



Graham Middle School



October 19, 2023

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

I am pleased to report that the drill was conducted efficiently, and all students and staff members followed the established safety procedures. The teamwork, communication, and discipline displayed during the drill were truly commendable. This exercise allowed us to put our emergency preparedness plans into action and assess our ability to respond effectively to a potential seismic event.

It's important to emphasize the significance of such drills in our school community. Earthquake preparedness is not just a routine exercise; it is a vital aspect of our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

I want to express my gratitude to the students, staff, and parents for their cooperation and commitment to safety during this drill. Your participation and dedication to our safety protocols are invaluable.

While we hope never to experience a real earthquake, it is essential to be well-prepared for any unexpected events. Therefore, I encourage all students and parents to take some time to discuss and review safety procedures at home. This will further reinforce our collective preparedness.

Sincerely,
Dr. Heidi Galassi

School News

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@mwwsd.org to let us know.

Graham Counselors

Do you have a student that you would like to recommend for homework support? The Work Completion Club runs from 3:30pm - 4:30pm on Mondays and Tuesdays once a week here at Graham. If you are interested, please contact the school counselors for more information. We do have limited capacity and will provide students with this opportunity based on recommendations, grades and needs.

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.

Graham's "AWESOME Acts" winners

Pursue Knowledge

Dulce - Ms. Geoghegan

Scarlett- Ms. Tuffy

Emily - Ms. Chiao

Ashley - Ms. Bari

Annie - Ms. St. Lawrence

Reporting an Absence

Please call the 24hour automated Attendance Line at 650-526-3570, ext. 2680 or email grahamattendance@mwwsd.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 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

The Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Some of the topics include:

- Off Schedule 4% Payment
- Equitable Access to Choice Schools Lottery Update

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

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

One of our favorite nonprofit organizations is back! Information presented by My Digital TAT2 will empower parents 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. 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.org/preschool, stop by the preschool office (1850 Latham St.) or call 650-526-3560.

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 mvw.sd.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!

Mentor Tutor Connection: Volunteer Info Session

MENTOR TUTOR CONNECTION - VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION - Wed., Oct. 18, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, El Camino YMCA, 2400 Grant Rd, 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 - or email programs@mentortutorconnection.org.

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](#).