

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

On behalf of the administration and dedicated staff at Vanguard Youth Academy, I am delighted to extend a heartfelt welcome as we embark on the 2024-2025 academic year. Whether you are a returning student or joining our community for the first time, we are thrilled to have you with us.

As your principal, I am honored to lead this community of learners on a journey that promises to be transformative, informative, and Christ-centered. Guided by the Holy Spirit and rooted in the teachings of the Bible, we strive to create a supportive and loving environment that fosters growth, creativity, and critical thinking, all within the framework of our faith-based values.

We are thrilled to announce the inclusion of ***Home Economics*** in our curriculum for the upcoming academic year. Home Economics, often referred to as “life skills,” equips students with practical knowledge that extends far beyond the classroom. Here’s what our students can look forward to:

Textiles and Clothing:

Through hands-on activities, students will explore fabrics, sewing techniques, and clothing care. Whether it’s mending a torn seam or understanding laundry symbols, these skills are essential for everyday life.

Culinary Arts and Nutrition:

Our budding chefs will delve into the world of cooking and nutrition. From mastering basic recipes to understanding the importance of balanced diets, students will gain confidence in the kitchen.

Household Management:

Maintaining a home involves more than just tidying up. We’ll cover effective cleaning routines, organizing living spaces, and managing household chores. After all, a well-organized home contributes to overall well-being.

Financial Literacy:

Budgeting, saving, and responsible resource management are critical life skills. Students will learn to differentiate between needs and wants, set financial goals, and make informed decisions.

Hospitality and Etiquette:

Hosting guests graciously is an art. Our students will discover the art of setting tables, practicing basic etiquette, and making visitors feel welcome. These skills extend beyond formal occasions—they're about building meaningful connections.

Social and Communication Skills:

Effective communication is at the heart of successful relationships. Students will hone active listening, conflict resolution, and collaboration skills. Whether it's working in a team or expressing themselves confidently, these abilities are invaluable.

Empowering Responsible Individuals:

Home Economics isn't just about practical skills; it's about empowerment. As students learn to manage their homes, they also develop responsibility, resilience, and adaptability. These qualities will serve them well in all aspects of life.

We believe that Home Economics complements academic learning by nurturing well-rounded individuals. It's not just about cooking or sewing; it's about fostering capable, confident citizens who contribute positively to their families and communities.

We are delighted to introduce ***Social Contagion*** as a dynamic addition to our curriculum at Vanguard Youth Academy. Social contagion, much like a ripple in a pond, illustrates how behaviors, attitudes, and emotions can spread spontaneously within social groups. Here's what our students can expect:

Understanding Social Influence:

Social contagion isn't just a theoretical concept; it's a powerful force shaping our interactions. Students will explore how one person's actions or feelings can set off a chain reaction, affecting those around them.

Whether it's adopting positive habits or navigating group dynamics, understanding social influence empowers our students.

The Herd Followers vs. Individualists:

We'll delve into the fascinating distinction between these two types of individuals:

Herd Followers: Those who tend to conform to prevailing norms and follow the crowd.

Individualists: Those who chart their own course, guided by their convictions and unique perspectives.

By recognizing these patterns, students will learn to make conscious choices about their own influence and impact.

Leadership Through Positive Influence:

At VYA, we believe in nurturing leaders—not mere followers. Our students will discover how to be catalysts for positive change.

By God’s grace, they will learn to inspire others through kindness, empathy, and integrity. Encourage critical thinking and independent decision-making. Foster a culture of respect, inclusion, and compassion.

Empowering Responsible Individuals:

Social contagion isn’t limited to trends; it’s about **shaping character**. Our students will emerge as leaders who uplift their peers, families, and communities. Together, we’ll create a ripple effect of kindness, courage, and purpose.

As we embark on this exciting journey, ***let us remember that each interaction matters. Whether it’s a smile, a thoughtful gesture, or standing up for what’s right, our students have the power to influence the world around them.***

We are committed to partnering with you to ensure that our students reach their full potential, achieving academic excellence and spiritual growth. Each day holds the promise of new discoveries and opportunities for personal development. We aim with the help of the parents/guardians to teach our students to be true to God, true to principle, and thus true to themselves and to all with whom they are connected. As a result, they will be a support to their teachers, and a positive example and encouragement to their fellow pupils. {Ed 283.2} We are looking forward to a productive and collaborative year ahead, trusting in God's guidance and provision.

As we navigate this academic voyage, remember that Vanguard Youth Academy is God’s School and a community—a place where friendships blossom, talents flourish, and character is shaped. Let us support one another, glorify God in our achievements, and lift each other up during both triumphs and challenges. Together, let us make this academic year a remarkable and memorable experience.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child’s education and growth. We look forward to witnessing the positive contagion of leadership and grace within our VYA family.

Warm regards,



Olivia Ladd

Principal, Vanguard Youth Academy