

MUPU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Dr. Sheryl Barnd, Superintendent/Principal
August 8, 2019



Greetings Mupu Families,

Welcome to School Year 2019-2020! We look forward to seeing you and your child next week and embarking on another learning journey. We continue to aim for success as we try to exemplify our HEART guidelines on a daily basis. Our top priority is scholar safety and academic growth. In order to achieve this, we recognize that it takes a team of dedicated and caring teachers and staff, supportive parents, and motivated scholars. With this winning combination, your child will reach their potential and meet their expectations.

School starts on

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Kindergarten:	7:50 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.
Grades 1-2:	7:50 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Grades 3-5:	7:50 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.
Grades 6-8:	7:50 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Fridays will ALWAYS be minimum day schedule:

Kindergarten Session:	7:50 to 11:40 a.m.
(Kindergartners with siblings may stay until 12:30)	
Grades 1-8:	7:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Newest Mupu Addition!

Mupu welcomes Ms. Chelsea Flak as our new third grade teacher. She recently moved from Sacramento to Ventura and is excited to get involved in the Mupu community. This will be her 7th year as a teacher and she looks forward to starting both a cursive and gardening club this year. She loves the outdoors, farm animals, and watching scholars succeed. Please visit our website for more info about Ms. Flak.

Mupu Handbook

The Mupu Handbook, including Parents' Rights and Responsibilities, can be found on our website under the Parents tab. It is also included in this email attachment. Your child will be receiving a small packet the first day of school (unless you have already picked up in the office) that includes documents that require your signatures. Please complete as soon as possible and return the entire packet back to school. As we continue to work on being environmentally friendly and financially strong, we will continue to post as much information as possible on our website-

www.mupu.org or send email notices. It is important that you check your email, spam folder too!

Pupil Enrollment Form

All new scholars should have already completed and turned in the enrollment form to Mrs. Brock. It is very important that every single item is completely and legibly filled out! Your child is not enrolled until we have this paperwork completed.

Technology

We have purchased even more Chromebooks this summer and met our goal of having 1:1 devices in the upper grades. All scholars in grades 3 through 8th will be using Chromebooks on a regular basis. Scholars in Kinder through second will also have access to iPads and Chromebooks as well.

Our Neighbors

Help us maintain our friendly relations with our neighbors by respecting their property and not blocking or using their driveway or honking your horn.

Budget Outlook for 2019-2020

Local Control Funding Formula: Our funding comes from the LCFF, which gives schools with higher poverty rates more money. They measure this based on our percentage of scholars eligible for the free or reduced lunch program. There is an application in the Annual Signatures packet. Even if you choose not to participate in the lunch program, your eligibility will help the school. To get a higher level of funding, we need to reach 55% eligibility; our current projection for the 2019-20 school year is about 52%. Incomes below \$6000 a month (depending on family size) may be eligible. Please review the application to see if your family might qualify. All information is confidential.

Many parents ask, "What else can we do to help?" We gladly accept donations of money and/or classroom/office supplies. Each teacher sends home a "wish list". Anything you can contribute is deeply appreciated. Also, please see the last page regarding volunteers.

We receive funding only for days that scholars are actually in school. Last year, our **ending** enrollment was 166 students; however, we only received funding for 157 scholars, which is based on attendance rate. This resulted in a difference of close to \$88,000.

Attendance and Learning

It is not just about the funding. It is about the learning! Every minute is precious learning time. Please review the Parent Handbook regarding excused and non-excused absences. If your child does not have a "legal" excuse, he/she should be in school, learning.

Remember: 3 unexcused absences = truancy.

About Minimum Days: Some parents may think that it is OK to take a 3-day weekend since Friday is "just a minimum day". Minimum days are as important as regular days. In fact, since we lose about 60 instructional minutes on minimum days, we work extra hard to pack in as much instruction as we can.

School Safety

School safety and student well-being are our top priorities at Mupu School.

- **Yard supervision begins at 7:40 a.m. Scholars may not play in the yard until adult supervision is present.**
- **ALL visitors, no matter how brief the visit, must check in at the office. NO EXCEPTIONS!** In the event of an emergency, we need to know who and where visitors are.

- **Students may not bring real or play weapons of any type to school.** If a child inadvertently brings such an item (penknife, toy gun, etc.) to school, he/she must notify and give it to the teacher immediately to avoid disciplinary action.
- **Bikes, Skateboards, Roller Blades, and Scooters:** Yes, no, no, and no. Scholars in grades 6-8 may ride bikes—only if they wear a helmet to and from school and obey the rules of the road. Bike riders must have a permission slip on file in the school office. Bike riders who do not wear the helmet properly or are not safe riders will lose this privilege. No student may ride skateboards, roller blades, or scooters.
- **Bullies and mean kids are not welcome at Mupu.** Kids should not have to worry about bullies at school. If your child is being bullied or is having social difficulties, let us know so that we can stop the problem. If your child happens to be the bully, work with us to get your child back on the right path. Please review Mupu's anti-bullying policy in the Information Handbook.

Student Pick-Up and Drop-Off

Even with our new Drop Off/Pick Up Zone (DPZ), congestion can still be a problem on the 150. We have staggered the release times to help ease those issues. To keep the traffic flowing and safe, please follow these rules and suggestions:

- **Never leave your car unattended while in the DPZ.**
- **Please have children enter/exit vehicle on school side.**
- **Please do not block driveways.**
- If your child is not ready to go and cars behind you are ready, you will be asked to exit and reenter the DPZ or park somewhere else until your child is ready.
- **Scholars MUST CROSS IN THE CROSSWALK.** We hope adults will be role models for children by using the crosswalk, too!
- **About U-turns:** Unfortunately, they are **illegal**, and law enforcement officers will cite drivers who make u-turns in front of the school. When going north, continue to the Green Bridge and **SAFELY** make your turn there.
- During special events, the school field will be open for parking. We will notify you in advance when this happens.

Cell Phones and Other Devices

Mupu purchased three new cell phone lockers this year for the 6th-8th grade classes. If a scholar in these grades brings a phone, it is to be locked safely away. Please see our Cell Phone & Electronic Devices Policy in the Annual Signature forms, Parent Handbook and Scholar Handbook.

Lunch, Breakfast, & Snack

Mupu serves lunches Monday through Thursday, and breakfasts on Fridays and Minimum Days.

Snacks are sold Monday-Thursday. Scholars may not charge lunches, breakfasts, or snacks. We accept pre-pay and same-day payments. ***Please check Parent Connect for your cafeteria balance.***

All payments should be deposited in the dropbox in an envelope that has the scholar's name, the amount of money enclosed, and how many lunches, breakfasts, or snacks.

Mupu School participates in the National School Lunch Program, which means that for eligible families, the lunch/breakfast is free or at a reduced cost. Because we are part of this program, all school meals must be consumed on school grounds.

School Supplies

We provide supplies for K-5. We ask scholars in Grades 6-8 to bring some of their own supplies. Supply lists are available online, just click on the link by the teacher's photo. If your child is unable to bring in requested items, please inform the teacher, and the school will provide the supplies.

As mentioned earlier, donations of supplies are deeply appreciated.

SBAC Scores

State testing scores for scholars who were in 3rd-8th grade last year are available in the office. Nearly all grades showed growth and improvement from last year, particularly in English Language Arts. If you are unsure of the scores' meaning or how to interpret the results, please see me.

Parent Information Night

Thursday Evening, August 29

Meeting Schedule to be Announced

Get your child's school year off to a great start by attending this important information-filled event. We want your child to have a successful school year, and this meeting provides an excellent opportunity for us to focus on the reason Mupu School exists: your child's success!

Getting Involved: Several Ways . . .

Volunteers- We are eager to have you support and help whether it is in the classroom, library, kitchen, or field. We will have a Volunteer table at Parent Information Night for more info.

Coffee & Chat- These informal meetings are held monthly with varying dates and times. Please join the principal and other parents to share your concerns, suggestions, or celebrations. If there is a personal issue, please call me and we can schedule an appointment. Due to confidentiality, Coffee & Chat is not the right venue for personal issues.

Mupu Parents Club- This group helps to organize community events, fundraisers, movie nights, or food sales. Please join us at one of our monthly meetings. We look forward to you being a part of MPC!

School Site Council- This group comprised of staff and parents works with the principal to develop, review and evaluate school improvement programs and school budgets. Please let me know if you're interested in being a part of SSC.

Most Important!

We want your child's time at Mupu to be filled with learning, growth, and a sense of safety and belonging in this learning community.

If your child is experiencing problems, please talk to us. Most times we can fix the problem or misunderstanding with a simple phone call, email, note, or meeting. For more complicated issues, we will meet as many times as we need to resolve the issue.

When a problem arises, first contact the teacher. If you need further assistance, please contact Dr. Barnd by calling the school or email: sheryl.barnd@mupu.org.

Your teacher will share her contact information at Information Night. We believe it is better to talk with us sooner, rather than later, if you are beginning to see a problem. Take advantage of our small school and solve little problems before they become big problems. This is your child's "home away from home". We want both you and your children to love Mupu.

Enjoy these last days of summer. We will be here on August 14th, with smiles and high hopes for a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sheryl Barnd- Principal