



# Graham Middle School



March 28, 2024

## Message from Principal, Heidi Galassi:

Dear Parents,

As you know, we have been exploring a possible change in the school schedule for next year that will help address our students' instructional needs. Moving from an 8-period schedule to a 7-period schedule would allow students more core instructional time and give them an advisory period for social emotional learning.

The proposed new 7-period schedule offers several significant benefits

- \* Additional core instructional minutes that add up to more than 3 weeks of instructional time per year
- \* Mirrors high school schedule with an advisory period and a couple days of longer classes
- \* Offers important social emotional instruction that will help students with coping strategies and mental health
- \* Replaces the very short periods that currently exist on Mondays and allow teachers to check in with all their classes at both the beginning and end of week.

It is true that the 7-period schedule will reduce the number of electives for some students by one. It's important to remember that students will be more likely to get one of their top choices for electives with the new schedule. Also, every student is guaranteed to have at least one elective.

\*\* Please join Superintendent Dr. Ayinde Rudolph and the middle schools' principals and assistant principals on Monday, April 1 at 7:30 pm on [Zoom \(link here\)](#) for an online discussion on this topic.\*\* Spanish interpretation will be provided. [Please click here to submit your questions ahead of time or to share your additional considerations for us](#) as we work through the logistics of a new schedule.

Please click here for a webpage ([Graham](#), [Crittenden](#)) with more details.

The next step: The Middle School Scheduling Committee, which includes our middle school teachers, will discuss the input from staff, parents, students and the Board of Trustees. The committee will then make further recommendations. We will keep you updated.

### **#Better Together**

Next month's #BetterTogether MVWSD theme is advocacy. The ability to advocate for oneself and others is a valuable skill that empowers individuals to navigate challenges, get their needs met, and create positive change.

This requires strong communication skills. We can encourage students to be clear with their message and use language that is culturally responsive and communicate respectfully and constructively. By

creating a supportive environment where student voices are heard and valued, children develop confidence in speaking up for themselves and advocating for their needs.

Critical thinking is another important component. We can encourage our students to think critically about the world around them. We want children to analyze situations from different perspectives and consider the implications of their actions. This will help foster a sense of agency and empowerment.

Lastly, building resilience. We can teach our students how to cope with adversity, persevere in the face of obstacles, and learn from their experiences. By incorporating these strategies, we can empower our students to be confident, compassionate, and effective advocates for themselves and others.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Heidi Galassi

## School News

### Principals Coffee

Please provide your input on next year's bell schedule tomorrow, Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at Graham's MUR or you can join in on [ZOOM](#).

### Graham Counselors

Yesterday was the CAASPP mock test for all students. During the mock test, students were able to prepare themselves for what is to be expected of them once they take the real test in April. They were also allowed the opportunity to play around with the tools that are given to them and get a feeling of how the questions will look like. As mentioned before, these big tests can create an uncomfortable feeling to students that can cause anxiety, stress, and possibly fear.

Here are some ways to help students overcome [test anxiety](#):

1. Be prepared
2. Get a good night's sleep
3. Fuel up
4. Get to class or testing site early
5. Have a positive mental attitude
6. Read carefully
7. Just start
8. Don't pay attention to what other students are doing
9. Watch the clock
10. Focus on calm breathing and positive thoughts

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 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Panorama Pictures

[Go to My.Lifetouch.com](#) to order your 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pano Picture

**Picture Day Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

**Picture Day ID: BY013030T0**

### Graham's Yearbook

**2024-2025 School Yearbooks are now on sale.** The hardback memory books commemorate your student's time at Graham. The all-color pages vibrantly capture memories throughout the year. Reserve your copy today! Order online at [YBPay.com](#) with Yearbook ID Code 14515924 by April 22, 2024. Price is \$40 each.

### Graham's "AWESOME Acts" winners

#### Pursue Knowledge

Josh - Ms. St. Lawrence  
Kristina - Ms. Geoghegan  
Vivian - Ms. Tuffy

#### Together We Can

Saku - Ms. Bari

Kevin - Ms. Murkes

### **Anything But a Car Day**

Leave your car at home for Anything But a Car Day on Wednesday, April 3 and walk, bike, scoot, skate, or ride the bus to school! If you live too far away, drop your student a couple of blocks away (like at the Chase Bank parking lot) and let them walk the rest of the way. Any student who arrives without the family car will receive a Hershey's kiss and a chance to win a gift certificate for boba at Ocha Tea!

### **Reporting an Absence**

Please call the 24hour automated Attendance Line at 650-526-3570, ext. 2680 or email [grahamattendance@mvsd.org](mailto: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**

March 28, Minimum Day for Students, dismissal time for students 12:50PM)  
March 28, New Family Orientation at the Auditorium at 5:45-6:30PM  
March 28, Open House at 6:30 – 7:30PM  
March 29, Principal's Coffee 2:00 PM at the MUR and [ZOOM](#).  
April 2, 8th Grade Panorama Picture  
April 3, Strings Concert at 7:00PM at the Auditorium  
April 4, Project Cornerstone Workshop at 6:00PM [ZOOM](#)  
April 8 to April 12, Spring Break - No School  
April 24, ELAC Meeting at 5:00PM at the MUR  
April 25, Reclassification Ceremony at Crittenden Middle School at 5:00PM  
April 26, CMEA Choral Festival 4:00-9:00PM at the Auditorium  
April 27, CMEA Choral Festival 8:00-4:00PM at the Auditorium  
May 8, GRAHAMmys and Ted Talks Event 6:30-8:30PM at the Auditorium  
May 10, Dance Show 6:00-7:00PM at the Auditorium

May 14, Jazz Cabaret 7:00-8:00PM at the MUR  
May 15, Strings Concert 7:00-8:00PM at the Auditorium  
May 20, Band Concert 6:30-7:30PM at the Auditorium  
May 23, Choir Concert at 7:00PM at the Auditorium  
May 24, End of Trimester 3 - Minimum Day for Students (Dismissal time 12:50PM)  
May 27, Memorial Day - No School  
May 31, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion at 11:00AM at the MV Sports Pavilion  
May 31, Last Day of School - Minimum Day for students (Dismissal Time 12:50PM)

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

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

## **District News**

### **MVWSD Preschool Program: Apply now for August**

Explore our flexible, low-cost and convenient options for all families in our high-quality preschool program. \*New this year\* Lower tuition and an 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. class, in addition to extended/full-day class until 3 p.m. and part-day (3 hour) classes.

Our preschool offers age-appropriate early math, language, literacy and science inquiry instruction, as well as social-emotional development. Children who will be 3- or 4-years old are eligible (Minimum age: 3 years old by December 2, 2024. Maximum age: 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2024.)

Preschool is currently located near Castro/Mistral Elementary Schools (1850 Latham St.) and Theuerkauf Elementary (1625 San Luis Ave.)

All 3- and 4-year-olds residing in the Castro School boundaries are eligible for FREE, part-day state preschool at Latham.

For more info go to [www.mvwsd.org/preschool](http://www.mvwsd.org/preschool) or call 650-526-3560.

### **Parent University: Preparing for Middle School**

Date and Time: 4/2/24 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Registration Link: <http://mvw.sd/pu040224>

Nervous about middle school? We get it! Change can be daunting, but it can also lead to amazing new experiences. Join us to learn how to support your children as they prepare for the next stage in their academic and social lives. We will feature a panel of staff and students from Crittenden and Graham who will offer lots of wisdom and details about grades six, seven, and eight. See you there!

To submit your questions prior to the event, go to [mvw.sd/questions](http://mvw.sd/questions).

### **National Nutrition Month**

All March we've been going "Beyond the Table" to explore how food impacts our bodies, our communities, and the planet. Sustainable food choices can both help us eat healthy and have a positive impact on the environment. Sustainable eating means choosing foods that are produced by practices that are the least harmful and the most beneficial to the environment. The World Wildlife Foundation offers [eight tips for making sustainable food choices](#). By making simple changes, you can contribute to a food system that benefits both the environment and our bodies!

### **21st Annual MVWSD Interscholastic Chess Tournament**

The 21st Annual MVWSD Interscholastic Chess Tournament, sponsored by your PTAs, will be hosted by Landels Elementary on Sunday, April 21st, from 10:00 am to 5:00pm. Students from all MVWSD schools are welcome to join and enjoy an afternoon of friendly competition and camaraderie! The registration

form and instructions can be found at [tinyurl.com/mvwsdchess](https://tinyurl.com/mvwsdchess), and the deadline for registration is April 20. Any questions can be sent to Jonas Klittmark, tournament director, at [mvwsdchess@gmail.com](mailto:mvwsdchess@gmail.com).

### **InPlay: Find camps and afterschool activities**

Spring break and summer vacation are just around the corner. Looking for activities or camps for your children? InPlay offers a free searchable program guide for parents, with filters for age, location, price (including free or reduced cost), and more. To find programs local to Mountain View, head to: <https://www.inplay.org/r/mountain-view>. Available programs include those that serve students with special needs or English learners.

### **MVEF: Support the Arts & Be Wowed!**

Calling all music lovers! Mark your calendars for the MVEF Gala on April 27, a night celebrating the incredible talents of our middle school musicians and vocalists. Witness their hard work and dedication on stage while supporting vital arts programs in our schools. Get your tickets now! <https://paybee.io/@mvf@14>

### **Survey: City of Mountain View wants to know about your journey to school**

Next week, schools throughout Mountain View and Los Altos are participating in the City of Mountain View Safe Route to Schools (SRTS) evaluation project by collecting in-school and in-home information on how students travel to and from school. Students will take a brief survey about their commutes to school during the week of April 1. Parent participation is essential in helping the City of Mountain View develop plans to enhance safety and promote responsible travel behavior for both adults and children on our city streets. The City invites you to take part by completing a brief survey to help us understand your household's perspective on the journey to school. This [survey linked here](#) will be open until April 25, 2024.

### **City of MV: Earth and Arbor Day Photography Contest**

The City of Mountain View has launched a photography contest for its first joint Earth and Arbor Day Celebration! The Mountain View Earth and Arbor Day Photo Contest is open to all Mountain View community member amateur photographers, with three age categories: K-8, High School, and 18+. Entries are due by 5 p.m. on April 10, 2024. This year's theme is "Rooted in Our Environment." We encourage images that depict the beauty, biodiversity, and resilience of the environment in and around our City. [Click here to learn more and submit your photo.](#)

### **SCCOE: Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival**

Santa Clara County Office of Education invites you to the first ever county-wide Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m taking place at the Ridder Park Office, 1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131. Students in grades TK-8 can discover the fun and joy in mathematics by playing games, and solving puzzles with family and friends! We are also looking for volunteers to help with the festival. Parents, educators, high school students and anyone in the community are welcome! Community service hours are available upon request. For registration, volunteer sign-up & more information, please visit <https://sccoe.to/2024JRMF>.