

Mission Valley Parent Bulletin

Principal's Message

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Important Dates:

- **Mon. 3/3-Fri. 3/14:**
Golden Sneaker Contest
- **Fri. 3/7:** Early Release Day
- **Sat. 3/8:** E-Waste Event at Mission Valley
- **Tues. 3/11:** Spring Pictures
MVSA Meeting, 7pm
- **Thurs. 3/13:** Talent Show
- **Wed. 3/19:** Smarter Balanced Assessment Parent Meeting for Grades 3-6, 6pm, MUR
- **Thurs. 3/20:** Distinguished School Site Visit
- **Fri. 3/21:** Report Cards Sent Home
- **Week of 3/24:** FAME
- **Mon. 3/31:** Jog-a-Thon

Common Core and Assessments

How will assessments change with the Common Core Standards?

Compared to current state achievement tests, the Common Core State assessments will likely be more difficult. Instead of multiple choice tests, students will be analyzing and synthesizing information, writing essay responses, and answering in-depth questions to show how much they understand. It is also likely that students will take the Common Core assessment on the computer which means that students will need to learn adequate word processing skills to complete the exam. It is highly recommended that all students begin to work on word processing skills both at home and at school.

Focus on Practical Skills:

The Common Core State Standards were designed with the workplace in mind. Therefore, students will work more in individual and group learning activities where they will take on the role of scientists, historians, researchers, and more. As the Common Core State Standards start to be implemented in schools, there will be some changes, but many things will stay the same.

On March 19th from 6:00pm-7:00pm, in the MUR, parents with students in grades 3-6 are invited to a Smarter Balanced Assessment informational meeting. Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Denton, and I will walk you through the assessment and the shifts in Common Core. Bring your technology device to participate in the hands on assessment activity.



Thank You MVSA

We have a new digital school sign on the front corner of the school. The sign is a donation from MVSA to Mission Valley School. I want to personally thank our families for your donation to Mission Valley School. Your kindness and support is greatly appreciated.

Basketball News

Ms. Hughes and Mrs. Lopez have once again done an amazing job coaching our Boys and Girls Basketball Teams. The students played their hearts out and represented Mission Valley with good sportsmanship. We are proud of their efforts and positive team attitude. Thank you parents for your support with snacks, rides, and attendance and cheers at our games.



Report Cards & Progress Reports

In accordance with Education Code 46069, a signature is required by a parent in order for your child to hand carry their report card/progress report home. Signature forms were sent home and must be returned to classroom teachers. A parent has to give written permission for their child to bring his/her report card and progress report home. If a parent does not give written permission, report cards and progress reports can be picked up by parents in the school office or mailed home.

Golden Sneaker Contest



Lace up those shoes, dust off those bikes, or get ready to share a ride. Thanks to Ms. Cowan, Mission Valley School is participating in a walk or bike to school contest. From March 3-14th, classrooms will compete to see who can walk, bike, or carpool the most when traveling to school or home. The winning classroom will receive the coveted Golden Sneaker trophy and a smoothie party. Good luck to our students and families.

California Distinguished School

Mission Valley School was invited to apply for California Distinguished School status. Schools showing academic growth in significant subgroups are invited to apply for Distinguished School. Our application was approved and we will have a site validation visit on March 20th. The visit consists of interviews with school staff, parents, students, classroom visits and documentation review. We are all proud of this opportunity and want to thank our parents and students in their efforts at making strong academics a priority at Mission Valley School.



Enrollment Information for New Students

Beginning March 4th, 2014, the online enrollment period for Transitional Kindergarten to 6th grade for 2014-2015 school year has passed. You may continue to complete an online enrollment application for 2014-2015 school year, but online appointments for the 2014-2015 school year will re-open on Monday April 7th at 12am. Please check back on April 7th.

Between March 3rd, 2014 and April 6th, 2014 the Enrollment Center will only take and return phone calls for 2013-2014 enrollment; calls related to 2014-2015 school year will not be read. For questions regarding 2014-2015 enrollment, please visit our website at <http://www.fremont.k12.ca.us/Domain/83>. If you still have questions about enrollment for 2014-2015 school year, please email dmarenco@fremont.k12.ca.us.

Statewide Standardized Testing

This spring, Fremont Unified School District students will participate in the two kinds of California state testing: Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Field Testing.

STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting)

SCIENCE: Students in grades 5, 8, and 10 will take tests aligned with the science content standards. The district will administer these tests to students in grades 5 and 8 between May 5th and May 16th. Students in grade 10 will test between April 9th and 17th.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS: Some special education students will be taking the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) test between April 9th and May 14th. These include students in grades 2 through 11 with the most significant disabilities and who are generally not working toward a regular high school diploma. Students in grades 5, 8 or 10 may take the California Modified Assessment version in science as noted in a student's IEP instead of the regular STAR science assessment. Parents wishing to know more about the STAR CMA program should contact the principal.

Testing results for all STAR assessments will be reported by the State Department of Education on the Internet late summer by state, county, district, school, and grade level (but not individual class or student) at the following website address: www.cde.ca.gov. Results will also be sent to districts at that time, then mailed to parents.

If a parent wishes their child to be excluded from all or part of the test(s), they may submit a written request to their school principal.

SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium)

The Smarter Balanced Field Test will take place between April 7th and June 6th. Students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 (Mission High School only) will be assessed via computer in English-language arts and mathematics content aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

Purpose and Benefits of the Field Test

A field test is not designed to be a valid and reliable measure of student achievement; rather, it is designed to help the test developers evaluate whether the tests, individual items, and the technology platform work as intended before the first operational administration, planned for spring 2015.

The spring 2014 Field Test will be fully computer-based. Participation in the Field Test will give students, teachers, administrators, and local educational agencies valuable exposure to the future assessment system:

- Students will gain hands-on experience with the functionality of innovative technology-enhanced items and newly designed performance tasks with related classroom activities.
- Teachers and administrators will gain valuable exposure to administration logistics to better prepare for smooth and successful participation in the operational assessments, which will begin in the 2014–15 school year.
- Local educational agencies will benefit from knowing where technology gaps may exist so they can fully prepare for the operational assessments.

There will be accessibility and accommodations available for applicable students.

Please note that because the Field Test is a test of the assessments themselves, and the testing procedures, test scores will not be published and parents will not receive any information regarding their students' performance on the Field Test.

If a parent wishes their child to be excluded from all or part of the test, they may submit a written request to their school principal.

Families wishing to access SBAC practice tests can do so by logging on to: <https://sbacpt.tds.airast.org/student/>

Testing Preparation

It is important that schools and parents work together to ensure that students will be as well prepared as possible for these assessments. Schools are addressing "test prep" skills, standards aligned curriculum, are projecting a positive attitude toward the testing programs, and teaching the curriculum addressed in each grade level test. Parents can help by making sure that students do that following:

Be at school. Please avoid scheduling medical and other appointments, which would have your child away from class during this time.

Get plenty of sleep. A well-rested child will perform better.

Eat a nutritious breakfast. Well-fed "brain cells" function best.

Be positive and do not apply too much pressure. Students will perform better if they feel self-confident and supported by their families and schools. They need to know that we feel they CAN do well.

Mission Valley

**41700 Denise St.
Fremont CA 94539**

Contact Information:

Absence Line:
656-2000

Lunch Account Info:
656-2000 ext.34182

Website:
www.fremont.k12.ca.us/mve

Principal:
Genevieve Randolph

Secretary:
Cara Madden-Watson

Attendance Clerk:
Chris Richardson

****Fremont Unified School District is part of a culturally and linguistically rich community. Our policies embrace a discrimination and harassment free environment. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities which receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.****

A Few Campus Reminders

CELL PHONES:

Students in grades K—6 are not allowed to carry cell phones and/or pagers at school unless the principal has given that student specific written approval. Applications for students to carry cell phones are available in the office. A new application must be submitted EACH year. Student and parent(s) must sign the application form AND attach a letter stating why the phone is necessary. Phones must be kept turned OFF at school.

CLASSROOM ACCESS:

Classrooms will not be unlocked after school for ANY reason. Items left behind will have to wait until the next school day to be picked up.

DROPPING OFF ITEMS:

All homework, projects or other materials forgotten at home must be delivered to the office. These items will be placed in the teacher's mailbox. We DO NOT allow parents to interrupt class to deliver homework or other forgotten items.

LUNCHES:

School lunches are \$2.75. Please make checks payable to "CNS" and make sure your child's name AND room number are written on the "Memo" line at the bottom of the check. On-line payment now available and this can be accessed by going to the FUSD homepage Quicklinks and click on "My Nutrikids On-Line Meal Payment".

Please refrain from sending glass containers with your child's lunch. Glass bottles and bowls can accidentally break and injure students.

Emergency Meals are always available for students who lose or forget their lunch or lunch money. Payment is expected the next day. Only two (2) consecutive meals may be charged to your student's account. Students will then be offered a cheese sandwich and milk until payment is received.

Forgotten Lunches should be brought directly to the office. Please make sure they are labeled with your child's name and room number and leave it in the large blue basket just inside the office.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD COME TO THE OFFICE TO CHECK FOR FORGOTTEN LUNCHES BEFORE GOING TO THE CAFETERIA.

MORNING AND AFTERNOON PROCEDURES:

Kindergarten students meet in the corridor on the side of the office facing the K playground. They are dismissed from class to the corridor for after school pick up. Parents are asked to wait in the corridor. Please check with the k teachers for more information on procedures.

Grades 4-6 report to the playground at 8:10am and grades 1-3 at 8:20am. Students should not be on playground until adult supervision begins. After the bell rings, all students line up behind their classroom number on the playground. All teachers meet their classes on the playground daily. **On rainy days students will report to the Multi Use Room until school begins. FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OF OUR CHILDREN, PARENTS MAY NOT FOLLOW STUDENTS/CLASS TO THE CLASSROOM.**

RESTROOMS:

Only Mission Valley students are permitted to use the student restrooms on campus. Adults who wish to use the restrooms need to go to the office and use the restroom in the nurse's room.