



# Graham Middle School



November 9, 2023

## Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

Starting a new trimester provides a fresh beginning for our students. It's a chance to set new academic goals, embrace opportunities for growth, and continue building on the foundations we have provided thus far. With your support, we can ensure that this trimester is a successful and enriching one for our students.

Here are some key points to consider as we begin this trimester:

1. **Academic Goals:** Encourage your child to set clear academic goals for this trimester. Whether it's improving a particular subject, achieving a certain GPA, or mastering a specific skill, having goals can help provide direction and motivation.
2. **Time Management:** Reinforce the importance of effective time management. Help your child create a study schedule and prioritize assignments and projects. A well-structured routine can reduce stress and increase productivity.
3. **Open Communication:** Maintain open lines of communication with your child. Encourage them to share their academic challenges, concerns, and achievements with you. A supportive and understanding home environment is crucial. Ask them specific questions such as: What made you happy today? What made you proud today? What made you frustrated today?
4. **Use of Resources:** Remind your child about the academic resources available to them, such as our afterschool work completion program and our school library. These resources are here to assist and support them in their learning journey.
5. **Balanced Lifestyle:** Encourage a balanced lifestyle that includes time for academics, extracurricular activities, and relaxation. A balanced approach can help reduce burnout and improve overall well-being.
6. **Monitor Progress:** Regularly check on your child's progress and grades. Use our online grade portals, both PowerSchool and Google Classroom, to stay informed about their academic performance. Celebrate their achievements and address any concerns promptly.
7. **Parent-Teacher Collaboration:** Maintain open and constructive communication with your child's teachers. Attend parent-teacher conferences, and feel free to reach out to them when needed. A collaborative approach ensures that we're all working together to support your child's academic growth.

We are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for your child to learn, grow, and succeed. Together, we can make this trimester a time of academic achievement, personal development, and memorable experiences.

Thank you for your continued support, and please don't hesitate to reach out to our staff if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share. We value your partnership in our triangle of support in your child's education.

Wishing you and your child a successful and fulfilling trimester ahead.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Heidi Galassi

## **School News**

### **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.

## **Graham Counselors**

### **Graham's PTA**

#### **Get your photo cards and personalized gifts with Minted and support our PTA!**

The holidays are right around the corner and we want you to have a head start! Minted has offered to keep our discount fundraiser code active year-round! Using our unique code **FUNDRAISEGRAHAM**, you can get 20% OFF all your Minted holiday card & gift purchases—and for every order placed, Minted will donate 15% back to our PTA.

With high-quality products designed by independent artists, like custom photo gifts, holiday cards, tote bags, stationery, and more, Minted has meaningful gifts for every special occasion. Simply visit [minted.com/holiday](https://minted.com/holiday) to start your holiday shopping. Apply code **FUNDRAISEGRAHAM** at checkout. Please feel free to forward our code to friends and family—the more people shop Minted using our code, the more our organization earns!

### **Graham's Performing Arts See's Candy Fundraiser**

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

If you are going to purchase See's Candy for the Holidays....BUY IT FROM US, PLEASE!!

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!!

You will be able to see in our Storefront, exactly how much of the profit Sees will donate to us per item (it is different for every item). [Link to Storefront](#)

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 us!!

### **Graham's Spring Musical Auditions**

Auditions for our Spring Musical, *Sister Act Jr* are coming up **November 28-30**. Students who are interested in auditioning hopefully attended the lunchtime meeting which took place Wednesday 11/8. If they missed the meeting, all of the information is on the [Musical Website](#). Please read, print, and fill out all pertinent information. If you have any questions after reading all the information, please reach out to Mrs. Gaderlund. [jgadelu@mvwsd.org](mailto:jgadelu@mvwsd.org).

### **Graham's Choir News**

Congratulations to the following students for being accepted into the Western Division Honor Choir: Osinachi I, Ojas D, and Gloria C. We are so proud of you!

### **Graham's Library News**

#### **Time to return overdue books:**

As we near the end of the trimester, please remind your child to return their overdue library books to the Graham Library. Last weekend, the library sent out overdue notices to students and parents. Please check your email for any overdue/lost books notices and return overdue books to the Graham Library. Books may be renewed if more time is needed to read them. Your student can check their library record, renew books and check for fines at [destinydiscover.com](http://destinydiscover.com) or stop by the library to speak to Mrs. Ross. Thank you for your support!

#### **Graham's Shopping Night:**

**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**

Mason V. -Ms. Mcintyre  
Josh- Ms. St. Lawrence  
Aarav- Ms. Bari

#### **Pursue Knowledge**

Sonia- Ms. Geoghegan  
Kristina- Ms Geohegan

### **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**

November 10, Veteran's Day Holiday (No School)

November 16, ELAC Meeting at 5:00PM (In Person)

November 20 to November 24, 2023 Thanksgiving Recess (No School)

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**

### **Veterans' Day: No school on Friday, Nov. 10**

There is no school for students and staff on Friday, Nov. 10 in observance of Veterans' Day. We honor the men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces.

### **Parent University Speaker Series: Understanding Your Child's Score Reports**

Date and Time: November 28, 2023, 5:30-7pm Registration Link: <http://mvw.sd/pu112823>

Understanding your child's district and state test scores is a key part of building a foundation of excellence. Join Swati Dagar, our Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment as she discusses how to (i) access and interpret score reports and (ii) use the information to engage in a productive partnership with your child's teacher(s).

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

### **Better Together: November**

This month's theme for #BetterTogetherMVWSD is Empathy. Empathy is fundamental in promoting understanding, compassion, and unity among individuals and communities. It enables us to connect with others on a deeper level, to share their joys and sorrows, and to stand in their shoes, even when we may not fully comprehend their experiences. Recognizing United Against Hate Week is an important time of year as it underscores the need to combat discrimination, prejudice, and bigotry in all their forms. By participating in this initiative, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering a community where empathy is not just a concept but a guiding principle that helps us build a world where people of all backgrounds can coexist harmoniously, free from fear and hatred. Join us as we recognize United Against Hate Week with activities and programming taking place November 13-17th at all school sites. For more information about Better Together, visit [mvwsd.org/BetterTogetherMVWSD](http://mvwsd.org/BetterTogetherMVWSD).

### **The View Teen Center: November**

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 November or [visit their webpage for more information](#).

### **MVHS Turkey Trot and Tree Lot**

MVHS Sports Boosters will be hosting the 14th Annual Spartan Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning (Thursday, November 23rd) at Mountain View High School (3535 Truman Avenue). All proceeds benefit the MVHS athletics department. For more information about this event or to register for the 5K Walk/Run, Kids Run or Spartan Mile, visit <https://www.spartanturkeytrot.com/>.

MVHS Sports Boosters will be opening up the Annual Spartans Tree Lot on Friday, November 24 at 10 AM for the 2023 season at the Mountain View High School Stadium (3535 Truman Ave.). Spartans Tree Lot offers premium, top-quality trees ranging in size from 3 feet to 12+ feet, holiday decorations, and supplies. In person and online delivery options are available. All proceeds benefit Mountain View High School Athletics. For more information, head to: [SpartansTreeLot.com](http://SpartansTreeLot.com).