

Ellen Fletcher Middle School



RIISING 6TH GRADE
PARENT INFORMATION
NIGHT 1/22/2025
6:00 – 7:00 PM

FLETCHER ADMINISTRATION



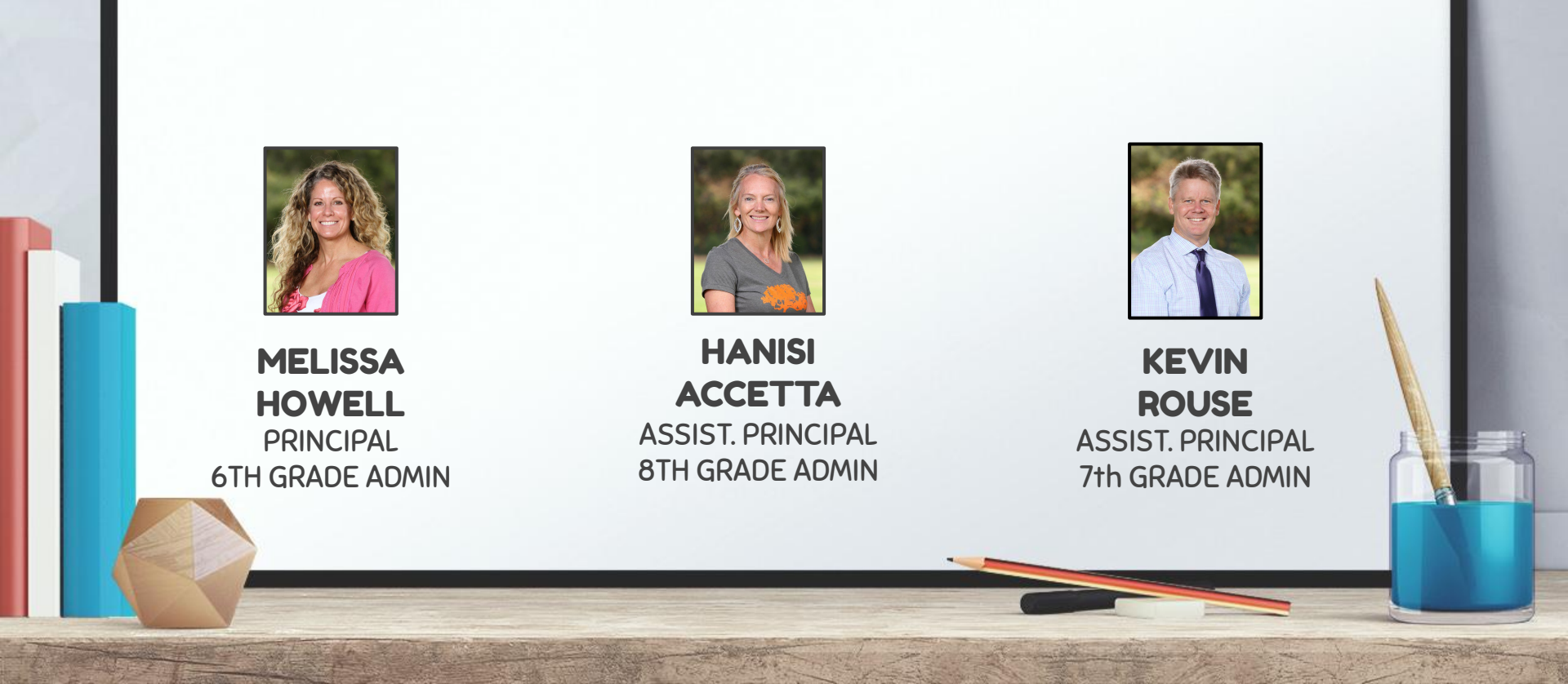
**MELISSA
HOWELL**
PRINCIPAL
6TH GRADE ADMIN



**HANISI
ACCETTA**
ASSIST. PRINCIPAL
8TH GRADE ADMIN



**KEVIN
ROUSE**
ASSIST. PRINCIPAL
7th GRADE ADMIN



FRONT OFFICE STAFF



**SUZANNE
LOWE**

SCHOOL
SECRETARY



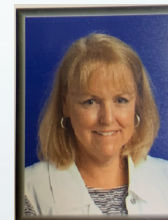
**AMANDA
CARRANZA**

ATTENDANCE
SECRETARY



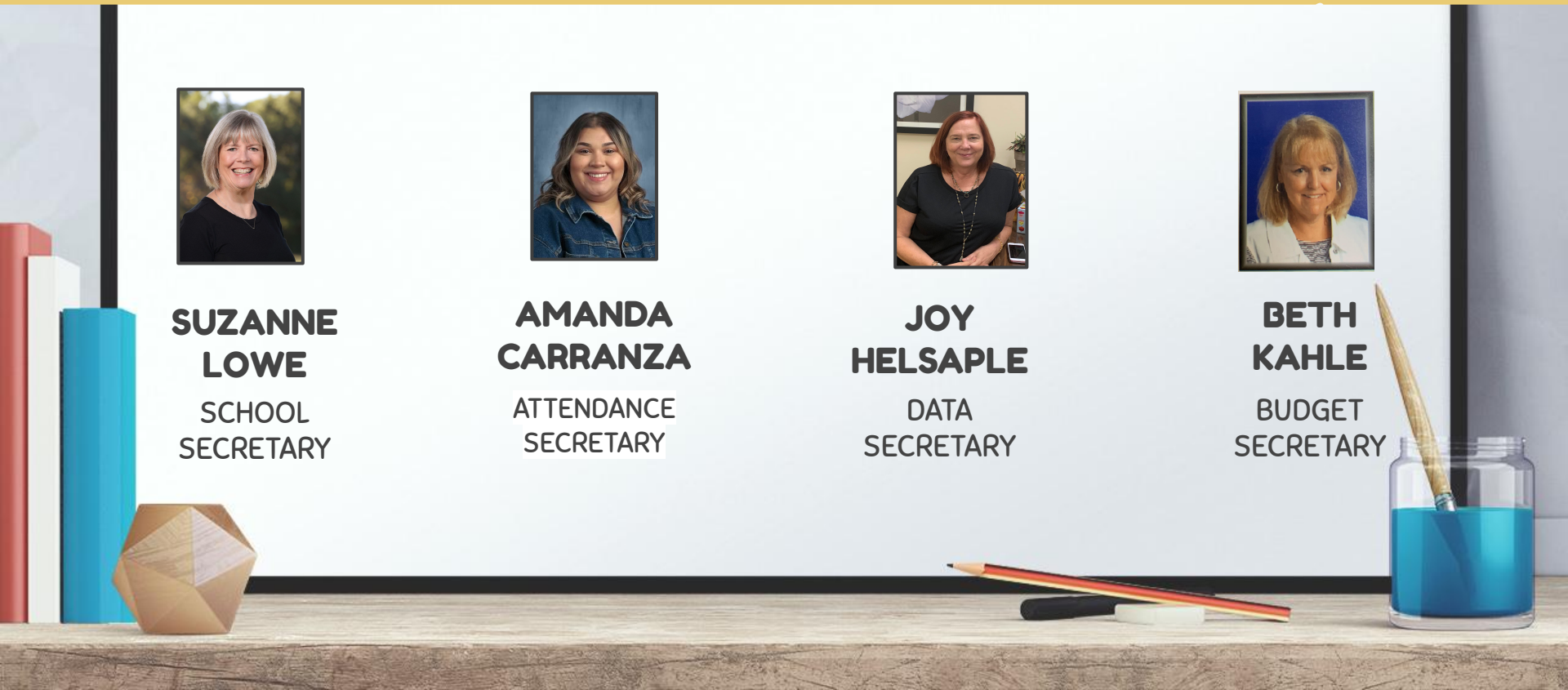
**JOY
HELSAPLE**

DATA
SECRETARY



**BETH
KAHLE**

BUDGET
SECRETARY



COUNSELING STAFF



Michele Chin
6th & 7th GRADE
COUNSELOR (24/25)



Jovi Johnston
6th & 8th GRADE
COUNSELOR (24/25)



Peggy Chang
ERMHS
COUNSELOR



Dalonna Jackson
WELLNESS
Associate



FRONT OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF



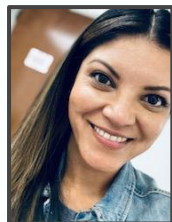
TODD DALY
SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGIST



MARIA ALVES
CAMPUS
SUPERVISOR



ALEX BELTRAN
HEALTH TECHNICIAN



CHRISTINE CASTILLO
STUDENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
SPECIALIST



QINGMIN WANG
STUDENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
SPECIALIST



ROLE OF THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Develop positive, supportive relationships with students and families

- Communication is essential

Social - Emotional Support

- Fostering resiliency, healthy coping skills, and developing greater independence with increased self-advocacy
- ***Confidential relationship***

Academic Support and Interventions

- Regularly meet with teaching teams, students and families

Navigation of **Peer Relationships**

- Adolescence is a normal period of navigating social skills

Social Emotional Learning

- Promoting kindness, respect, and inclusion through targeted lessons

5TH TO 6TH GRADE TRANSITION EVENTS

- Administration, counselors, and teachers present information to parents and families in January and February
- Middle School students, counselor and administrator present information to feeder elementary schools in March
- Counselors meets with feeder school 5th grade teachers
- 5th grade student tour of Fletcher in May
- Fletcher staff attends 504 and IEP transition meetings

WHAT MAKES FLETCHER A GREAT SCHOOL

- STUDENTS, STAFF, AND PARENT COMMUNITY
- SUSTAINABILITY FOR ALL THEME AND CHOICE PROGRAM
- COUNSELOR and ADMIN LOOPING
- SOCIAL KINDNESS/SEL PROGRAM during PRIME/Advisory – Wayfinder
- HOMEWORK HABITAT/ DREAMCATCHERS – After school academic support
- STUDENT COUNCIL / STUDENT LEADERSHIP
- LUNCH CLUBS
- AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS (City of Palo Alto)
- WEB – WHERE EVERYBODY BELONGS

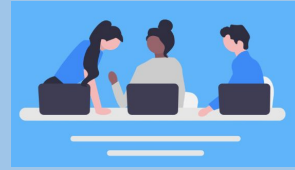


WEB

**Where Everyone
Belongs
at**

Ellen Fletcher Middle School

What is WEB?



- A middle school orientation and transition program
[LINK TO BOOMERANG WEB PAGE](#)
- It welcomes 6th Graders and increases a sense of belonging during their 6th grade year and beyond.

It is built on the belief that students can help students succeed emotionally and academically.

- It trains 8th grade students to be WEB Mentor Leaders to 6th and 7th grade students. Creates 8th Grade Leaders
6th Grade Orientation - 8/13/25

HOW 6TH GRADE IS DIFFERENT FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Students have more than one teacher
- Students move from class to class
- Larger school environment – more friends and social opportunities
- Elective Wheel
- FLEX Exploratory Rotations
- Students are more independent / (e.g. *brunch* instead of *recess*)
- Lockers!



Fletcher's “Sustainability for All” program creates opportunities for students to explore ways that they can take equitable action to promote a flourishing environment in which people and living things access healthy food, clean air, and safe water.

All students participate: core classes, awareness through leadership and broadcast course outreach, assemblies, and field trips.



Multiple avenues will be available to deepen the work during and after school.

STUDENT EXPERIENCES

- Embedded into core classes: Science, HSS, English, Math and 6th grade Wheel.
- Topics emerge from student interest, current events, & CDE Frameworks/Standards.
- Grade Level Field Trips

OVERNIGHT OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL / CAMP

- Entire 6th grade class attends
- 3 days & 2 nights in the Marin Headlands, NatureBridge Golden Gate Campus
- Unforgettable opportunity to have a hands-on scientific exploration
- Supervised nature study and activities



OPT IN/AFTER SCHOOL – DEEPER WORK

- Community Service opportunities – on and off campus.
- Partnerships with community groups, Gunn HS, YCA, Canopy.
- Electives will use project based approach to focus on specific areas for personal or school-wide sustainability.





A GREAT START!

Tiger Camp (6th Grade)

- Transition program during first week of school
- Community-building
- Activities to familiarize teachers with students
- Opportunity to learn about Fletcher
 - Schedules, bike safety, lockers, student ID cards
 - Campus orientation and procedures
 - Introduction to library services & technology usage
 - Introduction to music and electives with wheel and music classes

ACADEMIC LIFE

6th Grade Schedule

7 class periods

- Four core subjects
- Flex period (rotating classes)
- Music & PE
- Wheel: Art, Computers, Drama, Industrial Tech, Sustainability Intro. (rotating classes)

Home-School Connection

- Back-to-School Night
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Parent Square
- Schoology
- PTA

6th Grade Core Curriculum

(English, Social Studies, Math, Science)

English/Writing

- Reading: Core novels/nonfiction text
Reading for information
- Writing: expository, argumentative, narrative, research, literature response
- Grammar, mechanics, presentation skills, group conversations embedded

Social Studies

Focuses: Dawn of humankind and major ancient civilizations of Africa and Eurasia including Mesopotamia, Egypt and Kush, Israel, India, China, and Greece

- Geographical, political, economic, religious, and social structures

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Focus on Earth and Space Sciences: Astronomy, geology, meteorology, oceanography, human impact

- Scientific & Engineering
- Cross-cutting Concepts
- Core Ideas

Math Common Core

- Problem Solving
- Constructing Arguments
- Perseverance

Focus on ratio and proportions. Transition from arithmetic to algebra

MATH COURSE SEQUENCE

Foundational Math

Concepts of Math

Algebra

*Geometry

4 years of Common Core Standards
(*Math 6, Math 7, Math 8 and Algebra*) in 3 years.



MATH COURSE(S) CONT.

Advanced students may take the math course
1 year ahead of grade-level.

Assessments dates TBD

BAND, ORCHESTRA, AND CHOIR

6th Grade Music

Three classes available

- Band (winds & percussion)
- Orchestra (strings)
- Choir (singing)

MUSIC MATTERS!



MUSIC, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, & WHEEL

Music (Choir, Band, or Orchestra)

- Year-long classes, meeting 2x weekly

Physical Education

- Year-long classes, meeting 2x weekly

Exploratory Wheel (electives)

- Art, Computer Application, Drama, Industrial Technology, Sustainability Intro.

School counselor support

Wellness-individual counseling;

Wellness Center – M–F, Open Daily

FLEX (6th grade)–enrichment rotations

ALD program – must qualify through language testing

*AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

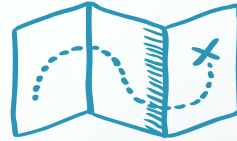
*Focus on Success – teacher/counselor referral



TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SCHOOL

- *Walk, Bike, Skateboard, Scooter, Carpool*

- *Helmets required*
- *Suggested Routes*



- Two large bike cages that are locked during the day
- Bike Registration at Welcome Back Check-In Day



FLETCHER PTA



What is PTA Like at Middle School?

Middle school students are amazing volunteers!

In partnership with our Student Council, PTA is often flush with 7th and 8th grade students supporting PTA events! And, Student Council often requests parent help for campus activities.

In January 2023, Fletcher was honored as a **California and National "School to Watch"**! Ms. Wallace runs the lessons and programs for our sustainability-themed school, an important part of that honor and is always looking for parent support.



Just a few ways to get involved at Fletcher:

- lunch assemblies on spirit days
 - library assistance
 - gardening/landscaping
 - social media
 - field trip chaperone
 - Science Olympiad support
 - engineering advisors
 - yearbook photographer
- Click [HERE](#) to learn more!



FLETCHER PTA



What is PTA Like at Middle School?

Keep me in the loop!

Infinite Campus: This Spring, when you fill out your Infinite Campus registration, be sure to click the box “***YES! I want to receive PTA Communications***”. Otherwise, you will miss out on the back to school packet and important Fletcher PTA events!

▼ PTA

PTA: Your school's PTA consists of parent volunteers that organize programs and activities

[Learn more about PTA](#)

Will you allow PAUSD to provide your contact information (parent phone, email, address; PTA, for the purpose of informing you of programs and activities both school-sponsored and information can NOT be included in your child's school directory.)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Will you allow PAUSD to provide your contact information (parent phone, email, address; PTA, for inclusion in your child's school directory (provided ONLY to families attending your child's school events))

☒ Yes ☐ No

I consent to the PTA's use of my child's photograph, voice, and/or video recording in various ways

☒ Yes ☐ No

◀ Previous Next ▶



DreamCatchers Youth

Scan for
interest form!



DreamCatchers

DREAMCATCHERSYOUTH.ORG

At DreamCatchers, qualified students engage in after-school academic support alongside community building and social-emotional learning activities. We create a “third space” environment for all our students.

Visit us in the back for more information and to see if your student qualifies!



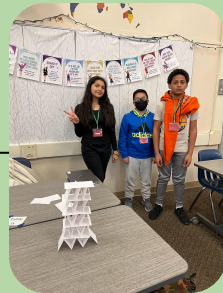
En DreamCatchers, los estudiantes calificados participan en apoyo académico después de la escuela junto con actividades de desarrollo comunitario y aprendizaje socioemocional. Creamos un entorno de “tercer espacio” para todos nuestros estudiantes.

¡Visítenos en la parte de atrás para obtener más información sobre si su estudiante califica!



在 DreamCatchers, 合格的學生除了參與課後學術支援外, 還參與團建和社交情緒學習活動。我們為所有學生創造一個「第三空間」環境。

請訪問我們的後台以獲取更多資訊並查看您的學生是否符合資格!





Questions

ALL QUESTIONS ARE GOOD QUESTIONS – WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Contact Information

Melissa Howell, Principal 6th Grade (mhowell@pausd.org)

Hanisi Accetta, 8th Grade Asst. Principal (haccetta@pausd.org)

Kevin Rouse, 7th Grade Asst. Principal (krouse@pausd.org)

Michele Chin, Counselor (mchin@pausd.org)

Jovi Johnston, Counselor (jojohnston@pausd.org)

Catherine Flint, Math Instructional Lead (cflint@pausd.org)

Tamara Wallace, Electives & Sustainability (twallace@pausd.org)

