

MALIBU MIDDLE SCHOOL

MONDAY MESSAGE – AUGUST 28, 2023

A Message from Principal Schellenberg:

Greetings to the Malibu Middle School community!

It was a treat to experience the first few days of school on Thursday and Friday. I've experienced over 30 opening days of school, so I'm familiar with the nervousness of a new year, the anticipation of starting new classes and new programs, and the uncertainty of knowing where to go and how things work. This year, I was right along with our new students - happy to be here and working to learn how things operate.

My impressions of MMS these first few days are positive. Every person is friendly and helpful. New students had plenty of guidance around them to ask questions and to receive support. In the first two days, I was able to visit each middle school teachers' classrooms and observe their opening routines. Consistently, teachers were working to get to know the students, having students get to know each other, and to build their classroom communities through activity and discussion. There is so much care and warmth at Malibu Middle. This was a special opening of school and I am looking forward to an awesome year!

I've met several parents and families these first few days in the traffic circle. When you see me, please come up and introduce yourself. I look forward to meeting you and working together. It is easy to find me - I tell the students that I am 5 ft 20 inches.

I have a few announcements below for the beginning of this school year:

Lockers: MMS has newly installed lockers that are beautiful. We plan to issue school locks to students by mid-September. In the meantime, students should not be using the lockers or bringing locks from home. We look forward to starting their use.

7th period enrichment: MMS will offer enrichment courses M - Th from 2:50 - 3:30pm. This provides a place for students to be from school dismissal at 2:45pm until the buses. These courses will also be an opportunity for students to stay and engage in a topic they enjoy.

- Monday, August 28 - parents will be emailed information about the enrichment courses and will be provided a google form to sign up.

- Friday, September 1 - Sign up forms are due back
- Tuesday, September 5 - 7th period enrichment courses will begin

Look for information coming to you on Monday.

Student pick up tips: Every school I've worked at has unique ways to make the traffic flow work smoothly and safely. I like the system of middle school students being dropped off up top at the football field. Student pick up appears to be busier with more vehicles at once. Please be patient and safe as you progress through the pick up line. We want MS students to enter the vehicles safely near the top of the stairs and not to walk into traffic to find their rides. Fridays the HS drivers are dismissed at the same time. We get through this safely with patience and courtesy to each other. Keep moving forward, and encourage your student to be there ready to hop in.

I'm excited to be here and am looking forward to getting to know you, getting to know your students' better and to have an excellent school year!

Greg Schellenberg

SCHOOL NEWS AND INFORMATION:

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS: Daily attendance at school is extremely important! As we get into the routine of school, build the habit of good attendance! Research shows that attending school every day promotes student learning, helps students feel better about school and themselves, improves mental health through socializing, developing friendships, building empathy, and helps students get back and stay on track! Show up, be present, and be engaged. The state of CA has very few allowable reasons for school absence. Learn more about attendance requirements [HERE](#). The district calendar is found [HERE](#).

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES: Attendance matters! Illnesses are unavoidable, but appointments, vacations and day trips during school should be avoided. All absences must be verified by our Attendance Office within 72 hours. Please email ataylor@smmusd.org (MHS) or tmulligan@smmusd.org (MMS). For more info on verifying an absence, visit: <https://www.smmusd.org/domain/1759>. Students must obtain a re-admit prior to school, the day they return.

PARKING/PICK UP AND DROP OFF PROCEDURES: As we all work to ensure student safety and smooth traffic procedures, please read [the Traffic/Pick Up/Drop off Procedures](#) carefully. High School students should be picked up and dropped off in the football lot. Do not arrive before 2:45pm for student pick up. Always pull as far forward as possible and continue to pull forward as space is made available. Your student will walk to you. If the car can move, keep moving.

SUPERVISION FOR STUDENTS STAYING LATE: There will be supervised Study Hall for any MMS students who will remain on campus until 3:30 pm (and will not be going to the Boys and Girls Club) until our 7th period programs begin (most likely after Labor Day.)

COVID POSITIVE? COVID SYMPTOMS?: [Here is the latest guidance from LA County Department of Public Health.](#) If your student tests positive for Covid 19, please keep your child home and away from others for a minimum of 5 days.

SMMUSD DISTRICT CALENDAR: The district calendar is available online. Please note the start of school, end of school, and all holidays. Please plan vacations and all absences around the school/district calendar. Daily attendance at school is extremely important. <https://www.smmusd.org/domain/148>

MMS EVENTS CALENDAR: We are in the process of updating our school calendar with all of the 2023-2024 school year events! These are subject to change. However, it is a great place to look! [See the events on the website, click HERE.](#)

LIBRARY HOURS: The school library is open from 8:00am-4:00pm, Monday-Thursday and 8:00-3:00 on Friday. After School Tutoring in the library will begin in the library from 2:45-3:45 on Monday and Wednesday and Monday-Thu 3:45-4:45 after Labor Day. Students benefit from having a safe space on campus to study, work, read or simply relax. Mrs. Ryan, Librarian, and Mr. Tate, Library Assistant, do a great job of creating a welcoming library full of resources. Please encourage your students to stop by to check out a book, find resource materials, etc.

THIS WEEK AT MMS:

START OF AM PE AND P7 THEATER: The first day of AM PE class is **Monday, August 28th**. AMPM PE class meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:15-8:25. Class starts at 7:15. Parents should drop off students in the pool lot by 7:10, students will meet their PE teacher on the blacktop. Period 7 Theater will also start

Monday, August 28th from 2:45-3:30. All other Period 7 Electives, to include Arts, Math Lab, and Yearbook/Publications will start after Labor Day. Sign Up Information will be sent home soon!

START OF BLOCK SCHEDULE: This week we begin our normal weekly schedule:

- Monday: Regular - periods 1 – 6/7
- Tuesday: Regular - periods 1 – 6/7
- Wednesday: Block – periods 1, 3, Support, 5, 7
- Thursday: Block – periods 2, 4, Support, 6, 7
- Friday: Minimum – periods 1 – 6

NOTE: With the exception of Period 7 Theater, Period 7 classes will begin at a later date TBD.

FIRST PTSA MEETING: Join us for our first PTSA General Meeting on **Thursday, August 31 at 9:00am** in the Parent Center. Parking Available in the lower Morning View lot or the Bus Lane after 8:45. Following the planned PTSA Agenda, school staff will be available to answer any questions and provide a short “parent orientation” as we start the new school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NO SCHOOL: MMS and all SMMUSD schools will be closed on **Monday, September 4th** for Labor Day. Additionally, there will be no school on September 25 for a local holiday.

MINIMUM DAYS: September 14 and September 28 are Minimum Days with 1:35 dismissal to allow for MMS and MHS Back to School Nights. Do not arrive prior to 1:35 for pick up.

MAKE UP PICTURE DAY: Students unable to attend Get Your Stuff Day, or students who enrolled after August 17, will be able to take their picture for School Id's, the yearbook, and school pictures to purchase on **Thursday, September 14th**.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: Malibu Middle School's Back to School Night is scheduled for **Thursday, September 14**. An Informal Reception will begin at 5:15 followed by a Welcome Meeting at 5:30 in the outdoor amphitheater followed by Classroom Visits at 6:00pm.

FIRST POMS MEETING: Parents of Middle Schoolers (POMS) is a monthly meeting that gives middle school parents an opportunity to meet with the Mrs. Whitehouse and/or Mr. Schellenberg. Each meeting will have an open forum for questions and may also have a focus and/or guest speaker. The first POMS meeting is **September 15 at**

9:00am and will be held in the Parent Center. This September Meeting will include a Volunteer Training for the PTSA Sponsored Friendly Faces Program.

FIRST SSC MEETING: The School Site Council is a group of teachers, parents, students and staff who work together on long-range school improvement planning. Their goals are to ensure high academic performance of all students, implementing and monitoring the School Plan for Student Achievement and to serve as an open forum for discussion, planning and implementation regarding issues important to the Malibu Middle community. The first SSC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday September 21st at 3:45pm** via zoom and is open to the public.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

CHILI COOK OFF TICKETS: Join us at the 41st Annual Malibu Chili Cook Off **September 1 - 4!** Event Admission [Tickets Are On Sale NOW!](#)

PTSA DIRECTORY, VOLUNTEER AND MEMBERSHIP FORM: Parents (and students) are highly encouraged to participate in our PTSA. Our PTSA is an important resource for parents seeking to stay connected with Malibu High and other parents. Go online to complete this process/form to be included in the PTSA Student/Staff Directory, to volunteer at Malibu High and to join the PTSA. PTSA related questions? Want to find out more or get involved? Please email us at PTSAmalibu@gmail.com. Please join today! Go to www.PTSAmalibu.membershiptoolkit.com

DIVE IN AND DONATE TO THE SHARK FUND! As the primary fundraising entity for Malibu Middle and High Schools, The Shark Fund financially supports the PTSA, Athletic Booster Club and Arts Angels, as well as providing funding for tutoring and the Community Service Liaison for administration. **OUR DIRECT DRIVE IS UNDERWAY**, and runs through September 30th. ALL DONORS will be entered into a raffle with fabulous prizes (to be announced soon) at the conclusion of the direct drive, so there is **NO NEED TO WAIT** for "Giving Week!" **DIVE IN AND DONATE TODAY!** The request is for \$2,500 per student, but any amount is greatly appreciated and our goal is 100% parent participation. To find out more about The Shark Fund, our team, the budget and how the funds are allocated (and to donate), visit: TheSharkFundMalibu.org today. If you have questions or are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please email thesharkfundorg@gmail.com.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MALIBU TEEN CENTER:

The Boys & Girls Club of Malibu aims to provide a fun, safe, and creative environment for all Malibu youth to thrive, find support through positive mentorship, develop important life skills, and receive social and emotional support. We are currently offering programs for teens to use as a social, developmental, and supplemental tool. Current offerings include:

- **BGCM Membership Enrollment is LIVE.** Enroll at [BGCMALIBU.ORG](https://bgcmalibu.org) Available for incoming grades 6th-12th. Programs will include: service learning trips, field trips, social emotional wellness, outdoor activities & more! [Enroll Here](#) | [Inscribirse Aquí](#)
- **Malibu Chili Cook Off Sept 1-4. Buy NOW!** Visit malibuchilicookoff.org to purchase tickets for this year's event. Looking to volunteer? Email mcco.volunteer@gmail.com
- **Brent's Club** is an incentivized social-emotional wellness program focused on racial justice, youth advocacy, drug prevention, and building peer support by connecting with other Brent's Clubs and youth from diverse communities. Meetings are bi-weekly on Tuesdays, during lunch, on the school campus. Lunch will be provided every meeting! Email tylerhawkins@bgcmalibu.org for more info.
- **Wellness Center & Social Support Offerings** The Boys & Girls Club of Malibu Wellness Center operates remotely and also in-person to provide no-cost social support & mental health counseling to all in the community. Visit <https://bgcmalibu.org/wellness-center/> to learn more or to request services for you/your child! PSA: Parents! If you've missed any parent workshops, they are available on our website at <https://bgcmalibu.org/wellness-center-resources/>

*To contact the Club please call 310-457-1400 (Admin) or 310-241-3675 (Programs)
Email info@bgcmalibu.org For updates on Club news & events, subscribe to BGCM E-Newsletter [Here](#)