

## Lower School New Parents Frequently Asked Questions

**Congratulations, and welcome to the Nueva Community! Here's a list of commonly asked questions. Please don't hesitate to email the Admissions Office, [admissions@nuevaschool.org](mailto:admissions@nuevaschool.org) if you have any other questions.**

**What is done to ease my child's transition to Nueva?** Attending new family events and connecting with your family grouping prior to the start of school (August 31) will help your child find familiar faces when school begins. The teachers and the Social-Emotional Learning Specialist work as a team to help new students transition to lower school routines, and they explicitly engage the classes in activities designed to help the new students feel comfortable. Please speak with your child's teachers or the division head if you or your child needs extra support.

**When and how often should I expect to speak with the teacher?** Nueva teachers welcome open communication with parents. They have worked out a variety of methods to ensure a balance in meeting the needs of families in their classrooms. If you have questions, or need more information, contact your child's teacher. Communication plans are outlined at Back to School Night (BTSN). The Lower School BTSN is September 16. Parents should attend this important event.

**When will I hear how my child is doing?** Nueva offers three parent-teacher conferences a year. Conferences are scheduled over two days. The first one is November 6 and 13, the next one is January 29 and February 5, and the last one is scheduled for June 14 and 15. The first conference is an opportunity for teachers and parents to exchange information about a child's progress thus far in the year. With the two-additional parent-teacher conferences, you will meet with and receive narrative evaluations from the homeroom teacher and specialists. practices.

**When will I know my child's teacher and classmates?** Class assignments are provided in late August.

**Do students remain with the same group all day long, all year long?** Each classroom has the opportunity to work with the other grade level teacher, as well as specialists, and students in the other grade level class in different subjects and on various projects. Grade level classrooms have recesses and lunches together. On most Fridays, students in the Lower and Middle School gather for an all school assembly.

**When does the school day begin and end, and what are the drop-off and pick-up times for school?** We have a staggered start time for Lower and Middle School. Due to construction, these times will be confirmed and released in late June.

Children in grades K-8 can be dropped off as early as 7:30 am; the latest pick-up time is 6:00 pm. Children arriving early or staying after school must make arrangements to go to Extended Care. Additional details and sign up for our Extended Care Program, Enrichment Classes (for grades K-8), and Homework Club (for grades 2-8) will be available in late August.

**Drop-off/Pick-up:** Additional information on traffic flow and pick-up/drop-off locations will be provided in late August. Please observe traffic guidelines to ensure a safe and steady flow of traffic. Park in designated areas, and never on Skyline Boulevard or public streets adjacent to campus.

**Bus and Shuttles:** We encourage anyone who can to ride the bus! Multiple routes (north and south) as well as inter-campus shuttles are offered to minimize trip time and maximize convenience. The bus is a safe, fun, cost effective, and environmentally friendly way for students and faculty to travel to and from school. Additional details and sign up for our bus and shuttle service will be available in late August.

**Carpooling:** Parents arrange carpools informally by grade/region. The Nueva Directory has a "Find Carpool" option for you to find other families in your zip code. Speak with your buddy family or class representative to find out if you can join an existing carpool or would like to coordinate a new group.

**Is Extended Care the same as the afternoon enrichment classes?** No. Many enrichment classes are offered for Grades K-8 after school. Topics for the classes range from musical theater, to soccer, chess, and art classes. After classes, children can go to Extended Care to wait for their carpools or the late bus. Details and registration will be available in September.

**Can my child play after-school sports?** Yes! Nueva belongs to the West Bay Athletic League for grades 4-8. For a full list of sports offered, please visit our website. All Nueva athletics teams are formed on the basis of interest and participation. When participation is adequate, everyone is accepted on a team, and everyone can participate at their level of skill. Teams are generally formed through assessment, while groupings take into account age and developmental ability. In addition, depending on enrollment, teams may be all boys, all girls, or coed

**Can my child take music lessons on campus?** Yes! Nueva contracts with local musicians to provide individual music lessons, beginning to advanced, during the school day. Priority enrollment is given to older students. Details and registration will be available in September.

**What are my child's lunch options?** Children may bring their own lunch, or sign up for the lunch program, which includes fresh, nutritious, organic ingredients. All children and their families are welcome to eat at the café by checking their names in at the register. Nueva is a nut-free campus. **Please do not pack any lunch or snack items containing ground or tree nuts, or their derivatives.** Details and registration for the lunch program will be available in late August.

# THE NUEVA SCHOOL

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## **What if my child gets hurt or is ill during school?**

The Nueva School nurse attends to minor scrapes, injuries, and illnesses. If your child is unable to return to class, you will be called to come and pick him/her up from school. Children may return to school 24 hours after the cessation of fever or vomiting. We call emergency services as needed. All faculty and staff receive annual training in first aid/CPR. Parents must complete, sign, and submit Nueva's Emergency Information Sheet by May 15. We require an annual update of this information.

**What is the school policy on absences and lateness?** For Lower School, you must contact Janice Toy at [jtoy@nuevaschool.org](mailto:jtoy@nuevaschool.org) or (650) 350-4520. If your child arrives late, s/he also needs to sign in with Janice at her desk, next to the ballroom. If an extended absence is unavoidable, please talk with your child's teachers ahead of time.

**Can I volunteer in the class or in other ways?** Yes! Ask teachers what opportunities are for your child's grade. Volunteer jobs range from leading literature clubs, and helping with field trips to organizing special events, and teaching in an area of expertise. The Nueva Parents Association (NPA) coordinates school-wide events. Please attend Tea on the Plaza on the first day of school to meet NPA representatives and discuss your interests and availability. Teachers will discuss other volunteer opportunities during Back to School Night. All Nueva parents are automatic members of the Nueva Parents Association and are welcome to attend meetings.

**Will my child have electives?** Lower School students choose their activities and areas of study in a variety of ways. In PreK and K, time is set aside each day for students to investigate areas of interest. In grades 1-4, students have weekly choice times. They also have "passion projects" and "intensives." Regular "electives" in music, art, programming, drama, etc. are offered in Middle and Upper School.

## **Community Service Learning**

Community service in the Lower School is responsive-based and open for students to pursue their passions and create experiences. Students have put together a Kindness March, organized a "Ban on Plastics" week, and created infographics to share climate change statistics. Nueva's third grade hosts a Service Learning Fair after researching areas of interest and identifying ways they can help. Lower School representatives from grades 1-4 meet weekly to solve problems, solicit suggestions, and create events for the whole community.

## **Who can I contact with additional questions?**

- Diane Rosenberg, Head of School ([drosenberg@nuevaschool.org](mailto:drosenberg@nuevaschool.org))
- CC: Caron Anscombe, Upper School Executive Assistant ([canscombe@nuevaschool.org](mailto:canscombe@nuevaschool.org))
- Megan Terra, Head of Lower School ([mterra@nuevaschool.org](mailto:mterra@nuevaschool.org))
- CC: Janice Toy, Lower School Division Assistant ([jtoy@nuevaschool.org](mailto:jtoy@nuevaschool.org))
- Elizabeth Rossini, Director of Teaching & Learning ([erossini@nuevaschool.org](mailto:erossini@nuevaschool.org))
- Taryn Grogan, Director of Admissions ([tgrogan@nuevaschool.org](mailto:tgrogan@nuevaschool.org))
- Alegria Barclay, PreK-12 Equity & Social Justice Director ([abarclay@nuevaschool.org](mailto:abarclay@nuevaschool.org))
- Angi Chau, I-Lab Director PreK-12 ([achau@nuevaschool.org](mailto:achau@nuevaschool.org))
- Chris Wade, PreK-12 Athletics Director ([cwade@nuevaschool.org](mailto:cwade@nuevaschool.org))