August 2019

Dear Fletcher Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! On behalf of the faculty and staff, it is with incredible excitement that we welcome everyone to the 2019-2020 school year at Fletcher Middle School. At Fletcher, we take pride in our school and the exemplary programs and opportunities we offer all of our students. We are committed to creating a nurturing and supportive learning environment where all students feel safe and excel in a variety of areas; academics, physical, and social emotional. We share high expectations for ourselves, as well as for your children/our students. We embrace importance of building positive self-esteem in all of our students at Fletcher where students are inspired and prepared to succeed in a global society.

As a parent/guardian, there are multiple opportunities for you to stay connected and involved as your child navigates the challenging world of middle school. Please make sure you have updated your online Infinite Campus information for the current school year. If you have an incoming 7th grader, we also need verification of an up-to-date Tdap vaccination. Students need to have these two items completed, otherwise they will not be admitted to class in accordance with district policy.

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 13th. Students are expected to be in their first period class promptly by 8:10 a.m. every day. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday dismissal times are at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday dismissal time is at 1:40 p.m.

This mailing, referred to as the ‘summer mailing,’ contains Fletcher-specific forms. Please take the time to complete the forms, as well as familiarize yourself with the information contained in this packet. I’m extremely pleased to welcome our new staff members and thrilled to see their talents in action during the coming year!

Please help me welcome:

- Pieter Dolkman, Fletcher MS Dean joins from Oakland Unified where he was an Assistant Principal. Pieter was a math teacher prior to becoming an AP where he has a passion and dedication to building strong, trusting relationships, and support for staff, students and community.

- Suzanne Lowe, School Secretary will be joining our front office team and comes with 15+ years of secretarial service within the Los Altos School District. We are very excited to have her and her experience joining the front office.

- Lynne Navarro has been at Gunn since 1997 teaching Spanish and Social Studies. Before Gunn, she was at James Logan High School teaching Spanish, Home Ec. and Social Studies. She served 3 terms as IL of Social Studies at Gunn. She joins our Electives Department in Home Economics.

- Noel Woodward completed my credential program at UCSB. She taught at La Colina Junior High before moving to the Bay Area, where she has been teaching English 9 and 10 at Dougherty Valley High School for the past 4 years. When not at school, she enjoys to read, crochet, bake, and do yoga. Noel will be joining the English Department.

- Adam Herald joins our Fletcher Special Education team. He will begin his seventh year of teaching. We are looking forward to continuing to build our strong Special Education team.

- Raquel Rubalcaba begins her fourth year in the teaching profession. Raquel was born and raised in Madrid, Spain and has called California and Palo Alto her home for the last six years. She is incredibly thankful and excited for the opportunity to be working with our World Language team teaching Spanish.

- Tammy Parke is a National Board Certified middle school science teacher with 18 years of teaching experience. Tammy’s wonder and curiosity about the natural world and how things work abounds and it drives her desire keep students engaged in science throughout middle school and on into high school. Tammy joins our 8th Grade Science Department.

- Christian Mach is a veteran counselor comes to Fletcher from Belmont-Redwood Shores, as well as Orange County. We are excited to have him join our Counseling Team.

- Nerissa Wong-VanHaren joins our English Department as our new 7th Grade English teacher. She comes to us by way of JLS and we are excited for her to join the Fletcher English Team.

The annual Fletcher Welcome Back Check-In will be held at Fletcher on Monday, August 12th, from 8am – 11:00am. You can submit all of the necessary forms, checks, etc. and have your child’s school photo taken. If you are unable to attend Welcome Back Check-In, you may drop off forms and payments at the Main Office at any time. The Main Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Your help with turning in all of the necessary paperwork is greatly appreciated.

It promises to be another very exciting year at Fletcher! Have a great time wrapping up your summer vacations. We are all looking forward to seeing you all, Tuesday, August 13th!

Sincerely,

Ms. Melissa Howell
Fletcher Principal

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