**Sinaloa Middle School**
***A California School To Watch***
***A California Gold Ribbon School***
**2023-2024**
6th and 7th Grade, History, and Lit Lab
Mrs. Phyllisann E. Morten Ed.S

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**Hello Parents of Our Wonderful 6th and 7th Grade Sinaloa students!**

*I wanted to introduce myself and tell you how excited I am to be with your students this year as they enter into their middle school experience. My name is Phyllisann Escobar Morten and I've been teaching for over 25 years. Throughout my years as a teacher, I've had the opportunity to teach just about every grade and subject including college history. Teaching is definitely not just a job to me, it is my vocation. I am married, have two grown children and a 5 year old grandson (he's amazing!) I love just about everything connected to nature. I have a 9 year old chocolate lab that keeps me walking daily. I love bike riding, swimming and hiking. And there is nothing better than reading a good book outside in the open air. My hope this year is to guide your learner into a successful school year, while having a lot of fun doing it.*

## 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.

6th Grade: International-Mindedness (IM) courses use the approach 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.

Sinaloa Middle School helps students develop their abilities to:

- *Explore and solve problems*
- *Work cooperatively with others*
- *Think critically*
- *Communicate ideas clearly*

## 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.

**In 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. OUR belief is that ALL students have the right to learn and

each student has the responsibility to make sure that the classroom atmosphere promotes safety and learning.

**Social Contract: Classroom Behavior Expectations**
**Our Classroom will adhere to the Social Contract that we will create the first week of school. It will be posted in our Google Classroom.**

1. Be prepared for class each day.
2. Treat all peers and adults with respect.
3. Be an active listener and follow directions the first time.
4. Use appropriate language in speech and written work.
5. Treat all school property and the property of others with respect
6. Do your personal best!

No Gum and drinks (other than water) are permitted inside the classroom.

Cell phones must be in your backpack or locker and must be off if in the classroom. If a phone goes off in class or is out, it will be taken to the office. We will follow the Sinaloa cell phone policy. This includes earbuds.

| **Possible Privileges may include** | **Possible Consequences may include** |
|---|---|
| • Preferential seating<br>• Positive contact home<br>• School positive referral to office<br>• Rewards from teacher<br>• Higher citizenship grade<br>• Verbal praise and encouragement<br>• Special classroom privileges<br>• Minga Points | • Contact home<br>• Seat change<br>• Loss of computer privileges<br>• Before or after school detention<br>• Referral to office<br>• 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. ***Notebook just for History***
2. Something to write with (pen or/and pencil with sharpener)
3. Appropriate textbooks and assignments for each class
4. Folder for homework handouts
5. An agenda book
6. A silent reading book

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.

Whiteout and permanent pens are not allowed on the school campus.

**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). More than 3 tardies to class each quarter will result in an "N" (needs to improve) citizenship grade. More than 6 tardies to class will result in a "U" (unsatisfactory) grade in Citizenship.
- **Classroom Absence Policy:**
  - Excessive unexcused absences can impact a student's citizenship grade.
  - The teacher will not provide work or tests ahead of time for planned absences. Work and tests can be made-up after a student returns to school.
  - It is the student's responsibility to collect and turn in all missed work.
  - Students must make up **ALL** work missed due to absences. Students will have one day to make up work for each excused day of absence, per school district policy.
    - Failure to make up work in a timely manner will result in work receiving late credit.
    - **If the student requires extra help from the teacher, it is the responsibility of the student to arrange some time with the teacher.**
  - 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 before or after school to make up the test within one week's time.
- **No tests or assignments work will be accepted once a UNIT has been completed and there has been a final test or project turned in.**

## V. Grading Policy/Communication

The student's degree of mastery of the California content standards is a critical element in determining the letter grade in the class. Student mastery is based on the following:

**Weighted Grades**

| | |
|---|---|
| Assessments/Projects | 60% |
| In Class Assignments | 30% |
| Notetaking | |
| Atlas Work | |
| Notebook | |
| Homework | 10% |

Grading Scale:

**A= 100%-90%**
**B= 89%-80%**
**C= 79%-70%**
**D= 69%-60%**
**F= 59% and below**

- **Google Classroom (GC) and Aeries.net:** For up-to-date information on assignments (agenda), handouts, due dates, quizzes/tests, and school information see your student's period google classroom.
    - Please see Aeries.net for up-to-date grades. Your student has access through their own school email and Google login.
- 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.
    - If agenda, have student direct teacher to the message
- **Plagiarism:** *Any attempt to cheat on assignments or exams by copying, plagiarizing, submitting work which 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 a unit to turn in any late homework/ or class work assignments for partial points. **After the final test is given, late work can no longer be made up for any credit.**
    - **o** Late projects will drop one full grade from the earned grade for each day it is late.
- **Extra Credit:** There is **no** extra credit for 6th or 7th 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.
- Parents can contact the teacher through email to set up conferences or to express concerns about their student.

## Classroom Management Plan Signature Sheet–Please cut and return

_____
Teacher's Name

I have read the classroom management plan. I understand that if I have any questions and/or concerns, I may contact the teacher.

_____ GRADE LEVEL/Block_____
Student Name (print)

_____ _____
Student Signature Parent Signature