



Abbott Middle School

600 - 36th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 312-7600

Joe Hadley, Principal
Andrew Campbell, Asst. Principal

Aug. 20, 2018

Dear Abbott parents:

This is the first of the monthly principal's newsletters that I will be sending out to provide families with information about what's going on at Abbott. These newsletters will be posted on SchoolLoop, and can also be found on the Abbott website (abbott.smfcsd.net) in the *News & Announcements* section of the site. Also, please read the PTA's Parent Bulletin, which is published in SchoolLoop every other week and contains key information for parents about upcoming Abbott events.

I'd like to begin by welcoming our new and returning families, and to remind everyone that our ***Back to School Night*** will be held next week on ***Wed., August 29th***. From 6:00-6:30, there will be a welcome presentation in the gym for new and returning parents. At 6:30, parents will begin the visits to their student's classrooms, and will have about 10 minutes to spend with each teacher. There will be parking available on our blacktop/yard area, and you can enter this lot using the gate on Alameda. Also, please remember that next week on both Wed. and Thurs. (Aug. 29th & Aug. 30th) there will be minimum days with dismissal at 12:37. On Fri., Aug. 31st teachers have a professional development day, and there will be no school for students that day. Mon., Sept. 3rd is the Labor Day holiday, so students will have a 4 day weekend that runs from Fri. the 31st through Mon the 3rd.

You may have noticed that we distributed a recommended materials list in the Maze Day packet. The goal in creating this list was to clarify and simplify for students and parents the materials that they should have in class each day. You can also find this list on the main page of our website. Soon, our teachers will begin doing periodic checks to make sure that students have these materials, and that they are staying on top of organizing their class materials and assignments. Please contact the Abbott office if you need assistance in obtaining materials for your student. We have also started using a weekly planner sheet for all students, where each student records the homework assignments each day. It is helpful for your student and for our teachers if you, as parents, can also help to check that your student is keeping his or her materials organized, and that they are keeping a record of assignments and completing those assignments. Also, please continue to monitor your student's grades regularly using SchoolLoop.

For our incoming students and parents, we know that the beginning of the 6th grade year can be an anxious time, and we want all students and families to know that we have a dedicated staff who are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment for all students. For parents who would like to know more about what you may encounter during your student's

transition to middle school, there is a helpful guide to this transition under the counseling page of our website (under Academic Services/Counseling).

We have two new counselors this year, and both bring a range of experiences working with middle school age students. Ms. Hunt will be working with students in grades 6-8 whose last names are alphabetically between A-La, and Ms. Tran will be working with 6-8 graders whose last names begin with Le-Z. They have been busy helping students with schedule adjustments, but soon they will have time to meet all of our students, and both will introduce themselves to parents at Back to School Night.

In addition to our counseling staff, we have a very skilled and experienced office team at Abbott, and for our new parents there are some names you should know. Mr. Andrew Campbell is in his second year as Abbott's Assistant Principal, and he is the person who, among many other duties, intervenes when a student conflict has escalated. One of the new members of our office team is Ms. Carson-Ujcic, who will be working as a part-time Academic Dean and helping to provide support for students with both academics and behavior. Ms. Flores will be in her second year as our School Community Worker, and she will be working closely with our parent community, and particularly with our Spanish-speaking students and families to help those families stay connected with what's going on at Abbott. Ms. Louie, our Administrative Assistant, has been at Abbott for 12 years, and is one of the key people who keeps everything running smoothly in the office. Ms. Santos, our School Office Specialist, is back for her sixth year at Abbott, and is the go-to person for school attendance. Ms. Barba, our School Office Assistant, is a good person to know as she is typically the first person to greet students and parents when they arrive in the main office.

I'd also like to welcome our new teachers, and am happy to note that we have a number of talented, experienced teachers who have joined our staff, including: Ms. Bacigalupi (Science 8), Mr. Bench (ELA 8), Ms. Brenner (Math 7 & 8), Mr. Figueroa (Spanish Immersion), Mr. Javellana (PE), Mr. Keating (Math 8), Mr. Koukoutsakis (SDC), and Ms. Markgraf (SDC).

I am in my third year as Abbott's principal, and I'm excited to begin a year in which we will be working as a staff to align all of our practices to support student achievement and growth, and to continue to build on the work we began last year with programs like AVID and PBIS (more about both programs in future newsletters).

Our staff and I are looking forward to meeting you next week at Back to School Night on Wed., Aug. 29th. Here's to a positive year of learning and growth ahead!

Sincerely,

Joe Hadley, Abbott Principal