



Greetings Families of Sunnyvale Middle School,

We are excited to welcome you and your students to the 2018-2019 school year! Whether you are returning or new to SMS, we are confident that you will have a great year filled with academic and social development. We have included important information below to create a smooth start up of the school year.

Start up of School

The week before school starts, we will have address verification for 6th grade, be distributing schedules for all grade levels, and will host our 6th grade WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) day. Please note that new this year we will only be doing address verification for incoming 6th grade students.

The first day of school will be a late start Wednesday with supervision beginning at 9:35am and classes beginning at 9:50am. It is always a busy morning at SMS, so please consider biking, walking, or carpooling, as there is very limited parking and traffic enforcement will be in effect.

Please see the attached flier for the detailed dates and times of beginning of the year events.

New Staff Members

We have quite a few staffing changes this year with many teachers moving out of the area. As we say farewell to some teachers, we have the opportunity for new teachers to join the SMS community. Please join us in welcoming:

- Swantje Agape (Special Education)
- Shannon Andres (7th Grade ELA)
- Pilar Boisvert (6th Grade Math/Science & ELA/Social Studies)
- Robert Burnsed (Special Education)
- Sophanie Gee (7th Grade Science)
- Ken Ha (7th Grade Math)
- Kelly Handa (6th Grade ELA/Social Studies)
- Michele Malfabon (Special Education)
- Jessica Menashe (Special Education)
- John Phung (8th Grade Social Studies)
- Caryn Shreve (7th Grade Math)

In addition to teacher changes, our former assistant principal Mr. Gantvoort is now officially enjoying his retirement. We are excited to welcome Jane Chen as the new Assistant Principal at SMS. Prior to this position, Ms. Chen was an Instructional Coach for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education in Sunnyvale School District for four years, and a sixth-grade teacher here at SMS for 10 years. In her fourteen years as an educator, she has had the opportunity to serve as a mentor teacher, department chair, curriculum developer, professional development developer, strategic planner for CA Next Generation Science Standards and CA Common Core Math, and an Ed-Talk speaker. She is excited to return to the SMS community in a new role, supporting teachers, interacting with students, and leading change in education at a systems level.



Grade Level Advisors

Each year we designate one administrator as the advisor for each grade level. Please locate your administrator below and use them as a point of contact throughout the year.

6th Grade - Nabil Shahin, Nabil.Shahin@sesd.org

7th Grade - Jane Chen, Jane.Chen@sesd.org

8th Grade - Cecilia Mendoza-Torres Mah, Cecilia.Mah@sesd.org

New Personal Electronic Device Policy

Beginning in 2018-2019, Sunnyvale Middle School will be implementing a new personal electronic device policy. While we know that there are many views on the use of cell phones and personal electronics on campus, the change in policy will help us align with upcoming SEDS policies, better serve the educational needs of our students in the classroom, and continue to manage the physical and emotional safety of our campus. We have attached the new policy, will review it at the 6th grade parent orientation, and will support students with the transition through the first few weeks of school.

Thank you for trusting us to educate your children. Our goal is to ensure that every student is recognized as an individual and provided opportunities to grow in a safe and supportive environment. We have a dedicated team of adults that are committed to providing the very best outcomes. We look forward to partnering with you in the growth and development of our students. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nabil Shahin
Principal

Cecilia Mendoza-Torres-Mah
Assistant Principal

Jane Chen
Assistant Principal