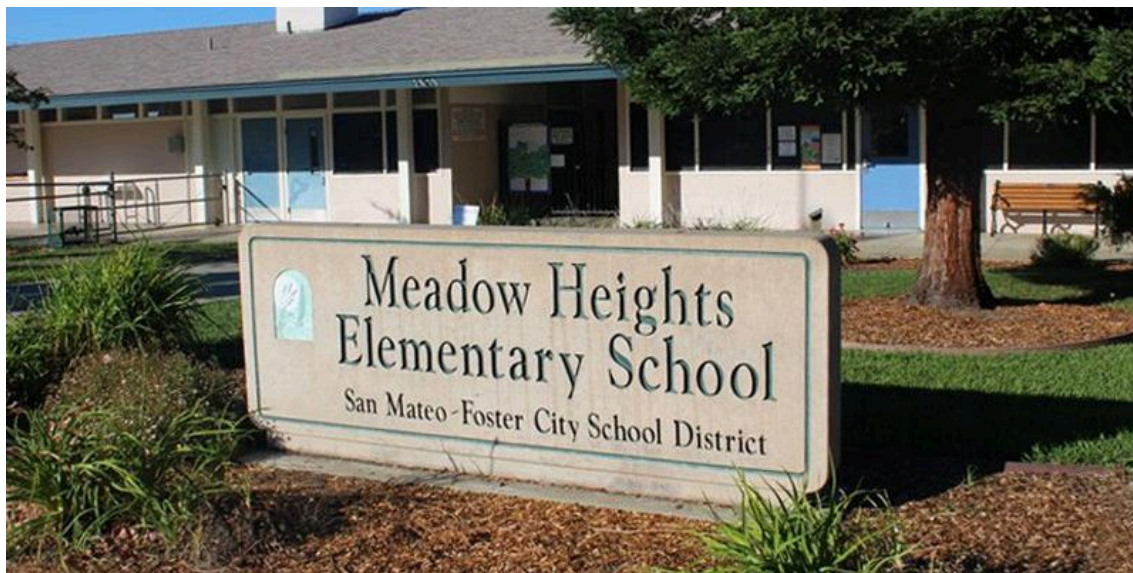




**MEADOW HEIGHTS**  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
SAN MATEO - FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# HANDBOOK

## 2024-2025



### **Meadow Heights Vision Statement**

Meadow Heights Elementary School educates and inspires its students to become confident, lifelong learners who positively impact the world we live in by working collaboratively and thoughtfully to solve problems. Our environment promotes compassion, cooperation, and respect for one another so that students can learn how to take risks in a safe environment.

# Contents

Greetings from the Principal  
Family Calendar  
Daily Schedule  
School Safety information  
Meadow Heights School Staff  
PTA & Membership  
General Information  
Meadow Heights Curriculum  
Meadow Heights Standards of Behavior  
Helpful Links

**24 Hour Voicemail: (650) 312-7568 (to report an absence)**



**Artwork provided by Meadow Heights Students, “Art in Action” program.**



## Letter from the Principal



Dear Meadow Heights Families,

I am delighted to welcome you all to Meadow Heights for the start of a new academic year! As we embark on this exciting journey together, I'm pleased to share with you the school handbook, which will serve as a comprehensive guide to our school's policies, procedures, and expectations.

The school handbook is designed to provide you with essential information about Meadow Heights' vision, core values, as well as the rules and regulations that govern our school community. We believe that all students can achieve at high levels with the right support, and this document outlines our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive learning environment where students can thrive!

Please take time to review the school handbook with your child, discussing its contents together. Should you have questions or need further clarification on any aspect, our administrative team and staff are available to assist you.

I want to express my heart-felt gratitude for entrusting us with your child's education. Together, let's foster a positive and nurturing environment that empowers every student to reach their full potential!

Wishing you all a successful and rewarding year ahead!

Kind regards,

Dale Rogers-Eilers, Principal



## 2024-2025 CALENDAR (Dates Subject to change, updated 07/23/2024)

<div><div>*School Gates open @8:15am everyday</div><div><div>Bell Schedule - Regular Day</div><div>TK-K8:30am - 1:00pm</div><div>1st-3rd8:30am - 2:50pm</div><div>4th-5th8:20am - 3:00pm</div><div>Bell Schedule - Minimum Day</div><div>TK-3rd8:30am-12:40pm</div><div>4th-5th8:20am-12:40pm</div><div>*ALL Wednesdays are Minimum Days</div></div></div>	<div><div>July 2024</div><table><tr><th>Sun</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>TH</th><th>F</th><th>Sat</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div>	Sun	M	T	W	TH	F	Sat		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<div><div>January 2025</div><table><tr><th>Sun</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>TH</th><th>F</th><th>Sat</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	Sun	M	T	W	TH	F	Sat				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		<div><div>1-3</div> - Winter Break - No School</div> <div><div>6</div> - Staff Work Day - No School</div> <div><div>14</div> - Principal Coffee Chat -8:30am</div> <div><div>16</div> - School Site Council - 3pm</div> <div><div>16</div> - ELAC Meeting 6pm</div> <div><div>17</div> - Staff PD Day - No School</div> <div><div>20</div> - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School</div> <div><div>23</div>- PTA General Meeting- 6pm in LGI</div>							
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																								
29	30																																																																																													

First & Last day of school

Principal Coffee Chats/Site Council/ELAC

School Events

PTA Events

No School

Conferences & Minimum Days

Staff Appreciation Week

Literacy Week





## **2024-2025 School Year Daily Schedule**

Student Supervision on Yard/Gates Open	8:15
Grades: TK/Kindergarten	8:30-1:00
Grades: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd	8:30-2:50
Grades: 4th & 5th	8:20-3:00
Recess: TK & Kindergarten	10:00-10:30
Recess: 1st - 5th grade	10:30-10:50
Lunch Time: 1st-5th grade	12:15-1:10

### **MINIMUM DAY SCHEDULE-WEDNESDAYS**

Grades: TK - 3rd	8:30-12:40
Grades: 4th - 5th	8:20-12:40

We have a weekly Wednesday Minimum Day with a 12:40 p.m. dismissal for Transitional Kindergarten – 5th grade. The purpose of the weekly minimum day is to provide time for the staff to work together to plan and collaborate with one another. In order to meet our students' diverse needs, Meadow Heights' teachers are continually striving to acquire the most effective instructional practices. Students may purchase lunch on minimum days and eat lunch in a supervised area immediately following dismissal and then will be released. All students must leave campus by 1:00 p.m. on minimum days unless they are registered in an on-site activity (parent permission required) or taking the bus.



## School Safety Information - 2024-2025

### How can parents help keep our school community safe?

Parents are asked to follow all of the rules in place on campus to ensure student and staff safety. Always check in at the school office as a visitor or volunteer. Volunteers and visitors unknown to our office staff will be asked to present identification and to wear their visitor or volunteer badges while on campus. Please pick up your child on time daily so they are not left after school unsupervised. If you are late for pick up, call the office and we will ask your child to wait for you in the office.

### School Gates

The front and side gates on Parkside open daily at 8:15 and are closed until the end of the school day. The gates are closed after dismissal. Never prop open a gate and be sure as you leave campus the gate closes behind you. Our staff monitors the gates throughout the day. Never ask a student to open a gate for you. Students are instructed not to open the gate even for someone they know.

### Important Safety Information

We have a comprehensive school-wide safety plan updated at least twice a year and aligned with the San Mateo County Safe Schools Coalition Plan known as ["The Big Five"](#). Classrooms are equipped with safe school locks. These locks allow the room to be locked from the inside.

Teachers and staff participate in preparations for all types of drills including fire, earthquake, shelter in place, disaster, and lockdown drills. We hold monthly drills with students so they are familiar with emergency procedures. Lockdown and disaster drills are practiced twice a year.

### Communication in an Emergency

The staff has a "panic button" on their classroom phones that when pushed will contact the office. All phones on campus dial 911. Anytime a 911 call is made, the office receives automatic notification, as does the district office. All phones on campus are capable of making a school-wide call or announcement. Physical education teachers, library, Annex, and our custodian have walkie-talkies to communicate with the office throughout the school day. Staff on the morning, recess, and lunch duty have a walkie-talkie as well. Our district office crisis response team assists all sites in disseminating information to families in case of an emergency utilizing our school messenger service via phone, email, and text. Please make sure we have the most up-to-date contact information for you on file.

# Meadow Heights School Staff

2024-2025

Dale Eilers, Principal

Faculty	Grade Level / Title	Room	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Corinne Kepp	TK	1	650-638-3186	ckepp@smfc.k12.ca.us
Laura Daly	K	2	650-312-7407	ldaly@smfc.k12.ca.us
Melissa Andrews	K	4	650-638-3186	mandrews@smfc.k12.ca.us
Patricia (Patty) Dunhill	1	5	650-638-3276	pdunhill@smfc.k12.ca.us
Daisy Nishitani*	1/2	12	650-638-2982	dnishitani@smfc.k12.ca.us
Jen Kawakami	2	11	650-638-2985	jkawakami@smfc.k12.ca.us
Carrie Attell	3	16	650-638-2981	cattell@smfcs.k12.ca.us
Jacqui Cooper	3	19	650-638-2982	jcooper@smfc.k12.ca.us
Hedeliza Fossaceca	K- 2nd SDC	8	650-638-2984	hfossaceca@smfc.k12.ca.us
Alicia Barry	4	18	650-638-2985	abarry@smfc.k12.ca.us
Kristy LaCarrubba	5	13	650-638-2995	klacarrubba@smfc.k12.ca.us
Kristen McCormick	4/5	14	650-312-7041	kemccormick@smfc.k12.ca.us
Matthew Tate	3rd - 5th SDC	20	650-638-3190	mtate@smfc.k12.ca.us
Jim Rutter	RSP	17		jrutter@smfc.k12.ca.us
Maurice Stewart	PE Teacher	17		mstewart@smfc.k12.ca.us
Kelly Westberg	Language & Literacy Specialist	25		kwestberg@smfc.k12.ca.us
Laura Duncan	Art Teacher	21		lduncan@smfc.k12.ca.us
Diana Harris	Engineering Lego Teacher	3		dharris@smfc.k12.ca.us
<b>Office Staff</b>				
Dale Eilers	Principal		650-312-7566	deilers@smfc.k12.ca.us
Robyn Holmes	Administrative Asst.		650-312-7566	rholmes@smfc.k12.ca.us
Erica Fowler*	School Office Asst.		650-312-7566	efowler@smfc.k12.ca.us
Jeff Becker	School Operation Team Leader			jbecher@smfc.k12.ca.us
Support Staff				
Kyle Smith	Para-ed II - P.E.			ksmith@smfc.k12.ca.us
Gwen Sanchez*	Para-ed II SPED- RSP/SSA			gsanchez@smfc.k12.ca.us
Brenda Reitano	Para-ed II - SPED	20		breitano@smfc.k12.ca.us
	Para-ed II - SPED	20		
	Para-ed II - SPED/SSA			
	Para-ed II - SPED			
Christine Kubein	Para-ed II- SPED			ckubein@smfc.k12.ca.us
Thomas Wrightson	Para-ed II-SPED			twrightson@smfc.k12.ca.us
Michelle Michon	Library Media Asst.	10	650-638-6824	cmichon@smfc.k12.ca.us
Erica Fowler*	School Community Worker		650-312-7566	efowler@smfc.k12.ca.us
Megan Samara	Speech Therapist	26		msamara@smfc.k12.ca.us
Connie Chan	School Psychologist		X 4505	cchan@smfc.k12.ca.us
	School Counselor	23	X4511	mbeck@smfc.k12.ca.us
Carol E. Murphy	Site Kitchen Operator		650-655-3349	cemurphy@smfc.k12.ca.us
*denotes this staff member is bilingual in English and Spanish				



## PTA MEMBERSHIP

One thing that makes Meadow Heights so special is the support our community receives from the many active families at our school. We would love to have every family at Meadow Heights join and participate in the PTA. Your participation pays dividends not only by helping our school as a whole but also by enhancing your own child's academic success.

Through participation and volunteerism, the PTA successfully fulfills its mission year after year; and we are able to offer activities, events, and programs that benefit both Meadow Heights students and their families.

### Participation takes many forms:

- talking to your kids about their school day
- coming to the Back-to-School Coffee on the first day of school
- attending monthly PTA meetings
- supporting your child to participate in the Knowledge Fair
- cheering for the kids during the Mustang Stampede
- or even donating your time or resources to support our activities and fundraising efforts.

Anyone can join the Meadow Heights PTA, and everyone is welcome. [PTA Membership Link](#)

Learn more about us here: [Meadow Heights PTA Web Page](#)





## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Absences

If your child is going to be absent or late to school, PLEASE CALL OUR ATTENDANCE VOICE-MAIL 24 HOUR VOICE MESSAGE AT 312-7568 and press 3, as soon as possible ON THE MORNING OF THE ABSENCE. If we do not hear from you, we will attempt to call your home or business to confirm the absence. If we cannot verify the absence by telephone, a written verification signed by the parent is necessary. This procedure is very important for the safety of children as well as for our district and state accounting purposes.

Attendance Line: 650-312-7568 ext. 3

**Illness - If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep him/her home, or make appropriate childcare arrangements.**

- **Appearance, Behavior** - unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused, or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child from school and seek medical advice.
- **Eyes** – thick mucus or pus draining from the eye and “pink eye” (conjunctivitis)
- **Fever** – temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- **Greenish nose discharge, and /or Chronic Cough** – should be seen by a health care provider. These conditions may be contagious and require treatment
- **Sore throat/coughing** – especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck
- **Diarrhea** – in a 24 hr period, especially if the child acts or looks ill
- **Vomiting** – vomiting within the past 24 hours
- **Rash** – body rash, especially with fever or itching. Diaper rashes, heat rashes, and allergic reactions are not contagious
- **Ear infections without fever** – does not need to be excluded, but the child needs to get medical treatment and follow-up. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss
- **Lice, scabies** – children may not return to school until they have been treated and are free of lice. Children with scabies can be admitted after treatment

**If your child shows any of the above symptoms at school, it will be necessary to pick him/her up from school.**

- Bringing a child to school with any of the above symptoms puts other children and staff at risk of getting sick.
- If all parents keep their sick children at home, we will have stronger, healthier, and happier children.
- While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, in the long run, this means fewer lost workdays and less illness for parents, too.
- Hand washing is still the number one way to prevent the spread of germs.



## Attendance & Truancy Policy

The San Mateo - Foster City School District has a Pupil Attendance and Truancy Policy. Under the attendance policy, students with excessive absences may be required to provide a doctor's note to verify illness. The policy defines any pupil who is absent from school without a valid excuse three full days in one school year or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions during one school year, or any combination thereof, as a truant. Parents of students who have 3 or more unexcused absences or 30-minute tardies will receive a letter of truancy sent home and placed in the child's cumulative school record.

### Tardiness

It is very important that students arrive at school on time. Entering a classroom late is embarrassing for the child, disruptive to the class, and counterproductive to a child's learning. It is also very important for children to learn the good habits of responsibility and promptness. If a child arrives after the bell rings, he or she should report directly to the school office for a late pass and then go to his/her classroom. The child's attendance record will reflect the number of times he/she is late.

### Request for Early Dismissal

If a child must be taken out of school during school hours, a note or email should be sent to the office to [rholmes@smfc.k12.ca.us](mailto:rholmes@smfc.k12.ca.us). When the parent arrives at the office for the early pick-up, the child will be called to report to the office. For the child's safety, he or

she must be picked up AT THE OFFICE. A child will be released only to the parent guardian unless the school has been notified by the parent that they have granted permission for someone else to pick up their child. The adult taking the child will be asked for identification if not known to the office staff.



### Short Term Independent Study

Please request a Short Term Independent Study letter from the office before applying for Independent Study. Short-term independent study programs may extend for not less than 5 and not more than 10 consecutive school days once during the school year in grades 1 to 8. Students who are performing below grade-level standards are not eligible for an independent study contract. Special education students are eligible for an independent

study contract only if specified in their IEP. Short-term independent study programs will be approved no more than 3 times for a given student in grades 1-8. Parents who request this option should contact the school at least three weeks in advance. The work assigned shall be substantially equivalent in quality and quantity to the classroom instruction that will be missed and shall correspond to the following minimum attendance requirements: grades 1-3: 230 minutes and grades 4 and 5: 240 minutes. All independent study assignments are due on the first day the student returns to school. Independent Study requests are subject to approval by the classroom teacher, principal, and Assistant Superintendent of Education Services and may be denied based on the student's academic needs.

Please know that our class instructional time is invaluable and cannot be recreated when students are absent. Students who are ill should, for their own health and that of others, stay home to get well. Students should always check in with the teacher upon returning from an absence to see what work can/should be made up. We strongly believe that students need to be in class every day. Unless an Independent Study has been pre-approved according to District policy, teachers are not able to provide work for students during a family-opted absence.



## Home-School Communication

**Thursday Folders:** We believe that good communication between the school and home is essential. In order to keep you informed about school activities, the Thursday Folder information will be posted every Thursday via ParentSquare. A small number of hard copies of the Thursday Folder will still be provided for families that prefer this option. The Thursday folder will contain all school office communications as well as community activities. Teachers will still continue to send home important information via your child on Thursdays, so please check in with your child on Thursdays for teacher communications. In addition, feel free to email or phone staff with any questions or concerns. If you need to update your email address, please contact Ms. Holmes at [rholmes@smfcsd.net](mailto:rholmes@smfcsd.net)



**Weekly School Newsletter:** A newsletter will be emailed to all families on Friday afternoons. The Newsletter will include important school information, upcoming meetings, and events.



## Email and Voicemail messages for

**Staff:** Staff email and phone numbers are listed on the staff page of this handbook. Teachers can not receive phone calls during the school day. If there is an emergency that requires communication with your child, please call the office.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held for all students in Grades TK/K-5—please see the school calendar for specific dates. These days will be scheduled as minimum days. Teachers will be contacting you to set up an appointment. The purpose of the conference is to share your student's strengths, classroom routines, expectations, and student work. In the Spring, we have a Student-Led

Conference. The conference is held in the child's classroom; this is an opportunity for the child to share the year's accomplishments with their family.

## Report Cards

Meadow Heights School operates on a trimester reporting system. Students receive three report cards throughout the year. The Meadow Heights School Calendar lists the dates that report cards will go home for each trimester. The San Mateo-Foster City School District uses a standards-based report card. Good communication between parents and school professionals is essential to a successful educational program. We encourage you to contact your child's teacher should you wish to have a conference at any time during the school year.



## **Birthday Celebrations**

Meadow Heights recognizes students' birthdays uniquely. Classrooms will allow a student to bring a non-food item to celebrate their birthday in TK/K-3rd grades. The 4th and 5th classes do not bring items however they are acknowledged in class. Please work with your child's teacher on a time and appropriate item to bring to celebrate your child's birthday during school hours. Some non-food items can be stickers, pencils, or a special book to read to the class.

## **Brunch/Lunch Program**

The district food services program includes planning, preparation, and serving of nutritious food to district students. The daily brunch and lunch provides two-thirds of a child's recommended daily allowance for eight essential nutrients. Menus are posted a month in advance so the children and parents may decide on what days they wish to purchase. Children raise their hands at the beginning of the school day so the teacher can take a lunch count each morning. The total lunch count is given to the Central Cafeteria by 8:45 a.m. each day. A child must order lunch in the morning to assure the proper amount of lunches arrives that day. Adult supervision is provided for the entire brunch and lunch periods. The San Mateo-Foster City School District offers healthy meals every school day.

## **Snack and Lunch Items from Home**

Students are encouraged to pack a healthy snack and lunch to bring to school. Candy and soda are not allowed in school for snacks or lunch. If a child brings soda or candy to school, it will be taken and could be thrown away. It is encouraged to send students to school with water rather than juice.

## **Messages to Children During School Hours**

It is not possible to ensure the delivery of personal messages to children during the school day. Each request becomes a classroom disruption and an interruption to the instructional program. All arrangements for the day should be made before your child leaves home. Please call to leave a message only if it is a real emergency.

## **Office Telephone Usage**

The use of the office telephone by students should be kept to a minimum. Students will be permitted to use the phone for emergency calls only.

## **Cell Phones & Smartwatches at School**

Students may have a cell phone or smartwatch at school, but it must be turned off before, during, and after school. If a student needs to make a phone call while they are at school, they need to use the office phone. Cell phones & smartwatches are not to be visible during school time. They would be best left at home. Students and parents must realize that they bring cellphones or smartwatches to school at their own risk. The school is not responsible for the theft or loss of these items. This is true even if the item is stolen after the item has been confiscated.

- Students whose cell phones or smartwatches are seen on campus will have their cell phones or devices taken away and returned at the end of the day.
- After the second violation the parents will need to pick up the cell phone or smart watches at school.
- Under absolutely no circumstances may a student use a camera phone or smartwatch to take a picture or video during school hours.

## **Personal Property**

Students may not bring large sums of money, their own playground equipment, radios, toys, or other items to school. The school cannot be responsible for damage or loss.





## Lost and Found

Parents are **STRONGLY** encouraged to LABEL articles of clothing (particularly coats, sweaters, caps, lunch boxes, etc.). A box of lost/found clothing is kept on a cart in the main hallway. Clothing not claimed is donated to a charitable organization at the end of each month.

## Emergency Cards - AERIES Parent Portal

The SMFCSD Parent Portal is our Student Information System (AERIES) and is used to keep student information. Each school year, families need to update their child's information and complete annual forms on the Parent Portal. It is vitally important that the information be kept current. If changes need to be made during the year, please update the information in the Parent Portal or call the school office immediately.

## Student and Car Traffic Patterns

For the protection and safety of your child and all the children at Meadow Heights School, we request your cooperation and informing your child of the following:

The city of San Mateo has solid double lines on Parkside Way and Dolores St.

Do not make illegal U-Turns on these streets

Please observe this traffic pattern - Enter on 26th Avenue. Turn left on Ensenada Way. Turn right on Parkside Way and drive near the gate, stop and unload your passengers. **DO NOT** park or leave your car, and there is no double parking at any time. Cars may be ticketed by the SM Police Department. Children should be unloaded in the white (coned) zone only. If parents must use Sequoia Avenue, please park your car and walk your child (observe the crosswalk). Please respect our neighbors and do not block their driveways at drop-off and pick-up. Please use crosswalks with your child at all times.

## Bicycles

If your child rides a bike to school, they must wear a helmet. Students should lock their bikes in the bike racks located near Room 20 or the bike rack in front of the school. There is **NO BIKE RIDING ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS**.



## Scooters and Skateboards

If a student wants to ride a scooter or skateboard to school, it is requested that the parent accompany the child to provide both supervision and to bring the scooter back home after the child has arrived at school. Students must wear a helmet when riding to school.

## Arrival to School

School gates and student supervision on the upper yard begins at 8:15 a.m. Students should not arrive earlier than 8:15 a.m. All students should wait in the upper yard for school to begin. Families and students should not wait in front of the classroom doors. K plays on the upper area of the yard while 1st-5th is allowed on the lower area of the yard. When the morning bell rings: K-3rd line up at their designated area while 4th and 5th graders walk to their classrooms. For safety reasons, it is important that only Meadow Heights students play on the yard

and play structure prior to school.



### Adult Vistations to School

Please make specific arrangements in advance with the teacher or office. In accordance with State law, you must register in the office and receive a visitor's badge, which must be worn by all adults who are not on staff while they are on campus.

### After School Use of the Playground

There is no supervision on the playgrounds after school. We respectfully ask that students do not play on the play structure after school hours. All children are expected to go home or to their daycare provider immediately upon dismissal from class. Parents, please speak to your child about where you would like him or her to wait for you to pick up. If you are driving, please use the loading zone and have your child wait for you on Parkside, so that you can pull up to pick up your child. School grounds are not to be used for bike riding, skateboarding, or scooters during or after school hours.

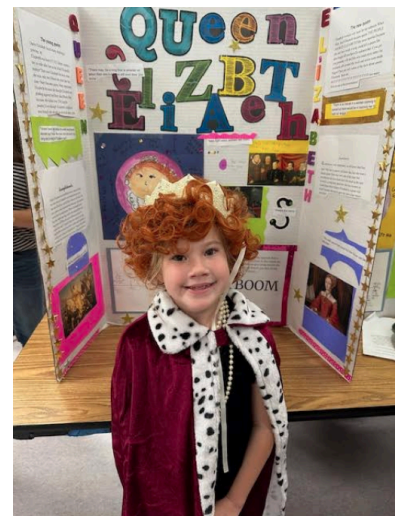


## Meadow Heights Curriculum

### Knowledge Rich Standards-Based Curriculum

Meadow Heights is excited about the opportunity the Common Core State Standards present for our teachers, staff, and most importantly—our students! The CCSS provide us with a clear and consistent goal to ensure that our students are ready for college and career success in the 21st Century Global economy. Please visit the [district website](#) often to stay up-to-date on CCSS news, links, and parent resources.

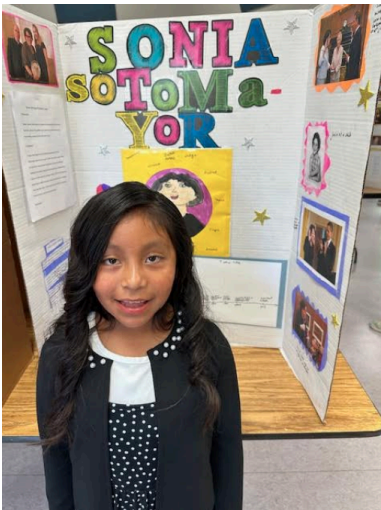
The standards identify the knowledge, understanding, and skills that students are expected to learn in key subject areas. Information that is gained from the state, district, and classroom assessments are used to inform instruction. Curriculum materials are selected and developed to support each child's learning and attainment of the essential standards at his/her grade level. Instruction in the classroom is differentiated to meet the needs of each individual student. Students who do not yet meet grade-level standards receive targeted interventions that have been designed to ensure they acquire the skills needed to attain the essential academic outcomes. Students who are above grade level are given the opportunity to reach their highest and best as well. By being provided a knowledge rich standards-based education, all students at Meadow Heights School are challenged to perform at their personal best and achieve at their highest level.





## Assessments

Classroom, district, and state assessments are aligned to the essential academic standards. The assessment information is used to inform instruction and ensure that all students are progressing to a higher level of learning. A variety of assessments are utilized, including formative (both formal and informal), benchmark, and state-level assessments.



## Knowledge Building in Reading /Language Arts

Benchmark Advance and Twig Science are used in our integrated language arts program at all grade levels. This ensures that we are utilizing rich, varied literature as the basis for communication through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Our knowledge building program ensures that students have opportunity for individual expression as well as promoting interaction with complex and compelling texts and tasks. Students are supported to engage with above grade level reading and writing tasks, so that we ensure that they learn the sophisticated language constructions they will need to achieve at high levels. At Meadow Heights, we don't lower the standard for any students, rather we increase the support to ensure all students have access and engagement with the curriculum.

## More on TWIG Science

Our Science program is designed to offer students a wide variety of experiences at all levels. Students use the twig science program.

1. A science program that supports learning based on Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
2. All students will have interwoven understanding of Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs), Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs), and Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs).

## PAF Reading Program

The PAF Reading Program provides children with the building blocks they need to develop a solid reading foundation critical for becoming proficient readers. Concepts are taught directly and explicitly in a specific sequence, with immediate teacher feedback. Each lesson offers children with the practice needed to develop word recognition and fluency, while teachers model comprehension strategies to understand fiction text. This teaching technique results in minimum frustration—and maximum success, leading not only to an improvement in reading skills, but a sense of mastery and self-esteem.

Children are taught:

- The sounds letters make and how to write them
- How to use sounds to read and spell words
- How to read and spell multisyllabic words
- How to read accurately and fluently using lists of words, phrases, and sentences, and stories that contain only sounds and words that have been taught (controlled and decodable text)
- How to apply comprehension strategies to understand what they read

## English Language Advisory Council

The English Language Advisory Council (ELAC) is a committee of parents whose children are learning English. The committee meets throughout the school year and discusses important issues such as programs and services for students who are learning English and how to help students do well in school. ELAC meetings are held with the school principal and are in Spanish. We can also get translators for other languages if we know in advance that they will be needed. Please refer to the school calendar for ELAC meetings.

## Mathematics

Our math curriculum is the Zearn Math program, which reflects State Standards for mathematics and includes the following important features:

1. Zearn Math provides grade-aligned hands-on math instruction + immersive digital learning to all students in K-5 classrooms
2. SMFCSD math lessons consist of 3 components: Math Routines (10-15 mins), a Teacher-facilitated lesson (25-30 mins), and a digital lesson (25-30 mins).
3. Each week consists of 4 lessons and a “Flex” day. Flex days are built in to allow for innovative instruction to deepen student understanding. They provide an opportunity to attend to unfinished learning, to accelerate learning, or additional time for challenging topics. Flex days are also used for assessment administration.
4. SMFC students become enthusiastic and proficient learners of mathematics who are able to share their thinking, use multiple representations, and build on the thinking of others.
5. SMFC math lessons increase meaningful mathematical discourse and sense-making to build fluency, flexibility, and strategic competence in all students.

## Physical Education

Students gain proficiency in motor skills through group activities and games. The goals of this program include: recognizing fundamental strategies; manipulating objects with dexterity, accuracy, and speed; enhancing rhythmic activity; learning sportsmanship; and developing strength and flexibility. Activities are based upon the maturity and ability of the child. Generally, students receive P.E. four days/week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Proper shoes are important to engage in physical fitness.



## Music Program

Fifth graders participate in instrumental music or vocal music. Kindergarten through fourth grade participates in classroom music.

## Lego Engineering Program

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade participate in our lego engineering program, which includes engineering challenges and computer programming.

## Art In Action

Again this year, our classes will be participating in ART in ACTION, which will be provided by the Art Teacher with the help of parent volunteers. The Art in Action program is a discipline-based sequential art curriculum designed around the works of the great masters. The Art in Action program is aligned with California and National Visual Arts Standards and integrated with other elements of the core curriculum. Art in Action provides the training for teachers and volunteer docents, ongoing school support, and all the art materials and prints necessary for implementing a year-long program.

## Library

Our school library is an important part of Meadow Heights' education program. We continue to supply our school library with the most current children's literature and reference materials. Our collection is selected based upon state and district standards as well as to support the ongoing professional development of teachers in their classroom curriculum. Library skills are introduced by the Library Media Specialist, including the encouragement of book selections, organizational use of the library, and the development and application of study/research skills. Each library book must be returned or before a student can check out a new book. If books are not returned by the end of the school year, please come to the office to resolve them.



## Technology

Technology is a tool that enhances the curriculum. Each classroom has interactive whiteboards, document cameras, and voice amplification systems, funded by Measure L. Technology is used in a variety of formats in our instructional program to help students become better readers, researchers, communicators, and problem solvers. 1:1 Chromebooks have been proved for all students K-5.

## Field Trips

Field trips are an extension of the regular school curriculum and are offered to enrich the educational program of the children. Trips are taken only under the direct supervision of the teacher and classroom.

## Meadow Heights Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible

Behavior Standards of the Meadow Heights School Community are based on our belief that if children are to acquire self-esteem, achieve academically, and develop good social skills, they must have a sense of community, feel valued, and value others.





## LIFE SKILLS

Through the implementation of our Life Skills Program, students build positive character traits, as well as learn and practice positive, socially responsible behavior. Each month, staff and students will be reading literature based on the Life Skill of the month. As a school, we will work together on learning and practicing Life Skills. Students and staff will also participate in assemblies to learn more about certain Life Skills through our partners at Soul Shoppe.

## SCHOOL PROCEDURES

### Playground

1. Play in supervised areas.
2. Walk on mats that surround each play structure. Walk on the play structure.
3. Play equipment needs to be dry in order to be used.
4. "Two-finger tag." When playing tag, students can tag a student using two fingers.
5. "Hands off." Students are not allowed to put their hands on other students (no pretend fighting is allowed).
6. Eat at designated snack areas, and throw away garbage in designated areas.

**All of the above should be done while being safe, respectful, and responsible.**

### Hallways

Hands-off

All eyes forward

Low voice

Low speed

Single file on the sidewalk

### Restrooms

1. Use restrooms for intended purposes only.
2. Wash your hands.
3. Leave the restroom clean.

### Library

1. Enter the library quietly.
2. Use an inside voice.
3. Walk at all times.
4. Be an active listener when a story is being read.
5. When you have checked out a book, sit and read quietly.
6. Respect the library materials.

### School Office

1. Students are to enter and leave the office from the front door or side door during school hours.
2. Children are allowed in the front of the office by the bench only (not behind the desk), unless they have been given permission to stay in the clinic area.



## Brunch/Lunch Line Procedures

1. Walk to the brunch/lunch line.
2. Quietly line up, facing forward.
3. Respect each other's space in line.
4. Use your manners and Life Skills at all times.
5. Select your brunch/lunch card from the rack.
6. Use both hands when carrying your food tray.
7. Walk to the lunch area.

## Lunch Court

1. Walk with your lunch
2. Sit at table
3. Use appropriate table manners
4. Use an appropriate outside voice
5. Walk to the trash can and place the garbage into the can
6. Sit and talk quietly until you are dismissed by an adult
7. Line up when dismissed
8. Walk to the play area or class

## Assemblies

1. Sit appropriately throughout the assembly--criss-cross, on your bottom, so those behind you can see
2. Hold questions until requested and raise a hand for questions
3. Clap politely at the conclusion of a performance

## Bikes

1. Walk bikes on school grounds
2. Park bikes in racks and lock them
3. Observe traffic safety laws
4. Wear a bike helmet

## Arrival

1. Bus riders depart the bus in single file and walk to the upper yard
2. Walkers use crosswalks to enter campus
3. All students walk to the upper yard and remain there until the bell rings
4. Follow all playground procedures

## Dismissal

1. Bus riders walk to the bus area and line up in the appropriate line
2. All others wait for parents or daycare providers at the arranged spot
3. If you are not picked up within a few minutes after dismissal, go to the office

## Boarding Bus

1. Walk to the proper line.
2. Visit quietly with friends in line.
3. Keep your personal space.



4. Treat students and adults with respect.
5. Wait for the teacher's OK to board the bus.
6. Stay in line
7. Greet your bus driver.

## **Bus Riding Procedures**

1. Walk quietly to the bus and sit down facing the front.
2. Talk quietly to the person next to you.
3. Remain in your seat at all times.
4. Keep your hands and feet and objects to yourself.
5. Use appropriate language.
6. Listen to the bus driver, and do what you are asked to do.
7. Be respectful of all bus riders.
8. All electronics should be kept in your backpack until you exit the bus.
9. Walk quietly off the bus at your bus stop.

## **Meadow Heights Dress Requirements**

Meadow Heights School recognizes that the type and style of clothing and one's hairstyle are individual and personal choices. Our expectations for what is acceptable and unacceptable are influenced by two factors. We do not want students coming to school dressed in a manner that is distracting to themselves or to others or that is unsafe. We expect our students to accept responsibility as students and to dress in a manner that is befitting the positive image we want to be projected by the students who attend our school.

- All parts of the torso must be covered at all times. This includes low-cut necklines and backlines. Tank tops of less than 2" straps are not allowed. Boys are not permitted to wear just a tank top undershirt without an outer shirt covering their tank top.
- Clothing (shorts, skorts, skirts, etc.) where the entire thigh is exposed is never allowed.
- All hemlines must not be shorter than mid-thigh.
- No exposure of undergarments-No sagging pants.
- Clothing, buttons, jewelry, or school materials, which show obscene, alcohol, drug, or gang-related slogans, words, pictures, or suggestive statements or words, are not allowed.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- All students participating in P.E. should wear sneakers.
- Do not wear pajamas.
- Students are asked to remove hats and hoodies upon entering any building. We request that hats and hoodies not be worn during class or assemblies.

## **HELPFUL LINKS**

[SMFCSD NUTRITION](#)

[SMFCSD WEB PAGE](#)

[MEADOW HEIGHTS SCHOOL WEB PAGE](#)

[MEADOW HEIGHTS PTA WEB PAGE](#)

**updated 07/23/2024**