

August 5, 2018

Dear Miramonte Families:

In two weeks another year begins and with it, the hope and excitement for the possibilities for our children. We want you to be aware of various important points of information ahead of time, so please take a few minutes to read through this (and save it for reference). We want everyone ready for the best days ahead.

- **Backpacks for Miramonte Students:** The generous people of the Sunnyvale Church added to their list of ministries to purchase and supply backpacks for students. There are 36 of them at the school, waiting for someone to claim them. Either come by Miramonte and pick one up, or call the office and ask them to put it aside for you. They will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Each backpack is stocked with the same supplies, so you will need to compare what it contains versus the school supply list found on our website.
- **Home & School Activities:**
  - Aug. 20 - Red carpet welcome for all students – 1<sup>st</sup> day of school!
  - Aug. 20 – Parent Curbside Breakfast and Home & School Meeting
  - Aug. 24 – Walk-a-Thon Kick-off
- **Key Calendar Reminders:**
  - Aug. 18 – Teacher Dedication at the Sunnyvale SDA Church. The pastor and church leaders will lead us in prayer and dedicating our staff for the new school year.
  - Aug. 20, 1<sup>st</sup> day of school is a half-day for Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, but a whole day for grades 4 through 8. There will be after school care, starting at noon and continuing to 6 pm. There will be no after school care charge from noon to 3:25 pm.
  - Aug. 16 or Aug. 23 (7 – 8 pm) - Training for **Partners for Eternity** (PFE). This is a mandatory meeting for the child and parent who are participating in this scholarship/outreach program. If you have any questions, please email Damaris Hernandez (better known as Miss D) at [dhernandez@miramonteschool.org](mailto:dhernandez@miramonteschool.org).
  - Aug. 30 (6:30 – 8:30 pm) – Back to School Night. It is a half-hour longer to make sure we keep you up-to-date with what is happening at Miramonte. We will start in the gym and then move to two ½-hour sessions/rotations in the classrooms. There will be childcare available at no charge this night.
  - Aug. 31 – Game Day. This is our time for fun and bonding as the whole school enjoys this much-loved event.
  - Sept. 3 – Labor Day – No School
  - Sept. 10 – 20: Iowa Testing Weeks. While there is allowance in the handbook for being away a few days in the year, we strongly urge everyone to avoid scheduling your children from missing school that week. We have a narrow window to accomplish much, and we want this measurement tool to give us an accurate understanding of your child's progress.
  - Sept. 21 – Home & School Walk-a-Thon

- Sept. 23 – Flag Football Tournament at CVCA (Modesto area)
- Sept. 24 – 28 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Overnight Trip to Hume Lake
- Oct. 1 – 5 – Fall Week of Prayer with Pastors Yi-Re-Yi and Shane Kwon.
- **Student Handbook for 2018-2019:** I have both attached it to this email and have put it on the website for you to read through. Please read through with your children so all of us are with the same understanding. Here are the key revisions for this coming year.
  - Dress code – It now states that hair color is to be a normal hair color. We have had some creativity in this respect in the past. While there is not any other major change to this part of the handbook, we ask all parents to help the staff by making sure what the students come to school in fits the dress code. One item to remember is that jewelry needs to stay home and not be worn. We ask that any piercing be scheduled in the summer when there is time to heal, and that if something is needed in the piercing that it is the small clear plug.
  - Process of tracking concerns – This year we will use a document called the Appreciation – Concern Form\*. It is a great way to share your gratefulness with a teacher; and they value your words of approval. It is also a better way to track the progress of addressing concerns since each step will be documented, including action plans and follow-up that a solution was found; plus it will help to keep the process moving and not get bogged down. While this document is not an answer to everything, it certainly provides a tangible way to improve the whole process.
  - Service-hours for parents – It does take a village to raise a child, and Miramonte would not be the same without its parents. Indeed, the time and support of parents helps to keep the costs of school lower due to your enthusiastic volunteerism. To encourage this amongst all of our families, Miramonte is joining the practice of many of our sister schools in requiring each parent to contribute 7 service-hours. Many hands make the burden light, and many parents have approached administration to please start service hours. At first blush, seven may seem a lot, but a number of you exceed or at least come close to that amount each year. If you add up the hours from Back to School Night (1.5 – 2), Parent-Teacher Conferences (0.5), Olweus Parents Night (1.5), one hot lunch (1 - 2), and one field trip (1.5 – 6), you have already accomplished it or came close. If you help with the Fall Festival (1 – 4), the Home & School Walk-a-Thon (3 – 4), or an overnight trip (24+), you are approaching sainthood! If you feel that you cannot contribute those hours through the year, then the alternative for any of the 7 service-hours not completed is a \$10 per hour fee.
  - The Mainspring will be sent home in paper form on Mondays for grades K – 2, but it will be emailed out to homes K – 8 on Mondays in electronic form.
- **New Personnel at Miramonte:** While most of our staff is still here, there are a few changes in staffing you need to be aware of.
  - Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher is now **Kristie Creitz**. She has a couple of decades of experience in education, most recently teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade and middle school students at Fresno Adventist Academy. We're thrilled that she's on our team.
  - Our Business Manager is **Camesha Curtis**. She has moved here from Florida and brings with her a wealth of experience in finance, and she is dedicated to



- working with our families and keeping our school going strong. (Sadly, our much beloved Gina Welch is not returning to Miramonte. We miss her a lot.)
- Our Secretary is **Viviana Malo**. You all know and love her as a fellow Miramonte Mom. She is now bringing her love of children and considerable set of talents to our office to provide the best in customer service, communication, and organization. She will be in the office all week long to provide consistently a familiar, friendly face for all families and visitors.
  - You may not have realized this, but **Maggie Branderiz** has been our Registrar since last January as we transitioned last summer to online registration with RenWeb. *(After 35 years of incredible service, Eva Elliott has retired. She is an icon at Miramonte and gentle soul with a great wit; indeed, she is many things to Miramonte families as she has touched so many lives. She is greatly loved and much missed, but we hope to have her come visit throughout the year.)*
  - After School Care will be handled by two people this year: Camesha Curtis is experienced in after school care at the SDA school in Florida; and **Kelen Fu** is joining us as our other supervisor in ASC. Mrs. Fu has experience working with children and is a very devout Christian who loves children. The two ladies will make a great team.
  - **Statements' new format** – Miramonte updated its hardware and software this summer; we also updated some of finances protocols – most notably, (1) we send the first statements the first of August, not during July, and (2) we bill per family and not per student. This transition has taken some work , and I apologize for the delay but it should be sent this week.
  - **Technology** – We have purchased more devices so that all of the students in grades 2 through 6 have enough chrome books. Meanwhile, we updated the computer lab where the students in grades 7 and 8 – and to a smaller degree, kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade – spend part of their day working on the computers.
  - Remember that our preschool, **Miramonte Early Learning Center**, serves children aged 3 and 4 years old. Let your friends know about this great service while there is still available space.

Thank you so much for the privilege of educating your child. Together we will make this a memorable and rewarding year for our children and everyone. This is going to be a wonderful year. Thanks for being a part of the Miramonte Family.

May God richly bless you and your children.

Yours in Christ,

Richard G. Maloon, M. Ed.

Principal

\* This form will be available in the school office.