

March 12, 2024

(Vacaville, CA) Registration is now open for the Sixth-Grade Marching Band Academy at Vaca Pena Middle School, beginning this fall.

This new program was developed and spearheaded by Colleen Moe, Principal of Vaca Pena Middle School; Catherine Bozzini, VUSD Director of Elementary Education; Ali Eeds, VUSD Director of Secondary Education; and Melinda Ellis, VUSD Music Coordinator. It is open to next year's 6th-grade students.

The program is limited to a small cohort of 60-64 students and will focus on daily music instruction. Students can still participate in middle school extracurricular activities, have earlier access to advanced coursework, and participate in three marching band competitions during the school year.

On February 1st, the VUSD School Board approved the addition of a Sixth Grade Music Academy with a Marching Band focus at Vaca Pena. The Academy will allow students to develop a love of performance and open performance doors earlier for long-term participation in school band program(s).

Mrs. Moe said that she hopes the program will allow students to build strong leadership and self-discipline skills while giving them a creative performance outlet. The program will also teach them time management skills through hard work, help them develop camaraderie with their fellow bandmates, and increase their respect for themselves and others through music and competition.

The program is funded through Proposition 28, The Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act. The measure required the state to establish a new, ongoing program supporting areas of instruction in schools beginning in 2023/2024.

To register your student for this incredible learning opportunity, visit <https://bit.ly/VacaPenaMarchingBandAcademy>. The deadline to register is March 22nd.

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