

Viper Accelerate Program (VAP)

A special group of kids and teachers make up Space Coast High School's VAP or Viper Accelerated Program! Space Coast's Viper Accelerated Program (VAP) is for gifted and high-achieving students, who are eager to take their education to the highest possible level of excellence. VAP students partake in a rigorous curriculum that is hands-on, interactive, and rewarding.

Students apply for VAP in 7th grade and have the opportunity to stay with the program through their senior year of high school. A qualified VAP candidate must have a 3.0 GPA, an excellent behavior and attendance record, and superior teacher recommendations. Above all, a potential VAP student needs to have a love of learning.

In grades 7-9, VAP students stay with their VAP cohort for their core classes. These classes prepare students for the rigor of AP (Advanced Placement) courses in high school. Rather than assigning "book work," VAP students "show" understanding through higher-order thinking like participating in Socratic seminars and in-depth research projects. For example, VAP students read a dystopian book series in 7th and 8th grade. While on a field trip to Epcot, they applied their knowledge of utopian/dystopian characteristics by finding examples throughout the park's several "countries." Students then created a picture showcase of their discoveries and presented their justified examples to the class.

Picture: VAP students are regularly immersed in exciting science experiments.



To better prepare for AP courses, VAP students are expected to read at home, allowing for more time in class for interactive lessons. In 9th grade, students take their first AP course together called AP Computer Science Principles—taught by an experienced VAP teacher.

Picture: VAP students showing off their favorite book in *The Giver* series.



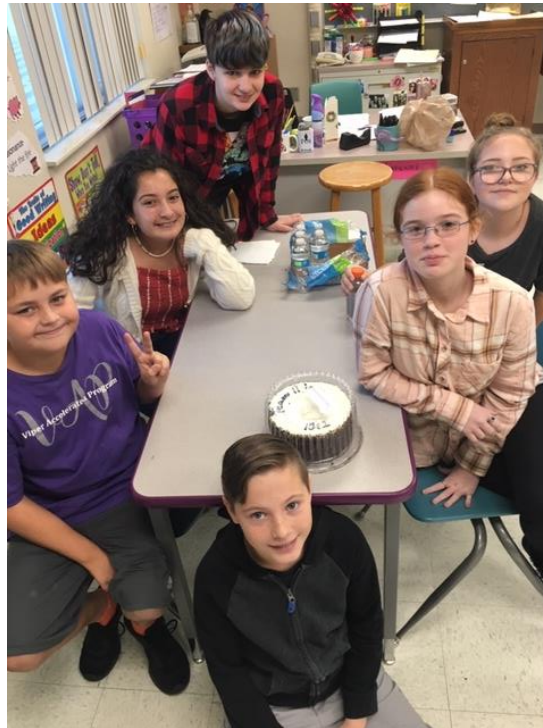
For grades 10-12, VAP students venture down different avenues of excellence—all with the focus on AP success. We encourage our VAP students to pursue the nationally recognized Capstone diploma. Students take four AP courses of their choice plus the two AP Capstone classes. Students who complete the program graduate with a VAP cord. VAP students are college-bound; in fact, some of our students have attended top-notch universities such as Duke, Johns Hopkins, and Stetson.

Picture: High School VAP students with two VAP teachers, Mrs. Hanson (left) and Mrs. Petronella (right)



VAP students enjoy special privileges such as exciting field trips, celebrations, and academic competitions. Passionate VAP teachers have created a competitive—yet loving—classroom environment, where students collectively use their minds to create meaningful assignments and projects. Students in the 7-9 cohort compete for points in themed teams such as *Team Star Wars*, *Team Marvel*, *Team Disney*, and *Team Spongebob*.

Picture: “Team 11” enjoying their win with the traditional cake prize from a *Stranger Things* theme from this last school year.



The most important quality about VAP is friendship. Students form deep bonds of friendship, and VAP kids find a support system with like-minded students. In VAP, we value unique minds, driven hearts, and colorful personalities. VAP teachers and students understand that education is the key that opens the doors of possibility.



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