



Graham Middle School



August 25, 2023

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude and share my reflections on the recent Back-to-School Night that we had during the second full week of this academic year. It was a resounding success, and I am thrilled to see such strong engagement from our parent community.

Your presence and participation at Back-to-School Night truly made the event a memorable one. The enthusiasm and commitment you demonstrated towards your child's education and the school community were inspiring. It was heartwarming to see so many familiar and new faces, coming together to support our shared goal of providing the best educational experience for our students.

Throughout the evening, our teachers and staff had the opportunity to showcase the dynamic and enriching learning environment that we've been cultivating here at Graham Middle School. The presentations, discussions, and interactions were invaluable in bridging the gap between home and school. Your questions, insights, and enthusiasm for your child's education highlighted the strong partnership that is fundamental to their success.

For those who couldn't attend, please know that we value your involvement just as much. We are always here to answer any questions and provide information that will help you stay informed and engaged in your child's education.

I also want to extend a special thank you to the teachers and staff who worked tirelessly to make Back-to-School Night a success. Their dedication to our students and commitment to fostering a supportive educational community are truly commendable.

As we move forward in this academic year, I encourage you to continue this spirit of collaboration. Our doors are always open, and we welcome your feedback, suggestions, and ideas that contribute to the growth and improvement of our school.

Math Placement Appeal Process

Our middle schools take very careful consideration when placing students into math courses so that students can be successful and confident in their coursework. Student placement is determined objectively by i-Ready assessments with secondary data points of CAASPP scores. Changes in placement for students who did not meet the criteria for advanced math pathways (.1 and .2) are unlikely. However, the Mountain View Whisman School District does have a new placement appeal process. Please go to https://www.mvwsd.org/academics/teaching_the_standards/math to learn more about the process. The deadline for submitting Appeal Forms is 4pm, August 28th.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heidi Galassi

School News

Graham Counselors

As we prepare to transition into a full normal schedule this week, here are some tips that can help to ensure your child is successful at school and at home.

1. **Communication:** Establishing a good relationship between teachers and parents from the beginning of the school year sets a strong foundation for the student.
2. **Organizational Skills:** Organization is about organizing your thoughts, managing your time, planning, and knowing how to get things done.
3. **Time Management:** Helps students become more efficient and productive.
4. **Foster Self-Advocacy:** The ability to communicate your needs. People who self-advocate are more likely to thrive in school, work, and life.
5. **Establish Routines:** Routines provide structure and consistency. They increase organization, reduce stress, and even help students perform at their best.

Additional information can be found here:

<https://www.piqe.org/5-tips-for-a-successful-school-year/>

Graham's Picture Day

Students take their pictures in the gym during their PE classes. Students do not need to bring money to school. Pictures are only ordered online by clicking [here](#) and entering Picture ID: **EVTZ6PZXN**.

Principal's Coffee, September 8th at 2:00 pm in person

We will be discussing the start of the new school year, safety, and answering any questions you may have regarding all things Graham. Please check in at the main office and meet in MUR at the back of the school.

ELAC Meeting, September 13th at 5:00pm in person

We are looking for more parent members to participate in our English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). In this group we discuss English Learner support at Graham, review reclassification requirements, provide feedback for our Site Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), and more! We meet about 4-5 times throughout the year. Please email Natalie Lescano at nlescano@mvwsd.org if you are interested or have any follow up questions. Please check in at the main office and meet in MUR at the back of the school. We hope to see you there!

School Site Council Meeting

We have a few openings for the School Site Council this year. If you are interested in joining or would like to nominate someone you think would be a good fit for the School Site Council, [please submit your nomination here](#). The nomination window will be open for ten days, and be followed by a vote. The first School Site Council meeting will be scheduled soon after all members are confirmed.

Graham's PTA

After a fantastic Back To School Night the PTA would love it if you could:

- [Join the PTA](#) and
- Join us in [Konstella at Graham](#). Here are [detailed instructions \(in Spanish and English\) on how to join Konstella at Graham](#) if you are unfamiliar with Konstella

The LAMV PTA Council (made up of members from the MVWSD, LASD, and MVLA school districts) is looking for a volunteer for the Ardis Egan Scholarship Committee. The scholarship awards are given by the LAMV PTA Council to teachers in the three districts to use on professional development. The committee publicizes the scholarship to the districts and teachers, collects applications, and chooses the recipients. The

role only takes a few hours during the school year and 95% of the work can be done at home. Please email Trish Gilbert, trish.gilbert@yahoo.com, if you would like to learn more about the volunteer opportunity. <https://www.lamvptac.org/egan-scholarship/>

Reporting an Absence

Please call the 24hour automated Attendance Line at 650-526-3570, ext. 2680 or email grahamattendance@mvwsd.org to report an absence or late arrival. Provide the following information: date of absence, student's name, grade, reason for absence, and name and relationship of the person reporting the absence. After reporting a COVID positive absence on the attendance line or by email click [here](#) to fill out the COVID reporting form.

Bell Schedule

You can access the Graham Bell Schedule [here](#). School starts at 8:25am every day.

Medication Forms

If your child requires medication to be kept at school, please pick up a [medication release form](#) from the school office. We cannot administer any medication without the forms. Please note that all medication, even over the counter medications, need a medication form signed by your doctor. For more information [click here](#) to be linked to the Physical Health webpage.

Drop-off and Pick-up

There are different options for arriving at school. Please check out the Graham website for ideas for [Walking and Biking to School](#). If you plan to drop off your student on campus, please use the parking lot in front of the library for drop off and pick up. Please pull all the way up and then let your students out. Please do not pull out of the line. This is to assure that everyone safely exits their vehicle. The MVSP (Gym) parking lot will be for staff only. Also, Lane Avenue may not be used as a drop off or pick up location for students. Due to the limited space, it causes a safety hazard for our students.

Bike Cage

Please remind your students to lock their bikes in the bike cage. While the bike cage protects student bikes from theft by individuals passing our campus during the day, it does not guarantee theft protection after school from persons entering the bike cage. Locking their bike is the best way to ensure that the only person who walks away with a bike from our bike cage is the bike's owner.

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Important Dates

September 4, Labor Day Holiday (No School)
September 8, Principal's Coffee at MUR 2:00-3:00PM
September 13, ELAC Meeting at MUR 5:00-6:00PM
September 15, Principal's Coffee at MUR 2:00-3:00PM
September 29, Principal's Coffee at MUR 2:00-3:00PM
October 2, Picture Day Re-take
October 6, Principal's Coffee at MUR 9:00-10:00AM
October 10, Choir Concert at Auditorium 7:00PM
October 12 and 13, Teacher Service Day and Recess Day (No School for Students)
October 27, Principal's Coffee at MUR 2:00-3:00PM
October 27, Halloween Dance 4:30-6:00PM
November 3, End of Trimester 1 Minimum Day for students, dismissal time 12:50PM

2023 -2024 School Year Calendar - [Here](#)

District News

Sown to Grow

MVWSD is again partnering with Sown to Grow for the 2023-24 school year for grades K-6. Sown to Grow is a platform designed to promote safe and supportive classrooms. Through student check-ins and reflective activities, students are encouraged to engage in self-awareness, set personal goals, and develop essential social and emotional skills. This data allows teachers, principals, and counselors to proactively reach out to support student needs. For more information, please read the attached letter. [Sown to Grow Letter \(English\)](#)

CAASPP scores are now available

CAASPP student (ELA, Math, CAA) score reports (from the Spring tests) were recently released by the state and are now available for parents on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) (under "Score Reports" - choose the 2022-23 school year). To learn more about how to understand your child's CAASPP score report, go to the Starting Smarter website at <https://www.ca.startingsmarter.org/>. If you need assistance with logging on to the Powerschool Parent Portal, please contact your student's school.

School meals are free, but fill out the EzSchool Meals application to help you and your school

MVWSD will continue to provide free meals this year to all students as part of California's universal meal program. However, parents need to reapply for the Free and Reduced Price Meals program now for this school year. If you think you could qualify ([qualifying income levels listed here](#)), we ask you to apply at [EzSchool Meals](#) to help MVWSD receive additional funding to support students who are in need, and may help your family. If your child is eligible for free and/or reduced-price meals, your family could get medical benefits, housing benefits, utilities benefits and more. Qualifying is one factor in your child's eligibility for free MVWSD after school care and summer camp.

The more applications your school gathers at the start of each school year, the more additional funding it can receive for all kinds of programs. If you are currently out of work, you may qualify and help your school, regardless of your financial situation. Apply at <https://secure.ezmealapp.com/> or call your school office.

Looking for an afterschool program? Read on to see if your child qualifies for MVWSD+!

A student qualifies for the free [MVWSD+ afterschool program](#) if one or both of the following conditions are true:

- The student is an [English Learner](#) (EL). EL status is established via the results of the Initial ELPAC exam, which is being administered to certain students in August and September. Results are usually available within two weeks of the completion of testing. If you have questions about the Initial ELPAC exam, please contact Leticia Corcoran at lcocoran@mvwsd.org.
- The student qualifies for free or reduced price lunches based on federal income guidelines. At this time, lunch for all children is free, but this may not always be the case. To fill out the application for free or reduced lunch, please go to [ezmealapp.com](#). Qualifying students' data is collected at the state level and usually appears in the district's data system within two weeks. If you have questions, please contact your school office.

Soon after a student's EL or Free/Reduced Lunch Status changes to indicate he/she qualifies for MVWSD+, you will receive an email from the MVWSD+ Team inviting your child to enroll.

For questions or troubleshooting, please reach out to plus@mvwsd.org or Jennifer Nunez at (650) 526-3500 x1061.

Volunteer with MVEF!

MVEF needs 1-3 additional volunteers at each school in MVWSD. MVEF school representatives help the families at their school understand what MVEF is and why it exists so that they are inspired to donate and

spread the word about the impact of MVEF funding. MVEF also needs volunteers to help with planning our annual Gala and other community events. To learn more, visit: <https://www.mvef.org/volunteer>

August/September CAC and LCC Events

[SELPA 1 CAC](#) and the Learning Challenge Committee are your groups for special education and broader learning challenge needs. We are ALL having learning challenges right now, and CAC and LCC are here to help. If you have questions about learning challenges and special education needs, email selpa1cacinfo@gmail.com or check out www.selpa1cac.org

We encourage families to learn about the sensory needs all children: [Try a Sensory Diet](#)

General Parent/Community Meeting August 28, 9 am

with Special Ed. Directors & Staff, Zoom at 9:00 am for LCC and 9:15 am for CAC. We will be planning for the year, discussing upcoming programs and having a question period for administrators. For our agenda, please join our Google group, <https://groups.google.com/g/selpa1cac>. Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvd-qorDwsH9UXSPmOtja90uQqRnD9kef3>

Parent Chat September 12, 10 am

Are you concerned about the emotional well-being of your child? Peer to peer support for parents of teens with mental health challenges. Every second Tuesday of the month at 10 am on Google Meet. Meeting is for 1 hour only due to Google Meet limitations. Contact trudy.palmer@me.com for invite.

September 13, 10 am Morning Let's Talk - IEP/504 support group. Have questions about the process to get help for your child? Have an IEP but are not sure how to make changes? Need to vent? This is your confidential group. Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZModeirqToiHdQpAOp4g3NaLHuElaLtJs>

Missed our Parent Education events last year?

We have a YouTube channel with many of our past events including last year's Inclusive Fun Fair for summer camps and recreational activities, Anxiety and Depression in Children with Learning Challenges, SMART Goals and IEP Troubleshooting, and more. Channel is here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuy7IcVz-4LTDxv2Jaq13nw>

Living Classroom seeking Docents!

Do you enjoy spending time with kids and being outdoors? Volunteer with [Living Classroom](#) to teach fun, engaging STEM-based lessons in your local MVWSD school! No prior teaching experience is necessary. For more information on our volunteer program, please visit: <https://www.living-classroom.org/get-involved.html> or email susahh@living-classroom.org.

Hazardous Household Waste Drop Off event on Aug 26

The City will be hosting a [Hazardous Household Waste Drop Off](#) event on Aug 26, 2023. It is a free event for residents of Santa Clara County to safely dispose of unwanted household hazardous wastes, including paint, batteries, electronics, auto fluids, pesticides, garden chemicals, propane tanks, fluorescent and LED lightbulbs, household cleaners and more. See the attached flyer.

Housing and Eviction Help Center

The City of Mountain View's Rent Stabilization Program runs the Housing and Eviction Help Center (HEHC) at the MV Public Library to provide housing-related support to the community, including information about housing programs and legal resources. These services are available on 1st and 3rd Thursdays (walk-ins welcome or virtually at mountainview.gov/housinghelpclinics) from 6 - 8 p.m. For more information, see flyers attached or visit mountainview.gov/evictionprevention.

SCCOE Family Engagement Symposium 2023: Sept. 9

Join SCCOE's upcoming free Family Engagement Symposium "Belonging Begins with Me" on Saturday, Sept 9, 2023. Workshops include Family Writing Activity - Writing Your Belonging Story, Establishing Your Financial Roots, How to Raise and Nurture an Antiracist Family, and more! Register here: <https://sccoe.to/PEPBelongingSept9>.