

Welcome Back, Hawks!

All the news that fits!

In this publication, parents and students will find highlights of the 2018-2019 school year, including important information about our Pre-Luau Online Registration process, new staff introductions, and much more! To be fully informed, read this volume from cover to cover!



A Message from Mr. Haug

Happy New Year! The beginning of the school year always marks a time of promise and possibility, and 2018-19 is no exception! With a talented staff and a supportive community, our students are poised to reap the benefits of this extraordinary partnership. All of our efforts directly support the positive experience of our students, and our goal is to provide a phenomenal environment in which all Hillview students can flourish, achieving academic excellence, becoming emotionally and physically stronger, and growing their talents.

Our Goals for 2018-19

I will be sharing Hillview's goals for the 2018-19 school year in more detail on Back to School Night, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m., and I invite all parents to come to the Quad for this brief presentation before heading off to classrooms to walk in the shoes of their students. Our work, as always, will reflect our mission statement: *The Hillview Community inspires and empowers all students to be curious and resilient problem solvers, compassionate and constructive contributors, and lifelong learners during their individual and collective journey of academic and personal growth.* Some highlights will be developing and implementing authentic and challenging Project Based Learning experiences in the core academic subjects, and a continued focus on the whole child, with an emphasis on social and emotional learning.

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Important Dates

- Aug 13 - **Pre-Luau Online Registration.** Visit <http://hillview.mpcsd.org> for more info.
- Aug 20 **E Komo Mai Luau**
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Hillview Campus
- Aug 22 **WEB Day**
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
ALL 6th Graders!
- Aug 22 **Parent Orientation for 6th Grade & New to HV**
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
HV P.A.C.
- Aug 23 **First Day of School!**
8:25 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Sept 13 **Back to School Night**
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
HV Campus

For complete calendar of events click "Calendar" Tab on HV website.

Pre-Luau Online Registration

There is always some "housekeeping" we need to take care of before school starts. At Hillview, parents and students can now take care of nearly all registration needs online. Navigate to <http://hillview.mpcsd.org> for directions. Students can pick up their schedules at the Annual E Komo Mai Luau after having taken care of all the required checklist items. Visit the HV website TODAY for more info.



Camp Hillview & WEB Welcome Sixth Graders to Hillview

Camp Hillview, what we call our 6th grade orientation program, continues this year, beginning on Wednesday, August 22. While the first “official” day of school is August 23, our 6th graders will be given a “sneak peak” at middle school, led by their 8th Grade WEB Leaders (for more information on WEB...look to your right ⇨). Sixth graders and their parents are invited to school at 9:00 a.m.; parents will be directed to the PAC (Performing Arts Center) for Parent Orientation and students will enter the gymnasium where a huge team of excited WEB leaders will welcome them to their first PEP RALLY!

Parents will be dismissed around 10:15 a.m.; students will remain on campus until 1:30 p.m. and can be picked up at that time. Be prepared for your son/daughter to return with great stories of the rally, school tour, team-building games, and information sessions. Prior to attending Camp Hillview and Parent Orientation, parents are asked to complete the *online* Pre-Luau Registration process (including attending the Luau itself); see page 1 for more info.

Camp Hillview continues Thursday and Friday for all 6th graders as students will participate in additional activities, as well as orientation within their academies. Our goal is make the transition to middle school as smooth and as fun as possible. **Please see more details about Camp Hillview on the enclosure in THIS summer mailer.**



What is WEB?

Hillview partners with Boomerang Project’s “Where Everybody Belongs” or WEB program. WEB is a year-long mentoring program that partners 8th grade mentors with 6th grade students. WEB, and its high school counterpart “Link Crew,” are nationally recognized programs that support students during important transitions. For more information about Boomerang Project and the WEB program, go to www.boomerangproject.com

Camp Hillview Lunch Schedule

Weds: Lunch Provided by HV
Thurs & Fri: “Regular lunch” at HV



What comes with the ASB Card?

- One Hillview Yearbook
- One Hawk Spirit T-Shirt
- Discounts to...
 - Dances, Performances, PE Uniforms, Spirit Wear, & School Store
- ...and the knowledge you are supporting your amazing Activities Program!

Scholarships & Payment Plans available. Please contact your counselor for details.

Hillview Activities Program ASB Card

Want a Spirit T-Shirt now and a Hillview Yearbook at the end of the year?

Want great lunchtime activities, rallies, dances, and amazing events like Hawkapalooza?

Want great speakers and a rockin’ Student Center?

The best Activities Program in the Bay Area doesn’t happen by accident. It happens because YOU support it. Our goal is to build the most exciting life outside of class of any middle school. Purchasing an ASB (Associated Student Body) card will ensure we can do it. For the low price of \$65, a student receives a spirit shirt and a yearbook (at end of year). Additionally, students with an ASB Card receive discounts on PE uniforms, spirit wear, dances, and performances.

Buy your ASB Card online now: hillview.myschoolcentral.com

Use the ID number you received in a recent email from Mr. Chui and the “Hillview Webstore Instructions” instructions in our mailer/on our website to get your ASB card and more.

Learn more about ASB on its website, www.hillviewasb.com

Hillview Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Our goal at Hillview is to provide as much information as possible in advance, and to keep feeding you important tidbits as the year goes on. Don't worry if you don't learn each and every thing about our school and programs right away. There will be continual updates that will improve your understanding, and of course we are always responsive to your phone calls and emails.



New to HV or not, check out these FAQ's for a better understanding of the Hillview experience.

What is an ACADEMY?

In 2010, Hillview Middle School launched an organizational structure called the “Academy Model,” essentially grouping students and teachers into smaller learning communities in order to provide greater attention to individual student needs and to develop a sense of community among a smaller group of students who share the same academic teachers. Sixth grade students have three academy teachers—their Humanities Core teacher, whom they have for two periods (ELA and Social Studies), their math teacher, and their science teacher. Seventh and eighth grade students have three academy teachers, also, but those three consist of their ELA teacher, Social Studies teacher, and Science teacher. When students get their schedules, it won't be immediately apparent what academy they are in, but we will have helpful keys posted.

What is Qu3ST?

Qu3ST, which stands for *Quiet Sustained & Supported Study Time*, occurs during “Open Session”—the last period of the day—and is available to all students in grades 6-8. This important time provides students with essential academic support before the school day ends, allows busy students to get a jump-start on their homework or ask questions about difficult concepts, or gives more time to complete a task. This quiet, friendly, and supportive environment is also a great place to catch up on outside reading or study

for an upcoming assessment. Some students may choose to take a second elective, eliminating the possibility of Qu3ST; this option is recommended for independent, organized, and motivated students with few conceptual struggles. We also see Qu3ST as an ideal venue for social emotional learning, a space to engage in community building and problem solving.

How is math placement determined?

Math placement is determined by a combination of assessments and a review of past student performance. Hillview takes great care to properly place students, and parents are encouraged to support the recommendation of the school. If parents disagree with a placement, they are encouraged to contact their student's counselor. Ultimately, parents will have the final say in placement; however, pushing a child into a math class that is too difficult can and often does lead to long-term math challenges and anxiety. Requests for change consideration can be completed at the Luau. Changes to placement can be made at any time the data indicate a change is necessary. All Hillview math courses are aligned to Common Core standards.

How do I request a change to my student's schedule?

If parents and students have completed the online Pre-Luau Registration process prior to Aug 21, students will receive a printed copy of their schedules at the E Komo Mai Luau. Students or parents desiring a

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E Komo Mai Luau & Pre-Luau Registration

Unlike some schools where students attend “Maze Day” prior to the school year starting, Hillview attempts to streamline this process by asking parents to complete it ONLINE, and then show up to the Luau for fun and a few final steps. Beginning Aug 13, parents are encouraged to visit the Hillview website to complete the Pre-Luau Online Registration process. All students whose parents have completed this process and bring the necessary forms/ documentation will be able to pick up their schedules on August 21 at the E Komo Mai Luau from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. *All 7th & 8th graders who have completed the Online process will also be able to pick up their district-provided iPad!* In addition to picking up schedules and iPads, students and parents will have the opportunity to visit the PTO Luau Tent, tour the school, and enjoy music and fun. All families who have joined the HV PTO by 11:59 p.m. on Aug 20 will be entered to win “The Big Kahuna Prize”: VIP Parking at Back to School Night and Open House.

1:1 iPad Program

We are thrilled to be blazing many trails in education, particularly with our use of technology. Included in this summer mailing and available at the HV website is an important packet regarding our 1:1 iPad program. Parents and students are asked to sit together, read through the document, consider whether insurance will be purchased, and then sign the agreement page (AUP). This paperwork **MUST BE COMPLETED** and **RETURNED** before a student will receive his or her schedule. While 7th and 8th graders will pick up their iPads at the Luau, 6th graders will need to wait a little while we onboard them with our expectations to be responsible, efficient, and productive iPad users. Can't make the Luau on Aug. 21? No worries. Simply visit the HV office on Aug. 22 or 23 and submit your paperwork there.

Note: In an effort to ease the congestion of long lines, we have set a specific window of time for families based on their last names:

Last Names A - L: 4 – 5 p.m.; *Last Names M - Z:* 5 – 6 p.m.

Please make a note of your window, and know that we will make exceptions for families with unavoidable conflicts.

Hillview Gender-Neutral Dress for Success Norms

Hillview has established norms to provide guidance on appropriate school attire. Having taken into consideration parent input and involved our staff on developing these guidelines, we present them to you so that you can help your student make wise decisions on what to wear to school. They are published in our Student and Parent handbook, and are on our website, but you may also review them at <http://tinyurl.com/hvDress4SuccessNorms>

I couldn't be more proud to lead such an amazing school and serve such wonderful students, parents, and staff. I'm looking forward to another great year! GO HAWKS!

Warmly, *Willy Haug, Proud Hillview Principal*

New Hawk Staff...

Join us in welcoming new-to-HV staff members, as well as a few people transitioning to new positions.

In the 6th grade, we welcome **Joey Ogle**, most recently at JLS Middle School in Palo Alto, as Olympus Academy's science teacher.

Suney Park, joining us from Eastside College Preparatory School, will be the math teacher in Everest Academy. **Carmina Mendoza**, who has taught in Campbell and served as adjunct faculty at Santa Clara University, joins our 6th grade science team in Kilimanjaro Academy, and will also teach several sections of Spanish and Spanish for Spanish Speakers.

In 7th grade, **James Green** moves up from 6th grade to join Could Nine Academy as its science teacher. **Jonathan Coldoff**, an MPCSD teacher and tech coach in MPCSD since 2008 joins our 7th grade Math team.

In the 8th grade, **Daniel Valdez** joins our science team in Explorers Academy, having most recently worked at Crittenden Middle School in Mountain View.

Our World Languages department, in addition to Carmina Mendoza, noted above, welcomes **Juana Marchal**. Juana, who most recently taught at Doral International Academy of Math and Science in Miami, will teach various levels of Spanish, including Spanish for Spanish Speakers.

Our Student Services department welcomes **Kelley Otis**, who will teach reading acceleration courses. Kelley is a Hillview veteran, having served as a paraeducator.

Katrina Hagg will add to her responsibilities the role of co-Student Activities Director, joining Brian Darmanin in this capacity.

Kay Enright and **James Frazier** will join the ranks of Hillview's paraeducator staff.

In the office, **Danny Chui** will be Hillview's new Assistant Principal. Danny comes to us from Westmoor High School in Daly City, where he served both as Dean of Students and Vice Principal of Administration. Danielle O'Brien moves into the role of Associate Principal. **Monica Bosch** replaces the recently retired Cathy Bell as our attendance clerk, and **Marcos Lopez** will be our new half-time administrative assistant.

Our new staff are amazing!

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schedule change at that time will be asked to complete a "Schedule Change Request" form at the Luau or during the first week of school. If, for some reason, an error has occurred on the schedule, parents/students will be asked to explain the error; counselors will prioritize errors before all other requests. **Please note: Hillview does not honor requests for specific teachers or academies.** Schedule change requests will be handled as time permits. Students are asked to attend their scheduled classes as printed until a new schedule is provided. Our counselors try their best to accommodate schedule change requests (except for those involving teacher or academy change requests), though not all requests are possible due to high demand and conflicts.

How does a parent get involved at Hillview?

Parents have many opportunities to partner with us in making their child's experience at Hillview top-notch. Your first chance to get in on the fun is to complete the PTO Volunteer Form, which is now online at <http://hillviewpto.org/parent-info/volunteer/>

Specifically, we are looking for parent volunteers for the 2018-19 Hillview Academy Support Program! Sign up to be part of the Academy Support Team - a group of parents who help with academy activities and events - or volunteer as the Academy Lead Parent - the middle-school version of a room parent, but with fewer events and less work. Questions? Email Gina Skinner (rcskinner@sbcglobal.net) or Ashley Wagstaff (ahw95025@gmail.com). Thank you! We simply cannot do it without your help!

How do I report an absence for my child?

Hillview uses the Safe Arrival system for absence reporting. Once you create an account on the app or website (see the HV website for instructions), there are three ways to report an absence, either in advance or on the day of:

1. Through the SchoolMessenger App from the Apple App Store or Google Play
2. Through your account on the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>
3. Via a toll-free number

How does Hillview monitor student iPad use?

Last year, Hillview began instituting tech-free lunches on Fridays to encourage students to get off their iPads and engage in more face-to-face activities. This year, we are expanding this to **tech-free brunch and lunch every day of the week**. Students who need to complete work using their iPads may still do so in supervised areas.

How do parents know what work students are doing and how well they are doing in classes?

Teachers use Edmodo and Google Classroom as learning platforms, and each of these have parent components. In addition, PowerSchool, our student information system, allows both students and parents to monitor progress on assignments and assessments. **Something new this year is a school-wide paper planner.** All students will receive a planner and teachers will guide them in recording their work and managing their time.

What About School Supplies?

You won't need everything all at once, but Hillview does suggest needed supplies on its website. Please see "School Information" in the "About Hillview" section.

To whom should I address QUESTIONS?

The Hillview office is standing by to answer any questions you may have. Give us a call any time during business hours and we'll put you in touch with the right person to field your question(s). Keep in mind that our two counselors serve different groups of students depending on grade level and last name. *Robyn Watts* is the counselor for all 6th graders and 8th graders, last names A - L. *Kristyn Cardosi* is the counselor for all 7th graders, and 8th graders with last names M-Z.

Calendar NOW!

MPCSD has a great Parent Ed Speaker Series lined up this year! Check out your mailer and www.mpcsdspakerseries.com for our slate of speakers.

After-School Programs Offer Options & Support

Whether it's a sports team, a writing class, or homework tutoring, Hillview's after-school programs have what you are looking for.

HV's PTO website, <http://hillviewpto.org>, has links to both sports & class information under the "PTO Programs" tab.

Hillview has a rich history of After-School Sports, including boys and girls basketball, girls volleyball, flag football, tennis, track and field, fencing, lacrosse, and now wrestling and cross country. Our amazing PTO also sponsors After-School Classes in a myriad of exciting areas. In the past, Wizbots, Mandarin, Writing, and Chess have been options. This year's offerings will be posted soon. Don't miss out. Log on to the PTO website TODAY!

Students who need academic support or quiet place to study need look no further than our Math Clinic and Homework Center. Additionally, HV offers an outstanding mentor programs, HawkStars & Flight School. Support programs all begin Sept. 4! For more info, contact your student's counselor.



After-School Sports

Sports are seasonal, with practices or sessions taking place after school.

After-School Classes

Classes meet 3:20 to 4:20 (M, Tu, & F) or 2:45 – 3:45 (W & Th). See details on the PTO website.

Homework Center & Math Clinic

Take advantage of a quiet study space with help available from tutors: 3:15 – 4:45 on M & T; 2:40 – 4:30 on W & Th. Inquire about our Afterschool Activity bus, which serves students who reside in East Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

Lunch Program This Year! MPCSD continues to partner with The Lunchmaster to provide delicious and nutritious options for our students. Read more about The Lunchmaster on our website (in the "Parents" section) at <http://hillview.mpcsd.org>. To register, go to www.thelunchmaster.com Click the blue "Register" box & use the school code **hillviewmiddle** to create an account and browse their impressive selection of student-friendly offerings. New this year are special monthly Lunchmaster Barbecue Fridays. Students can sign up to get a delicious BBQ lunch; this option is also available on the Lunchmaster website.

Lunchtime FUN!!!

Lunchtime is fun and rejuvenating for most, but for some it can be boring or stressful. YOUR financial support of PTO provides students with a plethora of activities during lunch to burn off energy, spend time with friends, and participate in high-interest activities. Offerings will include intramural sports, Art Club, Drama Club, Service Team, Book Club, Club Fergie (with Menlo Park Police Office Mary Ferguson), Tech Club, Pokemon Club, Cheer and Dance Club, and many more. Hillview organizes a lunchtime "club rush" early in the fall to give students the opportunity to learn about these many offerings.

Bike & Transportation Safety

Students can get to Hillview in so many ways. With over 980 students, we encourage your family to consider modes of transportation that will minimize traffic for both us and our neighbors. Biking to school is a very common form of travel, and students may make use of the many bike racks around campus. **Be sure to review the rules of the road with your cyclist and inspect your gear and equipment before using it. Remember, helmets go on heads, not on handlebars! Safety first, always!** SamTrans also serves Hillview with three bus routes. If your student doesn't bike or ride the bus, consider carpooling. For more information on transportation to HV, please see our web page at <https://district.mpcsd.org/Page/121>