FFA Program Introduction

Immanuel FFA is a dynamic organization within agricultural education that changes lives and prepares students for leadership, personal growth, and career success. We have over 140 members in our chapter. FFA members participate in activities including field trips, chapter meetings, and campus activities, and are eligible to participate in contest areas and earn recognition through our chapter and state.

Features of the Program:

- Students enrolled in an agriculture class are members in Immanuel's FFA (Future Farmers of America) Chapter. The 2024-25 school year had over 140 Immanuel Chapter members. Through the FFA program, students are able to attend leadership conferences, gain new career skills through contests, participate in speaking competitions, and show animals.
- Immanuel's FFA program shows at the Fresno County Fair and Caruthers Fair. Students can either be in high school or junior high to show, as long as they are enrolled in an agriculture class.
- Ag Track - HS Level. All courses at the high school level fulfill A-G requirements. Floral Design is counted for fine arts credit, Ag Mechanics counts for the elective credit, Ag Government and Economics fulfills the civics and economics requirement, and the Ag Sciences count in place of a traditional science course. Agriculture, Food, Natural Resources (AFNR) and Advanced Ag Science count for a physical or life science. Ag Biology counts as a life science.
- Our Fruit Tree Pruning team has won the State Championship 6 times since 2017, and has won the High Individual 4 times since 2017.

How to get involved:

If you are interested in being part of our FFA program and have questions of ways you can connect this summer, please send an email to both of our instructors - Elisa Sonksen (esonksen@immanuelschools.com) and Brooklynn Young (byoung@immanuelschoools.com).

Courses Offered

Agriculture/FFA

Junior High - Semester

Introduction to Applied Agriculture

This course will introduce students to a wide range of agriculture science areas and careers. The basic areas of study will include California Agriculture, career opportunities, an understanding and involvement in the FFA Organization, plant science, soil science, and animal science. Students will be given the opportunity to learn in the classroom and apply those skills "hands-on" in the school agriculture department. Because the FFA Organization is intra-curricular, students enrolled in an agriculture course are also a member of the National

FFA Organization. If a student is wanting to show an animal with Immanuel FFA, they MUST be enrolled in the fall semester.

<u>High School - Full Year</u>

Introduction to Ag Mechanics

Students will study theories relating to the transfer of matter and energy through electrical, fluid, and mechanical systems. Students will also study more advanced fundamentals of mechanical and structural systems and facilities. Students will explore professional opportunities in the field of agricultural mechanics. Integral to this will also be the opportunity to participate in activities developed through FFA. By participating in this program, students will be better prepared to matriculate into post-secondary agriculture programs.

Advanced Ag Mechanics

This yearlong course is designed to further develop skills built in the *Intro to Ag Mechanics* course while focusing on skills and knowledge needed for a career in welding or fabrication. Topics include: measurement, power tools, welding (SMAW and MIG), plasma cutting, fabrication, and project building. Throughout the course, students will be graded on participation in intra-curricular FFA activities as well as the development and maintenance of an ongoing Supervised Agriculture Experience program.

Art and History of Floral Design

This class involves the fundamentals of floral design theory, techniques, and skills currently practiced in the floral design industry, including wedding, sympathy, party, holiday, and themed floral designs. Subjects will include applied art principles, cut flower care and handling practices, proper and safe use of florist tools and materials, pricing of floral products, and use of current floral business technology. Skills to be developed include customer relations, consultations, pricing, and use of technology in the industry. Course instruction also includes construction of corsages, floral arrangements, foliage plant items, introductory ornamental horticulture, identification of plants and flowers, professional industry organizations, and career opportunities. Construction and servicing of special events, party, and holiday floral displays are included. In addition, the inter-curricular FFA program supports and enhances the materials covered in the classroom. This includes involvement in FFA activities, planning of an agriculture-based project, and keeping accurate records.

Advanced Floral Design

Advanced Floral Design is designed to build off students' knowledge gained in *Art and History of Floral Design* with theories and principles of artistic design. Students will engage and apply practical skills and knowledge in elements and principles of design (line, shape/form, color, balance, and emphasis), history of floral art, arrangement styles and techniques, as well as seasonal, holiday, and special event designs. Students will achieve this through creating, designing, identifying, explaining, and evaluating all topics of study. Students will research and study floral trends to understand and develop an appreciation for floral design with historical, cultural, formal and casual, ceremonial and traditional, including an understanding that floral

designs are affected by society, culture, history, politics and economic influence. Advanced floral will reinforce use of taxonomy in identifying potted plants and cut flowers.

Ag Government/Ag Economics

Ag Government (Fall Semester) - This course is designed to familiarize students with the structure and processes of the United States Government system. Students will learn about the responsibilities and rights of citizenship, voting, political parties, elections, campaigns, the Constitution, the branches of government, and the Bill of Rights. Students will also learn about state powers as it compares to the national government powers, and be introduced to world leadership. Students will study and discuss agricultural issues and what role the government plays in the agricultural industry.

Ag Economics (Spring Semester) - This course is designed for the student interested in understanding the operations and institutions of economic systems as applied to our nation's largest industry, agriculture. Units of instruction include basic economic concepts, comparative economic systems, individual and aggregate economic behavior and international trade and policy. Instruction is also given in leadership, citizenship, and career education.

Ag Biology

Agricultural Biology is a laboratory-based, college-preparatory life science course that integrates biological concepts with agricultural applications. Students will explore traditional biology topics, including cellular biology, genetics, ecology, and physiology, through the lens of agriculture and its impact on the natural world. Emphasis is placed on hands-on learning, scientific inquiry, and real-world problem solving related to plants, animals, and sustainability. Students will engage in laboratory experiments, projects, and research activities that highlight the relationship between biology and agriculture. Topics may include soil and plant science, biotechnology, animal systems, pest management, and environmental stewardship. The course also introduces students to career pathways in agriculture and reinforces leadership and communication skills through FFA.

AFNR (Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources)

This course introduces students to a range of agricultural opportunities and the pathways of study they may pursue. Science, mathematics, reading, and writing components are woven throughout in the context of agriculture. Student experiences will involve the study of communication and the science of agriculture, plants, animals, and natural resources. Students will learn to solve problems, conduct research, analyze data, work in groups, and take responsibility for their work, actions, and learning. In addition, students will make specific connections between their lessons and Supervised Agricultural Project and FFA components that are important for the development of an informed agricultural education student.

Advanced Ag Science

Advanced Agriculture Science is a life or physical science that allows students to learn hands-on skills in the focuses of ag chemistry, and plant and animal anatomy and physiology. One semester focuses solely on agriculture chemistry, diving deep into soil chemistry, pH regulation, and the physiology of chemical reactions. The other semester is a focus on plant and

animal physiology, with an emphasis on phenomena, allowing the students to guide their own education and dive deep into the various life processes plants and animals partake in.

(Attach Ag Pathways document)