



Graham Middle School



February 15, 2024

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

With the trimester coming to a close, I am excited to announce that we will be hosting a special Community Building Day on Friday, February 16th. This day will be dedicated to fostering connections among students and staff through a series of team-building activities and social-emotional projects. The day will culminate in a spirited rally to celebrate our achievements and reinforce our collective sense of community.

Through these activities, we aim to promote collaboration, resilience, and empathy among our students while also providing them with opportunities for self-reflection and growth. We believe that building a strong sense of community is essential to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where all students can thrive.

Additionally, I want to remind everyone that next week marks the beginning of winter break. This is a time for our students to rest, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones. As we look ahead to Trimester 3, which begins immediately after the break, I encourage our students to use this time wisely to prepare themselves mentally and emotionally. Let's return refreshed and ready to finish the school year strong.

Sincerely,
Dr. Heidi Galassi

School News

Graham Counselors

February 17th is Random Acts of Kindness Day. This day is more than just a celebration. It is an act of kindness day. How can we spread kindness in the community with a ripple effect?

Here are some ways to show Random Acts of Kindness throughout this week and month!

- Donate used books to a library
- Look in the mirror and say three positive things about yourself
- Make Kindness the norm
- Organize a community clean up
- Reach out to someone who is having a tough time
- Teach kindness at home
- Laugh often. It releases feel good chemicals
- Celebrate someone you love
- Be a friend to someone
- Be an active listener when in the company of others

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

Pursue Knowledge

Sophie - Ms. Jian
Mason - Ms. St. Lawrence
Emerson - Mr. Carroll

Take Pride

Vihoon - Ms. Park
Noah - Mr. Lau
Vivian- Mr. Carroll

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

February 16, End of Trimester (Minimum Day) student dismissal time 12:50PM
February 19 to February 23, Winter Break (No School)
March 4, Choir Concert at 7:00PM at the Auditorium
March 15 and March 16, Spring Musical at 7:30PM at the Auditorium
March 17, Spring Musical at 2:00PM at the Auditorium
March 18, Spring Picture Day
March 20, Band Concert at 6:30PM at the Auditorium
March 25, Teacher Service Day (No school for Students)
March 28, Minimum Day for Students, dismissal time for students 12:50PM)
March 28, Open House at 6:00 - 8:00PM
April 3, Strings Concert at 7:00PM at the Auditorium

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

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

District News

Complete your LCAP survey today! (before Feb. 16)

Your responses to the LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) survey will guide the update of our District plan for the 2024-25 school year. Please help us! Your thoughts in this survey will let our school know what areas to focus on for next year. This is an opportunity for you to tell the District about your priorities for your school. Please click on your unique survey link sent to your email. Your responses are confidential. Students in grades 4-8 will also be taking the LCAP survey. More information found here: mvwsd.org/LCAP

5th, 8th grade promotion dates

Each year we look forward to celebrating with families as our 5th and 8th grade students are promoted to the next school level. This year, the dates are:

* 5th grade promotion: Thursday, May 30

* 8th grade promotion: Friday, May 31 (9 or 11 am, depending on school), the last day of school

Your school principal will share more specifics about the celebrations as details are available.

MVWSD works to update English Language Arts and Pre-K/TK Curriculum for 2024-25

As part of our district's focus on literacy, MVWSD is reviewing updated English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum for our students in grades K-5 and integrated curriculum in preschool and Transitional Kindergarten. In recent decades, more research on children's cognitive processes, language development, and reading acquisition has shown that curriculum that includes the [Science of Reading](#)

helps to ensure children develop strong foundational reading skills, enabling them to become proficient readers.

The ELA curriculum adoption committee and PK/TK adoption committee are currently piloting two curriculums each. The curriculums are built from the Science of Reading. In addition, the PK/TK curriculums are also aligned with research on language development and play-based learning.

K-5 ELA Pilot Curriculums:

Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts
McGraw Hill Wonders

PK/TK Pilot Curriculums:

Creative Curriculum by Learning Strategies
Three Cheers for PreK by Savvas

Families and members of the public may preview the K-5 ELA and PK/TK pilot curriculums at the District Office, 1400 Montecito Ave., on the following dates and times:

February 12th at 12:00-1:00
February 15th at 12:00-2:00
February 27th at 4:30-6:00
February 28th at 4:30-6:00

If families and members of the public would like to view at a different time, please contact Cyndee Nguyen, cnguyen@mvwsd.org, to make arrangements. To read more about the curriculum adoption process, [please see our district website](#).

Better Together: February

February marks a very important time in our district where we pause to honor and celebrate Black History Month, shining a spotlight on the rich contributions and achievements of African Americans in our community and throughout our shared history. It serves as a reminder to us all to acknowledge the struggles and triumphs that have shaped the Black experience in the US. This month #BetterTogether also encourages us to **speak up** about the importance of equality, justice, and the ongoing fight against systemic racism. The essential question for the month is: How do I speak up for myself and for others? Black History Month offers us an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the diversity that makes our community strong, and to use our voices to advocate for positive change for all. For more information about Better Together, visit mvwsd.org/BetterTogetherMVWSD.

MVEF: Hiring Lead Executive Director

The Mountain View Education Foundation (MVEF) needs your talent and passion as it seeks a new Lead Executive Director. You can learn more and apply <https://www.mvef.org/we-re-hiring>

YMCA Parent Workshops

Project Cornerstone/YMCA is hosting two upcoming parent workshops online. Tuesday, February 27 – “Bullying Prevention” and Wednesday, March 20 – “Digital Citizenship”. Please see the attached flyer for online registration and workshop links.

The View Teen Center: February

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. (Feb. adjusted hours: Open 1-6 p.m.: Feb. 16 and Feb. 20-23, No Drop-In: Feb 19), 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 February or [visit their webpage for more information](#).

City of MV: Summer Camp Fair

The City of Mountain View Recreation Division will be hosting their Summer Camp Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 28 from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Mountain View Community Center. Summer Camp staff and vendors will be available onsite to answer any questions you may have as you prepare for your youth's summer plans. 2024 Spring & Summer Registration begins Saturday, March 2 at 9 a.m. for Mountain View residents at the Mountain View Community Center. Spring & Summer Activity Guide will be available mid-February. Visit MountainView.gov/Register for more information.