

YOUR MHUSD CONNECTION

In Our School Community

November 2023

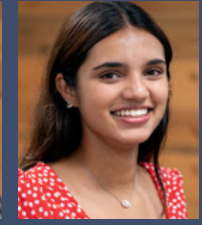


*Serving Morgan Hill, San Martin, and San José
TK-12 students and families.*

QUARTERLY EDITION: VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



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Letter from Dr. Iván Rosales Montes, Board President

Dear MHUSD Community,

As we enter this holiday season, I would like to take a moment to give thanks and show appreciation for our vibrant community's collective efforts in providing our young people with the best possible education. I also wish to acknowledge the Indigenous people upon whose ancestral land we reside.

Every effort to support our students' instruction can make a difference. Our collective commitment to our young people is what makes our district exceptional. As a community, we are stronger when we come together. Let's celebrate the spirit of togetherness as we move forward, ensuring that our Morgan Hill Unified School District continues to excel as a place of growth, learning, and unity.

Wishing you all a wonderful season of thanks and a joyous holiday season ahead!

In service,

Dr. Iván Rosales Montes
President, Board of Education





Letter from Dr. Carmen García, Superintendent

[Click here](#) to watch a special video message from the Superintendent:



Dear Morgan Hill Unified Community,

This year, I feel especially thankful for your support investing in our students. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our staff members, students, families, volunteers and community partners. Your hard work, continued collaboration, and enthusiasm to advance our student's education is key to creating a better learning environment.

May this holiday season bring you all an opportunity to rest and reflect on what we have achieved together, and inspire new goals for the future. Every day of work counts towards unlocking new potential and every effort can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students.

Thank you for supporting the next generation and their families, setting the path from academic excellence to a lifetime of accomplishments. I wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving break!

Sincerely,

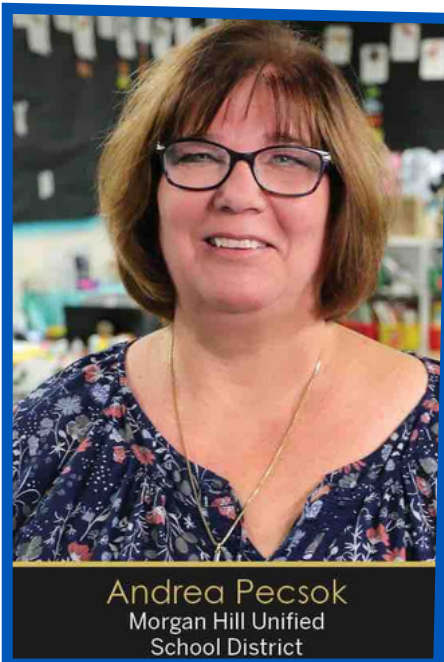
Dr. Carmen García
Superintendent



MHUSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR: ANDREA PECSOK



Congratulations to Andrea Pecsok, retired MHUSD first grade teacher from Jackson Academy of Math and Music. Andrea was recognized at the Santa Clara County Office of Education 53rd Annual Teacher Recognition Celebration. We're very proud of you!



Andrea Pecsok
Morgan Hill Unified
School District





BARRETT ELEMENTARY SELECTED TO RECEIVE FUNDS FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Barrett Elementary is the proud recipient of the “Adopt A Classroom” program through Burlington Coat Factory. As part of the opening of a new store on Cochrane Road in Morgan Hill, **Burlington Coat Factory** announced their arrival to our community by selecting Barrett Elementary to receive \$5,000 for much needed classroom supplies.

Superintendent Dr. Carmen Garcia, Principal Mary Alice Callahan, Assistant Principal Kim Silva, and Community Liaison Norma Padilla were present for the store’s ribbon cutting ceremony and received the donation of funds.

Barrett is extremely grateful for the generosity of Burlington and welcomes them to Morgan Hill.



EXPLORERS AND PIANO LAB AT NORDSTROM ELEMENTARY

Nordstrom has been a busy campus! In October, the Leadership Team, formerly called Student Council, hosted a spirit week. On one of the days the campus dressed as favorite book characters. Principal Cull and Assistant Principal Green dressed as Miss Frizzle and Fancy Nancy.

Nordstrom’s fifth grade team also held their annual Explorer Day in October. Students dressed up as 15th century explorers and spent a day doing the chores the explorers would have to do, at the direction of the queens (the teachers). The learning came to life and even Mrs. Green joined the fun!

Last but not least, our Visual and Performing Arts teacher, Mrs. Maule, with the support of Home and School Club, was able to get a piano lab up and running. Through specials’ rotations, students are learning proper techniques and how to read music. We appreciate Mrs. Maule and all of her talents!





HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES AND SCIENCE CAMP FOR LOS PASEOS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Los Paseos held a hugely successful Trunk or Treat event on October 27. The school and neighboring community came together for food, music, and trick or treating from trunk to trunk! The celebration ended with a traditional Day of the Dead performance by a Los Paseos family and their dance group. It was an incredible night filled with culture and community. The learning continues! This year, Los Paseos 5th graders had a great time at the YMCA Camp Campbell where they learned in nature's classroom.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL AND THE JOY OF PLANTING TREES

A tree planting was held at Central High School. Trees were donated by Our City Forest. It was a great effort by the Central Team, Grounds, and Our City Forest to improve the school's look and feel. A total of 24 trees were planted, with 9 more planned along the rear fence line. About 45 volunteers, mostly from San Jose, participated in the efforts. Principal Lisa Martin, a few staff members, and several students also helped. It was a great opportunity for all to show pride for Central High School!



FALL FIELD TRIPS AND ARCADE CREATIVITY DELIGHT PARADISE VALLEY ENGINEERING ACADEMY

The 5th-grade students had a fantastic educational experience at the San Jose Historical Park's "Westward Ho!" exhibit, where they delved into the history of westward migration in the 1870s. Our TK students had a blast exploring Spina Farms and its delightful pumpkin patch. The 3rd-grade team had quite an adventure at Natural Bridges, where they explored the captivating world of Monarch butterflies. And, not to be left behind, our 3rd-grade classes embarked on an exciting trip to Happy Hollow, where they had a fantastic time exploring the zoo and enjoying a day of outdoor fun.

We had another exciting event to highlight: Cain's Arcade. In this engaging activity, our 5th-grade students showcased their creativity by crafting arcade games out of cardboard. They extended a warm invitation to their parents, who joined them in our multipurpose room for an afternoon filled with delightful gameplay and opportunities to win exciting prizes.



INSPIRING CAREER PATHS AND FORMER STUDENTS GIVING BACK TO BRITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Britton held a very informative College and Career Awareness Day. Students learned about the daily activities of a CPA, an Environmental Science Project Manager, a Technology Executive, the many roles within the California Conservation Corps., and an Abatement Falconry Consultant. The presenters shared information such as the educational path required for their jobs, and potential earnings. Inspiring students to pursue higher education and a career path is a priority!

Alexander Francis from local Eagle Scout Troop 799 chose a gift of service for their Eagle Scout project. Alex participated in Britton basketball for three years and wanted to give back to the school. He and 15 other volunteers (including four former Britton students: Kyle Carmichael, Riley Murrill, Evan Myers, Thomas Guenet and one Britton basketball coach, Dave Clink) demolished the long jump triple jump pits, resurfaced the runs, and put down all new wood outlines. It took over 8 hours of labor that day and many hours of planning and organization. This improved area looks amazing due to their hard work.





HOME STUDY AND THE POWER OF THINKING POSITIVELY

Home Study students are thriving in more ways than one. They are making excellent progress academically, and they are also practicing concepts about wellness and positive self-talk. Through reading and Second Step lessons, students acquire knowledge of how to practice thinking positively to improve success. For example, they may think, “ ___ is hard, but I can do it.” They are learning the power of YET, as in, “I can’t do ____ YET.” Students are learning to take breaks with calming exercises such as their favorite yoga poses.

LIVE OAK HIGH SCHOOL: SUPPORTING THE PATH TO COLLEGE SUCCESS

Live Oak held a free College Fair for students with attendees from University of Oregon, San Jose State University, Texas A&M, UC Santa Cruz, West Valley College, DeAnza College and more. Students met college representatives and learned about programs and scholarships. Colleges continue to conduct presentations on campus during November. Gavilan, Sacramento State, UC Davis and San Francisco State are scheduled this month.

Live Oak High School earned a Bronze recognition on the AP® School Honor Roll for the 2022-23 school year. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools that have done outstanding work to welcome more students into AP courses and support them on the path to college success.

Research shows students who take AP courses and exams are more likely to attend college and graduate on time. The students who enter four-year colleges with AP credits accelerate their path to graduation and build confidence for college success. For those who don’t earn college credit, AP coursework provides early exposure to college-level work and contributes to a college-bound school culture.





MARTIN MURPHY MIDDLE SCHOOL: FESTIVITIES AND COUNSELORS PRESENTATIONS

Martin Murphy has been getting into the Halloween spirit. The Student Advisory Council just held its first dance of the year, “Festival of Fears” Halloween Dance. Many volunteers contributed to making the night a success. There were concessions available, a photo booth, and a DJ. The dance was very well-attended and the students enjoyed another opportunity to create a feeling of community at Murphy. Recently, Murphy held a Halloween movie night with a screening of *Hocus Pocus*. The event welcomed Los Paseos Elementary students and families as well.

School counselors at Murphy are scheduling one-on-one meetings with their students to review grades, attendance and short and long-term goals.

In honor of Red Ribbon Week, the Tobacco Use and Prevention Education department (TUPE) held a virtual lesson on the dangers of vaping and cannabis. School Counselors also held presentations from the Stanford Tobacco Prevention Toolkit to educate students about the dangers of e-cigarettes and create awareness of deceptive marketing strategies toward adolescents.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING SAFETY AND ARTS AT SAN MARTIN/GWINN

SMG held Red Ribbon Week festivities to encourage drug-free living. An important information night was held regarding the dangers of synthetic drugs as well. During Red Ribbon Week, students participated in Spirit Week-themed activities. These included a PJ Day to signify following dreams without drugs, wearing a favorite sports jersey to team up against drugs, and more. We thank the TUPE Team for coordinating an educational experience to create awareness and promote safety among our students.

The after school theater program worked hard at rehearsals to prepare for two showings of the Addams Family. These performances were impressive!



STUDENT NUTRITION AND OUR SCHOOL-GROWN PRODUCE

To celebrate National Farm to School Month, our FarmTECH team hosted a Farm Stand Pop-Up during lunchtime at a couple of our schools. We set up a small farm table filled with all our school-grown produce. Items included greenhouse-grown assorted small tomatoes, Freight Farm grown lettuce, and greenhouse-grown assorted cucumbers.

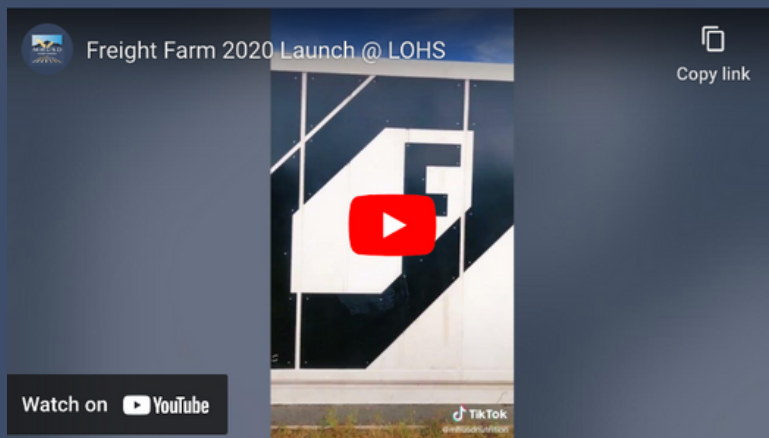
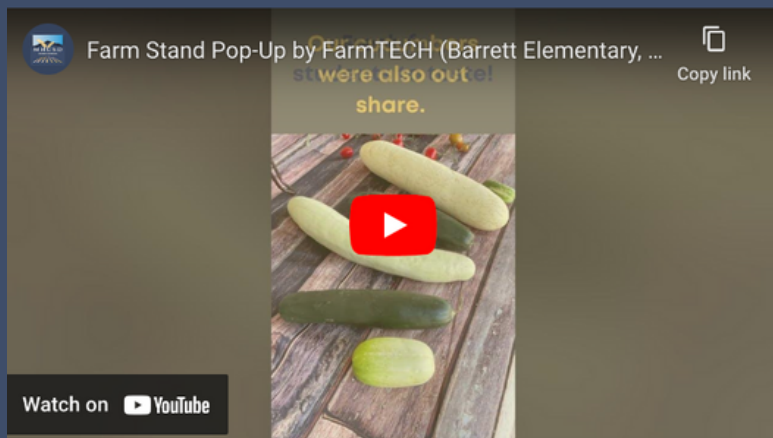
Students spoke with our Lead Farmer and checked out all our district-grown produce in person. They were then encouraged to try all the produce at our salad bar. If your student missed this event, not to worry, our salad bars are always filled with district-grown lettuce and locally farmed produce from within 30+ miles of Morgan Hill. The Nutrition team is devoted to sourcing and supporting local farmers. You can help too, have your child join us for lunch. As always, meals are free!

FarmTECH is a division of the Student Nutrition Team. We believe that a school district can grow its own food using traditional farming practices along with high-tech farming methods. We operate the only two Freight Farms on the West Coast, producing 450 lbs of lettuce each week. Our two farms are located at each high school. We also grow assorted tomatoes, cucumbers, broccoli, cauliflower, beans, and strawberries in a greenhouse located at Ann Sobrato High School. We look forward to sharing more FarmTECH events with you!

[Watch Now!](#)



Watch MHUSD Student Nutrition's YouTube videos about the Farm Stand Pop-Up at Barrett Elementary and the Freight Farm at Live Oak High School!



[Farm Stand Pop-Up by FarmTECH](#)

[Freight Farm 2020 Launch @ LOHS](#)

SHARING KINDNESS AT JACKSON ACADEMY OF MATH AND MUSIC

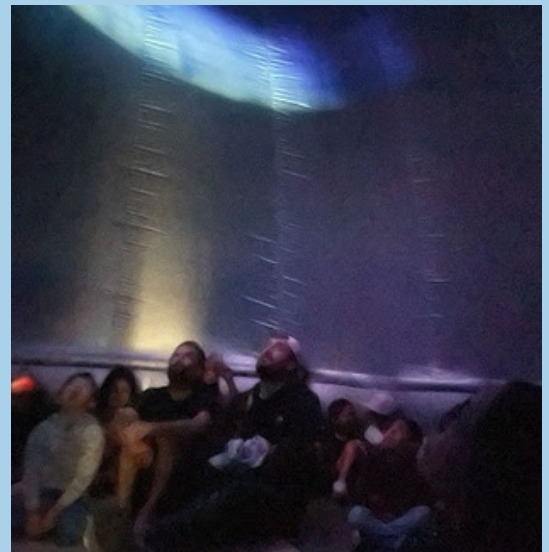
To observe National Bullying Prevention Month, JAMM unites against bullying during Unity Week. Each year, we aim to build a more kind, accepting and inclusive school. For an entire week, different themes are celebrated during lunchtime. The students pledge against bullying, give Friendship Grams, add links to the Unity Link chain, spread kindness, and enjoy games, treats and prizes.



ASTRONOMY DAY AT P.A. WALSH STEAM ACADEMY

The Annual Astronomy Day event was held at Walsh on October 14. Instead of viewing the stars like we typically do, we had the opportunity to view the annular eclipse. Students prepared for the event by creating viewing tools out of cereal boxes.

The students also viewed the SkyDome Planetarium, which is a mobile journey of the universe through a digital planetarium projector with an amazing showcase of outer space.



THE MOBILE DAIRY CLASSROOM AT EL TORO HEALTH SCIENCE ACADEMY

The Mobile Dairy Classroom arrived at El Toro Health Science Academy! The Mobile Dairy Classroom has been visiting schools for over 100 years. They brought agriculture right to our school by teaching new vocabulary, the anatomy of a cow, how milk goes from the cow to the table, and the importance of healthy eating and physical activity. It was a great science lesson for our students.



WELLNESS CENTERS ARE HERE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT

Our Wellness Centers around the district have been busy, most recently celebrating World Mental Health Day, Bullying Prevention Month, and Drug Awareness Month.

- At **Ann Sobrato High School**, we shared Mental Health information and resources in recognition of **World Mental Health Day**. Students and staff had the opportunity to spin the wheel to win prizes such as mental health pens, pencils, notepads, lanyards, bracelets, pins, magnets and so much more. Ms. Martina provided the mental health ribbons. For **Bullying Prevention Awareness Month**, Ms. Ruby interviewed Nico, a student, and asked how we could recognize Bullying Prevention Month. Both the student and Ms. Ruby shared their visions. Students and staff wrote comments on orange Post-It notes about how to spot bullying, how to stop bullying, and advice to students and staff about bullying prevention.
- Students at **Los Paseos Elementary** learned about World Mental Health Day, its importance, and factors of drug use, and the impact it can have on an individual's life. A presentation covered different warnings, behaviors, peer pressures, or introductions that can come out of the form of substances being introduced. Students shared what they learned from the presentation and completed a worksheet that explained the difference between harmful drugs and helpful drugs. Students were very supportive and mindful of each other while others shared their thoughts.
- To celebrate World Mental Health Day, students at the **Britton Wellness Center** took the "Permission to Feel" pledge. Students are committed to allowing themselves the space to feel all emotions and accept all feelings. Emoji stickers, mental health stickers, and temporary tattoos were handed out to all students to indicate that they are allowed to feel multiple emotions at one time.
- **Martin Murphy** has had a busy October! They celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month by inviting the students to make "papel picado" banners. The school acknowledged World Mental Health Day by encouraging students to paint posters recognizing the day. They lined the hallway with their fantastic artwork and held an art contest where students submitted artwork that shows or tells what they do to take care of their own mental health. There were beautiful submissions! For Red Ribbon Week the school raised a large banner on the blacktop during lunches where students pledged to stay drug-free. Students received informational flyers, red ribbons, and had the opportunity to spin a prize wheel.



ANN SOBRATO HIGH SCHOOL HONORING MUSIC AND COLLEGE DAY

It was great to see the Sobrato Marching Band and Colorguard at the WBA Garlic City Classic competition in Gilroy High School. They performed their show entitled “Forbidden Forest” and there’s a reason it’s forbidden - anyone who wanders into the forest becomes a tree. That was a surprise!

More kudos for the Sobrato Marching Band & Color Guard for earning 2nd place in their division with a score of 70.7 at the WBA Scarlett Regiment Competition. Students also earned High Music and High Effect awards, beating out all the 1A and 2A Bands in these categories.

Sobrato High School has earned Gold recognition on CollegeBoard’s 2023 AP School Honor Roll. In the Class of 2023, 73% of students took at least one AP course during their high school career and 53% of that senior class earned some college credit by earning a score of 3 or higher on at least one exam. In addition, 27% of the Class of 2023 took at least five AP courses throughout high school, taking at least one of those courses during their freshman or sophomore year. Congratulations to our Bulldog students and teachers for their hard work and achievement!

We held our College Day on the Quad during lunch time and our teachers and staff were invited to represent their alma mater during a Mock College Fair. Information about their college journey was shared with interested students. Information regarding why they chose their college, financial considerations, selecting a major, student life, and more were covered during the College Fair and in-class periods as well. Students were encouraged to approach staff at tables and ask questions. Raffle tickets were entered into a drawing for students who asked questions that day for regalia from a college of their choice.



[Watch Now!](#)



MULTIPLE AND ENGAGING ACTIVITIES: FACE CENTER

The FACE Center was busy all summer and is organizing activities for parents, guardians, and students. There will be more activities as we enter the fall season. We had PEI Summer Camp, Rebekah's Healing Hearts Through Art and the Coping Cat, Dental Services provided by Bay Area Community Health, and more! Finally, to kick off the new school year, we combined forces with the MHUSD Migrant Education Department and our community partners to host a Family Resource Fair on August 9. Thanks to our generous donors, The Edward Boss Prado Foundation, ICNA Relief-Muslims for Humanity, and the Morgan Hill Kiwanis Club, we provided almost 400 free backpacks to students and served 250 hot dog dinners to all.

This year, our Parent University Series will include ESL and Spanish classes for adults, classes on dementia and brain health, classes for parents of adolescents, and more.

PROJECT 2 INSPIRE

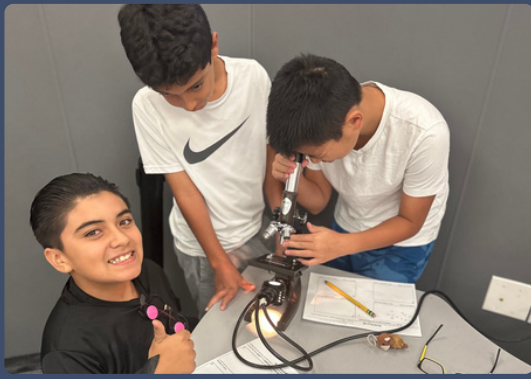
We have a small group of dedicated parents who are attending a leadership series by Project 2 Inspire. They are exploring topics such as How to Be an Effective Public Speaker, How to Be Part of a Team, and How to Advocate for Children, among others. The classes have been interesting and engaging and we are all learning!

PIQE: SUPPORTING PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

We had a wonderful start to another round of PIQE webinars on September 13. These sessions are part of their Parent Socioemotional Learning Program. The target audience is parents/guardians of 4th and 5th grade students. Parents and guardians shared their interest in receiving support around helping their children with transitions. On our first two evenings, we had a total of 33 parents attend the Spanish orientation and 29 at the English session!

We are excited about these initiatives, and we are looking forward to the next few weeks!





SCHOOL PROFILE: LEARN ABOUT MARTIN MURPHY

The Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD) serves approximately 8,100 students and is composed of six elementary schools (TK-5), two elementary/middle schools (K-8), one Dual Immersion magnet program (K-8), two middle schools (6-8), two comprehensive high schools (9-12), one continuation high school and a community adult school. We not only offer our students an exceptional education in the classroom, but we also offer an array of extracurricular opportunities as well.

In this edition, we are proud to highlight one of our middle schools: **Martin Murphy Middle School**.

Martin Murphy Middle School serves a diverse population in South San Jose. Martin Murphy is a vibrant campus with a plethora of extracurricular activities and is equipped with the technology to help increase student engagement, academic rigor, content mastery and skills necessary to succeed in a 21st century economy.

[Click here](#) to watch the following video and learn more about what makes Martin Murphy a great fit for your student!



Coming Up at MHUSD!



TK & KINDERGARTEN Monthly School Tours

Enrollment for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten opens on Saturday, December 2, 2023.

This year we are providing families with monthly opportunities to visit the school site, receive a tour of the campus and TK/Kindergarten classrooms, and ask and answer questions with school staff.

Please contact your local elementary school for more information and to sign up for an upcoming tour!

9am Tour Dates:

- Dec. 5
- Jan. 9
- Feb. 6
- Mar. 5
- Apr. 16

12pm Tour Dates:

- Dec. 7
- Jan. 11
- Feb. 1
- Mar. 7
- Apr. 11

Coming Up at MHUSD!

We Want Your Voice!



District Funding is Allocated through the
MHUSD Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Join us at a Community Forum to provide your input!

NOVEMBER 28

6:00 - 8:00PM

Sobrato High School - Library

LCAP Survey Open 11/27 -12/8

Forum I: Programs/Services related to:

- Elementary Education
- Secondary Education
- Family & Community Engagement Center (FACE) and Adult School
- Teachers on Special Assignment

JANUARY 30

6:00 - 8:00PM

Sobrato High School - Gym

LCAP Survey Open 01/29 - 02/09

Forum II: Programs/Services related to:

- Student Services & Enrollment
 - Enrollment, Truancy, Data & Community Schools
- Student Services
 - CARE, School Link Services/Prevention Early Intervention, Amplify
- Wellness
- Special Education
- English Learner Programs

MARCH 14

6:00 - 8:00pm

Live Oak High School - Gym

LCAP Survey Open 03/04- 03/15

Forum III

- Report on community feedback
- Review of LCAP Goals for 2024-2027

MHUSD staff will be at each forum to present the LCAP goals and related actions.

Please use this QR Code to complete the LCAP survey and provide your feedback. It will be open following each forum during the dates listed above.

We look forward to seeing you at our forums!





JOIN THE MHUSD TEAM!

WE ARE NOW HIRING

Rewarding full and part-time positions

- Groundskeeper
- Director, Secondary Education
- History Teacher
- Occupational Therapist

APPLY NOW

Contact Morgan Hill Unified School District:

- www.edjoin.org
- www.mhusd.org/jobs
- Call 408.201.6017





THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!





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