



Graham Middle School



August 09, 2023

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

We hope this message finds you well and filled with anticipation for the new academic year. As we gear up for another exciting journey of learning and growth, we wanted to extend a heartfelt welcome to you and your children. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 9th. We are eagerly preparing to open our doors and create an engaging, supportive, and enriching environment for all our middle school students.

At Graham Middle School, we believe that education is a collaborative effort that involves the whole triangle of support: staff, students, and the parents. We value your partnership and look forward to working together to ensure the success and well-being of your child throughout their middle school years. Our dedicated team of educators has been working diligently to create a curriculum that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and a love for learning. We are committed to providing a safe and inclusive space where your child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

As we approach the first day of school, we encourage you to take some time to discuss your child's goals and aspirations for the upcoming year. Encourage open communication and be sure to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have. Together, we can make this school year a remarkable and transformative experience for your child.

First iReady Assessments for the Year

All our students will be engaging in the first iReady assessments for the school year. They will take place next week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 14-17th. The assessment will be completed after the 13-minute break and before lunch. The first assessment completed will be Math and then Reading.

Please remind your child of the following:

- The assessment is adaptive and therefore it is impossible to know the answers to all questions you will be given.
- Pace yourself throughout the assessment. Do not perseverate or take too much time on any one question. Do not rush through the assessment.
- Take a short break, if needed, during the assessment. You can take a few deep breaths or rest your eyes away from the screen.
- Do your best and show us what you know so we know how best to support you this year in the classroom.

The criteria below will be used for math placements:

- For placement in the 6.2 pathway, students will need a score of 527 or higher on the i-Ready diagnostic
- Students that were in the 6.1 pathway for 2022-23 school year will move into either math 7 or math 7.1 or math 7.2.
 - For placement in the 7.1 pathway, students will need a score of 508 or higher on the i-Ready diagnostic
 - For placement in the 7.2 pathway, students will need a score of 541 or higher on the i-Ready diagnostic
- Students that were in the 6.2 pathway will move onto Math 7.2.
- For placement in the 8.1 pathway, students will need a score of 518 or higher on the i-Ready diagnostic

Our primary goal is to ensure that your student is placed in the math class that is right for him/her.

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,
Heidi Galassi

School News

Graham Counselors

Welcome to our new and returning students and families! We are excited to work with you this year. For some, you may be feeling confident and ready. While others may be feeling nervous and shy. And still others may be feeling just, meh. Whatever you are feeling, IT IS OKAY! It is very normal to feel this way during the first weeks of a new school year. We are here to help you! We look forward to having a great year with you!

Be sure to stay tuned with our weekly announcements and updates in this Graham Bear Tracks newsletter. Feel free to contact us for counseling needs: social/emotional support, academic support, college/career support.

Mr. Serrano – 6th grade & 8th grade (A-K)

pserarano@mvsd.org

650-526-3570 x2655

Ms Vang - 7th grade and 8th grade (L-Z)

dvang@mvsd.org

650-526-3570 x2606

If you would like to speak to a school counselor, please fill out [the Parent/Guardian Referral Form](#).

School & Community Engagement Facilitator (SCEF)

As part of Graham's plan, we have a School and Community Engagement Facilitator who will work to ensure that every student, family, and community member will feel valued and supported while working, learning, and partnering with our school. Here at Graham, Natalie Lescano our School and Community Engagement Facilitator. She specifically focuses on students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged and/or English learners and works to organize parent education, provide translation services, and support positive student behavior. Natalie's overall goal is to increase parent education and engagement, support our PTA and ELAC parent groups, and form strong relationships with students and families. She can be reached at nlescano@mvsd.org.

First principal's coffee, August 18 at 9:00 a.m. 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.

Back To School Night on August 23rd, Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m.

Please join us for our Back-to-School Night for Graham. We will start with a few words from me, your principal, our PTA, ELAC, and MVEF. After this session, you will walk through your child's schedule and meet all of their teachers. Please look for more information to come in next week's newsletter.

Lastly, remember... ALL FOOD IS PROVIDED FREE FOR EVERY CHILD!!!!

Graham's PTA

The Graham PTA welcomes you to the 2023-24 school year!

Hello Graham community! We hope you had a great summer and are as excited as we are for the awesome year ahead.

- We would love for you to [join the PTA](#) (please see attached flyer) and,
- Attend our **General Meeting** via Zoom on **Tuesday, August 15 at 7pm** (details below)

- **New to Graham this year - Konstella!** Join us in [Konstella at Graham](#). It will be our main communication channel. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

The Graham PTA values parent participation and feedback as we make decisions that impact how we support students, staff, and parents. Join us on the 15th for our first general meeting. The meeting will include updates from Principal Galassi, and our Choir/Musical Theatre Director, Ms. Gaderlund. Zoom details below.

Tuesday, August 15 at 7pm

Meeting Agenda

- Call meeting to order
- PTA Board Introductions & Open Positions
- Review meeting minutes from May 16th PTA General Association Meeting (attached)
- Financial Report Review
- Ratify checks for May/June/July/Aug
- Budget Review & Approval
- Principal's Update from Principal Galassi
- Graham Performing Arts Update from Ms. Gaderlund
- PTA President's Update
- Committee Reports
- Meeting Adjourned

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82607776527?pwd=TzN3SXNSZW0xd3M2U0FmbWNleUI1dz09>

Meeting ID: 826 0777 6527

Passcode: 673360

Graham's Afterschool "The BEAT"

If you would like to register for the Beat afterschool program, please click on this [link](#) to register.

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.

Important Dates

August 9, First Day of School, Minimum Day (Dismissal time 12:50PM)

August 15, PTA Meeting at 7:00PM [ZOOM Link](#)

August 18, Principal's Coffee in MUR at 9:00AM

August 23, Minimum Day, dismissal time is 12:50PM

August 23, Back to School Night from 6:00-8:00PM

August 28, Picture Day

September 4, Labor Day Holiday (No School)

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