



# Graham Middle School



September 8, 2023

## Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

In our district strategic plan one of our core values and beliefs is “Students thrive when presented with well-balanced, joyful learning experiences that challenge their academic, social and emotional needs.”

We strive to balance academics and social emotional well-being. I wanted to touch on the social emotional skill of social awareness and relationship skills. According to CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning), “A review of the research found that [conflict resolution and peer mediation programs](#) may lead to fewer office referrals, decreased violence, and lower drop-out and suspension rates. Students who engage in these programs show greater academic achievement, a more positive perception of the school climate, increased social support, self-esteem, and well-being, and decreased victimization, anxiety, and depression.” Our triangle of support knows that our students have many layers and we want to continue to foster growth in as many areas that we can. If you have any questions or need support, please reach out to our school counselors for more information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heidi Galassi

## School News

### Graham Counselors

September is Suicide Prevention Month. This campaign is about creating a safe space to talk about mental health and resources to save lives. This gives us all an opportunity to send a hopeful message that help is available and suicide can be prevented. National Suicide Prevention Week is September 10-16, 2023. During this month, the school counselors will be pushing into the Math classes on Mondays to teach students how to identify warning signs, coping skills, resources and how to make a report that will help them or another student during times in need or a crisis. Here are a few resources that we would like to share:

#### Suicide Prevention Resources (click on the link):

1. Call or text [988 Lifeline](#) or text TALK to 741741 (Available 24 hours; Spanish and English)
2. Mental Health Resources on [mvwsd.org](http://mvwsd.org)
3. County of Santa Clara Behavioral Health Services [resources](#)
4. Identify [Warning Signs](#)
5. Learn about [coping skills](#)

Please don't hesitate to send us a Parent/Guardian Referral form if you need to refer a student to us for social-emotional, academic or college & career counseling.

Click here: [Parent/Guardian Referral Form](#)

### Parking Lot issues

Parents: please pass on this information to anyone who picks up your student (grandparents, siblings, etc.)

We have been noticing several safety concerns at the front of school during our after school pick up. In order to keep your students safe from harm, we need all adults to be good role models. Please, stay in your car when picking your student up so that you can move forward in line. We promise, your student will be able to come and find you if you are parked along the curb.

Please do not have your student get into the car in the turn lane in front of the school. This is NOT a parking area. The cars in the turn lane must be able to move forward to keep the flow of traffic moving.

Please use crosswalks at all times, we have already had some near misses this year with adults and students crossing the street.

Please follow the directions of the adults who are out directing traffic. They are there to keep you and your children safe. A few extra minutes of patience and traffic is worth a life.

### Yosemite Donations

"We are thrilled to be going on the 8th grade Yosemite trip again this year! To support this exciting adventure, donations can be made out to Graham Middle School. While the suggested donation for the trip is \$880, please know that any amount you can give is greatly appreciated. Your generosity ensures that all students can enjoy this remarkable experience."

## **GMSTV News**

### **Electives in Action**

In the Media Wheel last week students were challenged to build paper towers and then rebuild them with the knowledge that they gained. Check out this video on our youtube site when you can also find the GMSTV announcements.

<https://youtu.be/gPHF06O7aGk>

### **See 6th Graders in action in the classroom**

6th Grade parents look for more pictures of your kids being archeologists in their classrooms next week. The details will be in next week's Bear Tracks to see pictures and videos of this student favorite event.

### **Announcements Daily Link**

Here is a link to see the GMSTV morning announcements at 8:25am or later once it is processed.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GrahamMiddleSchoolGMSTV>

### **More opportunities to see Graham in Action.**

Starting Next week on Tuesday the Graham GMSTV team will be filming and broadcasting LIVE some of our sports teams on our channel starting at about 4pm.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GrahamMiddleSchoolGMSTV>

Please Watch, Like and Subscribe to our channel so you do not miss videos in the future

## **Graham's PTA**

### **LET'S RAISE SOME DOUGH!**

#### **Blue Line Pizza PTA Fundraiser**

Tuesday, September 19

15% of purchases at Blue Line Pizza (11:30 am - closing) will benefit Graham PTA.

Use promo code GrahamLovesPizza2023 for online and dine-in orders (and be sure to click "Apply Code").

Please also mention promo code GrahamLovesPizza2023 for phone-in orders.

Blue Line Pizza

146 Castro St.

Mountain View

(650) 938-7888

[www.bluelinepizza.com](http://www.bluelinepizza.com)

Not valid with third delivery services or with any other discounts or promotions.

### **The Spring Musical is Sister Act, Jr!**

The Spring Musical is open to the entire school! If you are interested in being part of a full musical production, you should audition! *Everyone who auditions and commits to the rehearsal schedule will be cast. Auditions will take place **November 28, 29, and 30.*** Please visit [the Spring Musical Webpage](#) to download audition materials. Interested students must attend a lunchtime meeting on Wednesday November 1st.

### **ELAC Meeting, September 13 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@mvsd.org](mailto:nlescano@mvsd.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!

### **Reporting an Absence**

Please call the 24hour automated Attendance Line at 650-526-3570, ext. 2680 or email [grahamattendance@mvwsd.org](mailto: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**

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**

### **The Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, Sept. 7 at 6:00 p.m.**

Some of the topics include:

- Resolution in Support of Hispanic Heritage Month
- Monta Loma Fence Choice
- Discussion of Joint Meeting with MVLA, MVWSD, and the City of Mountain View
- Questions for the September 18, 2023 Joint Meeting for the Education Enhancement Reserve Joint Powers Authority (Shoreline)
- Literacy Instruction and Dyslexia Support Plan
- Early Literacy Update

For meeting details and agenda, please click here: <https://www.mvwsd.org/trustees>.

### **Superintendent's Community Check In on Friday, Sept. 8**

Please join us for our Community Check-In with Dr. Ayindé Rudolph on Friday, Sept. 8 at 3:30 p.m. Bring your questions. Spanish interpretation will be provided. Click here to register: [mvw.sd/CC0908](http://mvw.sd/CC0908). Mark your calendars for all upcoming community check-ins! [A list of dates and login information is here.](#)

### **September: Attendance Awareness Month**

September is Attendance Awareness Month.

Why is it important that students are in school regularly? Research shows that school attendance is a strong indicator of success. Missing just two days of school a month is 10% of the school year, and negatively affects a student's academic performance.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit early so they learn that going to school on time, every day, is important.

Our schools' goals are a 97% attendance rate.

### **i-Ready Diagnostic 1 Assessment Scores**

Families can access their student's i-Ready Reading and Mathematics score through their Powerschool Parent Portal on **September 8, 2023, after 4:00 p.m.** Reports are available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://ps.mvwsd.org/public/> under "Parent Reports" for each of your students. Steps for accessing reports on PowerSchool Parent Portal are here: [Accessing PowerSchool Parent Portal i-Ready Reports](#). If you have difficulty logging into the PowerSchool Parent Portal, please contact your school's office.

### **Volunteer badges: New, easy-to-follow chart**

If you think that you will be volunteering on campus more than 3 times this school year for more than 10 min each visit, or plan to be an overnight trip chaperone, now is the time to apply for your volunteer badge. Please check the [easy-to-follow chart here](#) to help you get started. There are more steps to complete the first time you apply. After that, renewals are easier. Thank you for helping to protect our students' safety and to ensure MVWSD complies with state law. We are grateful for parents willing to help us at school!

### **MVWSD Seeks Parents & Staff Members for Health & Wellness Committee**

The Health & Wellness Committee is looking for parents and staff members for the 2023-24 school year! This committee aligns District efforts to support student wellness through health education, physical education and activity, health services, nutrition services, psychological and counseling services, and through promoting a safe and healthy school environment.

Last year, the committee's work helped increase student access to nutrition information and education, professional development on USDA standards for school nutrition, and supported student opportunities for physical activity throughout the school day. We are seeking at least 1 parent and 1 certificated staff member representative from each school.

If you have experience, knowledge, or interest, please complete an application at: <http://mvw.sd/health>. Applications are due by September 13.

The Health and Wellness Committee will meet 4 times during the school year on Zoom, with the first meeting scheduled for September 28.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian White, Health & Wellness Coordinator at [bwhite@mvwsd.org](mailto:bwhite@mvwsd.org).

### **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>

### **Mentor Tutor Connection: Volunteer Information Session**

Mentor Tutor Connection is holding a Volunteer Information Session on Wed., Sept. 13, 12:00 - 1:00 pm, MVLA District Office Conference Room, 1299 Bryant Ave., Mountain View. Please join us and learn about becoming a mentor and/or a tutor in the Mountain View and Los Altos public schools. Help a local student to a brighter future! To register go to [www.mentortutorconnection.org/events](http://www.mentortutorconnection.org/events) - or email [programs@mentortutorconnection.org](mailto:programs@mentortutorconnection.org).

### **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](mailto:selpa1cacinfo@gmail.com) or check out [www.selpa1cac.org](http://www.selpa1cac.org)*

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

### **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](mailto: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/tZModeirqToiHdQpAOpxx4g3NaLHuElaLtJs>

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>

**The View Teen Center: September**

The View Teen Center is a free facility in Mountain View (263 Escuela Ave) for all Mountain View and Los Altos 6th - 12th grade students. Drop-in hours are Monday - Friday, 3:15 - 7 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 - 6 p.m., and the center features a game room, makerspace, kitchen, computer/study room, outdoor area, and much more! See attached flyer for details about upcoming events and programs in September or [visit their webpage for more information](#).

**MVLA Parent Ed presents “Growing Up in Public: Helping our Kids Navigate the Digital Coming of Age”**

Join MVLA Parent Ed on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 7pm (MVHS- Spartan Theater) as Devorah Heitner, Ph.D., and author of Growing Up in Public: Coming of Age in a Digital World, shows parents how to help tweens and teens navigate digital identity, boundaries, privacy and reputation. Drawing on her extensive research and interviews with kids, parents, educators, clinicians, and scholars, she teaches parents to overcome the instinct to control and monitor their kids’ online activity, and instead, support them as they build their sense of self. [Register for this free event here](#).

**MV Public Library Parenting Program: Sept. 27**

The MV Public Library will host a parenting presentation, “The Best You for the Best Them,” on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm on Zoom. Research shows that teens' and parents' emotional well-being are highly entwined. With support from author and parenting coach, Laura Cleary, set aside time to acknowledge your need as a parent for selfcare, and receive concrete ideas and support to model this for your teen and uplift your relationship. [Register here](#).