



Graham Middle School



November 16, 2023

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

Join Us in Shaping the Future: Icelandic Method Committees at Graham Middle School

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment for our students, we are excited to announce the initiation of committees to explore and implement the Icelandic method within our Graham community.

What is the Icelandic Method?

Originating in Iceland, the Icelandic method is a proven approach that has successfully tackled various challenges faced by adolescents. By fostering open communication and collaboration between students, parents, and educators, this method has contributed to creating a healthier and more supportive environment for young minds.

Your Involvement Matters: Principal's Coffee Gathering

To kick off this important initiative, we invite you to join us at the Principal's Coffee this week on Friday at 9:00 a.m. There will be coffee and doughnuts. During this session, we will read a short article that provides insights into the Icelandic method. More importantly, we will engage in discussions to identify key issues and collectively prioritize them. Your input and perspective are crucial in shaping the direction of our efforts.

This is an opportunity for us, as a community, to work together in fostering a supportive and thriving environment for our students. Your participation will contribute to the development of strategies that align with our shared goal of enhancing the well-being of our Graham Middle School community.

We look forward to your presence and active involvement in this collaborative endeavor.

Reminder: Please remind your children to keep their valuables attended to during break and lunch. If phones and other valuables are kept in their backpack, please do not leave the backpacks unattended on the field or turf.

Sincerely,
Dr. Heidi Galassi

School News

Creating outdoor greening and learning spaces

MVWSD is creating spaces at each school that will provide shade, plants and outdoor areas for learning and play. Come to the meeting to share your ideas about your school campus.

Tuesday, November 28 at 5 PM. [Click here for the zoom link.](#)

Spanish interpretation provided. To learn more: www.mvwsd.org/greening

Graham Counselors

With the Thanksgiving Break coming right around the corner, students and families are prepared to take the time off to spend with one another. What are some traditions that are celebrated with your family? In case you're looking to expand some ideas to your family tradition, here are some fun ways to celebrate giving thanks.

1. Cultivate a gratitude jar
2. Express gratitude through Thank You cards
3. Create a "Count Your Blessing" tree
4. Play a Thankful Alphabet Game

We wish you all a safe and wonderful time. While we are on break and will not be able to respond immediately, 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. We will respond back when we return on November 27, 2023.

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

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 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!!!!

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 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 at jgaderlund@mvwsd.org.



Graham's Library News

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

Omri- Ms. Bari
Artun- Ms. Kaiser
Danileel- Ms. Flint

Pursue Knowledge

Santi- Ms. Park
Tal- Ms. McIntyre

Reporting an Absence

Please call the 24hour automated Attendance Line at 650-526-3570, ext. 2680 or email 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 17, Principal's Coffee in person at 9:00AM

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

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

Thanksgiving Recess

There is no school from Nov. 20-24th for Thanksgiving Recess. We will resume classes on Monday, Nov. 27th. Wishing you a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving break!

The Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Some of the topics include:

- Environmental Sustainability Advisory Council Progress and Green Scores Report
- Universal PreKindergarten
- Organizational Meeting Discussion

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

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 key to building a foundation of excellence. Join Swati Dagar, our Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, as she discusses accessing and interpreting score reports and using 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. 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.

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!

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.