



Graham Middle School



January 18, 2024

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a fitting time for us to reflect on the principles of equity and justice that he ardently championed. Dr. King's legacy serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the importance of fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for our students.

At Graham Middle School, we are proud to embrace and uphold the values that Martin Luther King Jr. stood for. Our commitment to equity and justice is woven into the fabric of our school's ethos, and we continually strive to provide an environment where every student feels valued, respected, and empowered.

Equity and justice extend beyond the classroom, and we actively engage with our community to address any disparities that may exist. We encourage open communication and collaboration between school staff, parents, and community members to ensure that our school remains a place where everyone has equal access to opportunities and resources.

Diversity is a strength that we celebrate at Graham Middle School. Our various cultural events, heritage months, and awareness campaigns contribute to a vibrant and inclusive school community. These initiatives not only celebrate our differences but also promote understanding and unity among our students.

As we honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, let us renew our commitment to creating a school environment that reflects his vision of equity and justice. Together, we can continue to build a community where each student is supported in reaching their full potential.

Sincerely,
Dr. Heidi Galassi

School News

Graham Counselors

SMART goals are helpful for students to keep track of their progress and to celebrate achievements, whether big or small. Have you tried the SMART goal with your student yet? Here is a breakdown of the SMART goal framework.

S - Specific

- Define your goal in detail. Be as specific as possible.

M - Measurable

- Decide how you will measure success.

A - Attainable

- Set realistic goals that challenge you, but are achievable.

R - Relevant

- Ensure your goal is results-oriented.

T - Time-Bound

- Set a clear deadline and monitor your progress.

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 Meeting (SSC)

The School Site Council will be meeting Monday at 5:00pm on Zoom. Members of the public are welcome to observe by going to <https://mvwsd.zoom.us/my/gms1175kimstevens> at that time. The focus of this meeting will be reviewing i-Ready data, California Dashboard, and School Safety Plan.

Enroll your student for next school year 2024-2025

Registration begins for all students on January 22nd! Please make sure your Powerschool Parent Portal account is updated and that you are able to log in. Our goal is to have 100% of students registered by February 9th! If you need assistance logging into your Powerschool Parent Portal account, please stop by our front office. There will be two registration help nights: January 24th from 5-7pm and January 30th from 5-7pm at Castro Elementary School located at 500 Toft Street, Mountain View, CA 94041! Please join us for any help you need!

To log into your Powerschool Portal account [click here](#).

Graham's "AWESOME Acts" winners

Pursue Knowledge

Olivia- Ms. Bari

Omar- Ms. Bari

Kenji- Ms. Bari

I Belong

Gavin- Ms. Jain

Mason- Mr. Lange

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

January 22, School Site Council Meeting at 5:00PM via [Zoom](#)

January 22, School Info Night at 6:30PM via [ZOOM](#)

Jan. 22- Feb. 9: Enroll your student for next year! mvwsd.org/register

January 24th and Jan. 30th - Registration Help Night, 5-7pm in the MUR at Castro Elementary School

February 7, ELAC Meeting at 9:00AM (In Person) at the MUR

February 16, End of Trimester (Minimum Day) student dismissal time 12:50PM

February 19 to February 23, Winter Break (No School)

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

2024-2025 School Year Calendar- [Here](#)

District News

Student enrollment in MVWSD for next year and school info meetings coming up!

Enrollment for next fall for all students in the Mountain View Whisman School District will be open in two weeks.

For CURRENT students in transitional kindergarten-7th grade: Parents will be asked by email to confirm enrollment from January 22 to February 9.

Please encourage families who are enrolling NEW students in grades TK-8 to attend one or more of these upcoming meetings:

- Jan 17: At Theuerkauf Elementary, 1:30 - 4 p.m.: In-person school exploration event for Kindergarteners incoming to all school sites. Representatives from choice schools will be available.

- Jan: 18: Virtual school information night for Transitional Kindergarteners (Meeting link: <http://mvw.sd/TK118>)
- Jan 24: At Castro Elementary, 2-4 p.m.: In-person school exploration events for Kindergarteners incoming to all school sites. Representatives from choice schools will be available.

For families enrolling NEW students, please prepare to register your student: Learn more about the documents you'll need. [Click here for the video.](#) Please check www.mvwsd.org/register 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.

Do you need in-person help to register your child? Sign up at <http://mvw.sd/help> and attend any of the help sessions:

Castro Elementary, January 24 @ 5-7 p.m. and January 30 @ 5-7 p.m.

Jose Antonio Vargas Elementary, January 31 @ 5-7 p.m.

Theuerkauf Elementary, February 1 @ 5-7 p.m.

For Fifth-Grade Families: Middle School Info Night on Jan. 22

Please join us at this fun and informative virtual event. It is an opportunity for you and your fifth-grader to learn about middle school life. You will have the opportunity to hear from our principals, information about courses, tips on how to be successful at middle school and ask any questions you may have. Future 6th grade students are encouraged to join!

Date: January 22, 2024

Crittenden at 5:30 p.m. Meeting link: <http://mvw.sd/CR122>

Graham at 6:30 p.m. Meeting link: <http://mvw.sd/GR122>

The District is beginning its annual process of updating the LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan)

This input collected will guide the update of our District plan for the 2024-25 school year. Look for a meeting at your school to learn more about the LCAP process.

Please click on your unique survey link sent to your email on Jan. 29. Your responses are confidential. Students in grades 4-8 will also be taking the LCAP survey. More information found here:

mvwsd.org/LCAP

Better Together: January

"There are all kinds of courage," said Dumbledore, smiling. "It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends." - J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Sometimes, being a good ally might mean standing up to our friends to protect someone else. In the month of January, MVWSD students will explore the essential question: How do I have a difficult conversation with someone? A thoughtful ally finds a way to express themselves respectfully and with an open mind. For more information about Better Together, visit mvwsd.org/BetterTogetherMVWSD.

Volunteer with MVEF

MVEF needs volunteers to help meet our goals in 23-24 and beyond! As a 501(c)3 non-profit, volunteering with MVEF is a great way to add experience to your resume while meeting and working with local families who have similar interests and priorities.

Please reach out to dena@mvef.org if you are interested in helping in any of the following ways:

- Represent MVEF at your school site's events and activities.
- Ensure that MVEF messages and programs are relevant to your school community.
- Plan the MVEF Gala, Auction, and other events.
- Technical work like automation and data migration.
- Visual designs, graphic design and layout.
- Serve as an MVEF Board Member.

MVEF is the local educational foundation providing essential programs at every school in MVWSD. Over 70% of MVEF contributions come from MVWSD families. To make a donation, [click here](#). Use the monthly credit card payment option to pay your total donation over time.

SELPA 1 CAC Parent Education Event: Assistive Technology

SELPA 1 CAC, Palo Alto CAC and the PAUSD PATCH team are pleased to host a Zoom panel on **Assistive Technology!** Assistive Technology (AT) can help with communication and accessing curriculum for a wide variety of students, from those who have specific learning disabilities to dyslexia, ADHD to hearing challenges, unique visual needs or those students who are non-verbal. Learn more about this key part of your student's educational toolkit from the Assistive Technology specialists from PAUSD.

Meeting Live on Zoom: January 17, 9:30 AM. [Register here](#)

Have a question about Assistive Technology for the panel? [Submit here](#)

Interested in more of our past Parent Education events? Check out our [Youtube Channel](#)

The View Teen Center: January

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., and the center features a game room, makerspace, kitchen, computer/study room, outdoor area, and much more! See attached flier for details about upcoming events and programs in January or [visit their webpage for more information](#).

City of MV: Community Meetings for Homeless Response Strategy

The City of Mountain View is seeking your input to create a Homelessness Response Strategy to address homelessness, assist the unhoused and respond to community needs. Take part in defining a clear vision and action plan to guide decisions about goals, actions, funding and programs!

The City is hosting two community forums to give all community members the opportunity to learn more about homelessness in our community and the City's planning process. The forums will be **January 18** (In person at the Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave.) and **January 25** ([via Zoom, register here](#)). For the January 18 in-person forum, light refreshments will be served and childcare will be available. Interpretation services are available in Spanish, Chinese and Russian for both meetings.