

VSA 8th Grade

2023-2024

Courses and Contacts



Ms. Giordano-ELA

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Mrs. Deslauriers—Math

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Mr. Pierce - Science

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Ms. Pupek – Social Studies

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Ms. Jimenez – Special Education

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Mrs. Al-Resul-ESOL

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Ms. Whalen – Paraprofessional

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Looking Ahead:

We are looking forward to the new school year! Students will be asked to come prepared, on task and ready to work each day. The focus this year will be responsibility and respect. Students will be responsible for their academics and actions while behaving in a respectful manner.

Assignments and Grading

80%

Tests, Essays, & Projects —Summative Assessments

20%

Classwork, homework, & participation—Formative Assessments

You will be graded on your participation in discussions, homework which will include required reading, classwork, and many other forms of formative and summative assessments.

Expectations

Be successful. Be respectful. Be responsible.

Mark your calendar!!!

First day of school is on **Monday, August 28**

What your child needs to succeed!

- Pencil / Pen
- Notebook
- School computer/charger

School Website-

<http://spsvmsa.ss18.sharpschool.com/>

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/Van-Sickle-Academy-113601739991428>



Policies

Late/make-up work policy



The expectation is that you submit all assignments on time. Work submitted late may result in a zero or deduction of points.

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to follow proper procedures for each class to ensure that you receive your work. The work should be submitted within a week of the absence.

If there is a special circumstance, please contact your teacher.

Classroom Expectations

1. Be prepared with writing utensil, computer and charger.
2. No candy, food, or drink in classroom.
3. Cell phones and smart watches are off & placed in bin. They will be returned at the end of the day.
4. Follow SPS & VSA Rules

Dates to Remember:

Parent Teacher Conferences:

September 19	October 17
November 14	January 23
February 13	March 19
April 9	May 21

After School Help:

ELA, History, ESL, LLD – Wednesdays
3:05-3:45pm

Math & Science, Art & PE – Thursdays
3:05-3:45pm

Tentative Testing Dates:

Fall MAP: Sept. 6-8

Winter MAP: Dec.12-14

Spring MAP: May 21-23

MCAS Dates:

ELA: April 10-11

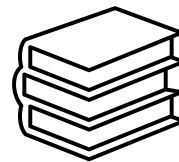
Math: May 1-2

Science: May 8-9

Be respectful.

Be successful.

Meet Your Teachers



Melissa Deslauriers- Math

The Math curriculum that we will be using is Illustrative Math which is a problem-based core curriculum designed to address content and practice standards to foster learning for all! Students learn by doing math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world contexts, and constructing arguments using precise mathematical language.

Syllabus: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/132FRK1EGAi-fnRCxaVTIpQODa184hsU/view?usp=sharing>

Erica Pupek – Humanities

The Humanities class will focus developing good writing and literacy skills in addition to the foundations American Democracy and developments to it that have occurred overtime. We will look at topics including, but not limited to, the US Constitution, Civil Rights & many other historical events. Over the course of the school year, we will read a variety of documents.

Emma Giordano – English

Using the EngageNY curriculum, students will build their ability to analyze text, both in discussion and writing. Throughout the year we will read a variety of short stories, novels, and informational texts to develop literacy skills all while learning about the world around us.

Syllabus: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GKNSDSFy4wGeA4GeKB5bxgzq80iuB9In/view?usp=sharing>

R. Steve Pierce – Science

This year we will be using STEMScopes to explore the science happening all around us!

We will conduct scientific experiments and labs frequently to ensure we are learning hands on while simultaneously focusing on academic literacy.

Syllabus: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQDJk2GJyxspMNwlqOue0vvo3g5oPdaMKdwNhzLxQCjxXeP0FhIhzB4NmaTKPUsKiXovoU1-h1R3BjA/pub>

Zeineb Al-Resul-ESOL Teacher (6th, 7th, 8th Grade)

This year, students will develop their language acquisition and cognitive learning through Engage NY, Bilingual Common Core Initiative, and the Saddleback

Curriculum. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tEboTtdjE9CTjkqaTjRIFrGj6-WzfiEf/view?usp=sharing>

Lizbette Jimenez – Special Ed

Will be supporting your students in Math and English and honing in on skills where they need assistance.