

August 1, 2023



I wanted to thank everyone for coming to our Curriculum Nights last week. It was such a good feeling to have parents on campus, and I am sure you felt the positive energy too. We are off to a great start!

Pick-Up and Drop Off

Please be patient at pick up and drop off. Our school was built in 1961 and at that time no one could envision how big our school would get or just how busy J Street would be. I recognize our small lot is frustrating. Please be kind and considerate of others when conducting yourself on our property. Here are some helpful reminders.....

- Don't park on the westbound side of J Street starting from Floyd Street all the way to the stairs by the B Gate. This is our drive up lane. You cannot park your car and leave it unattended. You have the possibility of earning a \$200 ticket.
- Our parking lot is a right turn in and a right turn out. Please do not move cones, drive over cones, look for an opening to go around. Make your plan on turning right out of the parking lot.
- Please be mindful of the bus lane.
- Crossing the street should happen at Floyd Street or down past the bridge. There is no crosswalk mid-street between these two intersections. I tried working with the city years ago to get a midpoint crosswalk and they explained that this would not be allowed since we are on an incline and you can't see past the curve.
- Please don't make a u-turn mid-street on J Street. I saw about five cars do this yesterday. Please go down to Floyd Ave. Make a proper K point turn where there is no traffic and then drive back to J Street.
- Please pull all the way forward in the drive up line.
- There will be traffic on J Street coming and going in both directions. Please go slow, take your time, and be patient. Your children are watching you model driving in frustrating situations. Be that model for them.

Attendance

Attendance has become a real concern post pandemic. We used to (prepandemic) have around 21 chronically absent students in the course of a year. We currently have 88 chronically absent students. We went from being 4th in the district for attendance to 22nd (of 50 schools). This is just mind blowing to me. School starts at 8:45am. Students are counted as "late" if they are not in their seats at 8:45 am. All students should arrive in time to be lined up on the lower playground by 8:40am. No one should still be swinging into the parking lot after 8:40am. If you are finding that you are not making this cut off time, please arrive earlier. Attendance is important!

- Being on time is a life-long skill.
- Many of our chronically absent students have more than 20 tardies in a year. If we transferred the idea of an adult being late 20 times to their job, they would not last at that job very long.
- More than five absences in a year is considered excessive.
- When students arrive late repeatedly, they are consistently missing that connection with the class in the morning and instruction.
- When a student arrives late, all eyes swing to the door to see who is walking through it. This can cause anxiety in students who are always late.
- Take family vacations and Disney days on our scheduled school breaks!!!!!!

We are already a late start school with our start time being 8:45am. As an administrator I really struggle to understand how students are coming late with up to 20+ tardies in a year. Some ideas to help.....

- Set a drop dead time when you have to leave the house. Set an alarm that goes off at that time. Also set an alarm on your phone five minutes prior to this drop time so you have a five minute warning.
- Change your clocks in your house by five minutes and don't tell your children. ☺ Let them know you are running late.....then you will be on time.
- Have backpacks and lunch set up the night before. Backpacks right by the door ready to go when you walk out.
- Have socks and shoes set up right by the door. Hang your keys on a hook by the door.
- Make easy breakfast options – hard boiled egg, string cheese/Baby Bells, Gogurts, egg bites, protein bar, milk, water, or juice that are grab and go.

School Site Council - Last Call for Nominees

Halecrest is in the process of accepting nominations for our School Site Council (SSC) Committee. The SSC is an elected body composed of the principal, teachers, other school personnel, and parents. Our council needs a minimum of ten participants (50% staff and 50% parents). Council positions are an elected office and serve a 2 year term. We have had five parents step forward!!!! YAY!!!! If you are interested in serving on SSC, please email me.... Amber.macdonald@cvesd.org by the end of the week. Ballots will go out next Monday, August 7th via a Google Form for voting. I will send out the information about our four candidates in the next few days.

RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES OF THE SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Work as a team with other advisory group representatives to develop the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for our school
- Recommend the Single Plan for Student Achievement to the local governing board for approval
- Monitor implementation of the plan
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Single Plan for Student Achievement
- Annually review and revise the plan and proposed expenditures of categorical funds
- Regularly attend scheduled monthly SSC meetings
- Coordinate election process

English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)

The English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) plays an active role in decision-making at Halecrest. The time is here to establish ELAC membership for the 2023-2024 school year. Five regular seats and one alternate seat for parents is open.

Every school in the State of California is required to develop a “Single Plan for Student Achievement” that reflects the school’s academic achievement goals, instructional programs and working budget for the needs of our English Language Learners. This process is facilitated by the School Site Council and the ELAC committee which is responsible for updating, approving and monitoring the effectiveness of this plan. The English Language Advisory Committee provides an opportunity for cooperative decision making at the school site level.

Last year we had no participants step forward to be a part of our ELAC Committee. I would greatly appreciate parents signing up to be a part of this important work. **The first ELAC Information meeting is next week.... August 8th from 3:30-4:30am in the MPR.** Please consider joining the ELAC Committee.

Safety Patrol

Our 5th and 6th Grade Safety Patrol will be getting started soon. All applications from the Spring have been accepted, and students will be hearing from our Safety Patrol Advisors, Mr. Rossi (6th grade) and Mr. Vargas (2nd grade). This Thursday, our School Resource Officer, Officer Beyers, will be on campus to train students on Thursday morning. Mr. Rossi and Mr. Vargas will be looking for before school and after school volunteers (parents) to oversee the corner of Floyd and J Street that Safety Patrol stands watch over.

No Place for Hate

Mrs. Sarah Fogelman will be heading up our No Place for Hate Club (NPFH) for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. Here at Halecrest we all take the No Place for Hate Pledge and complete three activities as a school throughout the school year related to being inclusive, making others feel safe and welcome, and skills that help our students recognize the perspective of others. For those students who signed up to be a part of NPFH, Mrs. Fogelman will be meeting with students in the club once a month. Applications are due by this Friday.

San Diego Youth Symphony – OPUS Program

OPUS is an after school program that provides free instruction of a musical instrument by musicians who work for the San Diego Youth Symphony. It is part of CVESD's partnership with the San Diego Youth Symphony. The program of free instrument instruction is open for 4th-6th graders. The program would be a commitment of every Monday and Wednesday after school from 3:30pm-5:45pm. My understanding is students will pick a group... percussion, brass, or stringed instrument. The Directors informed me there will be no cost to parents. Very few schools in Chula Vista Elementary School District have this opportunity at their school site. The OPUS program will start next Monday, August 7th. Having OPUS at Halecrest is such an incredible opportunity. I highly encourage families to enroll their children. I don't know of anywhere which offers free musical instruction to students. Keep on the lookout for flyers to come home at the end of the week. OPUS will be on campus this Thursday, August 3rd. They will be visiting all 4th-6th grade classrooms to tell about the program and to show students the choices for instrumentation.

Upcoming Dates

- 7/31 - PTA will be selling popsicles and Sprit wear after school all week
- 8/3 – Paint Night in the Quad from 4:30-6:00pm – Sold Out
- 8/3 – OPUS to visit 4th-6th grade classrooms
- Week of 8/7 – Scholastic Book Fair in the MPR
- 8/8 – School Pictures
- 8/8 – ELAC Interest Meeting at 3:30pm in the MPR
- 8/9 – PTA Association Meeting from 3:30-4:30pm
- 8/15 – DAC/DELAC Meeting at the district from 12:00-2:00pm
- 8/25 – Character Strength Assembly on the Lower Playground – “Social Intelligence”
- 8/25 – PTA Pizza and Bingo Night

Thank you for taking the time to read through all of the announcements!