



red tailed hawks news

25030 Via Santee, Murrieta, CA 92563 • 951-696-1404

Principal: Tammy Hunter-Wethers • Assistant Principal: Lynn Nord



Principal Wethers' Message:



Dear Rail Ranch Families,

We would like to welcome all our new and returning students to Rail Ranch. We look forward to the accomplishments we will make together. Our school year was deeply impacted by the COVID pandemic last year. This year our students will return to campus five days a week. The safety of our staff and students takes precedence as we look forward to students on campus.

The protocol for the year is for all staff members and students to wear masks indoors. No masks are required outdoors. This will allow for the school to remain open five days a week. We cannot maintain social distancing and keep students on campus every day. We all may not agree, but we are expected to follow all Riverside County Public Health and CDC Guidelines. We have safety protocols in place such as handwashing stations and disinfecting kits in each classroom.

Our teachers will continue to maintain the Learning Management System called Canvas. It will be a tool to allow communication to families.

This year, we had a staff member retire.
Mrs. Banks, Resource Assistant

We also have some changes on site. Mr. Wisdom joined our Fifth-grade team and Mrs. Sattari joined our First grade team.
Mrs. Solano has joined Rail Ranch as a new Resource Specialist.

Back to School Night will be virtual on Thursday, August 19, 2021. Times to be determined. The teachers will present overviews of their program.

We look forward to your involvement during the 2021-2022 school year.

It is such a privilege to have you here at Rail Ranch!

Tammy Hunter- Wethers Principal
Lynn Nord Assistant Principal



**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11**

**KINDERGARTEN
ORIENTATION**

AUGUST 10TH

2:00 - 2:30 PM

**Meet at the Kinder Area
Located near the corner
of Via Santee and
Via Cadiz**

NEW STUDENT CAMPUS TOURS!

If you're new to Rail Ranch, our Principal, Mrs. Wethers, and Assistant Principal, Mrs. Nord will be giving tours of our campus.

**AUGUST 10
10 AM & 12 PM**

Please meet at the Breezeway located next to the office.

**WE ARE EXCITED TO MEET
OUR NEWEST RED-TAILED
HAWKS!**

VIRTUAL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Thursday, August 19

More information to follow...



Resource Links:

[Community Flyers](#)



[Rail Ranch School Year Calendar](#)

[Parent/Student Handbook](#)



[Rail Ranch Website](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)





Hawk Happenings



BACK TO SCHOOL

8/10- New Student Tours 10 am & 12 pm

8/10- Kinder Orientation 2-2:30 pm

8/11-FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (NO EARLY OUT!)

KINDER SPECIAL SCHEDULE FIRST WEEK ONLY

AM- 8:30-11:20 PM 11:45-2:45

8/11-PTA Boo Hoo/Yahoo Parent Breakfast 8:45am MPR

8/16-8/20 PTA BOOK FAIR WEEK (DURING SCHOOL)

8/18- EARLY OUT WEDNESDAY

8/19- VIRTUAL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

8/25- EARLY OUT WEDNESDAY

FOR THE 21-22 SCHOOL YEAR MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT NO COST TO STUDENTS.

Families are encouraged to complete a 21-22 meal application. This qualification extends to other district and state benefits and helps ensure funding for our classrooms. [Click here for Nutrition information](#)

SPECIAL SCHEDULE FOR KINDER STUDENTS FIRST WEEK ONLY

AM: 8:30-11:20

PM: 11:45-2:45

Drop-off

8:15-8:25 am for grades 1-5.
Morning K begins promptly at 8:25am,
Afternoon K begins promptly at 11:10am.

Pick-up

2:40 pm for grades 1-3.
Grades 4-5 is 2:45 pm.
Afternoon K is 2:40 pm.
Please see the student handbook for Minimum and Early Release (Wednesdays) Day schedules.
No staff is available to watch students before 8:15am and after 3:00pm.

Students must be picked up before 3:00pm.
(Again, please see the student handbook for Minimum and Early Release (Wednesdays) Day schedules.) Early drop off or late pick-up may result in the police being called so that the student is safe.

Supervision is not available for siblings of students in before and after-school programs.

Child care is available on campus for a fee. Please call the district office at 696-1600 for more information if you are interested in before or after-school child care.



Safety in the Loop

Please **do not** leave your vehicle unattended in the loops. A huge thank you to everyone for following the rules and keeping our students safe.



BACK TO SCHOOL

SPIRIT WEEK



Join us in kicking off the school year with our Back to School Spirit Week! We are so excited to see you on campus, Red-Tailed Hawks!



WEDNESDAY, AUG. 11



It's the first day of school! Wear your best or favorite outfit and come ready to meet your new teacher and classmates!



THURSDAY, AUG. 12



Class colors day! Represent your grade level by wearing your class color!

Pre-school/TK/Kinder: Red

3rd: Green

1st: Orange

4th: Blue

2nd: Yellow

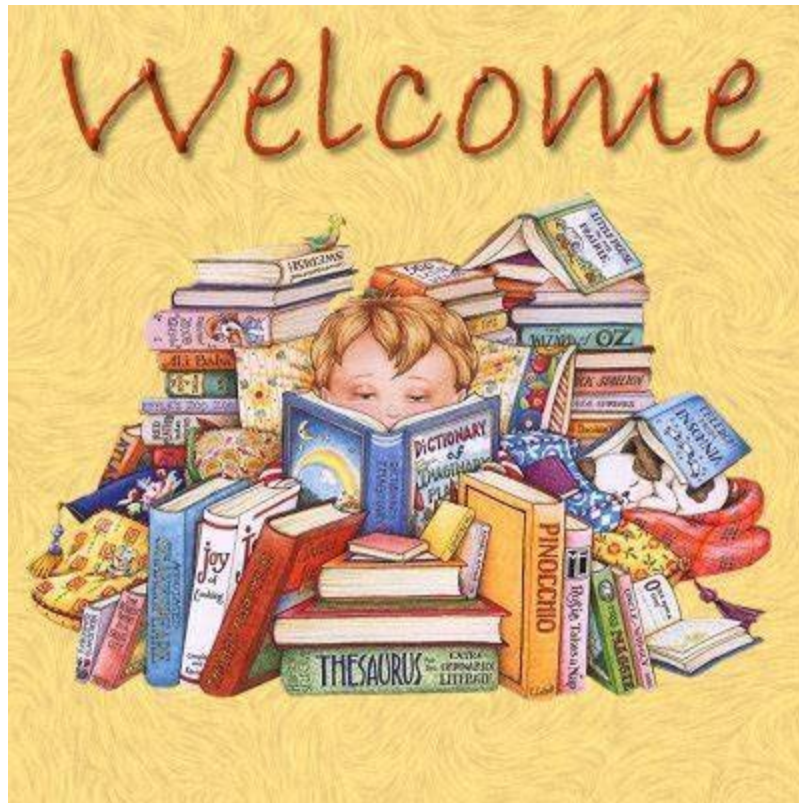
5th: Purple



FRIDAY, AUG. 13



Celebrate our first week of school with your Rail Ranch spirit wear or wear our school colors!



Welcome back! I look forward to seeing you all in the library this year!
Please remember that if you still have a book or a device checked out from
last year you can still return them. Bring them to the library or
drop off in the office between 9 – 3 daily.

See you soon!

Mrs. Harris

**Rail Ranch Elementary School
School Site Council**

Nominations for Parent Member
2021-2022 through 2022-2023 Term

August 5, 2021

The Rail Ranch Elementary School Site Council (SSC) has three **parent** vacancies that need to be filled at this time. The purpose of this letter is to secure nominations for these open positions and get some background information for our ballot.

Our bylaws indicate that each term is two years. However, if you are really interested in getting involved with SSC and only have one year left at Rail Ranch (for example, your child is a 5th grader now), this can work as long as we have parents of younger school age children that can commit to a 2 year term. In other words, we have the flexibility to stagger the commitments over 1, 2 and 3 years if that will encourage more parents to get involved with SSC. ●

What is the SSC? School Site Council is a parent and staff advisory committee comprised of parents and staff members. This council reviews and updates Rail Ranch’s Single Plan for Student Achievement, School Safety Plan, and Parent Involvement Policy, to name a few. All SSC decisions are made jointly with input from Rail Ranch staff, including our Leadership Team.

What are the duties of the SSC members? The SSC meets approximately once per month to review budgets and assessment data as they relate to our School Plan for Student Achievement, School Safety Plan, English Learner (EL) programs, Intervention programs, Enrichment programs, and Core Instruction programs.

Please fill out the bottom part of this letter and return it to the front office by August 20th . A ballot will be sent out on August 23rd, due by August 30th. (Please print form)

Three parent members are needed beginning the 2021-2022 school year. This will be a two-year term. Meetings will be virtual.

Sincerely,
Tammy Hunter-Wethers, Principal
Thunter-wethers@murrieta.k12.ca.us

Your name _____ Your Child’s name _____
(Please Print) (Please Print)

Child’s current grade (circle): K 1 2 3 4 5

Signature _____ Phone Number _____

I would like the following information about me placed on the ballot. (3-5 sentences describing yourself)

Tammy Hunter-Wethers, Principal



MORE THAN A MEAL



Filling out a Meal Application directly impacts the amount of funding our district receives under the Local Control Funding Formula.

This funding provides
-Support Staff
-Computers and Technology
-Career Tech Programs

If your household income is below the guidelines you may also qualify for



- FREE SCHOOL MEALS
- COLLEGE APPLICATION FEES
- SAT, ACT, AP TESTING FEES
- TRANSPORTATION DISCOUNTS



Household Size	Household Annual Income
2	\$32,227
3	\$40,626
4	\$49,025
5	\$57,424
6	\$65,823



EVERY YEAR

a new application is required.
Last years application will cover the first 30 days of school

Because of you, we can ensure that our students receive their fair share of resources they deserve



FILL OUT AN APPLICATION



THE QUICKEST WAY TO APPLY IS
WWW.MURRIETASCHOOLNUTRITION.COM
CLICK "MEAL APPLICATIONS"
APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT EACH
SCHOOL IN THE CAFETERIA OR FRONT OFFICE

LEARNING WITH MVUSD

Reaffirming Parent Choice while Meeting Individual Student Needs for the 2021-22 School Year

	 HOME-BASED (TK-8)	 VIRTUAL (TK-5)	 INDEPENDENT STUDY (6-12)
INSTRUCTION	Parent Led Teacher Supported	Teacher Led Parent Supported	Student Driven Teacher Monitored Parent Supported
TYPE OF INSTRUCTION	Parent Determined	Live Instruction* Independent Work <i>*Live Lessons via Zoom or Teams</i>	Online Self-Paced
SCHEDULE	Flexible & Individualized	Must Follow Daily School Schedule	Flexible & Individualized
CURRICULUM	MVUSD Adopted Curriculum	MVUSD Adopted Curriculum	MVUSD Adopted Curriculum
SCHOOL AFFILIATION	Neighborhood School with Access to Activities/Programs	Neighborhood School with Access to Activities/Programs	Option for Co-Enrollment
TECHNOLOGY	Devices Available	Devices Available	Devices Available
CONTACT INFO:	Grades TK-8: LearnatHome@murrieta.k12.ca.us	Grades 9-12 mbean@murrieta.k12.ca.us	

This comparison chart is a helpful tool for Murrieta Valley USD families looking for learning options outside of the traditional school model in a pandemic environment. MVUSD is committed to providing options that meet the unique needs and learning styles of our school community. These options are dependent upon the California Department of Education's requirements and instructional allowances post COVID-19 and any new legislation affecting instructional time and compulsory education requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions

FACE COVERINGS/MASKS



MURRIETA VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. Are face mask or coverings mandatory for all students?

Answer: Yes. Per [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) latest school guidance, face coverings/masks are required INDOORS only for students, staff, volunteers and guests in school settings.

2. What happens with the face mask when students are outdoors?

Answer: We recommend parents provide their students with a mask holder or clean, sanitized pouch where students can temporarily place their masks while enjoying the outdoors. Replacement face masks will be available for students.

3. What kind of face mask does my child have to wear?

Answer: An effective mask is a well-fitted one that has no gaps between the nose, mouth, and mask. The CDPH has specific guidance for cloth and disposable masks. Please visit the [CDPH page on face masks](#) for more information.

4. Will school staff and teachers be mandated to wear face coverings?

Answer: Yes. Per [CDC](#) and [CDPH](#) latest school guidance all school staff in a K-12 setting, must wear face coverings while INSIDE classroom settings.

5. What happens if my student forgets the mask at home?

Answer: Students will be provided a face mask if they forget their mask at home.

6. How are you enforcing the mask mandate?

Answer: Students refusing to wear a mask while indoors at school is an academic and health issue that will be treated as such. Each Principal will address with each family on a case-by-case basis. The goal is to ensure priority is placed on meeting the educational needs of the student, five days a week, with full access to school programs, activities and co-curriculars while also prioritizing the health and safety of all students and staff.

7. I refuse to send to my student to school with a face mask, what will happen to him/her?

Answer: The health and safety of students and staff is a high priority. Preventing a COVID-19 exposure and/or outbreak is critical.

Students who refuse to comply will not be permitted inside the classroom. The school may pursue different options, including but not limited to 1. sending the student outside to work independently on class assignments using a school issued laptop and the Canvas learning management system; 2. calling parents to pick-up the student; 3. in extreme cases placing the student in homeschool, virtual (TK-5) or independent study program.

8. My student has a medical condition that prevents him/her from wearing a mask, are there medical exemptions?

Answer: Yes. Any student seeking a medical exemption to the mask requirement must have the student's treating physician complete a Medical/Health Exemption Form. Per CDPH guidelines, "Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, if their condition permits it."

Frequently Asked Questions

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS



MURRIETA VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. *What enhanced health and safety best practices are being implemented for the 2021-22 school year?*

Answer: *Enhancing the health and safety of school sites in a pandemic environment is a challenge best mitigated using a multi-layer approach by parents, school sites, and students. For our part, all students and staff are required to wear a face covering when inside classroom spaces. All classrooms have a sanitizing station filled with surface disinfectant, wipes, paper towels, and hand sanitizer. Additionally, each school site has been equipped with mobile sanitizing stations that include a portable hand washer. Our custodial crews have increased the cleaning and sanitizing schedules of restrooms, classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, lunch areas, and frequented public spaces such as school offices, health rooms, and libraries. Furthermore, our crews have added air filter checks to our routine weekly cleaning checklist to ensure that our MERV 9 & 11 air filters are properly functioning. Outside of the classroom, all school meals include individually packaged food products and no payment contact (Meals are no cost). Teachers and school sites are expanding use of our outdoor spaces for class time as weather and lessons permit.*

2. *Are schools preparing to accommodate social distancing and what does that look like for my student's class?*

Answer: *No. The latest CDPH guidance does not specify a minimum distancing requirement. The goal is to accommodate all students in class five day a week, full time.*

3. *I want my student back at school; HOWEVER, I am worried about my student's health and exposure to students who may be non-complaint with mask requirements. What are my options?*

Answer: *Murrieta Valley USD offers different learning options for students in our district. Students in grades TK-5 may choose a district sponsored homeschool program using MVUSD's rigorous academic materials. Students in TK-5 may also choose virtual learning, which allows students to follow the current school schedule and log-in from home to view synchronous and asynchronous lessons from an assigned teacher.*

Students in grades 6-8 have a district sponsored homeschool and independent study option where families have scheduling flexibility, online resources, and may include synchronous or asynchronous lessons.

Students in grades 9-12 may choose our independent study option as an alternative to traditional school.

4. *Will my student be sent home if he/she has allergies or a major cold?*

Answer: *Each school site has a health technician and a school nurse who will evaluate students when they are sent to the health office with signs of illness. They will decide the next steps based on multiple factors, including a student health history review provided by parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year.*

If your child is exhibiting any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19, please keep them at home.

5. *What are the quarantine protocols if my student is exposed to someone with COVID-19?*

Answer: Depends. When individuals are properly wearing a face mask indoors at school, unvaccinated students who were in close contact (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) **may be placed** in a 10-day quarantine. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- Are asymptomatic.
- Continue to appropriately mask, as required.
- Abstain from all extracurricular activities, including sports, and activities for ten days.
- If the student exposed to COVID-19 is fully vaccinated they will not need to quarantine if they are asymptomatic.

6. *Will all plexi-shields be removed from classrooms?*

Answer: Per current CDPH guidance, plexi-shields are not required. They have been removed and are stored on-site. If a student or teacher feels more comfortable with a plexi-shield on their desk, they have the option to request one.

7. *Will students and staff be tested every week?*

Answer: No. There is currently no “one size fits all” approach to student testing. Upon parent request, school sites can offer COVID-19 testing to students or provide a list of resources where students can be tested at no cost. Staff testing falls under the regulation of Cal/OSHA and MVUSD will adhere to the employer mandated testing requirements as outlined in Cal/OSHA’s COVID-19 regulations.

8. *How often are classrooms and common areas cleaned and disinfected?*

Answer: Classrooms and school sites are cleaned throughout the day by our trained custodial crews. Every custodial team member is properly trained to clean and disinfect according to the health & safety standards established in the State of California for educational facilities. At the end of each school day, crews work into the evening disinfecting the school building including classrooms, student desks, weight rooms, gyms, multi-purpose areas, libraries, as well as frequented and common areas.

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL SCHOOL DAY



MURRIETA VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. Will students be allowed to play outside, and will they be allowed to play with their friends?

Answer: Yes! Students and staff are permitted to go outside and do not have to wear a face mask outdoors. In fact, we are encouraging sites and teachers to plan lessons and activities outdoors.

2. Will Special Education services be provided for all learning models (traditional, homeschool, virtual(TK-5), and independent study)?

Answer: The district is committed to flexibility and working with families to address the academic needs of all students. Each student's individualized education program will address the special education services the student requires.

3. Will other services such as EL supports and education intervention be provided for all three instructional models (traditional, homeschool, virtual, and independent study)?

Answer: Yes, we are working to meet students' unique needs in any of the models to the greatest extent possible. Reach out to your students' school for more information.

4. Can I volunteer at my students' school?

Answer: We appreciate having parent volunteers in our classrooms and recognize this is great way for our parent community to connect with their student's school. However, per [CDPH current guidance](#), schools should limit volunteers, and who are not fully vaccinated in school settings. We are pausing volunteers for now and will be revisiting local pandemic conditions after the first month of school.

5. Are parents permitted to attend Friday flag or other award ceremonies?

Answer: Yes! Schools have been directed to maximize their outdoor spaces to foster parent engagement and participation. Larger school events like Back-to-School Night will continue in a virtual format, which provides parents greater flexibility in viewing the material 24/7 online.

6. I heard school meals are no cost this year, is this true?

Answer: Yes, one pre-packaged breakfast and one pre-packaged lunch will be available M-F at no cost to all students. Second servings or 'A la Carte' items will be charged at the regular rate to the student's pre-paid meal account (www.myschoolbucks.com)

7. Do I have to fill out a free/reduced price lunch application this year since meals are no cost?

Answer: We highly encourage all families to submit a free/reduced price lunch application since there are additional benefits attached to the free/reduced price lunch qualification such as, P-EBT benefits, waived or reduced SAT/ACT/AP test fees & fee waivers for college applications, and reduced public transportation costs.