



Graham Middle School



February 8, 2024

Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Hello Graham Families!

February marks the beginning of Black History Month, a time dedicated to honoring the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. As a school community, we are committed to celebrating diversity, promoting inclusivity, and fostering a deeper understanding of the rich cultural heritage that shapes our nation.

Throughout the month of February, our students will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities and lessons centered around the themes of Black history, culture, and heritage. These lessons are designed to inspire community, empathy, and appreciation for the diverse perspectives that enrich our society.

Students will learn about the remarkable individuals who have made significant contributions to society, including civil rights leaders, activists, inventors, artists, and scholars. Through stories and discussions presented in class and on GMS tv, students will gain a deeper understanding of the themes of courage, resilience, and determination of these trailblazers.

Our lessons will emphasize the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in creating a more just and equitable society. Students will explore concepts of empathy, respect, and allyship, learning how to appreciate and celebrate differences while advocating for social justice.

As we embark on this journey of discovery and reflection, I encourage you to engage in conversations with your children about the significance of Black History Month and the lessons they are learning in school. Together, we can honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire a future of unity, equality, and understanding.

Thank you for your continued partnership in our efforts to strengthen the triangle of support.

Sincerely,
Dr. Heidi Galassi

School News

Graham Counselors

As we navigate through the process of selecting elective courses for the upcoming academic year, we want to emphasize the crucial role that your involvement plays in supporting your child's educational journey. Your active participation can greatly enhance your child's experience and academic success. However, it's also essential to strike a balance between parental guidance and allowing students the autonomy to make their own choices.

Here are some reasons why your involvement matters:

1. Understanding Your Child's Interests
2. Encouraging Exploration and Growth
3. Facilitating Informed Decision-Making

While parental involvement is crucial, it's equally important to recognize the value of allowing students to exercise autonomy in their elective choices. Here's why:

1. Fostering Independence and Responsibility
2. Promoting Self-Discovery and Confidence
3. Respecting Individual Preferences and Goals

With both in mind, we can ensure that each student's elective choices reflect their interests, aspirations, and potential for success.

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](#)

Enroll your student for next school year 2024-2025

Registration began for all students on January 22nd! 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.

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

Graham's PTA

Celebrate Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 13, 4-9 pm at Pizza My Heart!

Come share a Pizza Your Heart on Tuesday, February 13, from 4 pm to 9 pm and Pizza My Heart will generously donate 30% to our Graham PTA! Be sure to mention Graham Middle School when you go in and use our code GMS213 when you order online. The code is valid for Dine in, take out or Delivery, but excludes 3rd party delivery services like Door Dash.

www.pizzamyheart.com

Graham's "AWESOME Acts" winners

Pursue Knowledge

Dulce - Ms. Geoghegan

Eric - Ms. Martinez

Eren- Mr. Carroll

Take Pride

Dominic- Mr. Gomez

Emily - Ms. Mueller

Derek - Ms. Garbo

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

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

February 9, Valentine's Dance at 4:30PM at the MUR

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

The Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Some of the topics include:

- LCAP Mid-Year Report
- Health and Wellness Annual Goals Progress Report
- Universal PreKindergarten 2024-25 Program Planning
- Transportation, Field Trip Process and Discussion

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

Superintendent's Community Check In on Friday, Feb. 9

Please join us for our Community Check-In with Dr. Ayindé Rudolph on Friday, Feb. 9 at 3:30 p.m. Bring your questions. Spanish interpretation will be provided. Click here to register: <http://mvw.sd/CC29>

Student open enrollment for next year closes Feb. 9!

Enrollment for next fall for all students in the Mountain View Whisman School District is open now at www.mvwsd.org/register.

For CURRENT students in transitional kindergarten-7th grade: Parents, click on the link in your email to confirm enrollment before February 9.

For families enrolling NEW students, please check www.mvwsd.org/register to locate your neighborhood school, how to explore school options and the four steps to register before February 9.

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

The District is updating the LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan). Your responses to the survey will guide the update of our District plan for the 2024-25 school year. 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

Fifth-grade parents: Recordings of sixth-grade information night

In case you missed the meeting, recordings (both English and Spanish) of the 6th-grade information meetings are posted on each middle school's website. [Crittenden is here.](#) [Graham is here.](#)

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 Gala Auction Item donations needed!

Auction item donations are a great way to support MVEF programs! Successful past auction donations include:

- Vacation home timeshares

- Private, themed parties at the donor's home
- Bottles of wine for the "wine wall"
- Professional services
- Event tickets

To learn more about donating to the MVEF Gala Auction, email contact@mvef.org

February 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](#)

Mountain View Whisman School District and SELPA 1 CAC are sending out a survey with questions about parent experience with the special education department. Please answer this survey to let MVWSD know about your experience.

[Special Education in MVWSD Parent Survey](#)

Please let us hear your voice!

Parent Chat

February 13, 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.

Missed our Parent Education events?

We have a YouTube channel with many of our past events including the recent talk on Assistive Technology, last year's Inclusive Fun Fair for summer camps and recreational activities, Anxiety and Depression in Children with Learning Challenges, SMART Goals and IEP Troubleshooting, and more. Channel is here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuy7lcVz-4LTDxv2Jaq13nw>

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: Lunar New Year

The City of Mountain View is hosting a Lunar New Year celebration on Saturday, February 10 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Mountain View Community Center (201 S. Rengstorff Ave.). The event will feature live performances, crafts, games, and community booths. For more information, call the Recreation Division at 650-903-6331 or visit MountainView.gov/SpecialEvents.

MV Public Library: Parenting Program

Join the MV Public Library for their virtual "Parenting in Climate Crisis" program on Tuesday, February 27 from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. Climate change has put pressure on the mental health of young people. Spend a lunch hour with Jainee Dial, the Executive Director of Gen Dread, and gain ways to actively support

your child's processing of negative emotions and experiences around climate change and calm eco-anxiety. This conversation is tailored toward parents of children 8 years or older, including teens. Register for the event here: <https://mountainview.libcal.com/event/11704154>.