

# MALIBU MIDDLE SCHOOL

## MONDAY MESSAGE – September 4, 2023

### *A Message from Principal Schellenberg:*

There is no better place to be than in Malibu California on the campus of Malibu Middle School!

Greetings at the end of the first full week of school. I love how MMS students are arriving at school each day with a smile and positive spirits. I can tell how much our students connect with each other and to their teachers in the classroom.

Thursday afternoon, the Malibu PTSA hosted an ice cream social to welcome both Supt. Dr. Antonio Shelton and myself as new leaders for the Malibu school community. I appreciate all who were able to make it and the ice cream was delicious. I am grateful for that opportunity to be welcomed - and I continue to receive such warm welcomes to Malibu and MMS. Friday, 9/1, also marked two weeks since I arrived and began work at MMS. I know that I am catching up on details and learning about people and programs that make this school so special.

I'm also learning about the mission of the Santa Monica Malibu district which resonates with me and the work I have been involved with in recent years. Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, Engagement - these are important values that need to be present at schools and acted upon so that each and every student and every family feels a part of the school community. There will be opportunities this year for families and community members to provide input into how these themes are represented at Malibu Middle School. I look forward to that work coming soon!

Also last Thursday, I was introduced to the PTSA group and was pleased to see a good representation of middle school parents present. The home-school partnership is a critical relationship for students at school. I appreciate the help and support that comes from home. We will have our first Parents of Middle Schoolers (MOPS) meeting on Friday, September 15. I look forward to meeting more families and welcoming in parents perhaps for the first time.

Our excellent MS Counselor, Mrs. Lorene Whitehouse, began visiting Science classrooms Friday to introduce herself, her role as a counselor in the school, and to provide tips and suggestions for students to be successful - including handing out or MMS student planners for their organization. Mrs. Whitehouse and I will both visit Science classrooms beginning Friday 9/8 to present on school involvements, expectations, and being a positive member of the MMS school community.

Thank you and have an amazing week,

Go Manta Rays!

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](mailto:ataylor@smmusd.org) (MHS) or [tmulligan@smmusd.org](mailto: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.

**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.

**DIAGNOSTIC TESTING:** Between **September 5 and September 15**, all students will complete diagnostic assessments in reading and math. These local measurements are referred to as Star Renaissance tests and will be administered for diagnostic purposes in the fall and two subsequent times throughout the year as a progress monitoring tool. These tests are short, and given within the student's current math or English class by their math or English teacher. To learn more about the assessments, [click HERE](#).

**ASB CARDS:** Parents! It's time to purchase an ASB Card for your student! This card covers all fees for dances and prom, student council events, offers a \$10 discount on parking permits and FREE ADMISSION TO ALL HOME SPORTING EVENTS! **LINK TO BUY THE CARD:** [https://webstores.activenetwork.com/school-software/malibu\\_high\\_school\\_o/index.php](https://webstores.activenetwork.com/school-software/malibu_high_school_o/index.php) You can also buy season tickets and single tickets to our fall sports here: <https://gofan.co/app/school/CA18917>

**EXPECTATIONS FOR ATTIRE/DRESS:** Please don't send your child to school in clothing with marijuana dispensaries, tequila brands, beer bottles, "shortys and 40s." This party culture and promotion of dangerous and destructive social behaviors is not consistent with our expectations of dress. For more info on our dress code, click [HERE](#). Please help us ensure your child is dressed ready for school, consistent with our expectations and in line with a learning community in a beach town.

**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:

**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.

**7<sup>th</sup> PERIOD BEGINS THIS WEEK:** For those who signed up for a 7<sup>th</sup> period class, they will begin Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Reminders:

- Students who do NOT have a 7<sup>th</sup> period should be picked up at 2:45 pm. They may not linger on campus (waiting for the bus or a HS sibling) but must attend the Boys and Girls Club (if registered) or tutoring sessions (Mondays and Wednesdays only beginning 9/18) in the Library. They may not wait in the Quad or offices.
- These are NOT "drop in" classes. These classes take place Monday – Thursday each week and students are expected to attend every day.

**SMMUSD BOARD MEETING:** The next school board meeting is **Thursday, September 7 at 5:30pm** at the district office. The agenda can be found [online](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**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:** Any student who missed taking their picture at Get Your Stuff Day should do so on Make Up Picture Day – **Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Teachers will let students know when they can go get their photo taken. This is important as each student needs to receive their photo ID. If you would like to order pictures, please go to <https://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/#/> and enter in the code: EVTBZF7PQ. You need to place your order before the date of the pictures.

**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.

## ATHLETICS

**1GOAL BASKETBALL CLUB TEAM:** Tryouts for the Middle School 1GOAL Basketball Club Team will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the MHS Upper Gym. Practices are Mondays and Fridays at Malibu High School. Games are held at CSUN on Sundays. Coach Sean Amos focuses on fundamentals, team building, a winning culture and a competitive environment. Email [ONEGOALBASKETBALL@gmail.com](mailto:ONEGOALBASKETBALL@gmail.com) with any questions.

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

**PARENTS NEEDED:** SMMUSD Facility District Advisory Committees for Malibu (FDAC-M) is looking to fill two vacant seats on its nine-member committee. Parents of

current SMMUSD students are encouraged to apply. The purpose of the FDAC is to provide the Board of Education and District staff with the community's perspective regarding the use of bond funds for school sites and construction in conformance with board-established and approved goals and priorities. Application forms are [available HERE](#). Applications are received on an ongoing basis; however, the board facility sub-committees would like to review applications beginning in September and appoint the new members at the Sept. 21, 2023 school board meeting. Visit the [FDAC webpage](#) for more information.

**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](mailto:PTSAmalibu@gmail.com). Please join today! Go to [www.PTSAmalibu.membershiptoolkit.com](http://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. To find out more about The Shark Fund, our team, the budget and how the funds are allocated (and to donate), visit: [TheSharkFundMalibu.org](http://TheSharkFundMalibu.org) today.

## **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](http://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](#)
- **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](mailto: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](mailto:info@bgcmalibu.org) For updates on Club news & events, subscribe to BGCM E-Newsletter [Here](#)