Tonight's Agenda

- Introductions
- What is the Vail Early College (VEC)?
- What the Vail Early College is not
- What are the benefits of the VEC?
- What does the VEC look like for students?
- Costs of participation on the VEC?
- The VEC application process
- Q&A

Cohort 9 Information Night

January 7th, 2026

VAIL EARLY COLLEGE

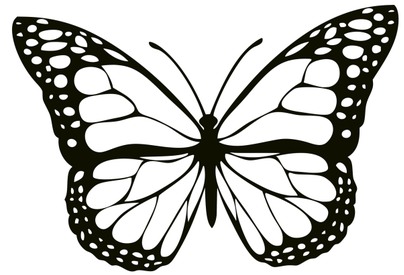
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Welcome!



Introductions

What is the Vail Early College?



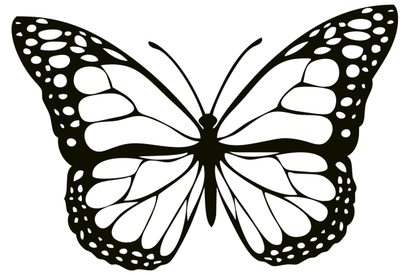
- Program run by the Vail School District
- Partnership with Pima Community College
- Opportunity for Vail students to transform their high school experience by taking their classes on Pima's East Campus.

What the VEC is NOT!

- Not a program run by Pima Community College.
- Not a program that meets the needs of every student in the district.
- Not a credit recovery program.
- Not an online program.
- Not a program for students who are unmotivated.



Benefits of the VEC?



- Immersive experience into college before graduating from high school
- Potential to earn up to 30 transferable college credits
- Tuition free!
- Dedicated VEC staff to support students through their early college experience!!

What does the VEC look like for students?

- **Different Calendar than Vail SD**
  - Follows Pima Community College calendar
  - Breaks are different - No fall break, one week spring break
  - School starts for the VEC student in August not July.
    - College Success Bootcamp prior to the start of Pima's fall and spring semesters.

What does the VEC look like for students?

Courseload

- Concurrent enrollment not dual enrollment. College classes taught **at** the college.
- Classes will move at a faster pace than what students are familiar with.

Responsibility

- Students are expected to take responsibility for their learning.
- Expectation to learn outside the classroom.
- Arrange for transportation to and from Pima.

Assistance

- VEC staff and our College Success class will help students navigate challenges and build college confidence.

Connections

- Still connected to their high school of graduation!

Senior Exit Project

- Students complete their Senior Exit Project (SEP) through the Vail Early College.



What does the VEC look like for students?

- **VEC School Day**
  - Monday through Thursday - 9:00am-2:00pm
    - Daily attendance is required during VEC school hours.
    - Pima classes may start or end outside of this time, which could extend the ‘school day’ for a student



What does the VEC look like for students?

- **What about Fridays???**
  - Workshop Fridays
    - Mandatory attendance
    - Pre-scheduled, at least one a month
  - Flex Fridays
    - College class only



What does the VEC look like for students?

- **6 classes per semester**
- **Schedules based on 3 main questions:**
  - Will it help them graduate from high school?
  - Does the course align with their future degree path?
  - Are the classes on East campus and transferable to a four-year university?

2 VEC high school classes

- Government
- College Success

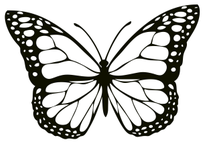
4 Pima classes

- Writing
- Math
- General Education
- General Education





Schedule Examples



Student Example #1

Monday/Wednesday

Check In	9:00
Government	9:45-11:00
PHI 101	11:15-12:30
College Success	1:20-2:00

Tuesday/Thursday

Check In	9:00
WRT 101	9:45-11:00
AJS 101	11:15-12:30
MAT 151	12:45-2:35

Friday

Workshop	9:00-10:30

Student Example #2

Monday/Wednesday

College Success	9:00-9:40
BIO 201IH	9:45-12:25
MAT 220	12:45-3:00

Tuesday/Thursday

Check In	9:00
HIS 141	9:45-11:00
WRT 101	11:15-12:30
Government	12:45-2:00

Friday

Workshop	9:00-10:30

Student Example #3

Monday/Wednesday

Check In	9:00
BIO 201IH	9:45-12:25
College Success	1:20-2:00

Tuesday/Thursday

MAT 187	8:15-10:50
WRT 102	11:15-12:30
Government	12:45-2:00

Friday

PSY 101	9:10-12:00
Workshop	12:30-2:00

Costs of participation in the VEC?

- $75 VEC ‘course fee’
- Any book/resource not able to be purchased at the Pima bookstore (*this is rare!*)
- Transportation & food
- Any relevant school fees at the high school of graduation



The Application Process

Application is on the VEC website

earlycollege.vailschooldistrict.org

NOTE: VEC applicants DO NOT apply through Pima. Pima's application is separate and not required unless accepted into the VEC program.

Application includes:

- Online form with essay/personal statement
- Recommendation from two teachers
  - One must be from a current core content area teachers
- Placement Testing (if needed)

Selection based on

- Ability to succeed in college-level courses
- Successful progress towards graduation from high school
- Motivation and commitment to college coursework
- Ability to follow the policies and expectations of the VEC program

Evidence of the above will be scored from:

- Student application essay
- Cumulative unweighted grade point average (and Pima placement test scores, if needed)
- Rigor of coursework in high school (e.g., honors, AP, dual-enrollment)
- High school academic record (transcript, attendance, and discipline)
- Teacher Recommendations
- Interview

The Application Process

Application Timeline

- Application is open now
- **Application deadline is midnight January 21st**
- Late Jan & February = Interviews of applicants who qualify, based on initial application scoring
- March = Decision notifications to students via student email

Application is on the VEC website earlycollege.vailschooldistrict.org

VEC applicants DO NOT apply to the program through Pima.
Pima's application is separate and not required unless accepted into the VEC program.

Student's that are ready
to transform their
high school experience can go to
earlycollege.vailschooldistrict.org
to apply!

More information,
including an FAQ page
can be found on our website.

Thank you for coming!

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Any Questions?