



Graham Middle School



January 11, 2024

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

I hope you are well and refreshed after a wonderful break with your loved ones. As we embark on a new calendar year at Graham Middle School, I am excited about the opportunities and experiences that lie ahead for our students. The start of a new year provides an excellent opportunity for our students to reflect on their personal growth and set intentions for the months ahead. I am a firm believer that goal-setting is a powerful tool for self-improvement and achievement.

Therefore, I invite each student to consider setting three personal goals and three school-related goals for themselves. To enhance the impact of their goals, I encourage students to share their aspirations with friends or trusted adults. Sharing goals not only strengthens accountability but also creates a supportive community invested in each other's success. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of camaraderie, where students can motivate and encourage one another to reach their full potential.

Examples of Personal Goals:

1. Improve time management skills to balance academics and extracurricular activities.
2. Read a set number of books by the end of the school year to foster a love for literature.
3. Practice mindfulness or meditation to enhance focus and reduce stress.

Examples of School Goals:

1. Actively participate in at least one school club or organization.
2. Seek help from teachers or peers when facing academic challenges.
3. Contribute positively to the school community through acts of kindness or volunteering.

I encourage you to engage in conversations with your child about their goals, offering guidance and support as needed. Your encouragement plays a crucial role in fostering a culture of growth and resilience. Together, our triangle of support can create an environment where our students feel empowered to reach their aspirations.

I am truly excited about the potential for personal and academic growth this year, and I look forward to witnessing the achievements and progress of each student.

Wishing you all a fantastic start to the new year!

Sincerely,
Dr. Heidi Galassi

School News

Graham Counselors

Happy New Year and hello 2024! The start of a new year is a great time to help your children focus on forming good habits. Sit down with your kids and, together, pick maybe one or two goals they want to set as their New Year's resolutions. A recent study on New Year's resolutions found that about 40% of Americans set resolutions at the start of the year, and less than half are successful after six months. We all want to make positive and impactful changes in our lives, but how can we make the changes last? Here are some few ideas when creating resolutions:

- Be specific
- Make it possible
- Set yourself up for success
- Allow yourself to fail
- Make it public
- Show it, don't tell it

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 "AWESOME Acts" winners

Take Pride

Aviv - Ms. Warren

Ali - Ms. Ditty

Pursue Knowledge

Kapil – Ms. Flint

Kate – Ms. Ditty

Graham Library News

Time to return overdue books:

With the long holidays we've enjoyed, many Graham Bears have overdue books on their record. This weekend the library will send out overdue notices to students and parents. Please check your email for any overdue/lost books notices and help your child 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 or stop by the library to speak to Mrs. Ross. Books that are promptly returned will have the fines removed. Thank you for your support!

Lost and found

The lost and found cart is placed in front of the school office. Come by to find one of your sweatshirts, jackets or sweaters. Anything left over after Friday, January 19, 2024 will be donated to charity.

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

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

January 17, ELAC Meeting at 9:00 AM (In Person) at the MUR

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

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

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

The Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Some of the topics include:

- * 2023 California Dashboard Update
- * United Against Hate Week and #BetterTogether
- * Joint Use Agreement Update

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

Superintendent's Community Check In on Friday, Jan. 12

Please join us for our Community Check-In with Dr. Ayindé Rudolph on Friday, Jan. 12 at 3:30 p.m. Bring your questions. Spanish interpretation will be provided. Click here to register: <http://mvw.sd/CC112>

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 10: Virtual school information nights for neighborhood schools (Click here for meeting links: <http://mvw.sd/meetings>)
- Jan 11: Virtual school information nights for choice schools - Mistral and Stevenson Elementary Schools (Click here for meeting links: <http://mvw.sd/meetings>)
- Jan: 18: Virtual school information night for Transitional Kindergartners (Meeting link: <http://mvw.sd/TK118>)
- Jan 17: At Theuerkauf Elementary, 1:30 - 4 p.m.: In-person school exploration event for Kindergartners incoming to all school sites. Representatives from choice schools will be available.
- Jan 24: At Castro Elementary, 2-4 p.m.: In-person school exploration events for Kindergartners 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.

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 opportunities 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

The 2024-25 district calendar is available

The school-year calendar for next year is now [available online here.](#)

Mentor Tutor Connection - VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION

Join us for a lively volunteer event, and learn how you can become a mentor and/or tutor in the Mountain View and Los Altos public schools. **Wednesday January 17, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, El Camino YMCA, 2400 Grant Road, Mountain View.** Find out how you can help a local student to a brighter future. To register go to www.mentortutorconnection.org/events - or email programs@mentortutorconnection.org.

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.