Sinaloa Middle School

Ronald Reagan Academy of Communication and Leadership

2026-2027

6th Grade IM Science

Mrs. Amy Hunter-Burns

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Mrs. Kristine Shaw

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I. Teacher Bios:

We, Mrs. Burns & Mrs.Shaw will be co-teaching at Sinaloa Middle School this year and love working together! We find co-teaching allows students to experience a learning environment that provides all students with the support they need to access the curriculum, such as a smaller teacher-to-student ratio, re-teaching opportunities, various teaching modalities, etc.

Mrs. Burns:

I began my college education at UCSB playing soccer and earning my BA in Communication. I always knew I wanted to work with children so every summer I packed my bags and worked as a camp counselor and eventually became a camp director in Canadensis, PA. After my first few summers, I decided to relocate back east where I attended Queens College, NY, and received my General Education teaching credential. Returning to CA, I started teaching 6th grade at Sinaloa MS in 1998 and have been part of the Simi Valley School District for 28 years. I continued my education at California Lutheran University receiving my Special Education teaching credential and Master's degree in Special Education while teaching at Sinaloa. I had the opportunity to remain at Sinaloa and teach Special Education for a few years and then returned back to 6th grade. Besides being a teacher, I am a mom to two wonderful boys, an Auntie, and part of the amazing Sinaloa family!

Mrs. Shaw

I received my undergraduate degree and teaching credential from CSUN, where I ran one season of Track and Field for CSUN. I grew up in Moorpark and participated in many different sports. Today, I love to watch sports and television, but I enjoy watching my two sons play sports and music the most. I started teaching in 2010 in Palmdale with middle schoolers, where I stayed for 8 years. I moved to Santa Clarita and taught in an elementary school resource room for 7 years, where I absolutely adored the younger students. I am currently in the second year at Sinaloa and love working with middle schoolers. Besides being a teacher, I am a mom for two boys and a maltipoo puppy named Maple.

I. Course Standards/Objectives:

Educational standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. In California, the State Board of Education decides on the standards for all students, from kindergarten through high school. Information regarding specific standards can be found at www.cde.ca.gov

International-Mindedness (IM) courses use the approaches to learning taught in Royal High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program. The students will learn the state-mandated course curriculum linked above and will also be encouraged to make practical connections between what they will be studying and the real world. This course aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring members of local and global communities. NGSS standards will be implemented in a variety of activities that will engage students in the same practices used by scientists to understand the natural world and by engineers to solve problems. (Math courses do not fall into this category)

II. Classroom Rules and Student Responsibilities:

In our School… Sinaloa's SABER CODE is the foundation for behavior expectancies on our campus. This Code, along with our standards for citizenship/work habits grades, the school tardy policy, and the school

discipline policies, are included in the agenda book. For more information on schoolwide policies and expectations, please review the agenda book, viewable online at sinaloa.simivalleyusd.org.

I**n this classroom** …we have many routines and procedures incorporated through the use of CHAMPS (guidelines for Conversation, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation, and Success) that students will learn and follow. All students have the right to learn and each student has the responsibility of allowing all students that opportunity by creating a learning and safe atmosphere in the classroom.

Classroom Behavioral Expectations

1. Be prepared for class each day.
2. Treat all peers and adults with respect.
3. Use appropriate language in speech and written work.
4. Treat all school property and the property of others with respect.
5. Do your personal best and advocate for yourself!

Food, drinks (other than water), and gum are not permitted inside the classroom per Sinaloa policy..
Cell phones are to be turned off and NOT visible during school hours. Cell phones are NEVER to be used anywhere except at the front of the school as designated by the school signs and noted in the student handbook. If a phone goes off in class, it will be taken to the office.

Possible Privileges may include	**Possible Consequences may include**
● Preferential seating ● Positive contact home ● School positive referral to office ● Rewards from teacher ● Higher citizenship grade ● Verbal praise and encouragement ● Special classroom privileges	● Contact home ● Seat change ● Loss of computer privileges ● Lunch or after school detention ● Referral to office ● Any student who consistently disrupts the class will be sent out of the room so learning can progress.

III. Textbooks/Materials:

It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for class each day with the following materials:

1. Appropriate textbooks/materials and assignments for each class (Science textbooks can be checked out for a short period of time through the library.)
2. An agenda book
3. A silent reading book

Additional suggested materials needed each day:

1. One 3-ring binder
2. One single-subject spiral notebook & one composition book
3. Pencils and blue/black pens
4. Headphones or earbuds

If you are unable to get materials, please see the teacher so together a plan can be put into place to ensure students are prepared for class.

Please note that if students come to class without the required materials, they will NOT be sent to their lockers to gather the missing supplies.

IV. Tardy and Absence Policies

- **School Tardy Policy:** On-time arrival at every class is a component of school citizenship (see school handbook).
    - 5th tardy= N in citizenship.
    - 7th tardy= N in citizenship and parent notice

- 10th tardy= U in citizenship and parent conference
- Excessive tardies= possible Saturday school or administrative detentions

- **Classroom Absence Policy:**
  - Excessive unexcused absences can impact a student's citizenship grade.
  - It is the student's responsibility to collect and turn in all missed work.
  - Absent assignments and/or videos & resources can be found in Google Classroom.
  - Students must make up **ALL** work missed due to absences. **If the student requires extra help from the teacher, it is the responsibility of the student to arrange a time with the teacher before the due dates or test dates.**
  - Any work that was assigned to a student prior to an absence is always due on the original due date after the student's return. The same policy applies to making up tests.
  - Students who miss test dates need to arrange for a time after school to make up the test within a week's time.
  - This International Mindedness classroom is a collaborative learning classroom. The students will work daily on various partner and group activities and receive participation credit. Because of this, daily attendance and active, cooperative participation is important. If a student is absent, they may miss opportunities to earn participation points and may not be able to make them up.

V. Grading Policy/Communication

Scores and grades are located on Aeries. Your student will demonstrate mastery in this class by:

- Science Grades: weighed:70% Assessments 30% Homework/Notes/Projects/Participation
- 100%-90% = A, 89%-80% = B, 79%-70 = C, 69%-60 = D, 59%-below =F

- **Google Classroom (GC) and Aeries.net:** For up-to-date information on assignments (agenda), handouts, due dates, quizzes/tests, and school information see GC. Please see Aeries.net for up-to-date grades. Your student has access through their own school email and Google login. Aeries is the **most reliable source** of information on completed & incomplete assignments as well as overall grades.
- Students need to record the daily assignments/hw & important dates in their agenda book to ensure they complete all the required assignments, as well as, receive important notification dates on upcoming assessments and due dates. (Info can also be found in GC in the online weekly agenda if needed)
- School-to-home communication plays a critical role in the success of each student. Please use email or the agenda to contact me with any questions.
- **Plagiarism:** *Any attempt to cheat on assignments or exams by copying, plagiarizing, submitting work that has had a substantial amount of assistance from another person, using any type of AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology, or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "F" (Fail) on that assignment/exam, a lowered citizenship grade, and other school disciplinary actions as outlined in the "Academic Dishonesty" portion of the Student Handbook.*
- **Late Work:** Students have until the final test of either a unit in science or math to turn in any late homework/classwork assignments for partial points. **After the final test is given, late work can no longer be made up for any credit.**

  -Late projects will drop one full grade from the earned grade for each day it is late. No projects will be accepted after 5 days from the due date.
- **Extra Credit:** There is **no** extra credit for 6th grade.
- Students will be assigned group and independent projects throughout the year. Time will be allotted in the classroom; however, some of the projects may have to be completed at home.
- All projects and papers must be completed by the student, and in their own words.
- Assignments may be assigned through Google Classroom and students will be expected to complete, upload, and turn in assignments.

- All homework is due the next day unless otherwise specified.
- Students will be expected to take notes during class and turn in at the end of the unit.
- When science labs are assigned, students must follow the Lab Expectations/Guidelines to ensure the safety of all students and equipment.
- If a student is absent on a lab day, they must complete the lab on their own using the links provided in Google Classroom.
- Weekly emails will be sent to parents providing important information such as assessment dates, and final due dates on assignments that can be turned in for credit.
- Parents can contact the teachers through email to set up conferences or to express concerns about their student.
- ***When sending emails to the teacher, please make sure to include both Mrs. HunterBurns and Mrs.Shaw as we are co-teachers for the class.***

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Know that we are here to help your students succeed and to help parents navigate through this journey together!

Looking forward to a wonderful year,

Mrs. Amy HunterBurns & Mrs. Kristine Shaw