

## **Introducing the Playaway**

### **What is a Playaway?**

Playaways are a technological advancement to "Books on Tape." A Playaway is a self-playing digital audiobook that measures half the size of a deck of cards. Made of durable plastic, a Playaway unit contains an entire book. The *rate of reading*, or speed, can be adjusted to meet the student's needs. "Playaway Pairs" (audiobook plus paperback copy of the book) are excellent tools to support our children's literary development. "Playaway Pairs" are loaned by the VCS library on a first-come, first-served basis. *Isn't it amazing how the printed book and today's technology can now work hand-in-hand?!?*

### **What comes with a Playaway?**

Each Playaway is checked out in a protective case resembling a plastic VHS box and comes with a AAA battery and a lanyard (neck strap), as well as a paperback copy of the book. **Please encourage your child to follow the actual printed book while enjoying the Playaway.** Students are not expected to replace the battery, but are welcome to do so with parent supervision and permission. Replacement AAA batteries are available in the Library Media Center office. For hygienic reasons, students are expected to use their own headphones or "earbuds." Each case also includes an enclosure describing how to operate the Playaway.

### **What else does the Playaway offer?**

- Variable voice speed control so you can adjust the narrator's voice without changing pitch
- Variable volume control from level 1 to 10
- Digital bookmark capabilities so you can mark up to 50 passages
- LCD screen that shows chapter information and battery life
- Skip forward and back, fast forward, reverse, and power (on, play, pause, off) buttons

### **What is the cost of a Playaway?**

Each Playaway costs between \$35 and \$75

### **What are the borrowing stipulations of a Playaway?**

- The Playaway will only be loaned to a student once a contract has been returned to the library with the signature of the parent and the student.
- While the student is on the VCS campus, the Playaway must be worn on the neck lanyard and be visible outside of shirt/jacket, with headphones/earbuds clearly visible.  
If a student abuses the headphone privileges, they will not be allowed to check out Playaways and may receive a referral.
- The loan period is two weeks.
- It is the responsibility of the student to return the Playaway in the same condition that it was received from the school library.
- If the Playaway is lost or damaged, it is the responsibility of the student/parents to pay all or part of the replacement cost.

### **Is a borrowing contract required?**

Yes. The contract to borrow a Playaway is attached. The contract guarantees that the parents and the student have been informed of the purpose of the Playaway, the cost to replace it if it is lost or damaged, and the borrowing stipulations.

### **May my child use Playaways in the classroom?**

Students are always welcome to use Playaways in the library. Junior high teachers have been informed of our Playaway purchases. Each teacher has the right to restrict or allow Playaway use in their classroom as they see fit.

**“Playaway Pairs” Borrowing Contract**

I have read the section introducing the Playaway on page one of this form. I understand:

- That a Playaway is a self-playing digital audiobook;
- That the cost to replace a Playaway, if it is lost or damaged, is the responsibility of the borrower and the replacement cost ranges from \$35-75;
- That the loan period is two weeks;
- That while the student is on the VCS campus, the Playaway must be worn on the neck lanyard and be visible outside of shirt/jacket, with headphones/earbuds clearly visible. If the student abuses the headphone privileges, they will not be allowed to check out Playaways and may receive a referral.
- That in order to borrow a Playaway, a contract must be signed by both student and parent.

My child has permission to check out “Playaway Pairs” from the Valley Christian Junior High School Library.

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please call the Library at (408) 513-2426 or email [LGonzalez@vcs.net](mailto:LGonzalez@vcs.net) if you have questions.