



Inspire Learning. **Unlock Potential. Empower Achievement.**

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January 20, 2021

Dear LMHS Student,

Please accept this letter as a personal invitation to participate in an exciting, new learning experience available to Linn-Mar High School students in the coming year. The new experience will be provided under the title of Venture Academics, an experience that targets those that want to apply, analyze, evaluate, and create with foundational learning.

Venture Academics was built to support and extend the incredible base provided by traditional high school coursework. Though some traditional teaching and learning methods will be employed at Venture, a Venture experience will primarily focus on extending learning to real world applications, problems, and solutions. Venture Academics will be available to Linn-Mar students in a broad array of content areas in 2021-2022.

Students and/or parents with questions regarding Venture Academics are invited to meet with school personnel for a Zoom informational meeting at [5:30 PM on Thursday, February 4](#) or during a second session on the same day using the [6:30 pm link HERE](#). Students are also invited to meet on February 4<sup>th</sup> at [11:30 am](#) or [3:30 pm](#) to have questions answered. Questions at any time may be directed to Mark Hutcheson at 447-3236.

The program is straightforward in that students begin by choosing a subject area of interest with a defined set of LMHS course associations, and follow with learning through standards-referenced, project-based experiences. Students select one (of ten) content-focused “strands” in which to spend one-half day of either the fall or spring semester participating in strand-learning and project work. Each strand will have one or more mentor teachers, community advisors, mentors, or partners supporting students through credit-bearing coursework and projects of student choice.

Offered strand learning will include; Digital Design and Communication, Life Science, Business Foundations, Advanced Business, Behavioral Science, Writing, Health, Earth Science, Environmental Science, and Government and Law. As stated earlier, strand-learning will use pre-defined coursework to support project-based learning. For example, the Digital Design and Communications strand will consist of content standards associated with Digital Photography, Graphics One, and Graphics Two (for which students earn 15 credits as learning is demonstrated), each in support of high-interest, student-designed project work (an additional 5 credits). For additional information, please consult the official 2021-2022 Linn-Mar High School Program of Studies or see your School Counselor for details of courses and credits.



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Though super-block sections of Venture Academics will meet course standards for several LMHS courses, additional stand-alone sections of courses will be taught in a traditional fashion and available to students choosing traditional learning or unable to access Venture for scheduling reasons.

Thank you for considering this exciting new opportunity available to students of Linn-Mar High School.

Wishing you the best as we continue toward a GREAT finish to the '20-'21 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Hutcheson'.

Mark Hutcheson  
Director of High School Teaching and Learning  
Linn-Mar Community School District