# Sinaloa Middle School

*Ronald Reagan Academy of Communication and Leadership*

***A California School To Watch***

***A California Gold Ribbon School***

**2026-2027**

6th Grade Language Arts & History
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Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! My name is Amy Rieker-Smith, and I am excited to start my third year at Sinaloa Middle School. My teaching experience includes being an itinerant science teacher to fourth, fifth, and sixth graders in the Simi Valley Unified School District for ten years, as well as being a sixth grade teacher at Vista for fifteen years. I received my degree from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. In my spare time, I enjoy going to the theater, traveling, and spending time with my family and friends. I look forward to a wonderful school year with your student.

## 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 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
- Think critically
- Work cooperatively with others
- 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. 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. Be an attentive 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!

Food, drinks (other than water), and gum are not permitted inside the classroom.

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 sent to the office.

| **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 | • Contact home<br>• Seat change<br>• Loss of computer privileges<br>• Lunch 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:

English: Sixth grade English classes will be using the SVUSD adopted curriculum, which includes the Collections anthology series, and the core novels *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, and *The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder.

History: Sixth grade history classes will be using the SVUSD adopted textbook *TCi History Alive! The Ancient World*.

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

1. Appropriate textbooks and assignments for each class
2. An agenda book
3. A silent reading book

Additional suggested materials needed each day:

1. One 3-ring binder
2. Two single-subject spiral notebooks
3. Pencils and blue/black pens
4. A red correcting pen
5. Two jumbo book covers and a small book cover (homemade) for novels.
6. Corded headphones or corded 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.

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). Five (5) or more tardies to class each quarter will result in an "N" (needs to

improve) citizenship grade. Ten (10) or more 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 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

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:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A= 100%-90%** | **English:** | **Tests/quizzes** |
| **B= 89%-80%** | | **Projects/Reports/Essays** |
| **C= 79%-70%** | | **Independent Reading Requirements** |
| **D= 69%-60%** | | **(AR)** |
| **F= 59% and below** | | **Class Assignments/Homework** |
| | **History:** | **Tests/Projects** |
| | | **Quizzes /Participation** |
| | | **Class work** |
| | | **Homework/Notes** |

- **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.
- 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 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 either a chapter in history or story test/quiz in English to turn in any late homework/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 grade.

- All students are required to read outside of class as a portion of their English grade. Students will be independently reading two novels per quarter to meet their Accelerated Reader goal.
- 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

_Mrs. Rieker-Smith_____
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.

_____
Student Name (print)

_____ _____
Student Signature Parent Signature