

Vista Magnet Middle School

For Technology, Science & Math

(An IBMYP Candidate School)

Student Handbook 2010-2011

HOME OF THE VIPERS!

Student & Parent Acknowledgment:

I have read the contents of the Vista Magnet Middle School planner. I understand what the expectations are of me as a student and as a parent of this small learning community. (He leído los expectativas de la Escuela Vista Magnet Middle School. Entiendo que las expectativas de mí como un estudiante y como un padre de esta pequeña comunidad de aprendizaje.)

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Parents' Cell Phone#: _____

151 Escondido, Vista, CA 92084

www.vistamagnet.com

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Welcome to Vista Magnet Middle School!

With our high academic expectations and our student's potential, we will make this year one to remember. "We envision a school community where all members are respected, valued and empowered to be socially responsible decision makers in the 21st Century."

Our motto "Engage, Achieve, Belong" applies to ALL students.

ENGAGE- to provide distinct choices for students with different interests, talents, and aptitudes. For example, students will be active participants in learning rather than recipients of knowledge. Our 80-minute periods will allow us to provide students with direct instruction and time for application of knowledge. The Project Lead the Way program and SMART classrooms will also engage students in learning.

ACHIEVE- to develop innovative instructional practices, which aid student success. Our students will benefit from our villages as teachers collaborate on student achievement in order to "fail fast." We will work with students to provide them the direction they need in order to master the **ESSENTIAL**

BELONG- to develop a sense of community and promote diversity within schools. Each student will have a learning plan and be a member of a village that fosters educational and social development in conjunction with middle school philosophy. Our traditions will always align with our students' academic, personal and social goals.

STANDARDS- This fall we will have an authorization visit by the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IBMYP) and will provide us with feedback our students with a rigorous education that will prepare them for work in a global society.

Please take advantage of this planner. We **expect** students to use it as a daily organizer. For parents, this is a resource with helpful information about our school. Ultimately, the most efficient way to stay current on school news is to visit www.vistamagnet.com. As a technology school, we rely on email for most of our standard communication. In addition, we will continue to use the Blackboard-ConnectEd phone calling system to share any recent events on our campus.

Moodle, user-friendly internet based program, will allow parents, students, and staff to communicate regarding assignments, peer review of work, links to Internet resource, and chatting. Our teachers are extremely excited and hope to find this a very helpful tool. Your student will receive access during the first part of the school.

We expect to continue our communication with parents and our community. Our school will not be successful without your support and input. This school of choice with our smaller learning communities will offer your child the best education.

Vista Magnet Middle School Bell Schedules 2010-2011

Mon./Tues./Thurs./Fri.

Period 1	8:55 – 9:37
Period 2	9:40 – 10:22
Period 3	10:25 – 11:07
Period 4	11:10 - 11:52
Lunch	11:52 - 12:32
Period 5	12:35 - 1:17
Period 6	1:20 - 2:02
Period 7	2:05 - 2:47
Period 8	2:50 - 3:33

Early Release Wed.

Period 1	8:55 – 9:29
Period 2	9:32 – 10:02
Period 3	10:05 – 10:35
Period 4	10:38 – 11:08
Lunch	11:08 - 11:48
Period 5	11:51 - 12:21
Period 6	12:24 - 12:54
Period 7	12:57 - 1:27
Period 8	1:30 - 2:00

Parent Conferences Minimum Days November 17/19 March 9/11

Period 1	8:55 – 9:18
Period 2	9:21 – 9:44
Period 3	9:47 – 10:10
Period 4	10:13 – 10:36
Lunch	10:36 – 11:16
Period 5	11:19 - 11:42
Period 6	11:45 - 12:08
Period 7	12:11 - 12:34
Period 8	12:37 - 1:00

Staff Development Minimum Days September 16 February 24

Period 1	8:55 – 9:19
Period 2	9:22 – 9:42
Period 3	9:45 – 10:05
Period 4	10:08 - 10:28
Period 5	10:31 - 10:51
Period 6	10:54 - 11:14
Period 7	11:17 - 11:37
Period 8	11:40 - 12:00

Assemblies

Period 1	8:55 – 9:36
Assembly	9:39 – 10:20
Period 2	10:23 – 10:59
Period 3	11:02 – 11:38
Period 4	11:41 – 12:17
Lunch	12:17 – 12:57
Period 5	1:00 - 1:36
Period 6	1:39 - 2:15
Period 7	2:18 - 2:54
Period 8	2:57 - 3:33

AM LEARNING LAB

M/T/TH/FR 1 hour before school

DATES/TIMES---TBD

PM LEARNING LAB

M/T/TH/FR 1 hour after school

DATES/TIMES TBD

Important Dates 2010/2011

<u>August</u>	10 VMMS Registration Day – 6 th grade 11 VMMS Registration Day – 7 th /8 th grade 12 Make-up 23 <i>First Day of School</i> 25 <i>First Early Release Wednesday (Students release at 2:00pm each Wednesday)</i>
<u>September</u>	6 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> – Labor Day 15 Minimum Days for Students, Staff Development (Student release 12:00pm) 23 Back to School Night @ 5:45-7:30 pm 24 1 st Quarter Progress Report ends
<u>October</u>	22 1 st Quarter ends
<u>November</u>	7 Daylight Savings Times Ends 8 <u>MINIMUM DAY</u> – Parent Conferences – school releases @ 1:00 pm (conferences begin at 2:00 p.m.) 9 <u>MINIMUM DAY</u> – Parent Conferences – school releases @ 1:00 pm (conferences begin at 2:00 p.m.) 11 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> – Veteran’s Day 12 School Closed 22–26 <u>THANKSGIVING BREAK</u>
<u>December</u>	3 2 nd Quarter Progress Report ends 20 <u>WINTER BREAK</u> (first day back January 3, 2011)
<u>January</u>	3 <i>First day back from winter break</i> 14 2 nd Quarter Ends 17 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> – Martin Luther King Jr. 21 <u>NO SCHOOL</u>
<u>February</u>	17 3 rd Quarter Progress Report Ends 18 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> – Lincoln’s Birthday 21 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> – President’s Day
<u>March</u>	1-2 7 th grade STAR Writing Test 2 <i>Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Birthday</i> 8 <u>MINIMUM DAY</u> – Parent Conferences – school releases @ 1:00 pm 10 <u>MINIMUM DAY</u> – Parent Conferences – school releases @ 1:00 pm 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins 23 3 rd Quarter Ends 28 <u>SPRING BREAK</u> (first day back April 11, 2011)
<u>April</u>	11 <i>First day back from Spring Break</i>
<u>May</u>	2-13 CST Testing Window 4 National Teachers Day 6 4 th Quarter Progress Report Ends 30 <u>NO SCHOOL</u> – Memorial Day
<u>June</u>	8 4 th Quarter Ends 8 <u>MINIMUM DAY</u> – Last day of school – school releases @ 11:55 am



CA Content Standards- Assessments

Each year teachers assess their students through various methods to identify their mastery of the California Content Standards (CST).

Here are the critical VUSD-CA State assessments we complete in 6th, 7th & 8th grade. The schedule typically is as follows:

October	Benchmark #1 (Language Arts, Social Science, Math, Science) CELDT (English Learners students only)
November	Benchmark #2 (Language Arts, Social Science, Math)
January	Benchmark #3 (Language Arts, Social Science, Math, Science)
March	Benchmark #4 (Language Arts, Social Science, Math) Aprenda (English Learners students only)
May	CST-CA state testing
June	Benchmark #5 (Language Arts, Social Science, Math, Science)

State Test Results Used in API and AYP Calculations

Academic Performance Index (API)	Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
California Standards Tests (CSTs)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts, mathematics, history-social science, and science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades two through eleven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades two through eight
California Modified Assessment (CMA)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades three through five 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades three through five
California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades two through eleven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades two through eight and ten
California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade ten (and eleven and twelve if the student passed) • Passed = score of 350 or above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ English-language arts and mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade ten • Proficient = score of 380 or above

Notes: More information about these tests is located on the CDE Testing Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/>. The CSTs, CMA, CAPA, and CAHSEE are aligned to state-adopted standards, which describe the knowledge and skills that students should master at each grade level. The CMA is based on modified achievement standards and was developed in response to federal regulations. The CAPA is a standards-based test for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to take the CSTs, even with accommodations or modifications. The CSTs in history-social science are only included for grades eight through eleven. The CSTs in science are only included at grades five and eight through eleven, which include the CSTs in science at grades five, eight, and ten (life science) that were developed to meet federal NCLB requirements.

Our instructional goal at VMMS is to provide ALL students with a breadth and depth of content of our State Content Standards. We believe that ALL students have the right to have access to the state mandated and approved standard based materials. Here is some information from www.cde.ca.gov based on our goal to have our students promote to high school.

What is the middle school's responsibility for preparing students for the California High School Exit Examination?

Each school is held accountable through the Academic Performance Index (API) for ensuring that California's students continue to grow and achieve. The API formula, originally based on a single norm-referenced test, is adding components of the California Standards Tests, which reflect how well students are attaining proficiency of the California Content Standard in math and English language arts. Ethically, it is the responsibility of a school to prepare all of its students for success.

Since most of the standards on the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) in math are learned at the middle school level of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade and the English language arts standards in middle school are foundational to 9-10 grade-level standards, middle school preparation is critical to student achievement on the CAHSEE.

Is Algebra I a required course of study for all eighth grade students?

No, Algebra I is not a requirement for all eighth grade students, but it is recommended. Students completing Algebra I in the eighth grade will have more options open to them in high school. Algebra I is a high school graduation requirement. If a student completes coursework that meets or exceeds the academic content standards for Algebra I prior to grade nine, then this Algebra I graduation requirement is met. However, if a student is not prepared to study algebra by the end of grade seven, it is not recommended to enroll him/her in an Algebra I course. It is imperative for students in grade eight or in high school to master pre-algebraic skills and concepts before they enroll in a course that meets or exceeds the rigor of the Algebra I SBE-adopted content standards. See [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for Algebra I.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

AM/PM Learning Labs - NO COST to any VMMS student for our teacher led morning labs or classes. We will generally hold them one hour before and one hour after school. (subject to change)

Boys and Girls Club - The Boys and Girls Club of Vista operates a before and after school program. This program provides time for students to complete homework, work with computer-based programs that build academic skills, develop personal and social skills in a positive environment, participate in recreational activities, complete arts and crafts projects, and just have fun. The cost of the program is determined by the Boys and Girls Club. No students will be turned away due to the inability to pay this fee. Please call the Boys & Girls Club at (760) 724-6606 for more information.

Daily Bulletin - The bulletin will be read during 1st period. To keep up to date on activities visit www.vistamagnet.com.

Debts - Student report cards, records, and yearbooks will be held until all debts are cleared. Students may not attend special activities such as reward trips if they have any outstanding debt.

Emergency Cards - All students will receive an Emergency Card in the summer packet. This card is to be filled out completely and signed by a parent or guardian. The card must be returned to school on schedule pick up day in August. **It is extremely important to update the information on this card should it change throughout the year.**

Emergency Contact - Parents must provide telephone numbers where they, or adult designees, may be reached in the event of illness or injury. **Please send written notice if any contact numbers change during the year.** If your child needs emergency care and we cannot reach you, or others you have named to act in your place, we will call Emergency Medical Services. Parents are responsible for paying EMS and/or hospital medical bills.

Lost and Found - All clothing articles found at school are placed in a designated container in the administration office.

Emergency Drills - Emergency drills will be held for natural and man-made disasters. These drills require student cooperation in following the drill procedures. Parents arriving on campus during an emergency drill or an actual emergency must follow the direction of school staff. If students misbehave, appropriate disciplinary consequences will be assigned.

Health Office - Health Services at VMMS are located in the front office (administration building). Any on-campus injury should be reported to the Health Office staff immediately. Please keep the health office informed of any special medical concerns. If your child must use crutches on campus, a physician's order must be turned in to the Health Office. All students must have an up-to-date Emergency Card on file. Other than providing first aid, the school is unable to offer any treatment or to provide any medication unless it's under the direction of a physician. **Any required medication, including aspirin, must be kept and taken in the Health Office. Medication must be brought to school by the parent/guardian, not students. Students are not permitted to be in possession of any medication (either prescription or over the counter such as cough drops, coricidin, creams, eye drops, etc.) on any school campus or at any school activity.**

Homework - VMMS staff believes homework is an important part of a students learning experience. Homework is a school-related assignment, which enhances, reinforces or enriches concepts taught in the classroom. VMMS students will be assigned homework and are expected to complete and turn in homework when it is due.

ID Cards & Lanyards - Students are expected to wear their VMMS ID card and VMMS lanyard and must be visible at all times during the school day and at all school functions. Incoming 6th grade students receive a FREE ID card and lanyard as part of the registration process in August. 7th and 8th grade students are to keep their lanyard from their previous year at VMMS. The ID card is to not be defaced or destroyed. This ID card also functions as a library card for checking out any books, sports equipment and purchasing tickets to some school functions. Replacing ID costs \$5.00 and is ordered through the attendance office.

Leaving School - VMMS has a closed campus. **Once students arrive on campus, they are to remain on campus for the entire school day**, unless checked out at the office by a parent or legal guardian.

Library - The library at VMMS is located in the center of the campus because it is more than just a room full of books; it is a gathering place for many of VMMS's events and learning. Teachers bring their classes to the library as needed for research or book checkout. During class time, individual students must have a pass to use the library. No food or drink is allowed in the library and students **must** have their ID card to check out items. Computers are available for assistance with school assignments only. Library books are "2-2" —students may check out 2 items for 2 weeks. Books can be renewed for an additional two-week period. Late books are fined 5 cents per day. Damaged or lost library books are subject to fines up to the cost of the book. ****Library is open during lunch****

Lockers – Though we do not have lockers for students to place their daily belonging, we do offer students a locker in their PE class. The student will be responsible for cleaning and maintaining the locker. Problems with lockers should be immediately reported to their PE teacher. In order to protect personal belongings, each locker must be kept locked and the combination numbers used only by the assigned student. Do not share lockers or combination numbers! Students must provide their own combination lock for the gym

Medication Policy - Administration of medication at school is a service, which we are happy to perform for your student. Any student who is required to take medication (during the regular school day) prescribed for him/her by a physician, licensed in the State of California, may be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel if the school district receives:

- A written statement from a licensed California physician detailing the method, time, and amount of medicine to be taken.
- A written statement from the parent or guardian of the student indicating the desire that the school district assist the student in the matters set forth in the physician statement.

Parents and/or students may pick up a medication authorization form in the health office.

A supply of prescribed medication should be in containers which are clearly marked with the name of the student, the name of the prescribing physician (licensed) in California, name of the medication, and the amount of medication to be taken at specified times or in specific situations. We are unable to accept medication in plastic baggies or unmarked containers. The student should know the time to take the medication and must come to the health office at the appropriate times.

Messages/Personal Items - Please remember the office staff may relay messages or personal items (forgotten homework/lunches etc) to students only in cases of an emergency.

Morning/Afternoon Drop-off/Pick-up - Procedures: Safety first, last, always...

Please watch your speed in the school parking lot. Slow moving vehicles are safer for everyone. To quicken the **drop-off procedure**, it is important for your son/daughter to have everything ready when they arrive to school in the morning. Please pull as far up as possible before allowing the students to get out of the car. **DROP OFF TIME:** Students not in the AM Learning lab can be dropped off as early as 8:00am. There is no supervision for the students on campus before this time. **PICK UP TIME:** You must pick up your child by 3:50 p.m. There is no supervision for students on campus after this time.

P. E. Excuse - If a student cannot participate in P.E., a note from the parent is required. Beyond 3 days, a doctor's note must be provided to the health office as well as providing the same information to the P.E. teacher.

School Activity Exclusion Policy - Students may not attend a school activity (i.e., sports, socials, dances, etc...) before, during or after school if they (not limited to): have an outstanding debt, have less than an Academic 2.5 GPA on their previous report card AND a mark of Needs Improvement and/or Unsatisfactory for Work Habits and Citizenships.

Student Planners - Each student will receive a complimentary student planner. The planner is required in every class and is to be used as a tool to help organize his/her daily responsibilities, including homework/assignments. If a student loses his/her student planner, he/she may purchase a replacement planner from the office for \$5.00, as supplies last.

School Insurance - Included in the summer packet is an application for low-cost accident insurance. Any student participating in athletics must have adequate insurance or complete a District Insurance Waiver Form.

Textbooks - The librarian also manages all textbooks and class novels. Students who check out a textbook or book are responsible for the condition and return of the book. Books left in classrooms either by student or teacher request are still the property of the student. Damaged or lost textbooks will be subject to fines up to the cost of the book. Moldy books cannot be reused.

Visitors - All visitors must immediately report to the reception area in the front office before going to any area on the school campus. Students from other schools, friends, or relatives may not visit during school hours. Parents/guardians are always welcome. Please contact a teacher in advance if you are interested in observing in a classroom.

Yearbooks - The yearbook staff takes photographs of various activities to be included in the yearbook. Our yearbook is an excellent portrayal of our school year.

ATTENDANCE

We encourage ALL of our students to attend school each day and bring a positive attitude to school. When your child is absent from school, please call the attendance line and report the reason for the absence. Our attendance line number is (760)726-5766 ext. 6193.

VUSD District Policy: ***Absence from school shall be allowed only for: personal illness or injury, quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer, medical, dental, optometric or chiropractic services rendered, attendance at the funeral services for a member of the immediate family, jury duty in the manner provided by law, pupil who is custodial parent of a child who is ill or has a medical appointment during school, exclusion for failure to present evidence of immunization, exclusion from school because student is either the carrier of a contagious disease or not immunized for a contagious disease.***

CONTACT VMMS ATTENDANCE OFFICE...

Parents shall notify the school within 72 hours of the last day of the pupil's absence. (72 hours equals three (3) days).

1. Absences remaining unverified for three or more days after the student's return to school will be considered truant or unexcused.
2. Less than three unverified absences are considered UNEXCUSED.
3. Three or more unverified absences are considered TRUANT.

On the first day of a pupil's absence and on each subsequent day of absence, parents or guardians must present a satisfactory explanation, verifying the reason for absence. The verification may be made in conversation or in a signed note.

1. Required documentation should include all of the following elements: full name of student, date(s) of absence, specific reason of absence, name and/or identify (i.e. mother or father) of person, providing the information, name and signature of person/employee making/logging the verification, date the verification was made.

2. Any student with ten (10) excused absences, verified by phone calls, will be required to provide a written explanation for any/all future absences. This verification must be written by the appropriate professional on his/her letterhead, addressing the medical, legal or bereavement reason(s).

If your child will be absent for an extended length of time (5 or more days), **notify the attendance office in writing at least 5 days prior to the departure date to obtain an independent study contract.**

TRUANCY

A student who is habitually absent may be referred by the schools Administration Office to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). School officials will notify the family prior to the SARB referral. If you are having attendance concerns for your child, please contact his/her teacher and/or the Administration office for guidance.

SARB

The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) is a process established to address any social, personal and/or academic struggles by students who do not attend school regularly. The board comprised from various representatives such as the Coordinator of Attendance, mental health, district nurse, probation department, county office and school officials is set to provide an intervention for the family and the student. Once the intervention is in place, if the student continues to record 10 or more absences, the family is then referred to the District Attorney's office by our SARB team.

Students with excessive absences will be referred to a SARB hearing panel. This process includes:

- Step #1:** SARB letter #1 will be sent after the 3rd unexcused absence.
- Step #2:** SARB letter #2 will be sent after the 5th unexcused absence.
- Step #3:** SARB letter #3 will be sent after the 9th unexcused absence. A meeting with the district SARB panel will take place and the student may be placed on a SARB contract. Parents will be notified of the time and place for the meeting.
- Step #4:** Referral to District Attorney's office for violating SARB contract

Tardy Policy

At VMMS, we believe that each student wants to be here and do his/her very best because he/she applied to our school. Our intervention steps for tardy incidents are:

- 1st / 2nd Teacher warns student.
- 3rd / 4th Teacher meets with student and contacts parents.
- 5th Teacher contacts student and parents and formerly meets with Village teachers to create a plan of action.
- 6th The Principal will meet with the student and parents to discuss the Program Agreement Contract and discuss exiting or placing the student under academic/behavior probation and rearrange their schedule to have them either arrive late or leave early from school.

Character Program "Be..."

Character Program "Be..."

At VMMS, we have developed a character program called "BE..." The purpose behind BE is to establish a common language amongst the staff and students on our character and behavioral expectations.

I will always...

- Be** knowledgeable and prepared
- Be** caring to the world
- Be** courteous
- Be** open-minded to those around me
- Be** a thinker

- Be** on time
- Be** responsible
- Be** reflective when making a mistake
- Be** an honest communicator
- Be** safe on and off campus

Academic/Behavior Probationary status or request to exit VMMS:

We intend to see each of our students according to his/her learning plan successfully promote from our program. Since we are working together to ensure the success of your child, if a problem arises we will work with you to find a solution that allows your child to continue in our community by taking the following measures in a productive manner. If we find that a student has made a bad choice, we will immediately notify the parent through the mail, email or a phone call that a problem has arisen.

1. The student may be suspended or temporarily placed on probation for a set period of time.
2. The learning plan will be reviewed and put into effect that will outline steps that must be taken to relieve the problem.

With this in mind, VMMS believes all students can behave at school and have the responsibility to behave in an appropriate manner. Positive rewards are emphasized for students who observe school-wide and classroom expectations. Likewise, negative consequences occur if a student breaks a school-wide or classroom rule.

DISCIPLINE

RULES	Possible Action
<p>Academic Honesty Students who copy work from others, help others with, or turn in work that is not theirs based on their own efforts.</p> <p>The definition of academic dishonesty includes:</p> <p><i>Cheating</i> - The purposeful use of, or attempt to use, the act of collaborating and working together on any academic exercise, without the teachers approval, and the work is so similar in appearance, content, or form so it is questioned that the students work is due to their own effort.</p> <p><i>Plagiarizing</i> - The purposeful use or copy of ideas, words, statements, or images of another as your own without proper acknowledgement or reference. Here are some examples of plagiarizing, but are not limited to: using word for word or paraphrased text or images without proper reference; paraphrasing so as to mislead the reader regarding the original source; turning in without permission the same written or oral material in more than one course; obtaining images, OR research from another individual or source and presenting it as your own work.</p> <p><i>Help in Academic Dishonesty</i> – Purposefully or knowingly helping, or attempting to help, another to commit acts of academic dishonesty as defined above.</p>	<p>F grade on work; lower citizenship grade; letter to parent; May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>

RULES	Possible Action
<p>Abusive Language/Vulgar Language/Obscene Gestures - Unfortunately, vulgar language and obscene gestures (verbally as well as in print) are becoming commonplace in the media, in music, and in the movies. Some students believe that vulgar language and/or obscene gestures are a sign of maturity and they use them to impress their peers. Abusive/vulgar language and obscene gestures are offensive and disrespectful and will not be tolerated. Abusive language includes name-calling, put-downs, harassing comments and behaviors, ethnic slurs, cultural offenses, verbal and physical threats, curses, and vulgar gestures. Please remember that you are in a public school setting and are not to use inappropriate language.</p>	<p>May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>
<p>Bicycles/Skateboards - VMMS has a designated area for bicycles and skateboards.</p> <p>California law requires students to use a safety helmet while riding a bike.</p> <p>Bicycles and skateboards are to be used as transportation to and from school. VMMS requires that a helmet be worn.</p> <p><i>Each students bicycle and skateboard will be registered with Campus Security and pass inspection on both the bicycle/skateboard and helmet.</i></p> <p><i>A VMMS approved registration tag must be visible and free from defacing at all times. Students are to walk beside their bicycle or carry their skateboard while entering and leaving campus including VMMS parking lots.</i></p> <p>Motorized Scooters or rollerblades are not permitted.</p>	<p>Students arriving at or attempting to leave school on a bike without a helmet will have the bicycle confiscated until a parent picks it up and will be subject to losing their right to ride their bike to school.</p> <p>Students riding their bikes, skateboards or scooters are not to be used while entering or exiting on campus. Students who do not adhere to this are subject to discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>
<p>Bullying - The VMMS school community is committed to providing all pupils a safe school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with respect. Bullying is conduct which subjects a pupil to insults, taunts, or challenges, whether verbal or physical in nature that is likely to intimidate or provide a violent or disorderly response from the student treated in the manner.</p> <p>Cyber bullying - which is sometimes referred to as online social cruelty or electronic bullying, can involve: sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages or images; posting sensitive, private; information about another person; pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad; Intentionally excluding someone from an online group; Through e-mails, instant messaging, text or digital imaging messages sent on cell phones, Web pages, Web logs (blogs), Chat rooms or discussion groups, and other information communication technologies.</p>	<p>May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>
<p>Challenge of Authority - Direct challenges or verbal abuse toward any staff member will result in disciplinary action. If the challenge or verbal abuse is considered a threat or results in bodily harm to a staff member, disciplinary action will be taken.</p>	<p>May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>

RULES	Possible Action
<p>Dress Code - To go along with our high academic expectations, we believe students should follow the three C's in our school attire: Collared, Corporate and Covered. For those that do not wish to adhere to this expectation, a waiver is available and a meeting is required with the principal. All students are expected to follow the Basic Guidelines for Dress Code Safety and Respect.</p>	<p><i>Decisions regarding the appropriateness of clothing will be handled by the principal or designee. Students dressed inappropriately will be immediately required to change clothes. In the event there is a concern regarding clothes or appearance, parents may call the school. Dress Code Violation Consequences</i></p> <p><u>First Incident:</u> Student warned, student changes into appropriate clothing, and incident is documented.</p> <p><u>Second Incident:</u> Student changes into appropriate clothing and lunch detention is assigned.</p> <p><u>Third Incident:</u> Student changes into appropriate clothing and after school detention is assigned. Student is placed on a behavioral contract.</p> <p><u>Fourth and Each Subsequent Incident:</u> Student is home suspended.</p>
<p>Drugs & Drug Paraphernalia - It is unlawful to possess, offer, arrange or negotiate to sell any drug & drug paraphernalia</p>	<p>May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>
<p>Electronic Devices - <u>Students are not permitted to use devices</u> for recording, taking pictures, movies, and use them for communication (text messaging), entertainment or any non-educational purpose will have them confiscated and will face disciplinary action. No personal items such as electronic games, IPODS, IPADS, digital cameras are not permitted on campus.</p> <p>Cell Phones - students must be responsible to make sure their <u>cell phones and must be off and out of sight.</u></p> <p><i>If students must call their parents, they MUST use an office phone or ask permission to use a Teachers Classroom phone.</i></p>	<p><u>First Incident:</u> A student using a cell phone/electronic device on campus will have their cell phone confiscated and returned to them at the end of the day and will receive a WARNING.</p> <p><u>Second Incident:</u> The parent must pick it up and the student will receive 2 days of lunch detention.</p> <p><u>Third Incident:</u> The parent must pick it up and the student will serve 5 days of lunch detention.</p> <p><u>Fourth Incident:</u> Student may face additional detentions and leading to suspension for defiance.</p>
<p>Extortion - Any person who obtains property from another by a wrongful use of force or fear is guilty of extortion (<i>PC 518</i>).</p>	<p>May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>
<p>Fighting - Fighting, threatening or harassing other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. This includes threatening notes or actions. No one has the right to interrupt another student's learning with this type of inappropriate behavior. Students who provoke other students to fight will also be disciplined. This may include students who pressure/encourage one student to fight another. If a student hears about or sees a fight about to occur or in progress, they should immediately find a VMMS staff member or another adult to help.</p>	<p>May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>
<p>Gambling/Card Playing – Card playing, wagering or accepting wagers on any game of chance or contest of any type is prohibited.</p>	<p>May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>
<p>Gum – Gum can cause irreparable damage to our school and is not allowed on campus.</p>	<p>Students will dispose of gum on the first infraction. Continued incidents will result in further disciplinary action.</p>

RULES	Possible Action
<p>Harassment and Discrimination – All students should be free to attend school without harassment of any kind. Harassment and discrimination is against the law and against Board policy. If you are being harassed, either verbally or physically, immediately notify an adult on campus, your parents, or one of your teachers. Abusive and vulgar notes are a form of harassment as well as offensive, disrespectful, and will not be tolerated at VMMS. Most times, if this behavior is not reported it will continue and become worse. If someone is making you afraid to come to school, report them at once. The staff is here to protect you and make school a safe and enjoyable place for you to learn. Forms of harassment and discrimination include, but are not limited to the following:</p> <p><i>Derogatory comments, jokes or slur; Derogatory or offensive posters, cards/notes, cartoons, graffiti, drawings or gestures; Unwelcome sexual advances, requests, or demands for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Use of electronic device such as a text message, blog, email, video, instant message or any other form of cyber bullying.</i></p>	<p>Suspension or a recommendation for expulsion may be made based upon the nature of the incident or whether previous interventions have occurred.</p>
<p>Hazing (Initiations) Initiations of any sort are prohibited. Initiations and/or hazing are those activities into which students are coerced in order to become part of a group or activity or to avoid harm.</p>	<p>Suspension or a recommendation for expulsion may be made based upon the nature of the incident or whether previous interventions have occurred</p>
<p>ID Cards & Lanyards – Students are expected to wear their provided VMMS ID card and VMMS lanyard and must be visible at all times during the school day and at all school functions.</p> <p>6th grade and new students receive FREE an ID card and lanyard as part of the registration process in the beginning of the school year.</p> <p>The ID card is to not be defaced or destroyed. This ID card also functions as a library card for checking out any books, or sports equipment.</p> <p>Additionally, IDs are needed for purchasing tickets to some school functions. Replacing an ID costs \$5 and is ordered through the attendance office.</p>	<p>Any student who does not wear his/her VMMS ID and VMMS lanyard will be counseled upon first incident. The second incident will require detention. The third will include additional detentions and leading to suspension for defiance. VMMS is willing to assist students with obtaining their ID and/or lanyard but the student is responsible to complete this requirement.</p>
<p>Imitation Firearms – <i>PC §§ 12550, 12556: Imitation Firearms: Penal Code § 12550</i> includes BB device within definition of imitation firearm. <i>Penal Code § 12556</i> makes it a criminal offense to openly display or expose any imitation firearm in a public place.</p>	<p>May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>
<p>Injurious Object – Any employee of a school district may take from the personal possession of any pupil under the authority of school personnel any injurious object in the possession of a pupil</p>	<p>May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>

RULES	Possible Action
<p>Internet Policy - Students at VMMS Middle School must agree to abide by the Vista Unified School District Board Policy 6021 regarding Internet Use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Internet is a global network of computer networks connecting the education, research, and business communities. It provides students and educational employees with access to vast, diverse and unique worldwide resources and the ability to share information that is current and relevant. The use of the Internet in schools and programs operated by VUSD can support instruction and enrich learning, thus improving student achievement and employee productivity. B. With the availability of an access to the Internet comes the need for responsible, ethical, and legal behavior on the part of its users. The use of the Internet is a privilege and not a right. VUSD does not control the content of information or resources accessible on the Internet. Some of the materials available may be controversial and not appropriate information or resources that are accessible to its Internet account holders, but final responsibility rests with the individual user. C. Internet users are prohibited from sending or threatening to send a sufficient number of electronic mail ("e-mail") messages to another person to overload, interfere with, or cripple his/her mail system (including but not limited to "e-mail bombs"). D. Additionally, Internet users are prohibited from accessing another person's e-mail message(s) and/or reading, repositioning or destroying e-mail messages, which are addressed to or otherwise intended for, another individual. Internet users are prohibited from using another person's e-mail address. A warning, which states that this conduct is prohibited, will first appear on the computer screen after an Internet user signs on. <p>Internet users are prohibited from creating, receiving, uploading, downloading and/or transmitting inappropriate material. Inappropriate material includes, but is not limited to, that of a lewd lascivious, pornographic, racist, sexist, threatening or violent subject matter. A warning, which states that this conduct is prohibited, will first appear on the computer screen after an Internet user signs on.</p>	<p>An Internet user who violates the rules set forth in this Policy will lose his/her privilege to use the Internet and may be subject to additional disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension or expulsion.</p>
<p>Laser Pointers - Possession of a laser pointer by any student on any school premise is prohibited unless possession is for valid instruction. It is prohibited to direct the beam of a laser pointer into the eyes of another or into a moving vehicle or into the eyes of a guide dog (<i>PC 417.27</i>). Must be 18 years old to possess.</p>	<p>May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.</p>

RULES	Possible Action
Prohibited Substances and Items - Students will be subject to disciplinary action for having any of the following items in school: weapons, weapon facsimiles, drugs, drug paraphernalia, drug facsimiles, alcohol, pornographic material, tobacco products, tobacco facsimiles, fireworks, poppers, stink bombs, laser pens, matches, lighters, water pistols, items or clothing which promote or advertise drugs, alcohol, tobacco or sex, the use of beepers or cell phones is also prohibited, roller blades, tape recorders, electronic devices, hand held gaming devices, gum, laser pointers, radios, MP3/CD players, IPODS, IPADS, permanent markers, white out (liquid form), sunflower seeds, aerosol cans, perfume, cologne, aftershave.	Anything disruptive to the school environment or which serves no educational purpose is not allowed on campus. These items will be taken from the student and returned ONLY to the parent. May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.
Public Display of Affection - Overt public displays of affection, including, but not limited to: making out, French kissing, prolonged hugging, groping of body parts, sitting between legs, lying on bodies is prohibited.	May result in disciplinary action not limited to counseling, warning, detention, suspension, expulsion
Restrooms - Students may not loiter in or around the restrooms.	May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.
Running - Students must be safe and not run while traveling to and from each classroom, cafeteria, gym or any other location on campus including before and after school.	May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.
Stealing/Possession of Stolen Goods - Stealing is not just unacceptable; it is a crime. If you commit, or attempt to commit a theft (going through another person's belongings, locker, book bag, etc. without their permission, will be considered as attempted theft).	May result in disciplinary action not limited to counseling, warning, detention, suspension, expulsion, stolen items will be returned, replaced, or paid for.
Student Searches - If there is a suspicion that a student has violated or are violating a law or school rule, administrators have the authority to search you and your possessions.	
Tobacco - No student shall possess, smoke or use tobacco or any product containing tobacco or nicotine products while on campus, or while attending school sponsored activities or while under the supervision and control of school district employees	May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.
Trash - Students are expected to use the provided trashcans to dispose of all trash, especially food.	Failure to use the trashcans will result in trash pickup and/or may result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.
Unauthorized Advertising - No fliers or advertisements may be distributed on the school premises without prior approval of the school administration.	May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.
Vandalism/Destruction of Property - Damaging or destroying school or private property will result in disciplinary action.	May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion. May include, police action and possible prosecution. Restitution must also be made by the student and/or his parents for any losses due to proven damage or destruction of school or private property.
Violation of Suspension Conditions - Violation of suspension conditions includes being physically on school grounds, near the campus or at a school-sponsored activity without permission of school administration.	May result in discipline not limited to counseling, warning, campus beautification, detention, suspension, expulsion.

MANDATORY EXPULSIONS

48915 (c) (1)	Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm. This subdivision applies to an act of possessing a firearm only if the possession is verified by an employee of a school district.
48915 (c) (2)	Brandishing a knife at another person.
48915 (c) (3)	Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code.
48915 (c) (4)	Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in subdivision (n) of Section 48900 or committing a sexual battery as defined in subdivision (n) of Section 48900.
48915 (c) (5)	Possession of an explosive.

Dress Code (more information)

Three C's

Collared:

Shirts and blouses must be:

- ✓ Polo shirts, plain or striped and free of slogans, designs, advertisements, numbers sized to fit.
- ✓ Button down the front shirts or blouses (buttoned appropriately)
- ✓ Students may wear collared shirts/blouses with a VMMS Logo on them.
- ✓ A turtleneck/t-shirt may be worn under a traditional polo/button down the front shirt.
- ✓ Non-collared shirt may not be worn over collared shirts.
- ✓ **Sweaters and sweatshirts** may be worn over collared shirts as long as the collar is showing.

Corporate:

Pants or slacks, and jeans must be:

- ✓ **Sized to fit.** Sagging of pants is not permitted.
- ✓ Free of all wording, pictures, studs, jewels, etc.
- ✓ Free of holes or slits and must be hemmed without fraying.

Shorts, Skirts and Skorts must be:

- ✓ **Sized to fit.** Sagging of pants is not permitted.
- ✓ Free of all wording, pictures, studs, jewels, etc.
- ✓ The appropriate mid thigh length and hemmed.
- ✓ In a standard color denim.

Jackets/Coats, Shoes

- ✓ **Jackets/Coats** are not a substitute for collared shirts and must be sized to fit
- ✓ **Shoes** with soles must be worn. Acceptable footwear includes tennis shoes, loafers, flats, pumps and dress shoes. All shoes requiring shoelaces must be laced and tied appropriately. House shoes, shower shoes, and thongs/flip-flops, sandals, slippers, open-toed shoes, spiked heels and steel-toed shoes are **not allowed.**
- ✓ In general, clothing must be clean, modest, and in good repair.

Covered:

- ✓ **covering** the waistline, chest and not revealing undergarments
- ✓ not excessively tight or sheer

Basic Guidelines for Dress Code Safety and Respect

These include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ NO jewelry or accessories which display studs, spikes, replica weapons, or drug paraphernalia, or which may pose a threat to student safety such as toe rings or large hoop earrings
- ✓ NO wallet chains which are longer than 6 inches
- ✓ NO hats, caps, hairnets, “do-rags”, wave caps, bandanas, hoods, beanies, visors, or other head coverings except (1) unaltered school logo items and (2) sun-protective wear specifically approved by school officials to be worn outside only
- ✓ NO unhemmed shorts below the knees
- ✓ NO extra long T-shirts worn on the outside
- ✓ NO plaid shirts worn on the outside and buttoned at the neck
- ✓ NO clothing or accessories exhibiting professional sport team names or logos
- ✓ NO cloth belts with metal buckles that have initials stamped on or through them
- ✓ NO long belts with the end hanging down in front
- ✓ NO pants which are slit or frayed at the cuff
- ✓ NO bandanas hanging from pockets or clothing
- ✓ NO excessively oversized, baggy or sagging pants, or pants that drag on the ground
- ✓ NO articles personalized with gang-related writing, names symbols or gothic lettering
- ✓ NO other items deemed by school administration, in consultation with law enforcement, to indicate gang affiliation
- ✓ ANY other attire determined by school administration to be a classroom or campus distraction, hazardous or inappropriate and specifically identified as such

The principal or designee maintains emergency authority to declare any new specific attire as gang-related, working in conjunction with the local sheriff. If any item is added to the list, all students will be duly notified (e.g. student bulletin, parent newsletter, etc.)

8th Grade Completion/Promotion Criteria

STUDENTS MAY PARTICIPATE IF THEY:

- ❑ Earn a total GPA of 2.0 or higher in grades **6th through 8th** or for all of 8th grade **AND** earn a GPA of 2.0 or higher in the **final grading period of 8th grade**

ELIGIBILITY MAY BE LOST IF HE OR SHE RECEIVES A FINAL, 4TH QUARTER NOTICE:

- ❑ Earn an **Unsatisfactory and/or Needs Improvements** in CITIZENSHIP AND/OR WORK HABITS
- ❑ Has poor Classroom conduct, home/in-school suspension, or have an outstanding school debt

ALSO, PLEASE ASSURE THAT YOUR STUDENT HAS COMPLETED:

- ❑ The **Community Service** requirements for the past three years to earn an IB Candidate School Certificate
- ❑ The end of the year **Capstone Project** must be completed in order for your students to participate in the last day of school activities