Volume 5

January 2024

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello, Colt families!

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday break with your children at home. We are thrilled to welcome the students back to the campus. This week, we took the time to meet with all students to review our behavioral expectations. As we informed the students, our priority is to ensure their safety while they focus on learning. We reviewed all the school rules, but the overall theme is to "Do the right thing, all the time." We have amazing students who understand right from wrong. They simply need to remember to make good choices, which they usually do. We have informed students that they would be rewarded for exhibiting positive behavior. These rewards include front-of-the-line passes, passes to exempt them from running the mile during PE, front-row seats at school events, and many more. We want to focus more on the positive than the negative.

Another strong message was the importance of reporting any and all incidents to a trusted adult immediately. This can be a principal, counselor, teacher, aide, or school resource officer. We would like to think we see and hear everything, but we don't. This is why we encourage our students to report any negative behavior they experience or witness. We assured the students that we would investigate all reports and put a stop to the behavior. Again, our number one priority is to ensure their safety while they focus on learning.

Parents, I thank you immensely for echoing this message to our students outside of school as well. We truly feel we are the best middle school in the world, and that's because of the work you do at home – thank you for your support.

Happy 2024!

Mr. Patane



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Important dates:

8 - PD Day

15 - NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Day

30 - HSKO

2/2 - 8TH GRADE DANCE

Notes:



School UPDATES

* Picking Up a Student Early

Please come to the front office, present picture identification to the receptionist, and sign the attendance early release form.

Students will not be released to any individual not listed on the emergency card (filled out annually during registration), or you must make prior arrangements with the front office. Students cannot be released to minor siblings or family members/friends. Contact the front office to update your student's emergency contacts as needed.

Students will not be called out of class before the parent's arrival. They cannot wait in the lobby.

Students will no longer be called out of class to leave campus after 2:35 p.m. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday, students will no longer be called out of class to leave campus after 1:15 p.m.

If you need to take your student from a PE class, please allow enough time before 2:35 p.m./1:15 p.m.

* STUDENT DROP OFF

- Students should not exit the vehicle in the middle lane.
- No parking in handicap unless you have a plancard.
- Drive the speed limit.
- Be courteous!

* MESSAGES AND DELIVERIES

Students should be responsible for remembering their work, lunches, clothing, band instruments, sports equipment, or other necessities; therefore, we do not accept items for drop off or delivery to students. No cell phones, instruments, cash, wallets, or any other valuable items can be left at the front desk or dropped off for students. We appreciate your assistance in helping us to reserve this function for true emergencies. Parents can email teachers if they need to give their students a message.



School UPDATES



DRESS CODE

Student attire and grooming must permit the student to participate in learning without posing a risk to the learning environment, health or safety, or any student or district personnel.

- A) Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent (for example dresses, leggings, or shorts) and safe shoes.
- B) When the body is standing straight, clothing must cover the chest, back, torso, stomach, and lower extremities from armpit to armpit to mid-thigh. tops must have a strap and at no time may any part of a student's buttocks be exposed.
- C) Clothing must cover all undergarments. No underwear or undergarments may be visible at any time. Clothing may not be see-through.
- D) Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, field trips, and other activities where unique hazards or specialized attire or safety gear is required. Bare feet are not permitted at any time. Attire and/or grooming depicting or advocating violence, weapons, criminal activity, gang-related activity (including clothes, accessories, or colors identified by MPD as gang affiliated), use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs, pornography, foul language, hate speech, or clothing that could be considered dangerous or that could be used as a weapon are prohibited.



HEALTH OFFICE

Parents, due to the cell phone use policy, please remind your student(s) to go to the health office to call home when they are feeling sick.



CELL PHONES

Phones must not be used during the school day including (class) time, break, and lunch.

Phones must be turned off and put away while on campus.

If a student is using their phone, staff will have the student power off their phone, put it back in their backpack, and assign an appropriate consequence.





Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation. Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- · Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- · Keep your student healthy, and if you are concerned about Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- · Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- · Monitor you teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- · Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- · Notice and support your students if they are showing signs of anxiety.

Communicate with the school

- · Know the school's attendance policy incentives and penalties.
- · Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- · Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.

Revised September 2023



REWARDS





Be Bur Kind of Cott!

Leading the Way Everyday



- Follow instructions of all adults on campus
- Have all technology turned off and in your backpack
- Come prepared with all materials and dressed in school appropriate clothing
- Actively participate in class and stay on task
- Gum and food-free zone

Be

- Treat others with acceptance and kindness
- Speak kindly and politely
- Use appropriate voice volume and tone
- · Take care of all school facilities and materials
- Properly dispose of your trash

areful

- Walk at all times
- · Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
- All sports equipment (including basketballs), put away in backpacks or carried in hands
- Use the crosswalk
- Only enter/exit cars from curb
- Walk your bikes



Full Service After School Sports Program

Grade 6 OPPORTUNITY FREE, IN PERSON

Dorothy McElhinney Middle School



The Murrieta Valley Unified School District will be offering free after-school enrichment activities for students with the help of Elevo for the 2023-2024 school year. Elevo's Elevate program

is aligned with the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) requirements.

What are the dates of the sessions?

Sessions take place from: November 29-May 31

Start/End Times

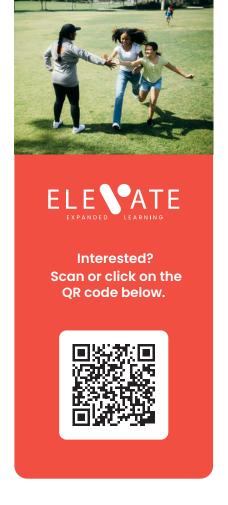
Monday: 3:00pm-6:00pm

Tuesday: 3:00pm-6:00pm

Wednesday: 1:30pm-6:00pm

Thursday: 3:00pm-6:00pm

Friday: 3:00pm-6:00pm



What's included?

Free snacks will be included, alongside the offerings below:

Rotating Academic
Support

Enrichment Activities

Sports

SEL Infused Games

Note: Elevo and School staff will help facilitate snack. Any known food allergies must be communicated to the Site Coordinator by or before the first attended session





DMMS SITE COUNCIL



The California Education Code requires school site councils to:

- *Measure the effectiveness of improvement strategies at the school.
- *Seek input from school advisory committees.
- *Reaffirm or revise school goals.
- *Recommend the approved Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) to the governing board.
- *Monitor the Implementation of the SPSA.

We will meet twice this semester Feb. 21st & and April 17th at 3 pm in the OCD meeting room in the front office.

We would love to have representation from teachers, classified staff members, and parents.

Please email Heather Just [hjust@murrieta.k12.ca.us] or call Courtney Hansen at 951-304-1885 if you are interested in participating.

We look forward to working together to support the amazing things that are happening on our campus!

Courselor's Corner





Hello Colts!





<u>HSKO</u>

Explore everything that High School has to offer right here on campus during lunch.

CTE PATHWAYS - LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES & PERFORMANCES - SPORTS - COURSE INFORMATION - JROTC - BAND - CHEER - DANCE - CLUBS - AVID - COLOR GUARD

UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNSELING 1:1 STUDENT PULL OUTS -6TH & 7TH GRADE

MONTH OF JANUARY

HIGH SCHOOL KICK OFF

JANUARY 30, 2024