

Greetings Mills Families!

Welcome to the '25-26 school year!

Whether you're a returning family or new to our school, here are a few key reminders about campus life here at Mills. Mills is a **Community School**. A Community School utilizes an evidence-based framework to integrate all of our district initiatives. It centers around four pillars: integrated student supports, equity-centered learning, family and community engagement and shared leadership and decision making. This grant has allowed us to provide additional staffing for student and family support in the areas of social work, attendance, a behaviorist and a community school liaison.

This year, we are continuing with advisory and **Flex time**. Advisory occurs two times per week, while Flex occurs three times per week. Advisory and Flex take place between second and third period each day. Advisory allows students the opportunity to develop strong connections with trusted adults on campus, practice organizational skills, team building activities, class competitions and more. Flex time is structured time within the school day to allow for intervention, enrichment and amplification. Check out our **Family Newsletter**, posted via Parent Square each month, as we highlight various ways Flex time is used.

We employ a variety of methods and programs throughout the year to promote a school culture of diversity, tolerance, empathy and teamwork. We celebrate positive behaviors and academic success. While there are some negative consequences for certain behaviors, our focus is on creating a positive school environment for all of our students, including teaching students how to repair the harm that was caused when a negative behavior takes place. We have a **Restorative Center** ("The RC"), staffed by a full time Restorative Specialist. This space allows students time to pause and reflect on behavior, practice mindfulness exercises and/or engage in conflict mediations.

Parents are encouraged to regularly log into the **Parent Portal** of Powerschool to check on student progress with grades, assignments and attendance. (If you need assistance logging into this, please contact the school office).

In closing, I am thrilled to announce that Mills was awarded Gold Recognition by the CA Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (**PBIS**) Coalition for our efforts in maintaining a positive school environment.

Let's make it a great year Mustangs!

In Partnership,
Dana Carrigan, Principal