



Ridgecrest Intermediate School - Summer 2025

Teacher	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
Dr. Anikouchine	Boy's and Girl's Chorus*	Music Appreciation - The World of Music	Singing with the Stars – Voice*	Boy's and Girl's Chorus*
Sue Demerjian	Content Creator	Content Creator	Broadcast Journalism	Broadcast Journalism
Michael Fajardo	Keyboarding	Keyboarding	Pathway to Math 6 Accel (2-period block) (Pathway to PVCMM 6 Accel)	
Maureen Kealey	CSI: Forensic Lab Lessons*	CSI: Forensic Lab Lessons*	Naturalist in Training (2-period block)	
Carolyn LaRocca	Keys to Success	Intro to Math 6 (Intro to PVCMM 6)	Intro to Math 6 (Intro to PVCMM 6)	Intro to Math 6 (Intro to PVCMM 6)
Alice Ong	Pathway to Math 7/8 Accel (2-period block) (Pathway to PVCMM 7/8 Accel)		Around the World*	Around the World*
Stacie Smith	Intro to Math 8 (Intro to PVCMM 8)	Keys to Success	Keys to Success	Intro to Math 7 (Intro to PVCMM 7)
Jacquelyn Starodub	Pathway to Math 6 Accel (2-period block) (Pathway to PVCMM 6 Accel)		Needlecraft*	Math & Logic Puzzles
Maryesther Stavropoulos	Creative Writing	Keep Calm and Breathe - Mindfulness for Middle School	Anime & Storytelling: Inspired by <i>Awkward</i>	Anime & Storytelling: Inspired by <i>Awkward</i>
Brian Tsudama	Coed Flag Football	Board Games	Intro to e-Sports* (2-period block)	
Paul Woodward	STEM Fundamentals*	STEM Fundamentals*	STEM Fundamentals*	STEM Fundamentals*

*Mandatory materials fee

PVCM = Palos Verdes Core Math

Questions about which Summer Math class to take? Please talk to your student's current math teacher for recommendations and visit the PVPUSD website page for Math Placement (Intermediate School):

https://www.pvpusd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=375709&type=d&pREC_ID=2589023

Course Descriptions

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!

BOARD GAMES: 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. 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.

BOY'S AND GIRL'S CHORUS: Dr. Anikouchine

Girl's Chorus ("Singing with the Angels?") is an opportunity to build your singing voice and sing fun songs. Boy's Chorus (The Singing Raiders) is an opportunity to build your singing voice and sing fun songs.



Dr. Anikouchine has conducted choral tours throughout Europe, Hawaii, Washington DC, and Santa Barbara. He has led choirs at PVHS and PVIS. He is now available this summer at RIS. Come on board for a rewarding summer experience!

BROADCAST JOURNALISM: Mrs. Demerjian

This summer in Broadcast Journalism, kids will have an awesome time learning about broadcasting. You will learn about how to interview people, design a video story, anchor a show, edit using Final Cut Pro, and how to plan video stories for a show as a producer and director. We will have all the equipment you need including iMac's, software, studio lights, a green screen, tripods, and various cameras. We will put together a few news shows during summer school.



During the school year, Ms. Demerjian teaches social studies, yearbook, and the award-winning broadcast news show-the Sea King News at PVIS. She is excited to teach broadcasting this summer and to create a summer news show. In addition, Ms. Demerjian will be teaching Content Creator where students will produce a variety of content including creating short films, commercials/ advertising, and video stories.

COED FLAG FOOTBALL CLASS: 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.

CONTENT CREATOR: Mrs. Demerjian

In Content Creator, students will create videos, photos and posters that demonstrate advertising/commercials, talk shows, video stories, and students will create a short film with a few of their new summer school friends.

We will have all the equipment you need, including iMac's, Final Cut Pro for editing, lighting, a green screen, props, costumes, tripods and various cameras to film.

CREATIVE WRITING: Mrs. Stavropoulos

Do you love to write? If so, then this is a class for you! Students will create an imaginative fun summer story incorporating elements of character development, setting, plot and structure. Aspiring authors will respond to a variety of prompts designed to stimulate creative ideas and innovative thinking. Our supportive summer writing community will have fun offering encouragement and constructive feedback to each other. Everyone has a story to tell...and no one can tell your story but you!

CSI: FORENSIC LAB LESSONS: Ms. Kealey

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.



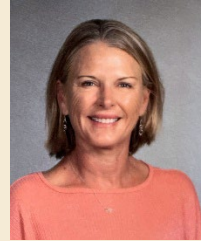
Ms. Kealey has taught AP Biology and Chemistry at Peninsula High School for a number of years. She enjoys hands-on lessons that teach students how to problem solve. A naturalist at heart, Ms. Kealey is excited about the opportunity to take her lessons outdoors to teach about the science in the world around us.

INTRO TO E-SPORTS: 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!

INTRO TO MATH 6 (INTRO TO PVC M 6): Mrs. LaRocca

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.



Mrs. LaRocca is in her first year at Ridgecrest as the 7th grade Resource Teacher. During the regular school year, she teaches Math 7, Language Arts 7 and Support 7. She also teaches Math Intervention classes during the school year after school, helping students fill the gaps in their math foundational skills.

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 plays tennis, hikes and spends time with her husband, 12-year-old daughter, cat, and dog.

INTRO TO MATH 7 (INTRO TO PVC M 7): Ms. Smith

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.



During the regular school year Ms. Smith serves as the 8th Resource teacher at Ridgecrest. She teaches Math 8, Languages Art 8, and Support 8. She has previously taught Math 6 and 7 as well as Language Arts 7 and Support 7 at PVIS. Ms. Smith has also taught Reading Intervention at Rancho Vista Elementary School as well as a variety of subjects from Algebra and English to

History and Psychology at Rancho Del Mar Continuation High School. She is in her 18th year in PVPUSD and has just earned her 3rd Southwest SELPA Teacher of the Year award.

INTRO TO MATH 8 (INTRO TO PVC M 8): Ms. Smith

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.

KEEP CALM AND BREATHE - MINDFULNESS FOR

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Mrs. Stavropoulos

This interactive and calming class helps students practice mindfulness - being fully present in the moment without judgment. Through guided exercises, discussions, and creative activities, students learn how to focus their attention, reduce stress, and regulate their emotions in a healthy way. By practicing mindfulness, students can improve their concentration in school, manage stress, and develop a greater sense of self-awareness.

- **Breathing Techniques:** Simple, deep breathing exercises that help students calm their minds and bodies.
- **Mindful Listening:** Activities that encourage paying attention to sounds in the environment, which helps students stay in the present moment.
- **Guided Meditation:** Short, kid-friendly meditations that help students clear their minds and build emotional resilience.
- **Stress Reduction Tools:** Practical tips for dealing with school pressure, friendships, and daily challenges in a calm, centered way.
- **Reflection and Journaling:** Opportunities for students to reflect on their thoughts and feelings, helping them gain insights into their emotions and behaviors.

KEYBOARDING: Mr. Fajardo

Learn to type accurately on the computer with proper finger positions, without looking at the keyboard. You will be introduced to all of the letters and numbers using computer-based programs, in addition to various drills to increase your speed. Some Power Point and Excel may be included.



Greetings! My name is Michael Fajardo, and I am proud to introduce myself as a dedicated father and passionate educator. Alongside my role as a teacher, I am also an enthusiastic sports lover, which influences much of my teaching style. Currently, I have the privilege of teaching math at Palos Verdes Intermediate School.

In my classroom, I aim to create an engaging environment where the worlds of mathematics, sports, and my personal experiences come together to enhance learning. I believe that these elements can inspire students and make challenging concepts more relatable and enjoyable.

I am genuinely excited about the opportunity to share my knowledge and passion with you this summer. I look forward to meeting and teaching all of you!

KEYS TO SUCCESS: Mrs. LaRocca and Ms. Smith

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.

MATH & LOGIC PUZZLES: Mrs. Starodoub

In this engaging middle school course, "Fun with Math and Logic Puzzles," students will embark on an exciting journey through the world of puzzles that challenge their mathematical reasoning and logical thinking skills. Students will explore various types of puzzles, including Sudoku, Ken Ken, Cross Sums, and logic problems, fostering a fun and collaborative learning environment. By the end of the course, students will not only have a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts but will also have improved their logical reasoning skills in a playful context. This course aims to inspire a love for math through engaging activities that promote creativity, perseverance, and enjoyment in learning.



Mrs. Starodoub has been teaching math and electives at PVIS since 1995. Prior to that, she attended middle school and high school in PVPUSD. It is important to her to prepare students for the future by providing a strong math background. Elective classes are a fun way to take the pressure off!

MUSIC APPRECIATION (THE WORLD OF MUSIC):

Dr. Anikouchine

Music Appreciation (The World of Music) focuses on exploring the history and structure of western music. While there is no performance, some singing will occur!

NATURALIST IN TRAINING: Ms. Kealey

Naturalist In Training is a **2-period block** course. Why does moss grow on the north side of a tree? What does the shape of a leaf tell you about its natural environment? How can you use the clouds to predict the weather? The natural world is full of exciting learning opportunities. Join us as we explore the outdoors with daily hands-on activities. Bring your sunscreen and hat, we will be spending 90% of our time outdoors.

NEEDLECRAFT: Mrs. Starodoub

In this engaging summer school course designed for middle school students, participants will explore the art of needlecraft through hands-on projects that focus on basic sewing skills, needlepoint and/or embroidery. Throughout the course, students will learn to use various tools and materials, develop fundamental stitching techniques, and create their own unique textile projects. By the end of the course, students will have gained confidence in their crafting abilities and developed a deeper appreciation for textile arts. This immersive experience will not only enhance their fine motor skills but also encourage self-expression and the joy of making. Join us for a summer of creativity, friendship, and fun in the world of needlecraft!

PATHWAY TO MATH 6 ACCEL (PATHWAY TO PVCM 6 ACCEL):

Mr. Fajardo and Mrs. Starodub

This **2-period block 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.

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

This **2-period block 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**

SINGING WITH THE STARS - VOICE: Dr. Anikouchine Voice ("Singing with the Stars") is an opportunity to focus on one's solo voice while preparing a song for recital.

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 26th 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 is a senior at Peninsula and will be attending a 4-year university in the fall. He has 2 dogs, Buster and Sam and a beautiful wife of 23 years, Jennifer Woodward who teaches 2nd grade at Silver Spur.