



PINE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcome Back!



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our class and introduce myself to you and your parents. My name is Angela Holstrom. I have been teaching for four years and I went to school long enough to earn a Masters Degree in Special Education! I love teaching, I love to see my students succeed, and I can't wait to see you do your best.

I have a couple of goals for the beginning of the year. First, I want to open up the line of communication between you, me, and your parents. I want you to always feel that you can come to me with questions or problems. You can do this by coming to talk to me or writing me a note. Your parents can always do the same. The best way for me to help you do your best is to keep everything on the up and up, so let's keep in touch!

Second, I want our classroom environment to be one of comfort and encouragement for you and your classmates. I don't ever want you to feel left out, not cared for, not listened to, or lost. If there is something missing from our room that you need, don't be afraid to tell me or your parents. We are a team, and we will do our best to make it happen!

If you feel ready to get going and make great things happen, sign below, with your parents, and we'll get started!

student

parent(s)

teacher

CURRICULUM:

I am planning fun and rigorous curriculum for this year and would like to share the subjects and topics that will be covered while you are in our classroom this year. You may have had a hard time with reading, spelling, math, science, and social studies before, and that's ok! We have some great books and programs that are very helpful for students who need a little extra help. This doesn't mean your school year is going to be *easy*, but I am hoping it might be a little easier than it has been before.

English/Language Arts: We will be using a program called Language!. During the first week of school everyone will take a small test to see which level you will begin on. There are three levels, A, B, & C. During the school year, we will focus on reading and oral comprehension (do you understand what you have read?), fluency (how fast you read), vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, thought and writing organization, and proper use of the writing process.

Math: We will be using Math Steps. You will take another small test in the first week to see which level you begin on. There are several levels, which will make it easy for you to start with something you know, and can practice, then move on to more challenging math.

Science: We will be using a science book that is much easier to read than some other 6th/7th grade science books. This book makes science easier to understand and fun! We will be focusing on Biology, a comprehensive study of life!

History: Our history book is also easier to read than other books. It makes history make sense, making it more exciting to learn! We will be focusing on World History from Renaissance through the modern world.

In addition to these core subjects, we will also be doing a program called Second Step. This program is a fun look at how to handle our thoughts, feelings, and relationships with other people.

ASSESSMENT/GRADING:

You will be tested regularly throughout the year to see how well you are doing in learning the new material. Your test results will be posted for you and your parents to see on SchoolLoop. You will know at least 4 days in advance that you have a test coming up, giving you time to prepare and study. We will prepare in class, but you will also be expected to study at home. Progress reports and grades will be posted on SchoolLoop according to the grading schedule. Otherwise SchoolLoop will have updates about your homework, behavior, and progress every two weeks. You will receive notification that SchoolLoop has been updated, then you can check it out!

HOMEWORK:

You will have one or more homework assignments on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. Your homework will help you practice skills you already know or have just learned. You are expected to turn in all homework at the beginning of first period. Late homework is not accepted without a note from a parent.

BEHAVIOR:

Just as you would at home with your parents, I expect that while at school you will be on your best behavior! You are expected to follow all school rules. In addition, our class has come up with 4 rules that you need to follow while in our room. #1: Try not to distract others. #2: Pay attention to the speaker. #3: Raise your hand to speak. #4: Do not speak while the teacher is talking (unless you do #3). YOU came up with these rules, we will all follow them. If you break a rule, you will get a warning. If you do it again, your name will go on the board which means you will not get a star on the behavior chart for that day. If the behavior persists, I will call your parents. But let's not get to that point!

If, at any time, you or your parents have questions about what we're doing in class, you can always email me at aholstrom@srvusd.net. Please return the bottom of the top sheet, signed.