



Matsuyama Elementary School
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Judy Farina, Principal



Growing Hearts, Growing Minds, Growing Leaders

August 19, 2021

Dear Matsuyama Families,

Welcome to the Matsuyama 2021-2022 school year! In spite of the uncertainties caused by the ongoing pandemic the Matsuyama team has been working hard preparing for the new school year and we are all excited about another incredible year of learning and discovery! It is important that every family carefully read and review the comprehensive handbook, particularly the COVID-19 protocols. You will also find our calendars, procedures, practices, and expectations outlined in the handbook. I would suggest marking all holidays and minimum days on your master calendar. Please take the time to make sure your child clearly understands his/her responsibilities as a student leader at Matsuyama Elementary School. This is an important first step in our learning partnership.

Please be sure to look through the first day packet carefully. While there is a lot of homework for parents to complete, it is all very important information. The forms help insure your child's safety and ability to fully participate in all the activities offered at Matsuyama. Carefully make sure all the papers are legibly completed, signed, and returned to the container in front of the school by September 10, 2021.

This year all Matsuyama students will receive lunch and breakfast at no cost. There will be no money exchanged in the cafeteria this year. Students may still bring lunch from home.

Communication is a key element of parent involvement and school success. We have been trying to minimize the use of paper at Matsuyama and try to focus on the use of a variety of communication strategies including: Remind, our website, Infinite Campus automated caller, Facebook, and the marquee to keep families connected with school events. Many teachers use an app called Remind to keep in touch with parents. It is a completely closed text app that allows the teacher to send out a classroom text. No phone numbers are ever made available so privacy is protected. It is a great way to keep informed about homework, what events are up and coming, and other such reminders. Teachers will share how to access their Remind via your student's google classroom. I make weekly Friday night automated calls to all families, therefore it is extremely important that all phone numbers are kept up to date. It is vitally important that every parent know how to access their Infinite Campus Parent Portal. To get your access key please send your request to: <https://www.scusd.edu/form/request-parentguardian-infinite-campus-portal-access> . This number will allow you to access your students' records and grades for as long as they are enrolled in SCUSD. You may also update phone numbers via your parent portal. This will insure that you receive important phone calls. The website and Facebook page are also great sources of information concerning our school community. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher via email if you have questions or concerns.

Parent involvement is the key to our success at Matsuyama, and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved! We welcome you to consider being a noon duty volunteer and if you have thick skin, I can always use a crossing guard! There are many requirements that must be met in order to volunteer on a regular basis at any SCUSD school. Volunteers need to complete: a sexual offender clearance form, show proof of a current TB test, be fingerprinted by the district, submit a DMV clearance form, and if driving submit proof of insurance that meets the district requirements. In addition, volunteers now need to submit proof of a COVID vaccination. All of the aforementioned forms are available in the front office. More volunteer information can be found at: <http://www.scusd.edu/document/volunteer-packet>

During distance learning we learned how to use many new tools that support parent involvement and help minimize the need for paper. Teachers will continue to use Google Classroom as part of our instructional strategies at Matsuyama. It is a great tool for parents to know what homework and/or projects your child may have due. There should be no surprises for parents! I will also post important parent communications on the Parent Corner in each teacher's Google Classroom.

Unfortunately we are still under COVID mitigating guidelines from the CDPH, CDC, and State Department of Education. Whether you agree or disagree with the requirements I ask that we all remain respectful. Keep in mind that we do not make the rules, but are charged with enforcing them. If families are uncomfortable sending their children to school for health and safety or political reasons there is the option for Independent Study. You can find more information about that Independent Study at: <https://learn.scusd.edu/independent-study> Our children have had to deal with a lot of trauma the past 18 months and our focus is on their social, emotional, physical, and academic safety. I think we can all agree that our children need to be our top priority.

To that end, all students are required to wear masks at school. Lunch times will be modified to allow for fewer students in the cafeteria at a time. Parents will not be allowed on campus and cones will be placed at all entry zones as a reminder to the public to remain off of the main school areas, including the quad. Students will be required to enter school through the cafeteria or library as we did last spring. Volunteers must check in through the front office and must have proof of full COVID vaccination on file. We will adjust our protocol based on guidance from the CDPH, CDC, and CDE.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me or your child's teacher. We want every child to be successful during these unprecedented times and we are here to support all of our families as much as possible.

The staff at Matsuyama is committed to providing every child with a rigorous academic experience in order to insure that every child reaches their full potential. For more information please connect with us on our Facebook page: Matsuyama Elementary School Mighty Pines or our webpage: <http://matsuyama.scusd.edu/>

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Matsuyama I wish each of you a great school year!

Judy Farina, Principal