

Pacific Grove Middle School

August/September 2023 Newsletter

This is the only PAPER copy that you will receive this year. All other newsletters will be emailed to you. Please make sure you have your current email address on file.

Welcome Back

Principal Sean Roach

It is with great joy that I welcome our families back for the 2023-24 school year at Pacific Grove Middle School! We are so excited to have your student back and I look forward to a new year of learning together with you and your student.

Pacific Grove Middle School maintains a culture of kindness among our students and staff members. Our buildings and grounds are well maintained, the classrooms are conducive to learning, and there is a positive tone among the student body and teaching staff. We credit three aspects of our community for making PGMS a great school: STUDENTS, STAFF, and PARENTS.

As a school staff, we eagerly look forward to educating your students this year, while maintaining a safe and kind environment for all. Our advisory class and our Character Strong and Open Parachute curricula are intended to create a safe and supportive time each week for students to engage in ways that nurture kindness and respect school wide. We care deeply about the education, safety and well-being of your students every day.

I firmly believe that parents are the key to student success in school. With positive parental support, your student will be successful in their academics, make positive social connections, and develop sound decision making skills. Supportive parenting reflects a caring attitude and provides the foundation that makes middle school an integral part of your student's growth. We seek to be a strong partner with our parent base, and look forward to working with you in the role of parent or a volunteer, and encourage you to reach out and partner with our teachers. Speaking of teachers, I am pleased to introduce several new staff members this year, they are:

Stephanie Bolton (Core) Hi PGMS! I started my career 18 years ago in Middle School teaching English and made the move to High School in 2016. I have a wonderful husband of 20 years and 4 grown kids: the youngest is 18 and just graduated from Clovis Unified where I moved from last summer. Additionally, I have a 3-year-old grandson in Little Rock where my daughter lives serving in the Air

Force. In my free time, I love golfing, hiking, and crafting. I'm so excited to meet everyone and make PGMS my new home!

Stephanie Paine (Super Sub) – I'm from Austin, Texas. I moved here 12 years ago for my husband Ken's job, he's currently a cardiac nurse at Community Hospital. I have two 17-year-old boy twins at Carmel High School. In the past I've taught at international schools in China and Indonesia as well as teaching various subjects in grades 1-6 in Texas. I truly love traveling the world, scuba diving, hiking, running, yoga, reading, and learning! Looking forward to a great year!

We hope that you and your family enjoyed an amazing summer and look forward to a year of learning and growth!

First Day of School is Wednesday, August 9, 2023

PGMS Student/Parent Handbook

The [2023-2024 PGMS Student/Parent Handbook](#) is updated annually and is a great resource to help answer any questions you might have about PGMS. All students are expected to be familiar with the Student/Parent Handbook when school starts, as it contains important information about how the school works, including attendance procedures, academics, course descriptions, resources for support and the PGMS code of conduct. The Student/Parent Handbook can be found on the PGMS website, under "[Our School](#)"

Attendance

If your student is going to be absent, please call 831-646-6568 ext. 5305 or email our Attendance Clerk, Robin Cochran at rcochran@pgusd.org. You will receive an automated message to let you know that your student(s) has been marked absent. A parent/guardian will need to call the office to clear the absence, or it is marked as truant.

Please refer to the student/parent handbook for our policies on attendance. With both the school and home working together, we will always know where our children are.

Monday Advisory Day Schedule Change

This year, PGMS has moved our Monday Advisory class from the beginning of the school day to immediately following break time. Here is a look at our new Monday Advisory schedule:

PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE ADVISORY CLASS - MONDAY BELL SCHEDULE

Period 1 7:45 - 8:30

Opening Bell 8:30

Period 2 8:34 - 9:21

Period 3 9:25 - 10:08

Break 10:08 -10:25

Advisory 10:29 - 11:07

Period 4 11:11 - 11:54

Period 5 11:58 - 12:41

Lunch 12:41 - 1:26

Period 6 1:30 - 2:13

Period 7 2:17 - 3:00

School Picture Day ~ Wednesday, October 11, 2023

School picture day is **Wednesday, October 11**. The order forms will be handed out in your child's 2nd period class as the date gets closer.

Pictures will be taken during their P.E. period. They will not be dressing out for P.E. on picture day.

If your student is not purchasing pictures, they still need to have their picture taken so it can be in the yearbook. ***No picture = no picture in the yearbook***

Picture retakes will be taken on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Back To School Night

Back To School Night is on **Wednesday, August 30, at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Auditorium.

During Back to School Night, your student will give you their schedule and you will follow their schedule for the evening. As the date gets closer, please check with your student(s) to see if they received a letter where they have to write down their schedule for you. This is an opportunity for you to experience your child's classes and meet the teachers.

This is for parents/guardians only. This is **NOT** a parent-teacher conference event.

Parent- Teacher Conference Week ~ October 23-27, 2023

The middle school sets aside one week each year for parent-teacher conferences. This year the conferences will be held the week of **October 23- 27, 2023**.

Parent-Teacher conferences are only scheduled for students who are not doing well in their classes. Melissa Gibson will contact the parents to schedule a conference. The conferences will be held in person and will be the week of Monday, October 23 - Friday, October 27. The conference times are Monday, Wednesday- Friday, 1:00- 3:00 p.m., 15-minute conferences. The **ONLY evening** conferences available are on Tuesday, October 24, 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

**** Conference Week is a Minimum Day Schedule. ****

Students are released at 12:11p.m. EVERY day this week.

If the teacher's conference schedules are full, you will have to email the teacher to arrange a conference at another time that is mutually convenient. For the staff directory, please visit pgmiddle.pgusd.org.

A Few Reminders.....

- Parents, please do not call the school office to leave messages for your students, unless it is an absolute emergency, as it is a disruption to classes and interferes with learning. We do not have the office personnel to handle the volume of calls that occur sending messages.

- Please make every effort to have your daily plans settled the night before or in the morning before your student comes to school. Have a plan in place for rainy days, minimum days, pick up locations etc... and discuss them with your student ahead of time.

- Students who have forgotten items such as lunches, PE cloths, schoolwork or instruments should check in the office to see if the item has been brought in. We cannot send notes to students who have forgotten these types of things. If your student calls you to drop off something, it is the student's responsibility to come back to the office and check to see if it is there. If your student realizes that they forgot something, they should stop by the office to see if it's already dropped off.

- School is dismissed at **2:00 p.m. every Thursday.**

6th Grade Outdoor Science School ~ February 20-23, 2024

6th grade outdoor school looks to be finally returning after a 3-year hiatus. The tentative dates will be February 20-23, 2024. PGMS will host a parent information night, likely in November. More news to come, stay tuned.

Sports Physicals

It really helps if your student turns in their sports physical at the beginning of the school year. Sometimes the announcements of try-outs and practices are a few days before they happen. Volleyball, Soccer, and Cross Country usually happen within the first two weeks of school starting. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Gibson in the office, mgibson@pgusd.org or 831-646-6568.

Per Board Policy, students must have a current sports physical on file in the office before a student can try-out or practice a PGMS sport (this does not apply to the Physical Education class). Please make sure your student has a current sports physical on file in the office. The physical form is [available](#) online.

- **Fall Sports:** Volleyball, Soccer, Cross Country
- **Late Fall & Winter Sport:** Basketball
- **Spring Sports:** Golf, Wrestling, Track & Field, Tennis

No Sports Physical on file = NO TRY-OUTS

All Sports Information

Please let your students know that all of the sports sign-ups, practices and try-out information will be given out in their 2nd period classroom via the Video Bulletin.

Once accepted to a team, the coach will send correspondence via email to the parents and athletes. Coaches will be using the student's PGUSD emails, so please remind your athlete to check their school emails daily.

You Ought to Know...

Here are few school rules your student should be aware of:

- Pajamas are not to be worn to school unless it is a "pajama day" spirit day. (See the PGMS Handbook for more information about the PGMS dress code.)
- Gum is not to be chewed at school.
- Cell phones are to be turned off and stored in the student's locker throughout the entire instructional day (8:30-3pm).
- Students are prohibited from bringing items like toys, technology and other belongings that are not related to school activities.
- Hats and hoods are now allowed in the hallways; however, students should check with each of their teachers about classroom policies.
- Students tardy to any class period more than four times in a quarter will earn a lunch detention for each subsequent tardy to that class.
- To be eligible for extracurricular activities (such as sports, dances, events and field trips), students must have a 2.0 GPA for the most recently completed grading period (quarter) and fewer than two disciplinary referrals.

(For more on school rules, see the PGMS Code of Conduct in the [Student/Parent Handbook](#), p. 34)

Parent Drop Off & Pick Up

We would like all students to gather in the back of the school in the eating area before school. Regardless of where your child is dropped off, they should walk to the picnic table area and wait until the 8:25 a.m. opening bell sounds. If a student rides a bike to school, they should lock it inside the bike cage (student provides their own bike lock). and then head over to the picnic area. Students should not hang out near the bike cage or in front of the school before school.

The student drop off area in the back of the school is loading and unloading zone only. No parking is allowed in the cul-de-sacs, please pull forward when dropping off your student in the cul-de-sacs. Please do not block the driveways.

Please utilize Sinex Avenue below PGMS and Hillcrest Avenue above PGMS for additional student drop off and pick up areas. This will help alleviate the congestion that sometimes occurs on Forest Ave. in front of our school. Thank you in advance for your help with this matter.

Library

The library is open at 8:05 a.m. If students would like to go to the library at 8:05 a.m., they need to wait outside at the back of the school until 8:05 a.m. There are no in and out privileges. The library is open during break and lunch. Students must sign-up to come to the library during lunch time.

Community Service Hours

All students must have a minimum of 16 hours by the end of their 8th grade year in order to participate in Promotion Activities. Community Service must be done with a non-profit organization. After the last day of 5th grade, community service hours can be counted. If you have questions about community service hours and to make sure the hours will be approved, please email our Counselor, Michelle Cadigan, mcadigan@pgusd.org

Office Hours & School Phone Number ~ 831-646-6568

PGMS office hours are open from **7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**, and our main line is **831-646-6568**. The doors unlock at 7:40 a.m. for students who have a 1st period class. Those students are allowed to their lockers and then go to class. If your student does not have a 1st period class, which begins at 7:45 a.m., they are not allowed in the building. If your student would like to go to the library, they will have to wait outside until the library opens at 8:05 a.m. We do not have and any student supervision before 8:00 a.m.

Bicycles & Skateboards

Once the students arrive on campus, they must walk their bike on campus and carry their skateboard on campus. Students are able to lock their bike in the bike cage (student provides bike lock). The bike cage is locked throughout the school day and will be unlocked when school is dismissed. Please remind your student to bring their own bike lock. Please do not leave any bikes or skateboards in the bike cage after school because the bike cage will not be locked, and your items are at risk of being stolen. PGUSD is not responsible for lost or damaged items. Please remind your student to wear a helmet.

Monday, September 4, 2022 - Labor Day Holiday - No School

PTSA Ice Cream Social, Wednesday, September 6, 5:30 p.m.

Please join us for an Ice Cream Social fundraiser in the cul-de-sac by the PGMS field, at 5:30 p.m.

Fall Sportsmanship Night- Wednesday, September 6, 6:00 p.m.

If your student is out for a Fall sport, please come to our meeting and meet the coach for information about the season and important papers to be filled out.

No BASRP at PGMS

Before and After School Recreational Program (BASRP) is not offered at the middle school.

