



# Graham Middle School



October 11, 2023

## **Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:**

Hello Graham Families!

As you have probably heard, the senseless terrorist act on Israel has caused the loss of many innocent lives, including at least 11 Americans. In times like these, it is important to remember that within our diverse school community, there are many staff and students who have strong connections to the region who have been impacted by the unfathomable atrocities and violence. Our hearts go out to them.

As educators, our staff and I want to remind our students of the importance of resolving conflicts through peaceful means. If any member of our school community needs support during these challenging times, please do not hesitate to reach out to the administration. Thank you for being a part of our caring and compassionate school community.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Heidi Galassi

## **School News**

### **Yosemite Chaperones Needed!**

Want to go to Yosemite? We are still looking for chaperones. If you are interested and can commit to going (October 16-20), please email Michael Kim-Stevens at [mkimstevens@mvwsd.org](mailto:mkimstevens@mvwsd.org) and he will provide you with next steps to get you approved to chaperone the trip. Although all parents are eligible, priority will be given to parents of 8th graders.

### **Yosemite Donations**

We are thrilled to be going on the 8th grade Yosemite trip again this year! To support this exciting adventure, our front office is accepting cash and checks 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. The [donation form can be found here](#).

### **Student vision and hearing screenings coming up**

Each fall, MVWSD conducts hearing and vision screenings of all students in eighth-grade as California State Law mandates. These screenings will take place at Graham on October 23.

Parents will be notified in writing if children fail a screening. Parents who do not want their child screened for either vision and/or hearing should send a letter to their child's school each school

year indicating that their child is to be excluded, and vision and/or hearing results will need to be provided from their physician.

If you have any concerns about your child's vision or hearing please contact your school nurse. Questions about the screenings should be directed to the Health Services office at 650-526-3500 ext. 1050.

### **Become a campus volunteer!**

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Graham student community, we would be happy to have you. [Research](#) shows that having a parent presence promotes positive education and health behaviors among students. To become a volunteer, you can start by simply [completing this form](#) and submitting it to our front office.

### **Día de los Muertos**

Save the date for our first annual Día de los Muertos celebration Friday, November 03 from 5-7pm in the Graham Music Quad. We are currently seeking parent volunteers to help make this event a great experience for our students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Natalie Lescano [nlescano@mvwsd.org](mailto:nlescano@mvwsd.org) to let us know.

### **Graham Counselors**

Ever thought about how nature can help with mental health? As 8th graders get excited and prepare for their Yosemite trip next week, here are some benefits that also come out of spending time with nature. Spending time in green space or bringing nature into your everyday life can benefit both your mental and physical wellbeing. For example, doing things like growing food or flowers, exercising outdoors or being around animals can have lots of positive effects. It can:

- improve your mood
- reduce feelings of stress and anger
- help you take time out and feel more relaxed
- improve your physical health
- improve your confidence and self-esteem
- help you be more active
- help you meet and get to know new people
- connect you to your local community
- Reduce loneliness
- help you feel more connected to nature
- Provide peer support

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](#)

### **Lost and found**

The lost and found rack is placed in front of the school office. Come by to find one of your sweatshirts, jackets or sweaters. Anything left over after Wednesday, October 11, 2023 will be donated to charity.

### **Graham's PTA**

#### **Enjoy a fabulous drink at Mr. Sun and support our Graham PTA!**

Visit Mr. Sun anytime on Oct. 26 and Mr. Sun will donate 20% of their sales to our PTA.

Make sure to:

- Name your order: Graham + your name

- Please place the receipt in the designated container

This offer is good for ordering online, over the phone, or in person. Please place online orders through Mr. Sun's website; Online Order Pick Up in the Mountain View Store or Snackpass app. This offer is not valid when ordering for delivery or through third parties.

### **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.

### **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**

October 12 and 13, Teacher Service Day and Recess Day (No School for Students)  
October 27, Principal's Coffee at MUR and [Zoom](#) 2:00-3:00PM  
October 27, Halloween Dance 4:30-6:00PM  
October 30, Strings Concert at Auditorium 7:00PM  
November 3, End of Trimester 1 Minimum Day for students, dismissal time 12:50PM  
November 3, First Annual Día de Los Muertos Celebration 5:00-7:00PM at Music Quad

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

## **District News**

### **October no-school days**

Thursday, October 12 is a staff development day, which means no school for students and no work for 10-month classified staff. (Oct. 12 is a staff development/work day for teachers, school secretaries and 12-month classified staff.) Friday, October 13 is a recess day (no school/work for everyone except 12-month employees).

### **Drafts available: Single Plans for Student Achievement**

Each year, our schools create Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs or “site plans”) that guide the work for the coming year. These plans help us prioritize programs and strategies that will best serve our students. In the fall, elected parent representatives from School Site Councils and English Language Advisory Committees work with principals and school staff members to create a draft that is reviewed and approved by the MVWSD Board of Trustees. Parents and staff members may give feedback through Oct. 26 to their principal and elected parent representatives to SSC and ELAC. [You may review the draft plans here.](#)

### **Parent University Speaker Series Presents**

#### **Parenting in the Digital Era - Supporting Dialogue and Strategies for Building Healthy Tech Habits**

Date and Time: October 24, 2023, 5:30-7:00 pm Registration Link: [mvw.sd/pu102423](http://mvw.sd/pu102423)

One of our favorite nonprofit organizations is back! The staff of My Digital TAT2 will be delivering a workshop that will empower parents with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the complexities of raising tech-savvy, digitally responsible children. We will address common tech issues such as digital “perfection”, misinformation, and things you might not know about popular apps and platforms.

Parents will gain crucial strategies that will support open dialogue and cultivate healthy tech habits among all family members.

To submit questions prior to the event, go to [mvw.sd/questions](http://mvw.sd/questions). We will do our best to address your questions during the session.

### **MVWSD Preschool Enrollment**

MVWSD’s award-winning preschool has a limited number of part-day state preschool spaces still available at Latham. These spaces are free for all 3- and 4-year-olds living within the Castro Elementary School boundary. Families can get an application at [mvw.sd/preschool](http://mvw.sd/preschool), stop by the preschool office (1850 Latham St.) or call 650-526-3560.

### **Protect your family: Dangers of illegally-made synthetic drugs**

It’s important that you and your children know the dangers of illegally-made synthetic drugs. Synthetic drugs created in illegal labs, like Fentanyl, have ingredients that are impossible to know, and carry a high risk of overdose and death. Some are tasteless and odorless—even small amounts can cause an overdose. ANY pill bought through social media or even from a friend can contain deadly amounts of fentanyl. Learn more at <http://mvw.sd/drugs>.

### **BOC & PTOC Seeking Representatives**

The District is seeking qualified persons to serve on the Bond Oversight Committee and the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee. Representatives monitor, provide oversight and ensure accountability to the funds received by the District.

Apply at the links below.

BOC: <https://ow.ly/HhgA50PQqEs>

PTOC: <http://mvw.sd/PTOC>

Applications can be returned to the district office by mail or emailed to [cnavarrete@mvwsd.org](mailto:cnavarrete@mvwsd.org).

### **Better Together: October**

Cultural appreciation is an acknowledgment and celebration of the rich and diverse tapestry of human heritage that exists around the world. Indigenous Peoples' Month, observed in various regions, highlights the unique cultures, traditions, and contributions of indigenous communities. It serves as an opportunity for all of us to learn, respect, and honor the invaluable knowledge, customs, and wisdom that indigenous peoples have preserved for generations. We are #BetterTogetherMVWSD. For more information about Better Together, visit [mvwsd.org/BetterTogetherMVWSD](http://mvwsd.org/BetterTogetherMVWSD).

### **MVEF Community Survey**

MVEF is seeking input from the community via the annual online survey, which will be open throughout October: <http://bit.ly/MVEF-Survey>

As a community-funded foundation where over 70% of donations come from families, your input is a very important part of the planning process for future MVEF-funded programs. If donations to MVEF approach the annual goal of \$1.2MM by December 31, 2023, MVEF may be able to add additional programs in 2024.

MVEF has raised just shy of \$400,000 -- donate today if you haven't already: <https://www.mvef.org/donate>. THANK YOU MVEF donors and volunteers!

### **October CAC and LCC Events**

*SELPA 1 CAC and the Learning Challenge Committee are your groups for special education and broader learning challenge needs. 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)*  
The Learning Challenges Committee is looking for members!

Are you interested in helping students with learning challenges? This can include students who receive special education services, students with a 504 plan, or any student with a learning challenge.

The Learning Challenges Committee of the Los Altos Mountain View PTA Council (LCC) helps provide teachers and school staff in Mountain View and Los Altos schools with supplies in their classrooms related to learning challenges. We need a variety of parent and student voices to help us best decide how we can help teachers and students about these issues.

Can you attend 2-3 meetings per year to help make these kinds of decisions with the LCC? Please email [selpa1cacinfo@gmail.com](mailto:selpa1cacinfo@gmail.com). We need more voices to help students with learning challenges. We need you!

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

**October 11, 7 pm Evening 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/tZlodOmhrz8tHNVYUGYMCiHeDa2IL43M-Puz>

### **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/UCuy71cVz-4LTDxv2Jaq13nw>

**The View Teen Center: October**

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. (on no school days or minimum days, The View Teen Center is open 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 October or [visit their webpage for more information](#).

**Celebrate Shoreline: Oct. 15th**

The City is hosting Celebrate Shoreline, a free event for the community to celebrate Shoreline 's 40th anniversary. The family-friendly event is taking place 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15 at Shoreline at Mountain View regional park, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd. The event will feature live music, self-guided tours, carnival games, food, and more! Visit [MountainView.gov/CelebrateShoreline](http://MountainView.gov/CelebrateShoreline) for more information.