

Van Nuys Middle School, Math/Science Magnet

Team Letter

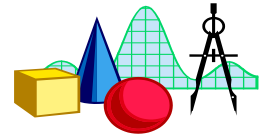
“Learning Today For Tomorrow”

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 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 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. Therefore 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 1 ½” to 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. Items may be confiscated and held until a parent/guardian comes to school.
3. Students may have cell phones. Cell phones are to be off during school time and only used in case of emergency. Students should ask a teacher or administrator for permission to use their cell phones 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. Students

who are out of uniform will be sent to the Family Center and asked to change into the proper school uniform.

- 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>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enter the room quietly. Sit in your assigned seat. Keep feet and backpacks out of the aisles, and off your desk, and at your feet. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Follow your teacher’s rules and requests. Actively listen. Use appropriate language and keep your hands to yourself. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work hard!!! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classwork • Homework • Turn work in on time Bring your school supplies. Accept responsibility for your words and actions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Care... about yourself and others. Speak kindly. 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, and have 10 or more Excellent’s (E’s) on the final semester report card.
- Teachers recognize Magnet Marvels (weekly) and Students Of The Month (last Friday of each month).

Transportation:

LAUSD buses drop off students in front of school (Vesper Avenue) in the morning and depart from the Magnet Gate (Cedros Avenue) in the afternoon, which is located near the back of the gym. Once school ends, students should go to the bus immediately. Buses leave promptly 10 minutes after the close of the school day. Please call 1-800-LABUSES for route information.

Magnet Fridays:

Our Magnet is unique in the fact that we have an all-Magnet meeting each Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the auditorium. All-Magnet meeting agendas include announcements, discussion of past and future Magnet events, and student recognition. Along with information and awards, there is a focus on State Content Standards in English, math, science, and social studies.

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. West, 7th/8th history
•Mrs. Kolb, 7th/8th English
•Mr. Raigoza, 7/8th pre-algebra, algebra readiness, algebra 1AB, geometry 1AB

•Ms. Herrera, 6th English & social studies
•Mrs. Jenkins, 6th math & science