



Abbott Middle School

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Joe Hadley, Principal
Andrew Campbell, Assistant Principal

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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 *About Abbott/From the Principal* 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 by thanking everyone for a very calm and upbeat start to the school year. Many teachers noted how attentive and respectful our students have been on the opening days of the school year, and teachers are excited to begin the year on such a positive note.

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 are anxious about the transition to middle school, there is an excellent guide to this transition that was created by Ms. World, one of our counselors. You can find the guide under the counseling page of our website (under Academic Services/Counseling).

We will have two new members of our office staff this year. Mr. Andrew Campbell is stepping in to the role of Assistant Principal. While new to the AP role, Mr. Campbell has been a standout science teacher at Abbott for many years, and knows the Abbott community well. Our other new office staff member is Ms. Norma Flores, who will be working in a role that was newly created this year which is the role of School Community Worker. 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. Flores is a native Spanish speaker who has worked as a para-educator at Abbott for several years, and is excited to begin this new role.

Our returning office staff includes our two school counselors, Ms. World and Ms. Holland, who will share the counseling responsibilities. Ms. World will work with our 8th graders, and our 6th graders with last names L-Z. Ms. Holland will work with our 7th graders, and with our 6th graders with last name A-L. They are joined by our Administrative Assistant, Ms.

Louie, who has been at Abbott for 11 years, and is one of the key people who keeps everything running smoothly behind the scenes. Ms. Santos, our School Office Specialist, is back for her fifth 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 am in my second year as Abbott's principal, and I am excited to begin a year in which we will introduce a number of new programs at Abbott. We are the first middle school in our district who will be implementing core aspects of the Positive Behavior and Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which is an approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students to achieve social, emotional and academic success. Our teachers worked on our PBIS plan last spring, and we have begun rolling out PBIS this school year. Your student should have spent time in class reviewing our PBIS behavior matrix, and the details of our 3 core behavioral expectations for all students: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful. You can find more information about the PBIS behavior matrix, which is part of our student/parent handbook and is available for download on the "About Abbott" section of our school website (abbott.smfcsd.net). We will be continuing our PBIS work throughout the school year, and will be working on a variety of ways to recognize students who regularly demonstrate safe, responsible, and respectful behavior.

I am also excited that we took a cohort of teachers to an AVID institute this past summer. The AVID program is based on the philosophy that if you hold students accountable to the highest standards and provide academic and social support, they will rise to the challenge. You can learn more about the AVID program and goals at AVID's website (www.avid.org). We have opened two new AVID elective classes this year, and our AVID-trained teachers will soon begin sharing with their colleagues some of the inquiry-based instructional strategies that they practiced at the AVID summer institute. If you are interested in your student joining the AVID elective class, please email your student's counselor.

As you may know, our district adopted a new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum this school year, and your student should have received a new ELA textbook. Abbott's ELA classes at 6th and 7th grade are now 2 period blocks to accommodate the expanded scope and content of our new ELA adoption.

We were able to schedule most of our students in their elective(s) of choice, with a few exceptions. Due to staffing constraints, we were only able to offer one section of Spanish 1 and we could not accommodate all of the requests for Spanish 1. We did introduce several popular new electives this year, including AVID, Bio-Creativity, and Science Fiction. Those new electives join the list of existing electives, which includes: Art, 3-D Design, Drama, Leadership, Robotics, Computers, Advanced Computers, Band, and Orchestra.

I am happy to note that we started the school year fully staffed, and we have a number of talented, experienced teachers who have joined our staff, including: Mr. Callan (ELA/SS), Mr. Clement (PE), Ms. Dose (ELA/SS), Ms. Jacobs (SDC), Ms. Mughannam (PE), Ms. Suresh (Science), Mr. Torres (Newcomer), and Mr. Zurovac (ELA).

With the roll-out of new programs like PBIS and AVID, there is much to be done this year at Abbott, but I am excited to begin this year and to see how we can continue to build a positive, supportive, and high-achieving school for all Abbott students. We look forward to seeing all parents at Back to School Night on Wed., Aug. 30th from 6-8. 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. Hope to see you all on Aug. 30th!

Best,

Joe Hadley, Abbott Principal