Valencia Middle School

Home of the Jaguars

Family Newsletter#2

September 2026

Dear Families,

It has been a great beginning to the school year! I can't believe we are already in September. It was wonderful to see so many of you at Open House, and we are grateful for the opportunity to begin another school year together.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 1 - Fall Pictures
Sept 18 - Report Cards
Sept 25 - Assembly
Sep 29 & 30 - Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences
Sept. 30 - Title I Family Engagement

CELEBRATIONS 🎉

We would like to celebrate a very successful Open House!
We were able to provide free food and drinks for our families, thanks to our wonderful staff members who generously donated everything. Your kindness, generosity, and willingness to support our school community helped make the evening special.
Thank you to all of our families who participated in Open House. It was wonderful to see everyone come together to support our students, families, and school community.
A special thank you to our amazing staff for helping make Open House a success! We truly appreciate your time, support, and dedication. ❤️

ATTENDANCE

This year, we are placing a strong focus on promoting good attendance at our school. Right now, our chronic absenteeism rate is 55%. This means that approximately 45% of our students are missing a significant amount of instructional time.

Please remember that every time a student is absent, arrives late, or leaves school early, they are missing valuable instructional time and learning opportunities.

Every school day matters! We encourage families to make regular attendance a priority and to help students arrive at school on time each day.

DISCIPLINE

This year, we are working on creating consistency when it comes to student behavior and expectations.
At the beginning of the school year, we reviewed our school-wide expectations with students:

- Be Kind
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Safe

We ask families to reinforce these expectations at home. When students, families, and staff work together and have consistent expectations, we create a positive and safe learning environment for everyone.

CELL PHONE POLICY 📱

Students may not use cell phones on school grounds or during school hours. School time is a time for students to **focus on learning,** building relationships, and participating in the school community.

Please remind your child that if they bring a cell phone to school, it must be turned off and kept in their backpack during the school day.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a focused learning environment.

DRESS CODE

Please remember that students are expected to follow our school dress-code expectations each day. Clothing should be appropriate for school and should allow students to participate safely and comfortably in all school activities.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that students come to school dressed appropriately and ready to learn.

DRILLS AND SCHOOL SAFETY

As we begin the school year, we will be conducting several safety drills to ensure that our students and staff know what to do and how to stay safe in the event of an emergency. These drills are an important part of our school safety procedures and help us prepare for a variety of situations.

In the event of an actual emergency, we will communicate with families as soon as we are able. However, please understand that we may not be able to answer phone calls immediately, as our first priority will be ensuring the safety of all students and staff.
We will also not dismiss students during an emergency until it is safe to do so and we have received appropriate direction.
We ask that you please talk with your students about the importance of:

- Staying calm
- Following staff instructions
- Staying with their class or designated group
- Making safe and responsible choices during drills and emergencies

Student safety is always our first priority. Thank you for your understanding, support, and partnership in keeping our school community safe.

FROM THE NURSE

We would like to clarify our procedure when a student becomes ill or is injured at school.

If your child is seen by the Health Office and it is determined that they need to be sent home, **a member of the Health Office staff will contact you directly**. Students will not be asked to call their parents to arrange to be picked up when they are being excused from school due to illness or injury.

If your child contacts you directly and asks to be picked up from school because they are not feeling well, please be aware that being picked up does not automatically mean the absence will be excused. The absence will be handled according to school attendance procedures.

We are sharing this information to help ensure that students remain in class whenever possible and to support good attendance. If your child is experiencing a health concern at school, please encourage them to visit the Health Office so that our staff can assess the situation and determine the appropriate next steps.

If you have questions about this procedure or your child's health at school, please contact the Health Office.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership in supporting your child's health, safety, and attendance.

Thank you again for your continued support and partnership. It is a pleasure working with your children, and we look forward to a wonderful school year together!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact us:

- Ms. Acabal: aacabal@llschools.net
- Mrs. Villella: nvillella@llschools.net

You may also call the school office and leave a message with our front office staff. We will respond as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Acabal and Mrs. Villella