

Van Nuys Middle School, Math/Science Magnet

Team Letter - 2008/09

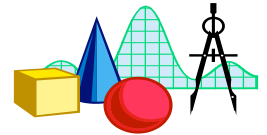
“Learning Today For Tomorrow”

www.vannuysms.org



Welcome to what we are confident will be a joyous experience and a period of great discovery for you here at Van Nuys Middle School’s Math-Science Magnet, or, as we fondly call ourselves, “The Mighty Magnet Team!” We know and appreciate how much of a privilege it is to be a part of our magnet team, as evidenced by how few are admitted and how many hope to attend but cannot. We at the VNMS Magnet know that every single child can succeed. Our teachers make every effort to provide a learning environment conducive to personal growth and academic achievement. We have very high expectations for our magnet students, which include: exemplary behavior, courtesy and respect at all times, a willingness to learn, completed homework, active class participation, and regular, punctual attendance.

Some important information to help make your Magnet experience successful:



Attendance:

1. Students are to be seated and ready to work BEFORE the tardy bell rings.
2. Any student who has an unexcused tardy to class will receive detention after school or (for students riding the bus) during lunch on designated days.
3. If your LAUSD bus arrives after 8:00 AM, you must first go to the Magnet Office to receive a tardy excuse before going to class.

Materials:

1. **A 2”, 3-ring binder** with 8 1/2 X 11 college-ruled paper and dividers **is required**. You should also have pencils, blue or black pens, and a red pen. Individual teachers will specify any other materials that are necessary. Should you need any assistance with this, please feel free to speak with your homeroom teacher or the Magnet Coordinator, Mr. Clemmensen.
2. Textbooks and supplementary materials (like novels) are to be covered and brought to class every day unless otherwise specified by the teacher.

Time Management:

1. Students are required to use and keep their Binder Reminders with them at all times. Binder Reminders are provided by the school and used daily and checked regularly. Parents and guardians should check their son/daughter’s Binder Reminder on a daily basis for homework and possible notes from teachers.

Record-Keeping:

1. All current work is to be kept in your 3-ring binder. All work that your academic teacher defines as non-current will be kept in your academic classrooms.
2. The syllabus (course outline) for each course must be signed by your parent or guardian. A copy of each syllabus must be kept in your 3-ring binder.
3. **This Magnet Team Letter must be kept in your 3-ring binder.**

Homework:

1. Homework is given on a regular basis in all classes. If no homework is specified for a particular night, students are to spend a minimum of thirty minutes reading.

Behavior:

1. All students follow the “focus signal.” The “focus signal” is when the teacher raises his/her hand. Students immediately stop talking, raise their hands, and focus their attention toward the teacher.
2. Items such as hats, bandanas, and electronics (CD players, iPods, and other similar items) are not allowed in school. They will be confiscated and can only be picked up by a parent or guardian.
3. Students may have cell phones. Cell phones are to be off during class time and only used in case of emergency. Students should ask a teacher or administrator for permission to use their cell phone on campus during school hours.
4. Our school dress policy is strictly enforced (refer to the Binder Reminder for specific guidelines). School uniforms consist of white tops (shirts with collars) and navy pants or shorts. Sweatshirts

- need to be navy blue or white. Students who are out of uniform will be sent to the Family Center and asked to change into the proper school uniform.
5. Students are to abide by the “Mustang Method” at all times.

The “Mustang Method” as it applies to our classroom

<i>Be Safe</i>	<i>Be Respectful</i>	<i>Be Responsible</i>	<i>Be Kind</i>
1. Enter the room quietly. 2. Sit in your assigned seat. 3. Keep feet and backpacks out of the aisles, and off your desk.	1. Follow your teacher’s rules and requests. 2. Actively listen. 3. Use appropriate language and keep your hands to yourself.	1. Work hard!!! • Classwork • Homework • Turn work in on time 2. Bring your school supplies. 3. Accept responsibility for your words and actions.	1. Care... about yourself and others. 2. Speak kindly. 3. Offer help when needed.

Honors:

- Students will automatically become a member of the “Mighty Magnestars,” our honor society, if they achieve at least a 3.5 grade point average, 10 or more Excellent’s (E’s), and receive no Unsatisfactory’s (U’s) on the final semester report card.
- Magnet Marvels (weekly)
- Student Of The Month (first Thursday of the month)

Transportation:

LAUSD busses will drop-off students in front of school (Vesper Ave.) in the morning and meet students at the Magnet Gate, which is located near the back of the Gym (Cedros Avenue) after school. There is no time to waste when school ends. Buses leave promptly at 3:10 PM. If you have any questions about buses, please call 1-800-LABUSES.

Magnet Thursdays:

On Thursday afternoons, the regular school is dismissed at 2:08 PM. **However, the magnet-day does not end until 2:55 PM.** This is due to the fact that magnet buses do not arrive until this time. As the years have rolled by, the magnet family has utilized this time to hold meetings, provide student recognition, snacks, and to conduct general team-building activities. All magnet students are expected to participate and to be present. We ask all families for their continued support of this program.

THIS IS **NOT** A TEAR-OFF. PLEASE RETURN THE ENTIRE LETTER

Student Name (print): _____ Signature: _____

Parent Name (print): _____ Signature: _____

Homeroom: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Mr. Clemmensen, Magnet Coordinator
 Mrs. Phillips, Team Leader 7th/8th science
 Mr. Raigoza, 7th/8th algebra & geometry

Mr. West, 7th/8th history
 Mrs. Kolb, 7th/8th English

Ms. Herrera, 6th English & social studies
 Mr. Schain 6th math & science