

# Colt Connection

Volume 4



December 2023



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Colt Families,

A warm, holiday season “hello” from Dorothy McElhinney Middle School! December is a short month here at DMMS, but we still seem to pack in a month’s worth of activities into a shorter amount of time. In the next few weeks alone, we have our school dance, Unified soccer tournament, cross country meet, robotics competition, band concert, staff vs. students’ volleyball game, holiday parades, dance show, and guitar performance, not to mention final exams. Whew!

Speaking of final exams, while we recognize this is an exciting time of year, we also very much value the learning time December offers. Therefore, we continue to stress that students these next three weeks are very important for class time and learning. It’s important that students remain focused and work hard right up to December 15th. In addition, attending classes is crucial for students to excel in their final exams. No finals will be given before the last week of school before break.

We also want to take a moment to wish everyone a joyful and restful holiday. This is the time of year when many people take time to reflect on the things they are grateful for, as well as 'resolve' to change aspects of their lives. Whatever it is you are focused on this holiday season, may it bring you happiness and fulfillment. We look forward to seeing everyone again in January eager to get back to the amazing learning opportunities that are found at Dorothy McElhinney Middle School.

Have a great December and a wonderful holiday season!

Mr. Patane

2023

# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						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

## Important dates:

6 - Choir Winter Concert

Cross Country Intramurals @ TMS

8 - Dance Show in MPR

Football Intramurals @ MVHS 6pm

12 - COLT Awards in MPR @ 8:30 am

Intramural Championships

13 - Nightmare Before Winter Break DANCE

15 - Winter Break RALLY

12/16 to 1/8 - Winter Break



# Colt Awards and Accomplishments

SEPTEMBER  
COMPASSION

OCTOBER  
OPEN MINDED

NOVEMBER  
LEARNER



PERFECT ATTENDANCE

September

410 STUDENTS

October

1362 STUDENTS



# 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.

## 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.

## STUDENT DROP OFF

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

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents, are you interested in becoming a substitute crossing guard? MVUSD and DMMS are in need of crossing guards. Please see the following link to apply!

**[EDJOIN LINK \(CLICK HERE\)](#)**





## 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 your 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



DMMS

# HOLIDAY DRIVE FOR THE TROOPS

Deployed troops don't get to come home for the holidays! Let's show them support, and send some things they are needing.



**Letters of support and encouragement are always favored!**



## MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Wet Wipes
- Beef Jerky
- Protein Bars
- Canned Meat
- Chapstick
- Gum
- Trail Mix/Fruit Snacks
- Deodorant
- Snack Size Chips
- Socks
- Hair ties
- Toiletries

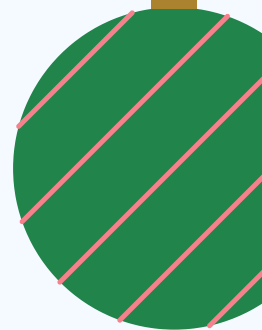
Bring your items to your teachers, or the box in student services December 1st-15th.



DMMS

# SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to the  
following students!  
MVUSD Spelling Bee  
will be in January 2024.

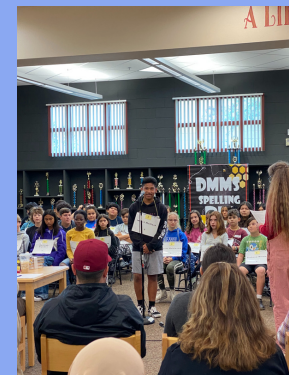


## Co Champions

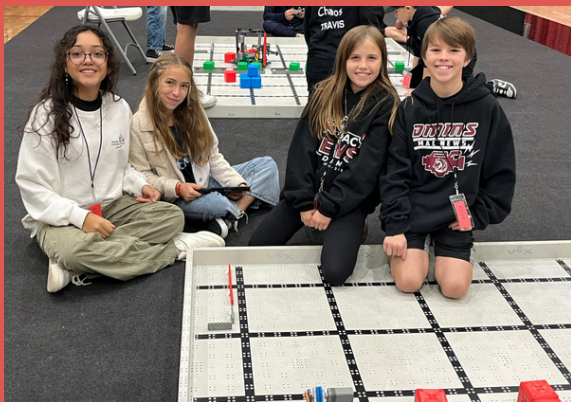
MADISON LUNA & ADDISON PLATEK

## Alternate

ODINA MUHAMMADIYEVA







# DMMS ROBOTICS

 **11/30/2023**

Your Colts brought home all 4 trophies from the Robotics 1 Intramurals. First place in skills, the tournament, and the overall EXCELLENCE award! All of the students who participated worked hard and were at the top of their classes. What a fun day. I attached images and videos from our special day.



# Full Service After School Sports Program

**Grade 6 OPPORTUNITY  
FREE, IN PERSON**

**Dorothy McElhinney Middle School**



**MURRIETA VALLEY**  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**

**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.



MURRIETA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



**ELEVATE**  
EXPANDED LEARNING

**Interested?  
Scan or click on the  
QR code below.**



## What's included?

Free snacks will be included, alongside the offerings below:



**Rotating Academic  
Support**



**Enrichment Activities**



**Sports**

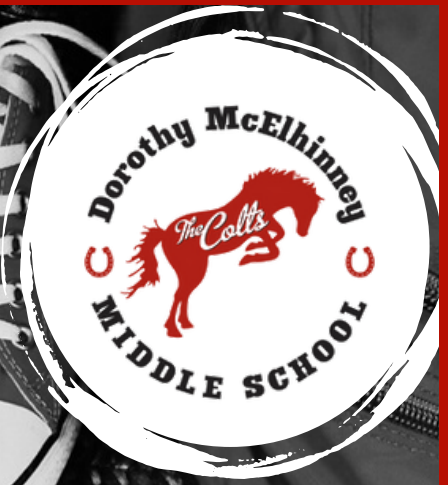


**SEL Infused Games  
& Activities**



NEED HELP? GRADES SLIPPING?

**GET  
HOMEWORK  
HELP**



## Homework Help

Math	Monday & Wednesday	8:00-9:00	Mr. Quick	F214
Math	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	8:15-8:45	Mrs. Ackerman	F111
Math	Monday & Tuesday	3:10-4:10	Mrs. Fuller	F112
Homework Help	Tuesday - Thursday	8:15-9:00	Mr. Williams	D114
Homework Help	Tuesday & Thursday	8:00-9:00	Mr. Ryan	F217
Homework Help	Tuesday	3:05-4:00	Mrs. Garcia	D205
Homework Help	Thursday	8:00-9:00	Mrs. Garcia	D205
Homework Help	Thursday	3:05-4:00	Mr. Smith	E107
Homework Help	Friday	8:00-9:00	Mr. Smith	E107

## Enrichment Activities

Chess	Friday	8:00-9:00	Mr. Ryan	F217
Choreography101	Monday	3:10-4:10	Mrs. Hanlon	G102
Coding with Minecraft	Wednesday	8:00-8:50	Mrs. Campbell	E121
Creative Writing	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:00-9:00	Mrs. Poznanski	D206
Hand Sewing Cross Stitch	Tuesday & Thursday	3:15-4:15	Mrs. Beckley	F106
Intro to Jazz	Monday	3:15-4:15	Mr. Merrin	Band
Robotics	Monday	3:15-4:15	Mrs. Campbell	E119
Sports Statistics	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	8:00-9:00	Mr. Quick	F214
Poetry Circle	Tuesday	3:05-4:00	Mrs. Talamo	D217
6 <sup>th</sup> gr Cheer Clinic	Tuesday & Thursday	8:00-9:00	Ms. Galindo	F215
STEM	Tuesday & Thursday	8:00-8:55	Mrs. Goebel	D112
Disc Golf	Monday	3:05-4:00	Mr. Gajecki and Mr. Owens	Fields & Gym



# Counselor's Corner



## ACHIEVEMENT

The end of the semester is approaching! Remember to check grades in Canvas and AERIES regularly. Filling out agendas, talking to teachers, and attending Homework Help are ways to improve grades.

At the end of the semester, grades are posted to AERIES and then on the students' transcripts.

## CCGI- CALIFORNIA COLLEGES GUIDANCE INITIATIVE:

8th-grade students will have their CCGI lessons this month. 6th and 7th graders had their lessons earlier in the semester. As a reminder, every DMMS student has a CCGI account and may use it at home. This account will be theirs until they graduate from Murrieta. Students log into their accounts from the following website:

[www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu). Talk to your student about their recent lesson!



CALIFORNIA  
COLLEGES.edu  
DISCOVER. PLAN. LAUNCH.