

**Vista Magnet Middle School**  
**6<sup>th</sup> grade Syllabus**  
**760-726-5677**  
**vistamagnet.com**

**Overall Curriculum**

At Vista Magnet Middle School, sixth grade students study eight subjects: math, science, language arts (English), social studies (humanities/history), digital arts (technology and art), physical education and Introduction to Spanish according to their learning plan. The instructors are a professional learning community of life long learners who will be exploring the subjects along with the students. This syllabus will explain each course and the curriculum resources. First, you will find school wide policies such as one attendance policy, one grading policy, and one list of supplies and materials. At the end, you will find an acknowledgment form for parents and students to sign. The entire staff of VMMS is here to support each student be successful in his or her learning plan.

**VMMS Class Expectations**

Students will behave respectfully to one another and the staff and be on time to class ready to learn with a positive attitude.

Below is a list of guidelines and expectations for class:

1. Be RESPONSIBLE - come to class on time prepared with appropriate materials and be ready to learn.
2. Be RESPECTFUL and COURTEOUS - be respectful to yourself and others at all times.
3. Be a HARD WORKER - do your best work even when it seems difficult.
4. Be a great LISTENER - actively listen to what others are saying and be respectful that they are heard.
5. Be ORGANIZED - make sure that you have all of your materials with you and you know where they are.
6. Be OPEN MINDED - keep an open mind when you hear others express themselves or when you encounter a challenge.
7. Be POSITIVE - keep a positive attitude about school and yourself.
8. Be REFLECTIVE - have the ability to look at yourself and see where you are doing a great job and where you can improve.

9. Be TECH SAVVY - use technology to complete assignments and try to learn new technologies for communication when possible.
10. Be a CRITICAL THINKER - problem solve when you encounter a challenge and think "outside of the box."

### **VMMS Attendance Policy**

Attendance is of vital importance to all classes. Class experiences cannot be recreated or made up, so all students must make the effort to be in class every day.

### **VMMS Late Assignments / Making Up Work When Absent**

If students must miss class, they are responsible for making up any missed assignments.

### **Grading Policy/Grade Level Proficiency**

A variety of strategies and activities will be used to help each student learn to their fullest potential. Teachers will use formative assessment such as class work, quizzes, discussions, and homework to help direct the teaching and learning of grade level standards. Students will earn "A,B,C,D,F" report card grades based on summative assessments such as projects, activities, labs, benchmarks, tests, essays, and performances that measure application and mastery of standards.

### **VMMS students will be assessed in three areas:**

1. **Grade - Level Standards:** Students will be provided with rubrics that explain proficiency when they are given summative assessment directions.

Over the grading period, students who:

- **exceed** the **proficient** level will receive a rubric score of 4, or an "A"
  - **meet** standards at a **proficient** level will receive a 3, or a "B"
  - meet standards at a **basic** level will receive a 2, or a "C"
  - are **approaching** a basic level will receive a 1, or a "D"
  - **do not** meet the standard will receive a 0, or an "F"
2. **Citizenship** reflects attitude and behavior such as respect, cooperation and helpfulness.
  3. **Work habits** reflect study skills such as turning work in on time, completing homework, coming to school prepared with materials, working hard and being organized.

Students who exhibit these behaviors:

- all of the time will earn “O” for outstanding citizenship and/or work habits
- most of the time will earn “S” for satisfactory citizenship and/or work habits
- some of the time will earn “N” for needs improvement in citizenship and/or work habits
- rarely will earn “U” for unsatisfactory citizenship and/or work habits

Progress Reports & Report Cards	Type	Grades Mailed
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Progress Reports	October 2
	Report Cards	November 6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Progress Reports	December 10
	Report Cards	January 28
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	Progress Reports	February 25
	Report Cards	March 27
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Progress Reports	May 13
	Report Cards	June 17

### VMMS Homework

Homework is an integral part of the learning process. In accordance with the VUSD Homework Policy, the central purpose of homework for this class is to help the students solidify and learn the concepts being taught in the classroom. Students will be taught time management skills to help organize homework completion.

### VMMS Ethics

Most students have a strong sense of integrity; however, sometimes the pressure and desire to earn good grades may induce students to take the easy way out and copy an assignment. This will NOT be tolerated. Students who are caught copying (or who are caught in the appearance of copying) will receive an automatic zero and a parent/administrator conference will be required. Plagiarizing another student's paper, a section of a book, a website, or anything else is unacceptable and will result in these same severe consequences.

VMMS would like to see our students be principled (in accordance with our implementation of the IBMPY learner profile) and take responsibility for their own actions.

### **Additional Support/ Interventions**

It is important that we work as a team since our goal is for all students to learn and be successful. Morning and afternoon learning labs are available to provide extra instructional time for students who are not at grade level proficiency or who need extra support. VMMS has set up Blackboard as a communication tool. By visiting [vipers.blackboard.com](http://vipers.blackboard.com), students can interact with each other and the teacher on course events.

If you have any concerns, please contact their teachers immediately so we can work together to ensure your student's success.

### **Vista Magnet Middle School Supply List for the 2008-09 School Year**

- 1.5 inch 3 ring notebook/binder to organize 8 subjects plus the student planner which is provided by the school
- Notebook filler paper
- Dividers (package of 8)
- Pencils
- Pens
- Highlighters
- 8 composition books with lined paper for: math, science, language arts, social studies, Intro to Spanish, digital arts, PE, and academic reading

#### **Highly Recommended**

- 1GB flash drive to use for all your classes
- sunscreen, bottle of water, deodorant for P.E.

## Language Arts and Social Studies Syllabus

*Mrs. Quin*

Mrs. Davila

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[Monicadavila@vusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Monicadavila@vusd.k12.ca.us)

### **Course Overview:**

Welcome to a new year of exploration and growth. Together, we have an exciting year integrating language arts, literature, and social studies. We will become social scientists, writers, and fluent readers as we investigate social studies and language arts.

We'll work together to uncover the mysteries of ancient civilizations in Egypt, India, China, Greece and Rome. As we implement the IBMYP (International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme) guidelines, we'll focus on five "areas of interaction" on our quest of historic discovery. We'll look at the environment, how human kind creates, community & service, approaches to learning and health & education to explore ideas of the past and how they connect to our lives today and in the future. Likewise, the focus of this class is to discover how we are all related as we focus on intercultural awareness throughout time. We'll be working closely as social scientists in this course, but we'll also relate ideas in language arts. We will make connections between the history curriculum and the literature we will read through the year.

Through literature, we will uncover a variety of writing styles and genres. We will have the OPPORTUNITY to explore novels, poetry, short stories, and pieces of non-fiction, including informational text. We have an ambitious year because according to the California standards, sixth grade students are required to read 1,000,000 words during the school year. By the end of the year, we will also be able to recognize a variety of literary devices that are used by authors. Through language arts we will become experts in listening, speaking, and writing. We will have the OPPORTUNITY to make presentations to the class, work cooperatively with other students, and write several essays throughout the school year

We have a year packed full of projects, reading, writing, and discussion. We are looking for classroom discussions, with individuals that express themselves in their written work, and show their knowledge through a variety of assessments, including projects. We look forward to the knowledge the future holds.

### **Textbooks/Curriculum:**

In Ancient History, lessons are from *TCI/History Alive! Series*.

Each textbook series offers website support and resources.

TCI/History Alive! <http://www.teachtci.com>

In Language Arts, lessons are from the *Holt* adoption.

## **Digital Art & Technology**

Mrs. Franklin

[barbarafranklin@vusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:barbarafranklin@vusd.k12.ca.us)

760-726-5766 ext. 6102

### **Course Overview**

This course integrates Digital Art and Technology. It emphasizes critical thinking skills and encourages students to explore and study on their own. According to the IB Middle Years Program "Technology is the process of solving problems or creating objects by using information, materials and systems to satisfy human needs." Digital Art will include an understanding of the arts throughout history. They will use artwork to express a mood, a feeling, or an idea; they will demonstrate more complex and technical skill in their drawings, paintings and other media. The curriculum includes National Educational Technology Standards from ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) along with the Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards from the California Department of Education.

### **Textbooks/ Curriculum**

The course standards for computer technology include:

- Basic Operations and Concepts
- Social, Ethical and Human Issues

- Technology Productivity Tools (ex. Bookmark favorite sites, write e-mails, include graphs in projects)
- Technology Communication Tools (ex. PowerPoint)
- Technology Research Tools (ex. Internet, Good search, Google)
- Technology Problem-Solving and Decision-Making Tools (ex. Excel, Access)

The course standards for Visual and Performing Art include:

- Component Strand: 1.0 Artistic Perception
- Component Strand: 2.0 Creative Expression
- Component Strand: 3.0 Historical and Cultural Context
- Component Strand: 4.0 Aesthetic Valuing
- Component Strand: 5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications

## **Math Syllabus**

(760) 726-5766

Mr. Magaña - Room 110

[arturomagana@vusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:arturomagana@vusd.k12.ca.us)

Ms. Duncan - Room 108

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### Course Overview

#### *Math 6*

Students in this math course will cover 6<sup>th</sup> grade standards in preparation for their future in pre-algebra. The course will emphasize the development and understanding of the real number system, algebraic thinking, problem solving skills, and the effective use of mathematical language. Students will strengthen these skills through the use of cooperative learning, manipulatives, authentic application, and reinforcing basic skills in the math lab. Students in this class will study integers, expressions, one-step equations, fractions, proportional reasoning, percents, data analysis, and geometry (especially area, perimeter, and volume). As our site begins to implement the IB Middle Years Program, the topics will be taught using the areas of Interaction. The overlying goal of this course is to provide a solid foundation in basic arithmetic skills, help students investigate the role of mathematics in the real world, facilitate the process of becoming independent, reflective learners, and help them develop the ability to effectively communicate mathematical ideas and concepts.

## Math 6 - Advanced

Students in this math course will cover both 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade standards in preparation for their future in algebra. The course will emphasize the development and understanding of the real number system, algebraic thinking, problem solving skills, and the effective use of mathematical language. Students will strengthen these skills through the use of cooperative learning, manipulatives, authentic application, and reinforcing basic skills in the math lab. In addition to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade standards listed in the above course description, students in this class will study multi-step equations, signed fractions, the Pythagorean Theorem, and graphing equations. As our site begins to implement the IB Middle Years Program, the topics will be taught using the areas of Interaction. The overlying goal of this course is to provide a solid foundation in basic arithmetic skills, help students investigate the role of mathematics in the real world, facilitate the process of becoming independent, reflective learners, and help them develop the ability to effectively communicate mathematical ideas and concepts.

### *Textbooks/Curriculum*

Each student 6th grade has received a regular *textbook*, a *Homework Assignment Workbook*, and an *Intervention Workbook*. We will be using these three resources throughout the year as well as *Holt on line* to provide students with a variety of resources and avenues through which they can access and master 6<sup>th</sup> grade essential standards. To be able to access Holt on line from home, go to <http://my.hrw.com>. Each student has received a username and a password. Please take advantage of the features Holt on line offers including the videos, the interactive quizzes, additional practices, etc.

### **Resources available:**

#### **Math 6**

- Holt Mathematics - Course 1
- Homework Assignment Workbook
- Intervention Workbook
- <http://my.hrw.com>

#### **Math 6<sup>th</sup> Advanced**

- Holt Mathematics - Course 2
- Homework Assignment Workbook
- Intervention Workbook
- <http://my.hwr.com>

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science Syllabus

Mrs. Anderson

Mr. McGregor

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[christophermcgregor@vusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:christophermcgregor@vusd.k12.ca.us)

### Course Overview

Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science! We are about to begin a voyage of understanding, discovering and experiencing the world around you. We will all be earth scientists on this voyage. As a scientist, you will become more involved with, and appreciative of the world around you. As your teachers and fellow earth scientists, we will be here to help you along this journey, but keep in mind that the success of the voyage ultimately depends on you.

A guiding force of Sixth Grade Earth Science is the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IBMYP). The IBMYP science courses focus on helping students become critical thinkers who are scientifically knowledgeable and are able to make informed decisions about themselves and the world around them. IBMYP objectives are organized into six major categories; **One World** (interdependence between science and society), **Communication in Science** (communication of scientific understanding using appropriate formats), **Knowledge and Understanding of Science** (application of key science concepts to problem solve), **Scientific Inquiry**, (asking meaningful questions, designing, conducting and evaluating investigations), **Processing Data** (analysis, interpretation and presentation of investigational results), **Attitudes in Science** (development of respect and responsibilities for themselves and society).

Along our journey we will discover the following California State Essential Standards in Earth Science;

- how plate tectonics affect the earth

- the factors that determine the topography of the earth,
- how heat flows and how energy can be carried from one place to another,
- the major energy sources of the earth,
- how energy is transferred in ecosystems,
- the purposes of energy and material resources, and how to classify renewable and nonrenewable resources.
- ask meaningful questions, design, conduct and analyze experiments.

Enjoy your voyage!

### Textbooks/Curriculum/Laboratory Work

Earth scientists use a variety of tools to understand the world around them. Therefore, during our voyage we will be exploring and experiencing science in multiple ways. From technology to field research and real-world applications, we will be learning science by being scientists. This year is our first year with our newly adopted textbook, CPO. Each student will have a copy of the book to keep at home and a copy available in the classroom.

As scientists we have the unique opportunity and privilege of participating in hands-on laboratory experiments. These laboratory investigations are to be accurately and carefully performed. **Listen to and follow all directions at all times. Read your lab procedures carefully. Always conduct laboratory work with the SAFETY of yourself and others in mind.**

### Physical Education/Health

Welcome to Vista Magnet Middle School Physical Education. Throughout the course of this year you will not only be participating in and learning about various activities, but you will also learn about the physical, mental, and social importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Instructor's Names: 6<sup>th</sup> graders- Mr. Wagner  
7<sup>th</sup> graders- Mrs. Kenney

### Class Expectations:

*Students must be in designated area according to their teacher 5 minutes after the tardy bell rings.*

Students must be properly dressed to receive full credit in work habits grade. This entails: VMMS P.E. shirt (\$8), VMMS shorts (\$12) and Athletic shoes. NO sandals, backless tennies, slip-ons or heels may be worn.

\*Cold Winter Days\*: Students may wear plain black or gray Sweatpants (no pockets) and a plain gray/black or white Sweatshirt (No Jackets for any reason)

All students are **required** to have a combination lock for their locker this can be purchased from the Front Office for \$5.00.

Students must be respectful to all teachers, classmates and equipment. Please Do Not Talk While I Am Talking. **NO Insults, Fighting, Swearing, Defacing Equipment or Disrespectful behavior will be tolerated.**

***No Food or Gum! This means NO food; soda, candy, gum, sunflower seeds etc. can be brought out to the numbers or be eaten during class. Exception: water bottles***

*Again Respect Everyone ☺*

### **Non-Suits**

- A. If you do not have your P.E. clothes then you are considered a non-suit and must participate in school attire.
- B. There will be one designated non-suit make-up day per grading period. Ask your teacher for more information.
- C. Consequences for being a non-suit per grading period:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time- Warning
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> time- Call home to parents
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> time- "N" in work habits grade
  - 4<sup>th</sup> time- "U" in work habits grade

### **Lockers and Locks:**

- A. Lockers are issued to students at the beginning of the year. It is important that students lock up all their school bags, valuables and supplies.

- B. **Please keep your Lock Combination a Secret.** Theft has been a result for those who let their combination be known, or leave their lock unlocked.

**Illnesses and injuries:**

- A. If a student attends school feeling ill he/she must bring a written note from the parent asking to be excused for that day. Dressing out in P.E. uniform will still be required.
- B. If a student is injured and cannot participate, they must have a written note from the parents stating the injury and limitations to participation. A note from the parent is valid for 2 days only. If the injury lasts longer than 2 days, a written excuse from the doctor must be given to the nurse to further excuse the student from participating in class.

**Special Education Study Skills**

***Mrs. Cathy Zych-Room 106A***

**[cathleenzych@vusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:cathleenzych@vusd.k12.ca.us)**

**Course Overview**

Study skills are an essential tool for learning. In addition to development of organizational and time management skills, this class will support students in their general education classes. Students will study academic vocabulary words and read independently and in small groups. Our focus this year will be on developing writing and computer skills and to prepare for the CST writing test for our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students will also work on their individual IEP goals.

The course goals of Study Skills include:

- Students will learn to spend class time engaged in assigned activity.
- Students will put effort into completing assignments at a quality level with thoughtfulness and attention to requirements.
- Students will take an active role in group activities and class discussions.
- Students will learn to use the planner, for recording all assignments, keep track of all paperwork and maintain an organized binder.
- Students will learn to set academic and personal goals and reflect on their progress towards goals.