



Graham Middle School



December 7, 2023

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

It was truly a pleasure to see so many families actively engaged in the academic journey of our students. Our school community came together to celebrate the successes and achievements of our students. You and your child's presence and participation were invaluable, creating a collaborative triangle that reinforces the importance of the partnership between home and school.

During the conferences, our dedicated teachers had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with you about your child's progress, strengths, and areas for growth. These discussions form the foundation of a triangle of support systems that will contribute to your child's continued success.

Many families and teachers worked together to set specific goals for student success. These goals will serve as a roadmap for academic and personal growth in the coming months.

The conferences provided a platform for open communication. We encourage you to continue reaching out to teachers and staying actively involved in your child's education.

Thank you to all who participated in conferences this week. Please keep in mind that these are only one touchpoint to talk to teachers. You are welcome to email or schedule a meeting with teachers throughout the year. Checking in and following up is an essential for a successful learning experience and we encourage you to do so as needed.

Sincerely,
Dr. Heidi Galassi

School News

Graham Counselors

We are almost half way through this school year. One of the ways that we can continue to support our students' academic and social emotional success is to provide coping strategies for stress management through mindfulness. Mindfulness techniques teach students to stay present and calm, while developing healthy ways to manage stress.

Some mindfulness techniques include:

1. Mindful Breathing - spend a few minutes focusing on your breaths and awareness in your thoughts.
2. Body Scan - Focus your attention on one body part at a time, starting from your feet to your head, and notice any physical sensations in your body without making a judgment.
3. Mindful Eating - Eat slowly and pay attention to the sensation of the food, such as the taste and smell.
4. Mindful Movement - Pay attention to your body, your breath and your surroundings.

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](#)

School Site Council

Our next School Site Council will be this Mon 11 Dec from 5-6pm. Community members are welcome to listen in via Zoom at <https://mvwsd.zoom.us/my/gms1175kimstevens>

Graham's "AWESOME Acts" winners

Together We Can

Aarav- Ms. Bari
Chris- Ms. Ditty

Pursue Knowledge

Angel- Ms. Flint
Dulce- Ms. Geoghegan

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

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

December 11, School Site Council Meeting at 5:00PM via [ZOOM](#)

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)

January 22, School Info Night at 6:00PM via [ZOOM](#)

February 7, ELAC Meeting at 5:00 PM (In Person)

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

District News

The Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Some of the topics include:

- Board Policy: Use of School Facilities
- Approval of Joint Use Agreement with the City of Mountain View
- Reimagining Castro Elementary Plan Scope
- Equity Scorecard: Pilot and Future Use

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

Superintendent's Community Check In on Friday, Dec. 8

Please join us for our Community Check-In with Dr. Ayindé Rudolph on Friday, Dec. 8 at 3:30 p.m. Bring your questions. Spanish interpretation will be provided. Click here to register: <http://mvw.sd/CC128>.

Open Enrollment for 2024-25 starts in January

In January, the Mountain View Whisman School District will be opening student enrollment for next fall. For CURRENT students in transitional kindergarten-7th grade: Parents will be asked by email to confirm enrollment from January 22 to February 9.

For families enrolling NEW students: Please check www.mvwsd.org/register for details about virtual school information meetings held in January (<http://mvw.sd/meetings>), how to locate your neighborhood school, how to explore school options and the four steps to register during the enrollment period held January 22 to February 9.

Better Together: December

Join us in celebrating Human Rights Day on Sunday, December 10th. As a school community, let's empower young minds to embrace diversity, challenge biases, and stand up for justice. This special day is a perfect opportunity to engage in conversations with our kids about the importance of equality and respect for all. Together, we can shape a world where every voice is heard and every person is treated with kindness. 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!

December 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 or check out www.selpa1cac.org
We encourage families to learn about the sensory needs all children: [Try a Sensory Diet](#)

Parent Chat

December 12, 10 am

Are you concerned about the emotional well-being of your child? Peer to peer support for parents of teens with mental health challenges. Every second Tuesday of the month at 10 am on Google Meet. Meeting is for 1 hour only due to Google Meet limitations. Contact trudy.palmer@me.com for invite.

What's in an IEP? Advocating for your child

Presented by Gabriela Torres, Managing Attorney and Leah Kang, Senior Attorney

Fri, Jan 19, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm , [Register](#) to get your Zoom link

Join [Palo Alto CAC](#) and [Disability Rights California](#) virtually to learn what is ***Specially Designed Instruction*** and how the use of ***Supplementary Aids*** and ***Services*** can help children with disabilities achieve their education satisfactorily in the general educational environment according to LRE provision of IDEA. [Flyer](#) Questions? paloaltocac@gmail.com

The View Teen Center: December

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 December or [visit their webpage 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.

MV Public Library: Parenting Program

Join the MV Public Library for a book club discussion of *Never Enough* by Jennifer Wallace on Wednesday, January 17 on Zoom from 12:00pm - 1:00pm or in person from 7:30pm - 8:30pm. Read the book or listen to interviews with the author. Then join either meeting to discuss the effects of achievement culture on youth and ways to help teens feel that they matter and are valued. [Registration is required](#).