



Happy Valley Elementary School District

Small School, Big Goals, Amazing Results

3125 Branciforte Drive

Santa Cruz, CA 95065

(831)429-1456

www.hvesd.com

Proudly recognized as a California Honor Roll School

Superintendent/Principal

Michelle Stewart

mstewart@hvesd.com

Administrative Assistant

Paige Lynd

plynd@hvesd.com

August 7, 2026

Hello, Happy Valley Families! We are excited to welcome you back and hope you had a great summer. I was able to take my family to Kauai and we had a wonderful time!

Many of our 5th graders are anxious to know whether they will be in Room 6 or Room 1. As of today, all 5th and 6th graders will be in a combination class with Ms. Royer in Room 1. Please see the chart below for all of our grades, staff and classrooms. We are also excited to welcome some new staff members! Please be sure to introduce yourself when you come to school.

Our first day of school is next Wednesday, August 12th. The first day of school many family members like to walk their children to their classes and we welcome that. Please be sure to use a designated parking space. There are spaces up above if you have problems finding a parking space. Please always remember to keep your children with you when walking in the parking lot and staying alongside the buildings. We want to be sure everyone is safe.

Please join us for a first day coffee with the Happy Valley Parent Club. We will be at the stage following drop off. This is a great opportunity for you to meet new and returning parents as well as hear about all of the great things happening and how you can be involved.

Lunch is provided to all students free of charge; however, because of the way we are funded we do not get reimbursement from the state. Therefore, we kindly request donations from families who are able to pay. The cost is \$9.20 per lunch. Here is the information from [Ohlson Foods](#). A link to the menu is posted on our [website](#), and will be sent out to you in our Friday updates. (For new families, we recommend that even if you buy lunch, pack your kids some healthy snacks. With three recess, they get hungry!)

We partner with Sprouts, our after school program. Child care is available on a part or full time basis. Here is the [link](#) to the information. (Families who qualify can receive financial assistance. Please contact me if you have any questions.)



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Our Staff:

Administration	Michelle Stewart, Principal/Superintendent Paige Lynd, Administrative Assistant Donna Walker Administrative Assistant
Transitional Kindergarten, Room 5	Angie Rossi, Teacher Stephanie Trujillo, Instructional Assistant
Kindergarten, Room 4	Carey Ruwe, Teacher Doreen Wootten, Instructional Assistant
1st and 2nd grade, Room 2	Kara Willett, Teacher Amy Adams, Instructional Assistant
3rd grade, Room 3	Lindsey Doolan, Teacher Gail Clary, Instructional Assistant
4th, Room 6	Sophie Hannah, Teacher Maggie Evans, Instructional Assistant
5th/6th grade, Room 1	Kate Royer, Teacher Alana Sparks, Student Teacher Denise Woods, Instructional Assistant
Art	Sarah DeMeyer
Music and Performing Arts	TBD
Special Ed, Intervention	Laurel Maxwell, RSP Teacher Tiffany Willet, Speech Therapist Katy Lauzier, Occupational Therapist
Garden Assistant	Julia Gospodnetich
Librarian	Joanna Chao
Counselor	Carly Perlman



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Bell Schedule

	Monday - Thursday		Friday
	<u>Start</u>	<u>Dismissal</u>	<u>Dismissal</u>
TK	8:15	12:30	12:30
Kindergarten	8:15	1:30	12:30
Primary	8:15	2:25	12:30
Intermediate	8:15	2:55	12:30

Our new track looks great and we are ready to have students safely walk and run safely at recess and during P.E. Although we welcome the community to use the school grounds when school is not in session, we ask that everyone help us to keep the track in working order by not riding any motorized bikes or skateboards on the track. Thank you for your cooperation and spreading the word to others you may know.

For more information, please see our [Parent Handbook](#).

Please reach out with any questions! We are here to help and looking forward to a great year!