



# THE VISTA REAL SUN



## FALL SEMESTER

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### Don't Ask Me, I'm Just the Teacher!

By Ms. Lisa Kalechstein, VRCHS Science and English Teacher

If you have to ask your teacher a question, that means you don't understand something that you're supposed to understand, right? So you shouldn't ask questions, because it'll make you look stupid, right?

WRONG! Teachers, especially in an independent study program like ours, love when you ask questions. And yet, many times our students feel shy, or just do not ask questions, perhaps because they're afraid to look bad. This is understandable, since we are all taught that in school, we're supposed to have the right answers; after all, that's what we're graded on- what we know, not what we don't know.

And yet, how are you supposed to learn something new, and difficult, all alone at home with your textbook? Independent study requires you, the independent learner, to come in and ask questions so you can get the help you need to learn new and often very complicated subjects. When a student asks me a question, it's like someone is knocking on the door. I finally have the opportunity to open the door and let you in, into a new doorway of understanding for you. If you don't knock, that door can't open.

Too often, when I ask my students if they have any questions from their homework or study guide before I give them the test, they invariably (know what that means? Ask your teacher! Or better yet, look it up in a dictionary-I did!) say "no", that they have no questions, and then they don't do that great on the test. If only they had told me they didn't understand something, and ask me questions, they probably would have done a lot better.

When you ask a question, it shows us that you understand the material enough to be able to see clearly what you still don't understand, and want to know. It demonstrates independent thinking, motivation to learn, and the wisdom and self-confidence to ask. Here's what President Obama just said about this topic in his "Back to School Event" speech on September 8, 2009:

***"Don't be afraid to ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. I do that every day. Asking for help isn't a sign of weakness; it's a sign of strength. It shows you have the courage to admit when you don't know something, and to learn something new. So find an adult you trust – a parent, grandparent or teacher; a coach or counselor –and ask them to help you stay on track to meet your goals".***

So I have a request, and a challenge. Make sure you find something in your homework that you don't understand fully, and ask your teacher to explain it to you before you take the test. Do it for your core subject, every week before the test, and even for your electives (especially math!). I assure you your grades will improve, your relationship with your teacher will improve (remember- teachers love questions!) and you may even discover that you, of all people, enjoy school more, because the joy of learning new things has not been lost.



Lisa Kalechstein - Science & ELA Teacher



If you are more than 15 minutes late to your appointment, it WILL be an absence

## 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 VRCHS.
- 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 VRCHS 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!



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

# Vista Real Credit Crushers!

Completing a semester's worth of credits on independent study takes hard work, but making up credits (or getting ahead!) takes even more dedication and endurance! That is why we created the Credit Crushers incentive program to recognize all students who earn more than 30 credits per semester. Students receive a certificate of achievement, their name on a wall of recognition, and prizes donated by local businesses including **Paschen Management Corporation** (owner of several local McDonald's restaurants) and **The Habit**. For Spring semester, we had over 100 students earn more than 30 credits, with over 30 of those students earning more than 40 credits! These students are full-time achievers! **The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf** has also donated twenty-five \$5 gift cards for this current semester, which will be given to our top 25 earners. Keep up the great effort!

## HOURS for Success Now!

The Success Now! program is **required** for students who have scored below the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level in Math and Reading. It consists of weekly 60 minute small-group classes with emphasis in Math and English/Language Arts.

### ► Eva Novak teaches Success Now! Math

Monday:	Tuesday, Thursday:	Friday:
9:00 – 10:00	9:00 – 10:00	9:00 – 10:00
10:00 – 11:00	10:00 – 11:00	10:00 – 11:00
11:00 – 12:00	11:00 – 12:00	11:00 – 12:00
	1:00 – 2:00	12:00 – 1:00
	2:00 – 3:00	

### ► Chari Farias teaches Success Now! English

Monday:	Tuesday, Thursday:	Friday:
9:00 – 10:00	9:00 – 10:00	9:00 – 10:00
10:00 – 11:00	10:00 – 11:00	10:00 – 11:00
11:00 – 12:00	11:00 – 12:00	11:00 – 12:00
	1:00 – 2:00	12:00 – 1:00
	2:00 – 3:00	

## CREDIT CRUSHERS TOP EARNERS!

Adolfo Agraz	Sarahi Giles	Nubia Ortiz
Wendy Alecio	Trisha Gill	Shomari Patterson
Marlene Andrade	Claudia Gonzalez	Carlos Penaloza
Jessica Arechiga	Jasmine Gonzalez	Amanda Perez
Jacqueline Ayala	Alyssa Hendricks	Anthony Puentes
Andres Barragan	Elizabeth Hernandez	Carmen Ramirez
Calvin Bibian	Samantha Heupal	Christina Raymond
Julieta Bravo	Ryan Holst	Jacob Ring
Olivia Bridges	Omar Huerta	Ashley Rios
Jamari Brooks	Claudia Iniestra	Brittney Rios
Ashley Campbell	Rachel Jones	Raeleen Rivera
Justin Campbell	Monique Knowles	Raelissa Rivera
Francine Casillas	Stephanie Lazos	Joash Rodriguez
Alexis Castro	Candace Leal	Nick Rotella-Mattingly
Stephany Centeno	Kristopher Leslie	Markisha Ruiz
Carly Charbonneau	Jessica Limon	Lizeth Salceda
Presley Colville	Erenia Lopez	Jennifer Saldana
David Corralejo	Alejandro Madrigal	Christina Segovia
Anamarie Cortez	Jasmine Maldonado	Graciela Silva
Tiffany Costlow	Roseane Marrero	Connor Sullivan
Ana Delgado	Sean Matisoff	Melissa Tellez
Clarisa Delgado	Nzinga McCrary	Joel Thompson
Aaron Desiderio	Luis Melgoza	Georgina Torres
Daniel Desiderio	Alexis Mendoza	Sara Trumble
Jessica Fernandez	Denee Mitchell	Juan Valdenegro
Ramiro Fernandez	Mark Morales	Michelle Vargas
Naomi Fierro	Jeremy Navarro	Ivan Vasquez
Julie Flickinger	Monica Nieves	Sara Villa
Alejandra Garcia	April Ortega	Dakota Voje
		Tyler Wilson

## Our Education Staff

<u>Morning Teaching Team</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
▪Ms. Day-Palma – English	201-9926
▪Ms. Drew – English	512-7464
▪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
▪Ms. VanEnkevort – Science	201-9933

<u>Afternoon Teaching Team</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
▪Ms. Bowen – Social Studies / Art	201-9911
▪Mr. Cohen – English	201-9930
▪Ms. Hill – English	512-7465
▪Ms. Jacobs – Science	201-9920
▪Mr. Morris – Math	486-5449
▪Mr. Novak – English	201-9904
▪Ms. Rooney – Math	512-7479
▪Mr. Trunz – Math	201-9917

### Tutors

- Aaron Freyschlag 201-9939
- Chari Farias 512-7478
- Allison Hawley 201-9912
- Eva Novak 512-7459

### Administration

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

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

# Important Dates to Remember!

- **November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>** – CAHSEE Testing (Grades 11 & 12)
- **November 11<sup>th</sup>** – Veteran's Day- No School  
(Wednesday Students – see your teacher to reschedule)
- **November 18<sup>th</sup>** – Parent Advisory Committee Meeting  
5:00 pm at the Oxnard Campus
- **November 23<sup>rd</sup> - November 27<sup>th</sup>** – Thanksgiving Break - No School
- **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – No School  
(Wednesday Students – see your teacher to reschedule)
- **December 15<sup>th</sup>** – Student Advisory Committee Meeting  
4:00 pm at the Oxnard Campus
- **December 21<sup>st</sup> - January 1<sup>st</sup>** – Winter Break- No School
- **January 13<sup>th</sup>** – No School  
(Wednesday Students – see your teacher to reschedule)
- **January 18<sup>th</sup>** – MLK Jr. Day- No School  
(Monday Students – see your teacher to reschedule)