

# Marian A. Peterson Middle School

## Student/Parent Handbook 2023-2024



### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Principal: Mrs. Chandra Henry  
(408) 423-2801  
chenry@scusd.net

Vice Principal: Ms. Krista Keneman  
Student Support Last Names A-L  
(408) 423-2803  
kkeneman@scusd.net

Vice Principal: Mrs. Angela Kretsch  
Student Support Last Names M-Z  
(408) 423-2802  
akrtesch@scusd.net

Main Line/General Information: (408) 423-2800  
School Secretary: (408) 423-2810  
Counselor - Last Names A – H: (408) 423-2816  
Counselor - Last Names I - P: (408) 423-2823  
Counselor - Last Names Q – Z: (408) 423-2835  
Health Office: (408) 423-2819  
Bookkeeper: (408) 423-2808  
Registration & Student Records: (408) 423-2806

**Absence Recorder Phone: (408) 423-2805**

**School Website: [http://\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](http://_____)**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PETERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PETERSON GRADE LEVEL THEMES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ACADEMIC POLICIES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE POLICIES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CAMPUS POLICIES</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE INTERVENTIONS AND POLICIES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>STUDENT ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PETERSON ACADEMIC VOCABULARY LIST AND DEFINITIONS</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>2023-2024 Peterson Daily Bell Schedules</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>PETERSON CAMPUS MAP</b>	<b>15</b>

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### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Peterson Middle School! This is an exciting time for students and parents alike. Please read the policies in this handbook together with your parent(s).

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### PETERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Peterson Middle School is dedicated to academic excellence and the personal, social and physical development of each student. Peterson students will have a positive self-image, respect others, communicate effectively, think critically and appreciate cultural diversity in an environment that promotes a sense of belonging and moral responsibility.

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### PETERSON GRADE LEVEL THEMES

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – *Coping with Transition and Developing Resilience*
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – *Building Connections with Others and Taking Safe Risks*
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade** – *Making Good Choices that Affect MY Future*
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## **ACADEMIC POLICIES**

It is the intent of the district to provide a high quality middle school experience. That experience should also prepare students adequately to move on to the next grade level or to a successful high school experience.

Every effort will be made by Peterson Middle School teachers and staff to ensure the success of our students. In the event that we/they are not successful, counselors will meet with the students who are not performing to standards to develop an academic plan.

Students who have not met the academic standard at the end of their middle school experience may be recommended to an alternative ninth grade program.

### **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

An Academic Awards Program is held annually near the end of the school year honoring those students who have been nominated by their teachers in specific academic areas.

### **ACADEMIC TRIPS**

Academic teams will plan educational field trips. Donations may be requested to offset the cost of field trips. Students who do not meet behavioral expectations may be required to have a parent to chaperone the field trip in order to attend. No student will be excluded from any academic field trip due to financial hardship.

### **CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS/HOMEWORK**

An important goal of middle school is to help students assume more responsibility for their own learning and academic progress. Students should complete their class work and homework by the due-dates assigned by their teachers. Teachers and parents share the important task of fostering students' awareness that education extends beyond the classroom and that gaining knowledge or improving skills requires practice. If there is no specific homework due, students should be working on long-term assignments such as book reports or research projects, studying for upcoming tests, or practicing to improve skills such as reading or writing. Art, music and physical education skills also require practice in order to improve. When students are struggling to complete/keep up with assignments, they may arrange with their teacher to get help either before or after school.

### **COUNSELING SERVICES**

The Counseling Department at Peterson Middle School provides both academic, social-emotional and personal counseling for students in grades six through eight. Our counselors have an open-door policy for students, parents and teachers. The department works in partnership with the school psychologist, Health and Wellness Coordinator and counseling interns, and other outside agencies. Students may be referred for guidance counseling by parents and teachers. Student Study Team (SST) Meetings are conducted for struggling students to determine appropriate support. For those students who are in need of more in-depth services, the department can provide recommendations and community referrals to the parent of the student as needed.

### **GRADING PERIOD/REPORT CARDS**

Peterson has four grading periods; each is about nine weeks in length. Report cards are sent four times a year. Progress reports are also sent midway through each quarter

Grades are posted online through Aeries. If you need assistance with information related to grades being posted please phone the Registrar at (408) 423-2806.

### **HONOR ROLL**

Students earning a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) in a grading quarter are placed on the Peterson Honor Roll.

### **STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

Teachers select outstanding students monthly on the basis of citizenship and achievement. Students are recognized with a certificate, and their photo is taken for our display in the quad.

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## ATTENDANCE POLICIES

### ATTENDANCE STANDARD

Regular attendance at Middle School is expected. Please refer to the District Handbook provided at registration for all SCUSD attendance policies.

### ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

Peterson Middle School has a computerized attendance system. All absences must be excused each day they occur. Excused absences are illness, medical/dental appointments, or other emergencies as defined in the SCUSD Student and Parent Information Handbook. When a student is absent from school for any reason, parents or guardians are to do the following:

**Telephone the school each day of absence. Please call between 7:30 A.M. and 8:30 A.M. to inform our attendance clerk of the reason for the absence.** The telephone number for the attendance office is **(408) 423-2805**. This number is available 24 hours, seven days per week. You can also **text the attendance clerk to report a student absence at (408) 423-2811**. Telephone or text verification is acceptable in lieu of a written excuse. A doctor's note is required to excuse an extended absence of three or more days. According to district policy, if a student is absent for 10 or more consecutive days (unexcused), the student will be disenrolled from Peterson.

Telephone or text verification should include the following:

- Name of the student
- Grade Level and Student ID Number
- Reason for absence & Date of absence
- Number of days absent

Written notes should also include the signature of a parent/guardian.

### UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Referrals for unexcused absences may result in one or all of the following:

- Telephone call to parents
- Parent conference
- Home visit from SCUSD truancy liaison
- SST meeting
- Referral to Student Attendance Review Board at the district level.

### MAKE-UP WORK (BP6154)

Students who are absent from school shall be given the opportunity to complete all assignments and tests that can be reasonably provided. As determined by the teacher, the assignments and tests shall be equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the assignments and tests missed during the absence. Students shall receive full credit for work satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians that no student may have a grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence when missed assignments and tests are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Such notification shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)

### CHANGING SCHOOLS

Students moving to a new location outside of the Peterson Middle School attendance area must notify the registrar, who is located in the office, by phone, email, or in person to explain where the student will be attending school. The student should be prepared to return all textbooks, Chromebook, and if applicable, pay or work off any necessary fines for lost or damaged materials. A clearance sheet must be signed by each of the student's teachers and the librarian, and returned to the main office prior to leaving.

### CHANGING STUDENT INFORMATION

If you change address or phone numbers, or if you go on vacation and leave your student under the temporary care of someone other than his/her legal guardian, please notify the office.

## **ILLNESS OR INJURY**

The nurse's office is located in Peterson's office. It is important to inform the office of any special health matters concerning a student. In case of illness or injury, students must get a pass from a teacher to go to the nurse's office. Students should not contact parents before visiting the nurse's office. The nurse, health clerk, or other office staff will determine whether a student needs to go home and contact the parent or guardian or a person listed on the student's Emergency Contacts. In case of a serious accident or injury on campus, the paramedics may be contacted to administer medical aid to students and parents or guardians will be notified immediately.

## **LEAVING OR RETURNING DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

Peterson Middle School is a **closed campus** throughout the entire school day, from the time students arrive on campus until they leave for the day. Students leaving for appointments must be checked out by a parent, guardian, or someone listed on the Emergency Contacts and will be issued a "Permit to Leave" slip. Students returning from an appointment must first check in with the attendance office.

## **PASSES AND CALL SLIPS**

When leaving a classroom, students must have a **PASS signed by the teacher** showing permission to be out of class. The pass is also to be signed by the person in charge of the room to which the student is going. CALL SLIPS are sent to students, asking them to come to a specified classroom or to the office at a specified time.

## **TARDY POLICY**

Students arriving at school after 8:30 a.m. are tardy to school. If students arrive at school after 8:45 a.m., they must pick up a pass from the attendance clerk in the office. School policy states a student is tardy to any class period if they are not **in their seat** when the bell rings.

- **The first and second tardy** to any class period are recorded. The teacher will speak with the student privately regarding their tardiness to class.
- **The third tardy** will result in the teacher making a parent/guardian phone call home. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached by phone, an email will be sent to the parent/guardian from the teacher with the appropriate vice principal CC'd.
- **The fourth tardy** will result in an office referral for an administrative-assigned after school student support
- **Each subsequent tardy** may result in restrictive brunch/lunch, a meeting with SCUSD truancy liaison, and parent contact.
- **Tardies** will reset at the beginning of the third quarter.

**Important Note:** If the student misses thirty (30) or more minutes of instruction time, it is considered an unexcused absence.

## **TRUANCY**

During the school day the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety and the Santa Clara Police Department will pick up students who are off campus without proper permission forms.

The Board of Education of the Santa Clara Unified School District recognizes the value of regular attendance in enabling students to profit from the school program. Students with chronic truancy issues will follow the Santa Clara Unified School District truancy process. Adjustments may be made to the process due to family circumstances.

- A truancy letter will be mailed home to those students who miss 10% of school days due to illness or medical appointments. A medical doctor note will be required to excuse any further illnesses or appointments.
- The first truancy letter is mailed home to students who have three (3) unexcused absences.
- A second truancy letter is sent after the fourth (4th) unexcused absence. A meeting with the vice principal of attendance is required after the second truancy letter is sent home.
- A third truancy letter is sent after the fifth (5th) unexcused absence, and the family is requested to attend a Student Study Team (SST) meeting with the vice principal of attendance, the student's counselor and district truancy liaison present.
- After the student's sixth (6th) unexcused absence, the final truancy letter is sent and the family may be required to participate in the SCUSD Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) process.

## CAMPUS POLICIES

### CLEAN CAMPUS

Take pride in your campus! The appearance of our school is important to all of us. It is the responsibility of each student to do their part to keep the campus clean. Dispose of waste properly.

- Peterson is proud to have a Zero Waste Policy in our cafeteria. Food should be disposed of in the marked bins (i.e. landfill, recycle, liquid waste).
- There are marked paper and container recycling bins around campus. Please place your recyclable materials in the appropriate bin.

### CLOSED CAMPUS

Peterson Middle School is a **closed campus** throughout the entire school day.

- From the time students arrive on campus until they leave for the day. Students leaving for appointments must be checked out by a parent, guardian, or someone listed on the Emergency Contacts and will be issued a "Permit to Leave" slip. Students returning from an appointment must first check in with the attendance office.
- Visitors and volunteers must check in at the office before coming onto the campus. **All visitors and volunteers are required to wear either a SCUSD ID, Peterson Visitor or Peterson Volunteer Badge while on campus.** You can obtain a Visitor or Volunteer Badge from the school secretary.

### EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Every student MUST have current emergency information completed through the SCUSD Enrollment Center. If parents/guardians cannot be reached in emergency situations such as illness, injury or disaster, Peterson Middle School will notify the emergency contacts. **Any time parent/guardian contact information (home phone, cell phone, email address) changes, please communicate all changes with the office staff.**

- Students may only be picked up by authorized persons listed as an emergency contact.

### LOCKERS

Each 6<sup>th</sup> grade student is assigned a locker at the beginning of the school year by their homeroom teacher. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may request a locker from the Attendance Clerk in the office. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be given a P.E. locker from the P.E. teachers. The use of these lockers is a privilege. **Do not share lockers or locker combinations with any other person.**

### LOST AND FOUND

Students must assume sole responsibility for loss or damage to any personal property left in classrooms, P.E. lockers or on campus. Peterson Middle School will try to help protect personal possessions, but we are not responsible for them. Check the "Lost and Found Cart" located in the cafeteria, or see the custodians about recently lost items. If belongings of significant value are not recovered, immediately notify the office. The best way to assure items are returned is to have your name in permanent ink on all articles of clothing, books, and other personal property. If you find something that does not belong to you, please hang or place it on the lost and found cart or turn it into the office if it is valuable. If you keep something you find, it is considered stolen. Students who have witnessed a theft or know a student who is in possession of someone else's belongings should inform a teacher, counselor, or an administrator.

### LUNCH / BRUNCH / FOOD DELIVERY SERVICES

Students are not permitted to use food delivery services during the school day or school sponsored events per California State and Federal Law (Title 7 Code of Federal Regulation 210.11, California Education Code (EC) Section 49430, Senate Bill 1169 (McGuire)). These rules encompass a comprehensive approach to food and beverage sales by all groups or individuals, during the school day, throughout the school campus. If food is delivered, it will remain in the office for students to pick up after school.

Lunch and brunch are considered part of the school day. In order to maintain safety and cleanliness, students must observe the following rules:

- Form orderly lines with no cutting.
- Sit on benches only, not on tabletops.
- Place all trash in the appropriate containers (recycling, trash, etc.).
- Keep all food and drink within the designated eating areas.
  - o quad for lunch

- o Pirates Cove and quad for brunch
- Glass containers of any kind are not permitted at school.
- Students are discouraged from drinking energy drinks (Rock Stars, Red Bull).
- Respect and follow the direction of noon duty supervisors.
- Respect the Wellness Policy in celebrating birthdays during lunch (must have a healthy alternative).
- Please see the SCUSD or school website for more information about Child Nutrition Services.

## **MEDICATION**

If medication must be taken during school hours, the nurse's office will provide the student's parent/guardian with the proper form and procedures for storing/taking medication on campus. **All (prescription and non-prescription) medications must be kept in the nurse's office. Students may not carry any medication with them.**

## **OFFICE**

Peterson's offices are important places of business in which all are welcome. The office staff is happy to answer questions about school procedures or policies. Students coming to any office during class must have a pass or call slip. Parents are requested to refrain from attempting to deliver messages to students via the office staff, except in emergency situations.

## **RESTROOMS**

Restrooms are to be used for their intended purpose. There are all gender and gender specific restrooms on campus. Students may not loiter in or around restrooms. Students are not allowed to use cell phones or Chromebooks in the bathroom. Vandalism to restrooms will be cause for disciplinary action.

## **SELLING ITEMS**

Students may not sell any items at school.

## **SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

We all enjoy celebrating special occasions such as birthdays. However, sending or using delivery services to provide food, flowers, balloon bouquets, or other gifts to students during school hours disrupts instruction. Therefore, parents and students are asked to refrain from such deliveries. If such deliveries occur or students bring them on campus, they will be kept in the office until the end of the day. SCUSD has banned all balloons on campus.

## **STUDENT SUPPLIES /TEXTBOOKS**

Students should have paper, pencils and pens (not permanent markers) at all times. Students should have a method to organize their schoolwork. Students are responsible for the condition of books assigned to them. Textbooks, Chromebooks, and materials must be returned at the end of the year or when withdrawing from school. Any student who damages textbooks, Chromebooks, or any other school materials, or fails to return these materials may be charged replacement costs. Fines and bills may be paid to the bookkeeper in the office.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Bicycles**

Peterson provides a fenced-in bicycle area. This area is locked during school hours. If you use the bicycle area, be sure to lock your bike to the racks provided. Each bike must have its own chain and lock. Do not leave a bike in the bike area over the weekend. Bicycles may not be ridden anywhere on campus. Peterson Middle School takes no responsibility for the theft or vandalism of any bike brought to school. Bikes should be licensed or marked to be easily identified. Students, by law, are required to have a helmet. Free student helmets are frequently available in the main office.

### **Skateboards or Scooters**

Skateboards or scooters are not to be ridden on campus. These items need to be locked in the scooter rack outside of the office. Students are required to have a helmet. Sunnyvale and Santa Clara Police Department issue citations to students not wearing a helmet when riding a scooter or skateboard. If no helmet is worn, the above items may be withheld at the end of the day by school administration. Free helmets are often available in the office. Note: Electric scooters are not permitted.

### **Cars/Student Pick-Up and Drop-Off**

Parents or guardians who drive students to school or who pick them up after school must follow all traffic regulations in effect on public roads. School administration requires that all students be picked up within 20 minutes of the end of the

school day unless they are involved in a supervised after-school or academic activity. There are three main areas for pick up/drop off: Front of school, Big Parking Lot and Dunford Avenue.

### **School Bus**

**Riding the school bus is a privilege.** Buses are provided for students who live within the authorized bus range. Section 14103 of the California Education Code holds the driver fully responsible for student conduct on the school bus. It is important that students know and follow the rules and regulations for riding the bus safely. All school rules are in effect while riding the school bus.

### **Consequences For Failing To Follow Bus Rules**

A bus conduct report is sent to the parent or guardian by the district transportation department. For behavior that does not follow the above rules the following steps are taken:

- A warning, written citation, or assigned bus seat
- Temporary loss of bus privilege
- Permanent loss of bus privilege

### **VISITOR AND VOLUNTEER INFORMATION**

Peterson Middle School is a **closed campus** throughout the entire school day. Visitors and volunteers must check in at the office before coming onto the campus. **All visitors and volunteers are required to wear either a SCUSD ID, Peterson Visitor or Peterson Volunteer Badge while on campus.**

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## **PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE INTERVENTIONS AND POLICIES**

At Peterson Middle School, we are working together to provide a positive and safe learning environment by respecting others, our work, property and ourselves. We feel it is important for the school and parent/guardian to partner in maintaining a positive, safe learning environment. We strive to foster progress towards long term learning and behavioral goals. The safety of all students is our priority. The administration reserves the right to use their discretion to forgo and/or change a consequence, based on the severity or continued recurrence of the student's action.

School rules apply on campus as well as on the way to and from school (bus, walking/riding home, at Starbucks, etc.). Students may be subject to discipline for off campus misconduct if the misconduct is related to school activity or attendance and causes or is reasonably likely to cause a substantial disruption to school activity. For example, a student using technology such as a home computer, cellular phone, or other electronic device may be disciplined for bullying, engaging in unlawful harassment, or making threats against students, staff, or district property even if such misconduct occurred off campus and during non school hours. (EC 48900r).

### **Search and Seizure Policy**

Santa Clara Unified School District Board Policy 5145.12 states: The Governing Board is fully committed to promoting a safe learning environment and, to the extent possible, eliminating the possession and use of weapons, illegal drugs, and other controlled substances by students on school premises and at school activities. As necessary to protect the health and welfare of students and staff, school officials may search students, their property, and/or district property under their control and may seize illegal, unsafe, or otherwise prohibited items

School officials may search any individual student, their property, or district property under their control when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that they are violating the law, Board policy, administrative regulation, or other rules of the district or the school. Reasonable suspicion shall be based on specific and objective facts that the search will produce evidence related to the alleged violation. The types of student property that may be searched by school officials include, but are not limited to, lockers, desks, purses, backpacks, cellular phones, or other electronic communication devices.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

- Campus beautification



- Community service hours
- Restricted or loss of privileges
- Supported conflict mediation/restorative conversations
- Reflective writing

**Note:** The parent/guardian may reschedule an after school student support **once** for any reason.

**SERIOUS OFFENSES THAT VIOLATE CA EDUCATION CODE:**

Fighting, damage to school property, harassment, hate speech/violence, possession/sales of a controlled substance or weapon use or possession may result in an immediate home suspension and/or expulsion hearing, and police involvement if necessary. The Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety will assist the school in these situations if necessary.

**TEACHER SUSPENSION (Education Code 48910)**

A teacher may suspend any student from the teacher's class for the day of the suspension and the day following. The teacher shall immediately report the suspension to the office and send the student to the office for appropriate action. The teacher must contact the parent/guardian by telephone. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached by telephone, the teacher must email the parent/guardian and CC the appropriate vice principal. As soon as possible, the teacher will arrange for a parent-teacher conference regarding the suspension. A school administrator or counselor shall attend the conference if a teacher or parent so requests.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION**

A student may be suspended if they violate any section of the California State Education Codes, 48900 or 48915. When a student is suspended, a parent conference with an administrator will be held either in person or over the telephone. When a student returns from a suspension, it is the responsibility of the student to work with their teachers to determine missed work and reasonable timelines for completion. Please see **"Make-Up Work (BP6154)"** for more detailed information on make-up work.

**BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

**ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

The use of technology is a privilege. The district acceptable use policy is located in the SCUSD Student Parent Handbook, available on the SCUSD website <https://santaclarausd.org>. Misuse of technology is subject to disciplinary action. In support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning, student chromebooks should not be used for taking photos/videos of individuals, playing games, social media, or chat/messaging.

**STUDENT CHROMEBOOKS**

Peterson students have the unique opportunity to use district-owned Chromebooks for learning. Reasonable precautions and care need to be taken when using the Chromebook so that damage does not occur. Any damage or loss to the Chromebook or Chromebook accessories is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student. Families will have the option to purchase replacements, or the student may work off the cost of the item by working in the library before school (8:10-8:25), during (brunch & lunch- after eating), or after school (until 4:00 M, T, TH, F). If your family has elected for your student to work off the cost of their lost or damaged materials, a parent/guardian will be asked to sign a permission slip to work in the library, working off \$17.00 per hour of work.

**APPROPRIATE STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS**

Peterson Middle School does not permit public displays of affection on campus. Holding hands, arm-in-arm, hugging, and kissing are not appropriate at school.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual, sex-based or gender-based verbal, written, online or physical conduct. Sexual harassment may rise to the level where it creates a hostile environment. Sexual harassment can be retaliatory. Sexual harassment may be in the form of *quid pro quo* harassment (a demand or request for sexual contact in exchange for a favor or to prevent a negative consequence). All types of sexual harassment and retaliation are prohibited by District policy and state and federal law and may result in serious disciplinary consequences including the harasser getting suspended or expelled. Examples of sexual harassment include but are not limited to the following:

- Questions or comments about a person's real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identification
- Questions or comments about a person's sexual experiences
- Sharing crude, offensive or highly personal pictures, jokes or statements
- Inappropriate touching or gestures
- Conduct that was once may have been welcome but time, place or circumstance makes it unwelcome now

If you believe that anyone is sexually harassing you (or someone else) – whether the harasser is another student, a member of faculty or staff, an administrator or a volunteer – you are encouraged to report the unwelcome behavior immediately to SCHS's Title IX Coordinator, the principal, any vice principal, any teacher or librarian. There are also ways to report sexual harassment anonymously on the SCUSD website.

### **BULLYING/HARASSMENT OF ANY TYPE**

Peterson Middle School does not tolerate behavior which marginalizes, threatens, embarrasses, frightens, shames or intimidates others. If you feel bullied, please report such to an appropriate adult on campus. Constitutional protections such as free speech do not allow anyone to incite violence or to use speech in harmful ways against others. Students can report any situations of bullying/harassment to one of the vice principal's offices. All reports will be investigated.

### **CONFESSION PAGES/BURN PAGES/SHARED DOCUMENTS**

Running or posting to confession pages or other shared documents will be treated as cyberbullying. Those found to have created, posted or to be running pages will be subject to the progressive discipline policy.

### **CELL PHONE POLICY**

Students may possess cell phones, but the devices must be turned off during school hours. **"Turned off" means unable to receive a signal.** Students may turn on and use electronic devices before the first warning bell in the morning, and after the final dismissal bell in the afternoon. If a student is using a cell phone any other time or place, it will be confiscated and returned in accordance with Peterson's Cell Phone Policy. Cell phones cannot be used for texting or as a recording device, a camera or a video recorder, unless specific written permission has been given by administration.

### **EARBUDS/HEADPHONES**

Students may not wear earbuds or headphones during the school day unless explicitly directed to by the teacher as a part of the educational program in the classroom. Earbuds are not allowed during passing periods, lunch or brunch for safety reasons. Students need to be able to hear fire alarms and directives from staff in the event of an emergency.

### **CELL PHONE/SMARTWATCH/EARBUDS VIOLATION POLICY**

- First violation: The student may pick up the item from the office at the end of the school day.
- Second violation: The student's parent/guardian will be called to pick up the cell phone from the office.
- Third violation: Administrative action.

### **PHOTOS/VIDEOS**

Students are not permitted to take or share photos of themselves or others on electronic devices during the school day. Taking, sharing or possessing photos or videos of child pornography or other illegal activity are subject to school disciplinary consequences and reported to the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety. Students may be cited according to the law.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Cheating is engaging in any form of academic dishonesty. Cheating or plagiarism of any form is not tolerated. Students caught cheating may be subject to the following disciplinary consequences:

- At teacher discretion, a zero on the assignment
- Parent phone call from the student's teacher
- Administrative action

### **DISTRACTING ITEMS POLICY**

Toys or items that are a distraction to learning are not allowed on the school campus during the school day. If any staff member sees a toy or item they feel is a distraction to learning, they will confiscate it and return the item in accordance with Peterson's discipline policy.

### **DRESS CODE POLICY**

We believe that students and their families hold the primary responsibility in determining students' personal attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items (e.g. backpacks, book bags). However, the school is responsible for ensuring that student attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items do not interfere with the health or safety of any student/staff and do not contribute to a hostile or intimidating environment for any student/staff.

### **Universal Dress Code**

Students must wear:

- Top (shirt, sweater, sweatshirt, tank, etc.)
- Bottom (pants, shorts, skirt, dress, etc.)
- Appropriate footwear
  - closed toed shoes for science/culinary labs, athletic shoes for PE
- Hats and other headwear must allow the face to be visible to staff, and not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff.
- Hoodies must allow the face and ears to be visible to school staff.

There may be additional student attire requirements when necessary to ensure safety in certain academic settings like PE, science, or culinary courses.

Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, or personal items that:

- Are pornographic, contain threats, or promote illegal or violent conduct such as gangs or the use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia
- Demonstrate hate group association/affiliation and/or use hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or other protected groups
- Intentionally show private parts (nipples, genitals, buttocks). Clothing must cover private parts in opaque (not able to be seen-through) material
- Cover the student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable (except clothing/headgear worn for a religious or medical purpose)

### **Enforcement**

Staff will use reasonable efforts to avoid dress-coding students in front of other students.

Typical consequences for a violation of this policy include parent/guardian contact or conference and the directive to cover, change, or remove the noncompliant attire. A student may be instructed to leave their classroom briefly to change clothes.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

No electronic handheld gaming systems or devices should be brought to school or used during the school day. If a student is using such an electronic device during school, it will be confiscated and returned in accordance with Peterson's Discipline Policy.

### **ELECTRIC SCOOTERS**

Electric Scooters are not permitted at Peterson. They are also not legal to ride on the roads without a valid CA Driver's license.

### **EXTORTION, BLACKMAIL, AND ROBBERY**

State law requires the principal to recommend a student for an expulsion hearing for robbery, extortion or blackmail.

### **FIGHTING**

You are encouraged to discuss conflicts involving other students with your counselor, teachers, or vice principal. Generally, when two students get together, away from the influence of their peers, they are able to problem solve most situations. The vice principal and counseling staff are available to support students in working to resolve differences. However, if a fight occurs, all participants, including bystanders that provoke and encourage such behavior, can be suspended and if necessary, cited by the police. **Any student that video records a fight, sends a video to another student, or posts/shares on any social media platform with the intent to provoke and encourage such behavior, can be suspended for a minimum of one day.**

### **GAMBLING**

Any form of gambling will not be tolerated.

### **GIVING FALSE INFORMATION**

Students are to properly identify themselves to all school employees. Students are not to forge notes nor falsify any information concerning school. Giving false information to a staff member will result in a consequence.

### **GUM AND SUNFLOWER SEEDS**

Students are not to chew gum or to bring sunflower seeds to school. Students may be asked to participate in campus beautification duty as a restorative practice.

### **HAZING**

It is against the law (Educational Code 32051) for a student to engage in any hazing activity, threatens to engage in any activity or aids in any activity that is likely to cause bodily harm or personal degradation to another student. Threats of hazing should be immediately reported to the office.

### **LOITERING**

Students are not to loiter in front of the school, near the office, in the faculty parking lot, or in the parking lot in front of the gym 20 minutes after school hours. Loitering is also prohibited in the locker corridors and around the bicycle rack area. School administration requires that all students be picked up within 20 minutes of the end of the school day unless they are involved in a supervised after-school or academic activity. In addition, it is recommended students are not dropped off before school earlier than 8:00am. Supervision is not available until 8:10 a.m.

### **PROFANITY**

Students are not to use profane or vulgar language. Swearing will not be tolerated. The circumstances will determine the severity of the consequence.

### **REFUSAL TO OBEY SCHOOL AUTHORITY—DEFIANCE**

Students are expected to follow the instructions of the teachers and staff. If a student disobeys any school employee either by action or word, they shall be subject to disciplinary action.

### **THEFT**

Students have the responsibility of taking care of their own possessions. Lockers should be secured and only necessary school items kept in them. **Do not leave valuable items or money in lockers. Do not leave personal items or backpacks unattended.** Make sure that bicycles are locked in the bike rack. If you are a victim of a theft, notify the office and fill out a stolen property report. Theft is a serious violation of the law and will be dealt with severely.

### **VANDALISM/TAGGING**

Permanent markers are not permitted on campus. Writing on the walls or destroying school property or the property of others will not be tolerated. Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety may be contacted, you may be required to pay fines and or restitution, as well as disciplinary action taken.

### **ALCOHOL/DRUGS/WEAPONS**

The possession, use or sale of any weapon or device that may be used to harm others (including imitation firearms) is prohibited by California Education Code Sections 48900 and 48915.

The possession, use or sale of any controlled substance (including edibles) or paraphernalia (pipes, lighters, vape pens, etc.) is also prohibited by California Education Code Sections 48900 and 48915. Any involvement in such activity shall result in a possible suspension, intervention course, and/or possible expulsion from the school or district.

Students who know of anyone in possession of any weapons/controlled substances or have information about any weapons/controlled substances being on campus should report to an administrator immediately.

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## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

There is **NO** afterschool day care program such as the YMCA at Peterson.

There are a number of clubs, activities and programs offered throughout the year for students to get involved in afterschool. Activities are for those students making sufficient academic progress and with good citizenship only.

A great deal of emphasis is placed on student activities at Peterson. We encourage all of our students to become involved in the variety of activities offered. We believe that students who participate in any activity can more closely identify with the school and therefore develop feelings of commitment and pride for Peterson.

Students should listen carefully to daily announcements and check the school website for information regarding school events and student activities.

### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

Peterson Middle School has many after school clubs. Students are encouraged to join a club. More information regarding clubs will be shared with students at the beginning of the school year.

### **ASSEMBLIES**

Assemblies are scheduled throughout the year. Students must be seated in assemblies by class and will be monitored by their teachers. **Appropriate audience behavior is expected.**

### **DANCES AND SOCIALS**

School dances and socials occur throughout the year. Students assist in the planning process. Specific dates will be included in the daily announcements. These dances are open to Peterson students only. Students may lose the privilege of attending dances or socials based on citizenship, behavior, or attendance. A student may be removed from the dance and be picked up early at the Administration's discretion. Students must be picked up immediately following the dance or social.

### **END OF THE YEAR ACTIVITIES**

Participation in end of the year activities is a privilege. Criteria to attend Student Recreation Day, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Dance and/or the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony are the following:

1. Positive Behavior
2. Positive Academic Standing
3. Satisfactory Attendance

Parents will be informed if their child is not participating in one or more of the end of year activities. The students not participating will remain on campus to complete their regular schoolwork.

- **Student Recreation Day/Fun Day**
  - Student Recreation Day and/or a Fun Day is tentatively scheduled for the end of the school year. Teachers and staff set aside time to reward students.
- **8th Grade Promotion Social (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Only)**
  - The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Social is held the evening before the last day of school.
- **8th Grade Promotion Ceremony**
  - At the end of the year, Peterson has a Promotion Ceremony for the eighth grade students. This is a special ceremony. This is not an occasion for formal gowns, tuxedos, or limousines. All eighth grade students that are being promoted and their parents are invited to attend.

### **LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES**

Peterson Students may plan lunchtime competitions and activities or participate in a school organized activity. We expect students to be respectful, responsible, and safe during lunchtime activities. If students are unable to demonstrate cooperative behaviors or making unsafe choices, they may be restricted from participating in the activity.

### **ATHLETIC TEAMS**

Peterson Middle School is very fortunate to have competitive sports teams in volleyball, basketball, tennis, soccer and track. Transportation after practice is not provided. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP/ASB

Representatives from the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade core classes make up Peterson's Associated Student Body. These students help plan lunchtime activities, dances, socials, and special day activities.

## YEARBOOK

A student team creates an annual yearbook. Yearbooks must be purchased, and are distributed the last week of school.

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## PETERSON ACADEMIC VOCABULARY LIST AND DEFINITIONS

**Analyze:** To separate into smaller parts and examine for meaning

**Apply:** To put to use

**Claim:** A statement that may be called into question

**Evaluate:** To judge or determine the worth or value of something

**Evidence:** Supporting data; proof

**Explain:** To make clear or understandable

**Identify:** To name, label, or recognize

**Interpret:** To show meaning by using your own words

**Model:** A demonstration or example

**Simplify:** To make easier to understand

**Summarize:** To state briefly without losing meaning

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## 2023-2024 PETERSON DAILY BELL SCHEDULES

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade			
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday		Wednesdays	
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	8:30-9:20	1 <sup>st</sup> Period	8:30-9:10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	9:25-10:15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	9:15-9:55
Brunch	10:15-10:30	Brunch	9:55-10:10
SSR	10:30-10:50	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	10:10-10:50
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	10:50-11:40	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	10:55-11:35
Lunch	11:40-12:15	Lunch	11:35-12:10
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:20-1:10	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:15-12:55
5 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:15-2:05	6 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:55-1:40
6 <sup>th</sup> Period	2:10-3:00		

7 <sup>th</sup> / 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade			
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday		Wednesdays	
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	8:30-9:20	1 <sup>st</sup> Period	8:30-9:10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	9:25-10:15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	9:15-9:55
Brunch	10:15-10:30	Brunch	9:55-10:10
SSR	10:30-10:50	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	10:10-10:50
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	10:50-11:40	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	10:55-11:35
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	11:44-12:35	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	11:40-12:20
Lunch	12:35-1:10	Lunch	12:20-12:55
5 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:15-2:05	6 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:55-1:40
6 <sup>th</sup> Period	2:10-3:00		



# PETERSON CAMPUS MAP

Peterson Site Map

