

Welcome to the **2026–2027** school year!

Whether you're a returning family or joining our community for the first time, we are excited to partner with you. Below are key highlights and reminders about daily life and support systems here at Mills.

Community School Framework As a designated Community School, Mills uses an evidence-based framework to integrate district initiatives around four core pillars:

- **Integrated Student Supports:** On-campus resources targeting holistic student needs.
- **Equity-Centered Learning:** Academic and social structures designed for every learner to thrive.
- **Family & Community Engagement:** Strong partnerships connecting home, school, and neighborhood.
- **Shared Leadership & Decision-Making:** Collaborative governance involving staff, families, and students.

Grant Impact: This funding continues to provide dedicated staff, including social workers, an attendance specialist, a behaviorist, and a community school liaison.

Advisory & Flex Time Occurring daily between second and third period, these dedicated blocks support both personal growth and academic success:

- **Advisory (2x/week):** Focuses on building adult mentorship, organizational skills, team building, and class competitions.
- **Flex Time (3x/week):** Provides dedicated time during the school day for targeted academic intervention, enrichment, and acceleration.

Stay Connected: Look for our monthly Family Newsletter on ParentSquare, where we regularly highlight how Flex time is being used.

Positive School Culture & Restorative Practices We are dedicated to fostering diversity, empathy, and teamwork while recognizing positive behaviors and academic achievements. When behavioral challenges arise, our focus remains on learning and accountability:

- **Restorative Center (“The RC”):** Staffed by a full-time Restorative Specialist, this space gives students a structured environment to pause, practice mindfulness, mediate conflicts, and repair harm.
- **PBIS Recognition:** We are proud to share that Mills has been awarded **Gold Recognition** by the CA Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Coalition for our ongoing commitment to a positive campus climate.

Parent Portal & Communication Please check the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly to monitor your student's grades, assignments, and attendance. If you need support accessing your account, contact the main office for assistance.
Let's make it an incredible year, Mustangs!

Dana Carrigan, Principal, Mills Middle School

