

VAL VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tomás Rivera Middle School
Mrs. Nicky Smith, Principal
Ms. Zamora, Assistant Principal



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Dear Parent or Guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my excitement about working with you and your child this year. I am your child's language arts and/or social studies teacher. I have been a teacher for over fifteen years; this will be my eleventh year teaching 6th grade in the Val Verde Unified School District. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Humanities. I currently assist in the managing of the GATE program at Tomas Rivera Middle School and have received GATE certification from University of California, Riverside. I have also attended AVID training at four of AVID's Summer Institutes. I have twice received the distinction of being "Teacher of the Year" during my career. Please rest assured that I will teach your child as well as I would want my own to be taught.

Over the course of this coming school year, we will be learning the 6th grade academic standards as adopted by the California State Board of Education; you can find the standards listed at www.cde.ca.gov. In our history class, we will be learning about the ancient Mesopotamians, Egyptians, Chinese, Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans. In our language arts class, we will learn how to write summaries and argumentative essays. We will also read lots of fictional and nonfictional texts; we will learn how to support our claims with evidence and identify the central idea of anything we read or listen to. In addition to our regular coursework, we will have special projects every month. If you have any questions about our curriculum, please don't hesitate to ask.

I encourage you to send me notes and e-mails; I will respond promptly, usually within a few hours. I hope I will get to meet you soon at our Open House scheduled for the evening of August 29th, or at our first evening of conferences on October 5th. At the Open House, I will be discussing the high expectations I have for all of my students, including the expectations that they are respectful, responsible, safe, and that they always try their hardest to learn. Most of my students consistently meet these expectations; however, when they don't, I will in most cases follow the sequential discipline policy that is outlined in your child's new academic handbook.

My grading policy is similar to that of my colleagues in the 6th grade at Tomas Rivera Middle School. In order to do his or her best work, each student should do their best to come to every class with pens, pencils, and several sheets of notebook paper; we will have some extra supplies for those families who cannot afford to buy their own. Please have your child let me know if we can help. All students are to record any unfinished classwork and all homework in their academic binders.

Additional information about our class procedures and what we are going to learn this year will be provided at our Open House and on our class web page found at <http://MrBlomberg.com>. Again, I am excited about working with you and your child. I welcome your questions or comments, and I am looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

S. Matthew Blomberg
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6th Grade Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher