

MS MSPA Meeting Notes

9/12/18

Martin Hall

Welcome by Jenn Miller, MSPA Co-President

This is the season for new beginnings, new teachers, classmates, and friends. The Menlo community is encouraged to reach out at events and meet new people. Together we can strengthen our community. Challenge: reach out and speak to 3 new people you do not know.

We are continuing the theme of “Attitude of Gratitude” that was started last year: positive communication with faculty/staff and with each other.

MSPA council recited a poem to kick off the new school year:

We know Menlo is MINT to succeed
With all of you SMARTIES!
We can all KISS our worries away
Because our community is full of LIFESAVERS
And LUCKY CHARMS who are always willing to jump in
Especially during a CRUNCH
To provide a LAFFY and ensure
That we will BLOW (Pop) this year out of the park!

Than Healy, Head of School

Start of the school year has gone well.

Goals this year:

- Accreditation is this year. The goal is to receive full accreditation. Visiting accreditation team will be on campus 2/10-13/19. It is an opportunity to recognize the strengths of the school and celebrate them.
- Fun. Foster an environment of fun for the adults and students.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Angela Birks left at the end of last year. The search for her replacement continues. The efforts around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion have been decentralized and more broadly owned by the faculty/staff.
- Retaining our faculty and staff is an ongoing goal. The Menlo community can help by continuing the attitude of gratitude.

-Survey from last school year has been assessed. Results will be reported later this fall. Additionally, surveys are sent to alumni in their sophomore year in college.

-The best part of the school is the relationship between the faculty and students. We want to foster a transformational experience for our students, not a transactional experience.

La Vina Lowery, MS Director

Back to School Reflections

Back to school night went very smoothly.

The new teachers are settling in well.

Introduction of New Middle School Teachers

(Please see Menlo website for more details on each teacher)

Tiffany Liu, 7th/8th Computer Science, MBEST and Robotics

Tri Huynh, 8th Science, Service Learning Week

Julia Wang, 6th English Public Speaking/Improv

Cody Carefoot, 7th History, Student Council

Michael Giardi, 8th Math, MathCounts

<https://www.menloschool.org/live/news/2713-meet-the-new-middle-school-faculty>

Familiar Faces

David Mugglebee, Middle School Drama Teacher

- *Disaster*, the musical, is the first play for the season
 - All 40 students who auditioned were cast
- Winter play is the play version of *Peter Pan*
- Spring show is a comedy, *You Can't Take it With you*
- Philosophy: at the middle school level, it's the perfect time for all students to try something new.
- MS Initiative: Habits of the hearts and mind; in drama they are working on collaboration, resilience, and team building which supports building good habits of the heart and mind.
- David's belief: Everybody can act, everybody can dance, and everybody can sing

Courtney Chandler, Middle School Creative Arts and Dance

- In 6th grade, every student gets to try each of the arts
- New class this year "So You Think You Can Dance"; guest choreographers (alumni and US students) will come in and teach pieces of dance.

- Music selections: 7th and 8th girls chorus, percussion class, jazz/rock/jam club, mixed chorus for 6 and 7 graders
- Joe McDonald, Middle School Athletics Director
- Goal of the program is to guide the students
 - Keep the students motivated. Make sure their athletic experience is joyful and fun. They are learning friendships, collaboration, resilience and teamwork.
 - Joe coordinates with David Mugglebee and any conflicts between sports program and drama and try to help the student; alleviate stress.

Grading system: Last school year the daily schedule as well as grading period and quarter vs. trimester was evaluated. The MS has added five minutes to the recess. Additionally, the grading period changed from quarters to trimester for English, Math, Science, History.

More detailed information will be sent out by La Vina Lowery.

Ruth Housenbold & Reema Shah, Middle School Community Service Learning

Tri Huynh will be the faculty coordinator

MS Service week: March 25, 2019-March 29, 2019

Classes pause for the entire week and we focus on the community

First part of the week there is an emphasis on Global Issues. The second part of the week focuses on local communities.

6th Grade: Food Security and Sourcing

7th Grade: Early Childhood Education

8th Grade: Compassion for Our Marine Mammals

Homelessness & Poverty in Our Community

How parents can help:

Every advocate needs one parent volunteer

Chaperone Opportunities

Giving Drive

Please see accompanying slide presentation online.

Brief Announcements

6th grade parents: Parent Education evening on 9/20/18 at 6-7:30 in Martin Hall

Annual Fund: Alex Tenorio, Chief Development Officer

- Development supports variety of student and parent led initiatives throughout the year. Additionally, everyone is encouraged to attend the auction which supports financial aid
 - The focus of fall is the Annual Fund (End of Sept through the end of the year): Supports retention and recruitment, athletics, arts, etc.
- Goal: 100% participation
- For questions regarding the Annual Fund, please contact parent co-chairs, Allison and Clint Chao

Valpo Fun Run

- The annual Valpo Fun run will be held on Sunday, October 7th.
The Run supports Peninsula Bridge (summer program that supports underserved students in our area)
- Students get community service credit (2 credits, US)
 - Sign up to volunteer in zipnotes
 - Sign up to walk/run: active.com and search "valpo Fun run 2018"

Global Expo: is back this year! Celebration of the cultural diversity at Menlo. Stay tuned for more information regarding this special event.

Important Dates:

Valpo Fun Run- Sunday, October 7th at 9am
Menlo Homecoming - Friday, October 19th, 3pm Kickoff
Menlo Joint MSPA Meeting- Wednesday, November 7th, 8:15am Latte Cart, Martin Hall
US Semi-Formal-Saturday, January 26, 2019
Global Expo-Sunday, March 3, 2019
Dinner Dance Auction-Saturday, March 23, 2019
MS Community Service Learning Week- March 25 through March 29, 2019
Special Olympics-Saturday, April 13, 2019