



Superintendent/Principal  
Michelle Stewart  
mstewart@hvesd.com

# Happy Valley School

A California Distinguished School  
*Small School, Big Goals, Amazing Results*  
3125 Branciforte Drive  
Santa Cruz, CA 95065  
(831)429-1456



Administrative Assistant  
Paige Lynd  
plynd@hvesd.com

**August, 2025**

Dear Happy Valley Families and Community,

I hope you are enjoying the last few days of summer! I went to Oregon and Washington and saw family. It was a great getaway!

<b>Staff Assignments, 2025</b>		
<b><u>Grade/s or Subjects</u></b>	<b><u>Classroom</u></b>	<b><u>Staff</u></b>
5th/6th Grade	Room 1	Kate Royer, Teacher Cynthia Peterson, Teaching Assistant
4th Grade	Room 6	Sophie Hannah, Teacher Maggie Evans, Teaching Assistant
3rd Grade	Room 3	Lindsey Doolan, Teacher Gail Clary, Teaching Assistant
2nd Grade	Room 2	Kara Willett, Teacher Amy Adams, Teaching Assistant
Kindergarten/1st Grade	Room 4	Carey Ruwe, Teacher Doreen Wooten, Teaching Assistant
Transitional Kindergarten	Room 5	Angie Rossi, Teacher Shaena Strubing, Teaching Assistant
Resource (Special Education) and English Learner Support	Resource Room	Laurel Maxwell
Art Music	Art and Music Room	Sarah DeMeyer, Art David Smith, Music (Aug-Nov) Rebecca Sandberg, (Dec-May)
Speech OT	Resource Room	Tiffany Willet, Speech Therapist Katy Lauzier, Occupational Therapist



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We still need a garden teacher, so if you know of anyone, please have them contact me. Lindsay Patel will be helping to organize the library and can always use volunteers to help shelve and code books. We are so excited about the new students joining us this year, and they keep coming in! Right now we are planning on offering a straight 4th grade, but please know that because of the uncertainty of registration, this could still change.

Update on student restrooms: For the entirety of last year, the students and staff have been anticipating new student restrooms. There have been many things that complicated & slowed the completion of the restrooms - especially in regards to the required state/legislative mandates and processes. After multiple public bids requests that received no response, the Board and District were finally able to enter into an agreement this week with a contractor. We are looking forward to working with JM construction. The owner, Jim Edens, is a former Happy Valley parent and Board Member. Luckily, we are in far better hands with this firm than we were in our previous projects. The restrooms have been built offsite, and once delivered (scheduled for the end of August), the contractor will install plumbing and electricity. Although the students will be starting the year with porta potties, fencing, and some dust and noise, we finally have an end in sight.

I am excited to let you know the Parent Club funded a face lift on our sport court! Carlos, our wonderful maintenance worker, did a great job reframing and painting. We still need someone to paint the goals on the backstops if you are interested in helping.

We appreciate your patience! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

Sincerely, Michelle Stewart and the HVESD School Board