



Superintendent/Principal
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Happy Valley School

A California Distinguished School
Small School, Big Goals, Amazing Results
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Administrative Assistant
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August 7, 2023

Dear Happy Valley Families,

Happy New School Year! I hope you had a fabulous summer. My family and I were able to spend time in Hawaii and I came back relaxed and refreshed! The staff and I are thrilled to welcome you and your children back to school this year. We are lucky to have many new students. This is an amazing community and we look forward to years of learning and growing together

Everyone worked hard to get things looking good for students' return. Amy Adams and friends from her church painted the sport court. Wally Reader continues to volunteer to mow our field and maintain the ride-on mower. Cliff Hodges is working with a company to fix the sprinkler system on the field, so it should be greener soon. Our maintenance crew and staff were here throughout the summer, organizing, cleaning, weeding, and fixing things. The girls' bathroom is being painted, and should be finished shortly after school begins. Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently to make our school welcoming in every way.

As some of you know, Happy Valley qualified for Hardship and Modernization funding in 2014. The funding has finally been released, and Paige and I have spent a majority of our summer meeting with architects, project managers, and contractors. There are three phases to the project, with the actual construction slated to begin summer or fall of 2024.

- Phase 1: Portable replacement: Room 6 and the Library/resource room
- Phase 2: New restrooms built by the sport court
- Phase 3: New administration wing including a staff room, kitchen and main office

I will update you throughout the year when new things happen. Additionally, our board meetings will focus on the projects throughout the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

We are fortunate to have Ohlsen foods providing lunches for us again this year. [Here](#) is the menu for August, which is also on our website. In order for students to receive lunch, **they need to order ahead of time.** A new menu will go out monthly. If your child is out for any reason or on a field trip, please be sure to contact Ohlsen Foods to cancel lunch for the day. Even if you order lunch, please send a snack with your child. Although the State of California mandates that we offer free lunch, because of our size and our Basic Aid status, the cost of the program outweighs any state reimbursements we can receive. If you are able and willing, please donate toward the lunches if your child participates. However, I do want you to know that *lunches are provided free to every student*, and we don't keep track of who is paying and who is not.

We are going to try something new with the lunch and recess schedule. The purpose is to give the students some special time with their own age groups, as well as break up the 30 minute lunch recess. This will also give the intermediate classes nice long periods in the afternoon. Here is the schedule:

Recess and Lunch Schedule	
Morning Recesses	9:25 am—9:35 am 10:25 am—10:40 am 11:25 am—11:35 am Friday recesses: 9:30-9:40 10:55-11:10
Lunch	Monday-Friday
12:05-12:30	Intermediate (4th-6th grades)
12:10-12:45	Kindergarten (includes play time)
12:20- 12:45	Primary (1st-3rd grades)
Lunch Recesses	Monday- Thursday
12:30-1:00	Intermediate
12:45—1:15	Primary

We are lucky to have Sprouts Aftercare supporting our students this year, starting the first day of school! They will be having a "Sprouts Orientation" on Wednesday, August 9th from 3pm-4pm for anyone that wants to enroll, ask questions, and see how to sign their children in and out. They are asking that you register for orientation. You can also enroll by emailing or calling/texting.

Shannon & Jordan
sproutscruz@gmail.com
Shannon 415-722-6339
Jordan 805-415-2433
Sproutsaftercare.com

There is also a link on our website for more information.

If you need financial support, please contact me. Even though lunch is provided free of charge to families, we use the free and reduced lunch application to determine funding for families that qualify for additional assistance.

There are lots of exciting changes this year. Ms. Ruwe has returned to teaching first grade after serving as our intervention teacher and academic coach for two years. We have great additions to our staff.

- Laura Neef, TK/K and 4/5 teaching assistant
- Shaena Strubing, TK/K teaching assistant
- Amy Adams, 2nd grade teaching assistant
- Susan Haight, 4/5 teaching assistant
- Steve Seffinger, 5th grade math
- Laurel Maxwell, Intervention teacher

[Here](#) is our class list. We will have 3 combination classrooms, TK/K, 4th/5th grades, and 5th/6th grades. An additional email will be following this one for families in the intermediate grades.

Watch for an email from Donna Walker regarding on line registration through SchoolWise. (New families have already completed this paperwork.)

Our Parent Club would like to invite you to the stage after drop off on Thursday, August 10th. They will have coffee and goodies and let you know all they have to offer and how you can be involved.

Please remember my door is always open. We are here to support you and your child, and I look forward to a fantastic year.

Fondly,

Michelle Stewart