoken language in the world and its basic cultures in fun and engaging ways during the summer.

- Basic intro about Chinese language, and geographic areas that Chinese is spoken
- Basic pronunciation system
- Basic writing rules
- Simple character writing in sentences
- Basic conversations about greetings; self-intro about age, favorite color, fruit and animal, etc.
- Simple Chinese culture intro including traditional holidays' origins, celebrations and common cultural taboos
- Learn simple songs including birthday song and other popular Children songs
- Play engaging games
- One cooking lesson (dumpling making & cooking)

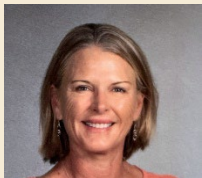
JUMP START TO 6TH GRADE LA: Mrs. Stravopoulos

This summer bridge course helps incoming 6th graders transition smoothly into middle school by strengthening key language arts skills. Students review punctuation, grammar, and paragraph writing while learning to organize and expand their ideas more effectively. The class also builds reading comprehension, vocabulary, and basic study habits needed for middle school success. Through engaging activities, students gain confidence and close any skill gaps before the school year begins.

KEYS TO SUCCESS IN 6TH GRADE: Mrs. LaRocca,

Mrs. Stravopoulos

Discover the essential keys to success in middle school! Sixth graders will kick off the school year with confidence after this exciting, active and informative class. Uncover the secrets to mastering your new campus, from unlocking the mysteries of the lunch period and those pesky padlocks to rocking those PE uniforms. Dive into the details of a full school day, learn the intricacies of all the exciting clubs and activities and gain survival skills for organization, test taking, note taking and more to ensure a stellar start to your middle school journey.



Mrs. LaRocca is the 7th grade Resource Teacher at Ridgecrest. During the regular school year, she teaches Math 7, Language Arts 7 and Support 7. Mrs. LaRocca earned a Southwest SELPA Staff & Community Partners Award as

someone who has made a significant impact on students' classroom. Prior to Ridgecrest, Ms. LaRocca was a substitute teacher for Torrance Unified School District for TK-12th grades and Special Education. In her free time, she enjoys playing tennis, hiking, and spending time with her family.

STEM FUNDAMENTALS: Mr. Woodward

This dynamic foundation to engineering class is divided into the four fundamentals of STEM: Coding, Gaming, Computer-Aided Design (CAD), and Robotics. Students will learn JavaScript and Python through platforms like Code Combat, Make Code, and more. Create your favorite platform, maze, and scrolling games with the dynamic "Game Salad" and "Game Maker" programs. Learn to design like an architect with the awesome 3D modeling software, "Sketchup". Build and Operate Lego "Spike Prime" Robots to perform intricate maneuvers using specific Sensors and coding. Explore a world of virtual robotics using "Vex Code" as you program them to navigate through a variety of mazes. All of this and a lot more awaits you in the fun and challenging class of STEM Fundamentals!



This will be Mr. Woodward's 27th Summer teaching PEF Summer School. He has been teaching the STEM program at Ridgecrest since 2011. In his free time, he enjoys Surfing, Golfing, Yoga and traveling. His son plays college baseball at Trinity university in San Antonio Texas and his daughter plays soccer

for Azusa Pacific University. His youngest daughter attends Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He has 2 dogs, Buster and Sam and a beautiful wife of 23 years, Jennifer Woodward who teaches 2nd grade at Silver Spur.

TAI CHI FAN DANCE: Ms. Wei

This four-week workshop provides incredible experience with Taijiquan, aka Tai Chi, a well-known form of exercise. Deeply interconnected with Daoism, Tai Ji serves as a dynamic form of meditation and exercise, which promotes a holistic approach to both physical and mental health. Students will have hands-on experience practicing Tai Chi Fan Dance in this workshop. Students will learn several moves each session in preparation of a performance on the final day.

VOLLEYBALL: Mr. Sheftic

Ready to bump, set, and spike your way into an awesome summer? This action-packed volleyball course is perfect for middle school athletes looking to build skills, boost confidence, and have a blast on the court! Whether you're new to the game or looking to sharpen your technique, this program is designed to help you learn, improve, and compete in a fun and supportive environment. What to Expect:

- Fundamentals & Techniques – Serving, passing, setting, hitting, and defense
- Game Strategy & Teamwork – Learn how to work together and outplay your opponents
- Conditioning & Agility – Build strength, endurance, and quick reflexes
- Fun Drills & Scrimmages – Practice your skills in real game situations

Parents, this program is a great way for students to stay active, develop discipline, and foster a love for volleyball, all while making new friends and having fun! Spaces are limited, so sign up today!

Math Course Descriptions

INTRO TO MATH 6 (INTRO TO PVCMM 6): Mrs. LaRocca, Mr. Skalski

This class is for incoming 6th graders working at grade level and coded for regular Math 6 in the fall, as well as incoming 7th graders needing additional support. This class will cover whole number arithmetic, writing and calculating rational numbers (fractions and decimals), divisibility rules, number theory, and mathematical puzzles.

PATHWAY TO MATH 6 ACCEL (PATHWAY TO PVCMM 6 ACCEL): Mr. Scheftic

This course is available to current 5th grade students who would benefit from further instruction to prepare for entrance into Math 6 Accel in sixth grade. Completion of this course will strengthen students' mathematical skill base, provide a stronger foundation of conceptual understanding and better prepare students for the fast pace and rigor associated with the accelerated-level coursework. PVPUSD encourages students to attend this summer program (or enroll in an independent study option**) particularly if the student was not initially recommended by his or her fifth-grade teacher for the Math 6 Accel course.

INTRO TO MATH 7 (INTRO TO PVCMM 7):

Ms. Marsigian, Mr. Sheftic

This class is for students coded into Math 6 Accel or Math 7, and 8th graders needing additional support. This class will cover integer arithmetic, the real number system, order of operations, variables and expressions,

equations and inequalities, ratios and proportions, and mathematical puzzles. Incoming 6th graders must be coded for Math 6 Accel in the fall.

PATHWAY TO MATH 7/8 ACCEL (PATHWAY TO PVCMM 7/8 ACCEL): Mrs. Ong

This course is available to current 6th grade students who would benefit from further instruction to prepare for entrance into Math 7/8 Accel math. Completion of this course will provide an introduction to the Math 7 standards and prepare students for the fast pace and rigor associated with the accelerated-level coursework. This course is encouraged particularly for those students who were not enrolled in Math 6 Accel but are planning to join the accelerated pathway in 7th grade, or those students who have completed Math 6 Accel but feel they need to build a stronger foundation. This course will focus on the Math 7 standards that students from Math 6 Accel will have been exposed to prior to entering Math 7/8 Accel - integers, rational number system, algebraic expressions and equations. Students can also enroll in an independent study option**

INTRO TO MATH 8 (INTRO TO PVCMM 8): Mrs. Ong

This class is for students coded into Math 7 / 8 Accel or incoming 8th graders coded for Math 8 in the fall. This class will cover solving simple and complex equations, angles and triangles, graphing and writing single and systems of linear equations, functions, real numbers, the Pythagorean Theorem and mathematical puzzles.

Math Placement Guide

Students will receive their math placement recommendations from their home schools prior to the start of our summer enrollment. Please use the guide below to choose your student's summer math class. If you have any questions about placement after receiving the recommendations, please speak to your student's current math teacher.

Student is Recommended for	Student should enroll in
PVCM 6	Intro to Math 6
PVCM 6 Accelerated	Intro to Math 7 or Pathway to 6 Accelerated
Waiving into PVCM 6 Accelerated	Pathway to PVCM 6 Accelerated
PVCM 7	Intro to Math 7
PVCM 7/8 Acc	Intro to Math 8 or Pathway to 7/8 Accelerated
Waiving into PVCM 7/8 Accelerated	Pathway to PVCM 7/8 Accelerated
PVCM 8	Intro to Math 8
Algebra 1 from PVCM 7	Bridge to Algebra at PVHS
Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 H for advanced 8th graders	Algebra 1 & Algebra 2 Prep Workshop at PVHS
Geometry or Geometry Honors for Advanced 9th graders	Geometry Prep Workshop at PVHS

Grade 7-8 Course Descriptions

June 15th-July 2nd (M-Th)

CREATIVE WRITING: Ms. Sears

Do you feel like there's a story inside you begging to come out? If so, this creative writing course is perfect for you! In this class, we will explore fiction and poetry— reading, analyzing, and writing stories and poems about a huge variety of topics, written by authors of all backgrounds. Students will complete exciting writing exercises and discuss their work with classmates in a supportive, productive workshop environment. By the end, you'll have a collection of drafts, a toolkit of craft techniques, and—most importantly—a deep understanding of the importance of your voice.



*Alexis Sears is the author of *Out of Order*, recipient of the 2021 Donald Justice Poetry Prize, the Poetry by the Sea Book Award: Best Book of 2022, and an L.A Times Book Prize nomination. She earned her MFA in poetry from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and her BA in Writing Seminars from Johns Hopkins University. In addition to her writing, she is an experienced public speaker; she debated at Johns Hopkins University and at Peninsula High School—where she was nationally ranked in Parliamentary Debate—and frequently gives lectures and speeches at conferences and universities. Her expertise lies in multiple types of debate and speech events. She grew up in Palos Verdes and is excited to return to the community as a teacher.*

INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER: SCROC

Students will learn Emergency Medical First Responder skills.

- EMFR Challenges
- Compression-only Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation
- Strength Training/Physical Requirements of EMFR

NEXTWAVE FASHION: SEW MUCH FUN! SCROC

The course focuses on building foundational skills in fashion design, from understanding color to pattern drafting and garment creation. Each week focuses on a different category, providing hands-on projects to reinforce learning.

- Basic fashion design principles
- Sketching
- Fabric selection, draping, cutting, sewing

SPEECH AND DEBATE: Ms. Sears

Plenty of people think public speaking is scary or insurmountable. Actually, it's the opposite. Learning to powerfully communicate benefits us in every aspect of life. In this class, we'll dive into the joys of public speaking and debating; students will learn the fundamentals of different styles of debate and speeches (thematic, advocacy, and more), solo and with a partner. We'll explore how to use logic, presentation, quick thinking, and charisma to effectively share your message. Most importantly, the topics will be fun, running the gamut from global issues to pop culture. Whether your goal is to persuade, entertain, or inform, Speech and Debate will change your life!