



Dear Third, Fifth, Seventh And Eighth-Grade Students And Parents,

The Portola Valley School District is very excited to invite you to participate in the **Rite Of Passage Experiences (ROPES) Project**. The ROPES Project is specifically designed as an **optional enrichment activity** as students complete a cycle of their education (Ormondale to Corte Madera, elementary grade to middle school, middle school to high school). The ROPES Project gives students in third, fifth, seventh and eighth grade opportunities to explore and demonstrate project-based learning. The project is an opportunity for students to participate in an academic ritual by way of real-life experiences. **This is not a classroom assignment and there is no grade attached to it.**

ROPES participants select from the list of ROPES Challenges. These challenges encourage students to use their school learning to suggest solutions, research information or create products that reflect real life situations. Each challenge gives students a chance to demonstrate critical thinking and creativity and each can be done individually or with a partner. The project should be thought of as a **“passion project”**. The project is multi-tiered and is worked on over the course of several months before being presented to a panel. The capstone of the project is the ROPES Celebration Night where students who have successfully met the ROPES criteria will receive a rope in honor of their accomplishment.

In an effort to increase participation this year, information about ROPES is being distributed to students during the week of December 9. This information will also be available online for parents on the PVSD website. There will be two information meetings for parents of students who may be interested in participating in the ROPES Project on **Monday, January 6, 2025**. **These meetings will be held virtually and parents can choose to sign on at 9:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m.** During this meeting I will discuss the process of completing a ROPES Project as well as details about the challenges that students can choose from. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers. **Parents are not required to attend the orientation if they feel that all their questions are answered by reading the packet.** *Google Meet links will be available on the district website calendar.*

It is our hope that the ROPES Project will become a milestone event in each of our PVSD students' lives that they look forward to participating in. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lynette Hovland
Principal, Ormondale School
ROPES Coordinator