



Graham Middle School



November 30, 2023

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

As we approach the midpoint of the academic year, it's time for our Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences, which are scheduled for next week. These conferences are invaluable opportunities for us to come together to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their successes, and address any challenges they may be facing.

Celebrating Successes

We are excited to share the many achievements and successes your child has experienced thus far. From academic accomplishments to personal growth, these conferences provide a platform for acknowledging and applauding their hard work. Whether it's mastering a challenging concept or demonstrating exceptional effort in extracurricular activities, we look forward to highlighting the positive aspects of your child's middle school journey.

Addressing Challenges

In addition to celebrating successes, we understand that each student may encounter challenges along the way. Our dedicated teachers have been working diligently to provide the necessary support, and we will discuss any areas where improvement may be needed during the conferences. Together, we can formulate strategies to overcome obstacles and ensure your child's continued growth and success.

How to Help at Home

To further support your child's progress, we encourage you to engage in open communication with both your child and their teachers. Establishing a routine for homework, creating a quiet and dedicated study space, and fostering a love for learning at home can significantly contribute to your child's overall academic success. During the conferences, our teachers will be happy to provide personalized suggestions on how you can reinforce positive habits and offer additional support.

Student Attendance

It is essential that each student attends their conference for all or part of the scheduled time. Your child's active participation in the discussion about their progress is invaluable, and we believe it fosters a sense of responsibility and accountability for their learning journey.

We look forward to meeting with each of you and working collaboratively to ensure the continued success and growth of your child. If you have any questions or concerns or need to reschedule your conference time, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the triangle of support in your child's education. We appreciate your support and commitment to their success.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are taking place next week Monday December 4th through Thursday December 7th from 1:30-3:30pm, with an additional 3:30-5:30pm window on Wednesday December 6th. If you were not able to sign up for a conference, but would like to participate in one, you can still reach out to the teachers directly to schedule one.

Sincerely,
Dr. Heidi Galassi

School News

Graham Counselors

While we begin to gather around with family and friends for the holidays, seeking peace and joy, it may also bring in feelings of depression and stress. Visions of warmth and happiness run head-long into too many expectations. We face overwhelming demands, from the hustle and bustle of shopping to caring for our children and elderly parents.

Understanding our stresses and worries can help us better prepare to cope and find new ways to enjoy the season. Planning ahead can make a difference. How to minimize holiday stress:

- Exercise
- Get enough sleep
- Find time to visit family and friends
- Develop a holiday budget
- Go out and get some fresh air
- Use your calendar to plan specific days for shopping, baking, and visiting friends

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](#)

Graham's Afterschool Sports

Hello Graham Community! A new season for sports is coming up next week starting December 4th, 2023. Girls' soccer and boys' volleyball will be having a tryout. It's also parent teacher conferences week with an early release. Students can go home and come back for tryouts 3:30- 5:00 pm Monday - Thursday. All student athletes interested in participating must have an emergency form filled out the day of tryout in order to be allowed to participate. Form can be found online on the athletic website or in the locker rooms.

Graham's Anything But a Car Day

Leave your car at home for Anything But a Car Day on Wednesday, December 1! Have your student walk, bike, scoot, skate, or ride the bus to school. If you live too far away, drop your student off a couple of blocks away (like at the Chase Bank parking lot) and have them walk the rest of the way. Any student who arrives without the family car will receive a Hershey's kiss and a chance to win a gift certificate for boba at Ocha Tea!

Graham's Performing Arts See's Candy Fundraiser

It's time for the annual See's Candy Fundraiser!!!!

Please support Graham Performing Arts by purchasing Sees Candy from our Online Storefront! [Link to Storefront.](#)

Our goal is to raise **\$3000** for the Performing Arts Tour which takes place in March of 2024. This is going to help out kids who deserve to go, but cannot afford to donate the cost of the trip. **WE ARE COMMITTED TO EVERY ELIGIBLE STUDENT GOING ON THE TRIP!!**

Even if you do not have a child going on Tour This year, you can help! And next year it might be your child's turn! There are TWO ways to help us reach our goal!

1. Buy See's Candy from our [Storefront](#)
2. SHARE the [storefront](#) and encourage EVERYONE you know to purchase their Holiday Sees from Graham Performing Arts. Thank you for your support!

Graham's PTA

Amici's Fundraiser - December 4th - Tree Lighting Day! -All Day Long

You can visit Amici's Pizzeria anytime on December 4th either before or after watching our show choir perform during the Tree Lighting Ceremony and support our Graham PTA! Enjoy their wonderful selection of pizzas, starters, salads, sandwiches, pasta dishes, and beverages, and Amici's will donate 25% of your purchase to Graham's PTA. Just make sure to mention Graham as you place your order. **Pick-up or dine-in ONLY.** (No deliveries or third-party vendors like DoorDash.)

Amici's Pizzeria
790 Castro St., Mountain View
(650) 961-6666
<https://www.amicis.com/>

Graham's Library News

December 1 from 6:00-9:00pm

Come out and support our school library, our teachers, and our local book store, Books, Inc. AND shop for all your holiday gift needs! Looking for a special gift for a teacher? Check out the [teacher wish lists here](#), updated weekly. The Graham Library will receive 20% of your entire order in store credit. Our school librarian, Mrs. Ross, will be on hand to offer book recommendations and provide light snacks, while select Graham Performing Arts students will be on hand to make everyone feel merry and bright. Hope to see you there!

Graham's "AWESOME Acts" winners

Together We Can

Santi- Ms. Park
Tal- Ms. McIntyre
Artur- Ms. Kaiser

Pursue Knowledge

Danielle G- Ms. Flint
Omri- Ms. Bari

Reporting an Absence

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

December 1, Principal's Coffee in person at 2:00PM

December 4 to December 8, 2023 Parent, Teacher and Student Conference Week Minimum Days -
Dismissal time is 12:50PM.

December 11, Strings Concert at 7:00PM at Auditorium

December 14, Choir Concert at 7:00PM at Auditorium

December 20, Band Concert at 6:30PM at Auditorium

December 25 to January 8, 2024 Holiday Recess (No School)

January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)

January 17, ELAC Meeting at 5:00 PM (In Person)

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

District News

MVEF Update: Save us a Call

The amount donated to MVEF so far this year is slightly less than in previous years. MVEF volunteers will soon be reaching out directly to inform our community about the need for donations each year. You can save us a call by donating today! Visit mvef.org/donate today!

This year, community donations to MVEF are providing:

- More than 8,500 [Art4Schools](#) lessons in 130 TK-5th Grade classrooms.
- Over 17,000 [Music4Schools](#) lessons in 170 TK-5th Grade Classrooms.
- Over 500 [Living Classroom](#) lessons for all students in TK-6th grade.
- Environmental Science [lessons and field trips](#) for all 4th and 5th graders.
- Additional English Language Arts teachers to reduce the average class size in grades 6-8.
- Supplemental funding for Performing Arts, Music, and Athletics Teams in grades 6-8.

When we achieve our fundraising goals, we can do even more for our students!

City of MV: Tree Lighting Celebration

On Monday, Dec. 4, 2023 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. the City will celebrate the winter season with the Community Tree Lighting Celebration in Downtown Mountain View. The celebration will feature local performances, tributes to multicultural and diverse traditions, free refreshments, a train ride, games, crafts, the lighting of the community tree and an appearance from Santa. This event is free and open to the public. Visit MountainView.gov/TreeLighting for more information.

Letters to Santa

This holiday season, all children who are residents of Mountain View can put together their wish lists and letters and send them to Santa! In return, Santa will mail a letter back! Letters will be accepted until Friday, Dec. 8. There are two ways for Santa to receive letters: 1) Drop off in Santa's mailbox located at the Mountain View Community Center (201 S. Rengstorff Avenue) or 2) Mail letter to: City of Mountain View Recreation Division c/o Santa Claus P.O. box 7540, Mountain View, CA 94039. Don't forget to include a return address! For more information, contact Recreation@MountainView.gov.