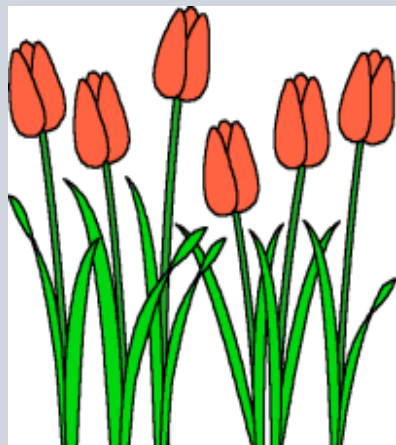




The Vista Real Sun



• Spring Semester

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Mathematical Arts: Who Ever Heard of That?

By Mr. Terry Murphy, VRPC Math Teacher

I think Math gets a bad rap.

Although some people like math, it seems that people in general don't like it. Some people hate it! There are a number of reasons for this, including:

- It's tedious.
- It takes a lot of work, even when you understand it
- You may not be very good at Math, so you don't like it.
- You may be able to do well with Math studies, but you still don't like it.

If you like Math, consider yourself lucky. If you are one of the people who doesn't like Math, maybe changing the way we think about it would help.

There are areas of study that we refer to as Arts. There is, of course, Art. Art would include drawing, painting, sculpture, and other forms of expression. Music could be classified as an Art. The subject area of middle and high school English is called Language Arts.

All of these areas have some things in common. One thing is that they are forms of communication. Another thing is that each area would require certain skills, gained through study and practice.

Is it possible to think of something as tedious as Math as an Art? Mathematical Arts? Well, it is a form of communication. It has its own language. It can communicate ideas that no other language can express. Its language can be found in English dictionaries. Words like **total**, **average**, **median**, **positive**, **negative**, and **amortization** are just a few examples of words expressing math concepts that have made their way into everyday English usage. Other ideas can only be expressed using the language exclusive to Math, like:

$$y = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

But other areas of study referred to as Arts are creative. Is Math creative? When you solve a problem using Math skills, you have created a solution.

Just running a family household requires a reasonably deep understanding of Basic Math and Algebra skills. Our world is becoming increasingly complex, especially in the area of money, finance, and the economy. These changes affect every household.

Running any business, big or small, requires extensive planning and strategies that can only be guided through Mathematical understanding.

Other accomplishments that require more advanced skills:

- Architecture
- Engineering (airplanes, spacecraft, freeways, bridges, etc.)
- Computer/software engineering (all your favorite apps!)
- General construction

Maybe if we could think of Math as one of the Arts, we could change the way students relate to Math. Maybe we could help students to be more curious about Math; more motivated.

Hard work always pays off. Learning something new is very rewarding.



Terry Murphy – Math Teacher



Attendance Policy Reminders

► Please be sure to keep the following attendance policies in mind:

- You must be ON TIME to your weekly appointment! If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be absent.
- You must come PREPARED to your appointment. If homework is incomplete at the time of your appointment, you will be absent.
- If you receive any more than three absences in a semester you will be dropped from VRPC.
- If you fail to comply with any school policies, you may be marked absent.

◦ Absences are only excused in the following instances:

- You are sick, AND bring a note from the doctor
- You have to go to court AND you bring proof from the Court
- There is a death in the family AND you bring proof
- You have to work AND you bring proof from your employer

► If you are excused on one day, you **MUST** reschedule for another day in **THE SAME WEEK!**

Remember the Dress Code

► The VRPC Dress Code is **STRICTLY enforced.**

- No hats, bandanas, beanies, or hoods
- No socks pulled up with shorts
- No gloves
- No short shorts or short skirts. Shorts and skirts must be longer than your fingertips when arms are placed by your side.
- No midriff tops, no stomach showing
- No low-cut shirts, no cleavage
- No logos of any kind on clothing
- No sports team apparel of any kind
- No chains connected to wallets, no key chains with sport team logos
- No under garments exposed
- No white shoes with black laces

► Failure to comply with the dress code will result in an absence for the week!

VRPC SCHOOL ID'S

School ID cards are now provided and **required** for all VRPC students. These picture ID cards are available for free at the front desk, along with a complimentary lanyard. Every student will be required to bring *and wear* their ID card each time they come to VRPC, so don't forget it or you will be marked absent. If a student loses their ID, there will be a \$5 replacement fee, so please keep track of it. We hope that this new school ID policy will help ensure that VRPC continues to be a safe and nurturing educational environment.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Shomari Patterson, Vista Real Public Charter class of 2011, is the recipient of the Dwight Brydie Scholarship. Shomari received her award at the California Workforce Association's Youth Conference in Long Beach on January 19, 2011.

The Dwight Brydie Scholarship is a \$1000 award that encourages students to pursue education and workforce goals for success in both areas. Shomari is the creator behind a handmade jewelry business, Schmazzles Dazzles, which offers high-quality jewelry at an affordable price. Shomari donates a portion of her profits to local food banks.

Shomari also participates in a class sponsored by NFTE, the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, and is the local winner of \$600 from NFTE for having the "Most Socially Responsible Business." Shomari continues on to a regional competition in Los Angeles in May. Upon her graduation, Shomari hopes to attend college and study business, continue to grow Schmazzles Dazzles, and intern with non-profit TWLOHA, a group dedicated to finding help for people struggling with depression.

**Tutoring is offered Monday-Friday
8:00am- 6:00 pm**

Check our website at www.vrchs.org for links to teacher email addresses, up-to-date school news, testing dates, the school calendar, and more!

CREDIT CRUSHERS TOP EARNERS!

Alyssa Alcalá
Frank Alcarez
Francisco Alvarez
Rebecca Arredondo
Annabel Ayala
Alberto Barragan
Julian Barrera
Yarazed Beccerra
Rafael Cabrera
Roxanna Cortes
Robert Denning
Joseph Dominguez
Jim Doría
Stephanie Espinoza
Gloría Flores
Gaby Galvan
Ashley Garcia
Brandon Garcia
Cindy Garcia
Itzel Garcia
Jennifer Garcia
Anthony Gonzalez
Claudia Gonzalez
Juan Gonzalez
Jonathan Hernandez

Madison Heupal
Kirsten Hicks
Omar Huerta
Guadalupe Juarez
Sara Kabel
Dana Kelly
Rocky King
Ryan LaFata
Dewi Levin
Luis Linan
Jennifer Lopez
Yazmin Lopez
Evelyn Magana
Kevin Marion
Alexander Martin
Keighla May
Alexis Mendoza
Maylani Mendoza
Keara Miller-Garcia
John Mintz
Mark Morales
Anissa Ortiz
Lupita Ortiz
Tiffany Quach
Vanessa Quintana
Kyle Quiroz

James Ramirez
Grace Raya
Kathryn Richardson
Araceli Rodriguez
Karina Rodriguez
Lupita Rodriguez
Sebastian Rodriguez
Nicholas Rotella-
Mattingly
Libni Ruiz
Savannah Salazar
Cindy Sandoval
John Santana
Alejandra Sendejas
Amanda Speakman
Michael Steele
Stephanie Torres
Christian Villa
Steve Villasenor
Lissette Viramontes
Nellie Viramontes
Amy Walker
Christopher Wheat
Amanda Wimer
Amanda Wolchuck
Yesenia Zaragoza

Our Education Staff

<u>Morning Teaching Team</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
▪Ms. Day-Palma – English	201-9926
▪Ms. Drew – English	512-7464
▪Mr. Greenfield – Science	201-9933
▪Mr. Murphy – Math	201-9914
▪Ms. O'Donnell – Math	201-9916
▪Mr. Roberti – Social Studies	201-9940
▪Ms. Smith – Math	201-9938
▪Ms. Tidwell – English	201-9924

<u>Afternoon Teaching Team</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
▪Mr. Cohen – English	201-9930
▪Mrs. Diaz – Social Studies	201-9911
▪Ms. Hill – English	512-7465
▪Ms. Jacobs – Science	201-9920
▪Mr. Morris – Math	512-7462
▪Ms. Rooney – Math	512-7479
▪Ms. Solberg – English	201-9904
▪Mr. Trunz – Math	201-9917

Tutors

- Antonio Chavez 512-7459
- Aaron Freyschlag 201-9939
- Allison Hawley 201-9912
- Dorina Padilla 512-7478

Administration

- Corrine Manley – Principal
- Jon Oates – Education Support Assistant
- Julia Gocke – Administrative Assistant

*Vista Real Public Charter
401 South A Street
Suite 3
Oxnard, CA 93030*

Important Dates to Remember!

- **February 11th** – Lincoln's Birthday- No School
(Friday Students – see your teacher to reschedule)
- **February 21st** – Presidents' Day – No School
(Monday Students – see your teacher to reschedule)
- **April 18th – April 22nd** – Spring Break – No School

TESTING

- **February 1st & 2nd** – CAHSEE (Grades 10, 11 & 12)
- **March 8th & 9th** – CAHSEE (Grades 10 makeup & 12)
- **April 5th-April 15th**- STAR TESTING (Grades 9 - 11)
- **May 10th & 11th** - CAHSEE (Grade12)