



MALIBU HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY MESSAGE – January 19th, 2026

This Week's Schedule:

Monday, January 19th - NO SCHOOL (Holiday)

Tuesday, January 20th - Regular Schedule

Wednesday, January 21st - Block Schedule (1,3,5)

Thursday, January 22nd - Block Schedule (2,4,6)

Friday, January 23rd - Minimum Day Schedule

A MESSAGE FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT

Dear Middle and High School Families,

We're looking for a few amazing parent volunteers to join our PTSA Nominating Committee for the upcoming PTSA elections—and we'd love your help! The Nominating Committee plays an important role in shaping the future of our PTSA by identifying and recommending candidates for our board. It's a meaningful (and surprisingly fun!) way to support our school community and be part of the behind-the-scenes magic.

Email ptsamalibu@gmail.com by January 20, 2026

We are seeking 3 parent volunteers and 2 alternates to serve on the PTSA Nominating Committee, which helps identify and recommend candidates for open PTSA board positions.

Selection: The Nominating Committee will be voted on at the January 20 General Meeting.

Requirements

- *No prior PTSA experience required*
- *Must be a current PTSA member for at least 30 days prior to selection*

Time Commitment

- *2–3 one-hour meetings*
- *January–March 2026*
- *Scheduled at everyone's convenience*

Interested in being on the PTSA instead?

Email ptsamalibu@gmail.com — elections will be held in March.

Thank you for supporting our school community,

MMS/MHS PTSA

SCHOOL NEWS AND INFORMATION:

2026 MLK Essay Contest

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his enduring belief that education must develop both intelligence and character, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo invites middle and high school students to participate in the 2026 MLK Essay Contest. This year's contest encourages students to reflect on the true purpose of education and its role in shaping thoughtful, responsible, and engaged members of society. Through thoughtful writing and personal reflection, students are invited to explore how Dr. King's message continues to guide learning, leadership, and character today.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The 2026 MLK Essay Contest is open to middle school (Grades 6–8) and high school (Grades 9–12) students. Separate divisions ensure age-appropriate prompts and judging. See writing prompts below.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Select the appropriate grade-level writing prompt and share it with students. The flyer is available for download below and includes a QR code students can use to submit their essays.

[MLK Essay Contest](#)

DEADLINE

Essays must be submitted by January 26, 2026. Submissions received after the deadline will not be accepted.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING PROMPT

(Grades 6-8) 250-500 words

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed that real education is not only about learning facts, but also about becoming a good and thoughtful person. In his words, "Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education."

In your essay, explain what you think Dr. King meant by this quote. Consider:

In what ways do you seek to expand your intelligence?

What does character mean to you, and why is it important?

Describe a time you used both intelligence and character to make a positive choice or help someone.

How can students today honor Dr. King's vision through their actions at school, at home, or in their community?

Use examples from your own life, history, or current events to support your ideas.

HIGH SCHOOL WRITING PROMPT

(Grades 9-12) 500-700 words

In his 1947 essay "The Purpose of Education," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. argued that education must develop both "intelligence and character" for individuals to contribute meaningfully to society.

In your essay, analyze what Dr. King meant by this statement and discuss its relevance today. You may explore:

How schools balance academic learning with the development of values, ethics, and responsibility.

Why Dr. King believed that intelligence without character could be dangerous.

Ways your educational experiences have shaped both your mind and your character.

How Dr. King's message applies to current issues facing students, schools, and society.

Use thoughtful reasoning, clear examples, and, when appropriate, connections to Dr. King's legacy of leadership, justice, and service.

Coffee with the Counselors: Special Guest Speaker

We are excited to welcome a college admissions representative from Stanford University as our next guest speaker for Coffee with the Counselors on January 21 at 9:00 AM. This is a great opportunity for parents to learn more about the highly selective college admissions process, what colleges like Stanford look for in applicants, and how families can best support students along the way. We encourage all interested parents to attend and join the conversation.

Parents of Juniors: Malibu High School will be offering the SAT for FREE to all juniors on Friday, March 27th during the school day. Juniors do not need to register on College Board, Ms. Snyder will take care of this part. Our friends at Revolution Prep has offered to take \$100 off any small group courses for our families. To access this and for more information: The code is SGC-100-26-A and this is the link to the class schedule - <https://www.revolutionprep.com/programs/small-group-courses/>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Girls Soccer Senior Night will be 5:30 pm Monday, January 26

We will have the Rice Balls of Fire food truck 🏈🔥

MLK DAY: All SMMUSD schools will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

PTSA GENERAL MEETING: The next general meeting of the PTSA will be Thursday, January 22nd at 9:00 am in the Parent Conference Center.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

Malibu Ed Foundation

Supporting Malibu Schools — This Is Our Moment

This is a defining year for Malibu's public schools. With new campuses, evolving programs and pathways, recovery from recent wildfires, and important decisions shaping the future of public education in Malibu, our school community is at a pivotal moment.

The **Malibu Education Foundation** exists to support students during times like this — funding academic, arts, and athletic programs, as well as staff roles that would not otherwise be possible.

Families who have not yet contributed to this year's **Annual Campaign** are encouraged to participate at a level that works for them. Every contribution helps strengthen programs that directly support Malibu students.

malibueducationfoundation.org/donate

There are also easy, community-based ways to get involved:

- **Food For Thought — Tuesday, January 20 (all day):** Dine at participating local restaurants (Marmalade Cafe, OLLO, Sushi by Howdy, Howdy Malibu) to support Malibu schools and local businesses. *MEF and AMPS will be at Marmalade from 5-6 - to provide information on our organizations and answer any questions!*
- **Malibu Schools Showcase — Saturday, January 24, 9-11 at MHS:** MEF is proud to support this opportunity for families to explore the excellence of Malibu's public schools, meet principals and teachers, and learn more about the Malibu Pathway and the partnerships that support our students. Events like this help re-engage families and reinforce the strength of public education right here in Malibu.

Support looks different for everyone — and every form of participation matters.

PTSA

How to Become an Approved School Volunteer: In three easy steps!

V.I.V. — Very Important Volunteer

All steps can be completed in person January 22, *immediately following the PTSA meeting.*

Step 1: Fill-out school/district paperwork: [LINK HERE](#)

Step 2: Come into the front office (please call ahead) to complete TB questionnaire (in-person) and Verkada safety screening (in-person) with Tiffany Mulligan (MMS) or Sam Duran (MHS).

Step 3: Review/watch training slides/video (you can do this during your office visit for step 2). [Link to slides HERE](#)

Next Steps: Volunteer Opportunities at Malibu Middle & High School

Once you are an approved volunteer, there are many ways to get involved, including:

- Front office support

- Classroom assistance
- Special events and school activities
- Lunch and passing period support
- General campus support

To get started, please contact:

Tiffany Mulligan MMS – tmulligan@smmusd.org

Sam Duran MHS– sduran@smmusd.org

Thank you for supporting the Malibu Middle and High School community!

Dare to Prepare Malibu

 **REGISTER NOW | Free In-Person Workshop**

Pre-permit teens & their parents

Brought to you by MMS & MHS PTSA as part of our #SafeOnPCH initiative 

 **Monday, February 9, 2026**

 **3:30–5:30 PM**

 **Malibu Middle School**

Learning to drive is a big milestone — and preparation matters. This FREE, 2-hour AAA workshop helps families feel confident before teens get behind the wheel.

- ✓ **Graduated Driver Licensing**
- ✓ **Risks & responsibilities of driving**
- ✓ **Parents' role in the learning process**
- ✓ **How to pick a safe vehicle**

✓ What to look for in a driving school

📺 Free resources & giveaways for attendees!

🔗 Register at AAA.com/Safety4Teens (QR code on flyer)

Together, we're building safer drivers — and safer roads — for Malibu.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MALIBU TEEN CENTER:

Boys & Girls Club of Malibu (BGCM) is committed to youth and community resilience by providing a supportive and inclusive environment where children can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Through exceptional customer service and impactful after-school programs, we focus on academic success, character development, and health and wellness, catering to the unique needs of Malibu's youth. By addressing the needs of families, we foster a sense of safety, support, and community engagement, promoting a brighter future for all!

- **BGCM Academic Year Enrollment** For grades 6th-12th. BGCM is committed to providing a curriculum that will include a variety of activities geared towards fun, educational, and social experiences.
 - Due to the impact the fire has had on our community, the Teen Center is offering a no cost membership by entering **UNIQUE CODE: TEENMEMBERSHIP25**. [Click here](#) to enroll and see the attached letter for personal testimonial that highlights some of the benefits of joining the Club!
Please note, you will still need to enter your CC information to process the application, but if the UNIQUE CODE is entered, you will not be charged.
 - Programs include: Kindness Is Free, Manners Matter, Brent's Club, Managers in Training, Career Launch, social emotional wellness, STEM based projects, arts & crafts, and more!

Programs

Brent's Club is where peers come together to support one another, learn about living healthy and drug-free lifestyles, and build leadership skills for the future. Through fun activities and open conversations, members strengthen friendships, explore positive

choices, and take an active role in creating a safe, supportive school community. Next meeting: **Monday, January 23** — during lunch (lunch is included!) For more information, contact: hannahmatheson@bgcmalibu.org

Wellness

BGCM Wellness Center provides no-cost mental health counseling and social support services to our school community. The Wellness Center also provides **FREE** academic tutoring in **Math, Chemistry, English, and Social Sciences** through our **partnership with Pepperdine**, available during the support period and after school at Malibu High School. Stop by to explore the space, meet our new Wellness Center team, and make an appointment for any of our services! [Click here](#) to learn more and email wellnessinfo@bgcmalibu.org or call 310-457-0360 ext 60146 to request services for you/your child.

Upcoming Wellness Center Events

A YEAR AFTER THE WILDFIRES: COPING WITH PERSISTENT GRIEF AND LOSS with Dr. David J. Schonfeld, M.D.

This session will explore how trauma, grief, and loss can continue to affect children and adults in the year following the wildfires. The one-year mark can unexpectedly bring up emotions, stress, or exhaustion, even for those who thought they had already moved forward. We will discuss the ripple effects of loss and ongoing stress, share practical ways to support children as they cope, and create space for questions and conversation. Together, we'll focus on healing, resilience, and supporting families as they continue to move forward.

- **Virtual via Zoom Webinar - TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH from 6:00-7:00 PM**
 - [Click here to register](#)
- **In-Person at BGCM Disaster Recovery Center in Malibu - TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH from 10:00-11:00 AM**
 - [Click here to RSVP](#)

BGCM Long Term Disaster Recovery Services The Boys & Girls Club of Malibu Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in partnership with The Malibu Community Long Term Recovery Group (MCLTRG) is here to support Palisades and Franklin Fire survivors with long-term

recovery services. Our dedicated **Care Coordination Team** is ready to assist those who qualify with:

- Personalized recovery planning: We will collaborate to identify your most pressing current and ongoing needs, creating a recovery plan tailored to your individual situation.
- Resource connection: We will help you access the latest available support and resources by assessing your individual needs and connecting you to available resources based on qualifying criteria.
- Advocacy: You won't navigate this alone. By understanding community needs, we can advocate for increased financial resources for the community.

To be connected with a Care Coordinator, please email drc@bgcmalibu.org.