



# VANDEGRIFT HIGH SCHOOL

"SECOND TO NONE"

## What is the Vandegrift Signature Experience?

**What is the Vandegrift Signature Experience?** Our Vision for Vandegrift High School is that all we create the following signature experience for all of our stakeholders:

First, we believe that a faculty with a high-level ability to build relational capacity with students, combined with authentic rigor and a culture built on transparency, continuous improvement, and personalized instruction will produce an exemplary learning environment---what we hope will be the signature experience at Vandegrift.

Secondly, we also believe that the students and parents need to intuitively feel VHS is an inclusive place; from the classroom to the cafeteria, from custodial to the football field---they need to feel this is the best school for their child.

Finally, we believe that teachers and staff need to feel what they are doing is important and valued---that we are all part of a professional learning community that is truly exceptional and innovative. Working at VHS has to fulfill our intrinsic desire to make a difference and give our lives meaning. It is this purpose-driven instruction that we hope will make our school an exceptional place for all children.

**What is purpose-driven instruction?** Purpose-driven instruction requires personalizing the classroom environment by facilitating learning that is designed to promote a sense of personal fulfillment and a meaningful connection to community. This ideal state of learning or "flow<sup>1</sup>" occurs when we are intrinsically engaged in an activity with passion, curiosity and focus that transcends external motivators: learning in its most natural state---learning for the sake of learning. Our goal as educators is to create opportunities for all of our students to experience this heightened state of learning. It requires a purposeful approach to instruction where planning, assessment, and the art of teaching and motivating students come together to create high levels of student engagement.

When we think of living a purpose-driven life, it is hard to think of anyone who exemplifies this idea more than Matthew Vandegrift. Like many of the students attending VHS, Matthew grew up in the Steiner Ranch subdivision --- very near our new high school. He was an honor graduate at both the high school and college level, and a fierce competitor who participated in numerous extracurricular activities. Matthew always demonstrated the highest character, plus a devotion to service demonstrated by the fact that he volunteered to defend the ideals of our great nation. Matthew Vandegrift was a walking role model for what we hope to see demonstrated by each and every LISD graduate.

Just like Matthew, the fine young men and women of VHS---the students, the marching band, *The Legacies* drill team, cheerleaders, and student athletes will walk the halls of Vandegrift with a strong sense of purpose. The VHS motto is "Second to None," which echoes the motto from Matthew's battalion as well as how he lived his life. I hope you will join us in supporting our students this year as they embark on this exciting journey to create a campus legacy worthy of its namesake, and make VHS truly "Second To None."