



Mt. Washington Elementary School General Information for all Incoming Families

The Mt. Washington Elementary Parent Teacher Association welcomes your family to our school on the hill! We are excited to introduce you to the MWE community and look forward to a wonderful year ahead. You must have a ton of questions, but rest assured that you will receive all of the information you need when school starts, including supply lists, class guidelines, and other materials from your child's teacher. You'll also receive a PTA welcome packet. This is simply some introductory information that may be useful as you prepare for the first day of school.

NEED TO KNOW

What to Pack/How to Prep:

- Students will need a backpack that can hold a lunch box (if they opt to bring lunch), separate small snack bag, water bottle, and homework folder.
- Please make sure your child can open all containers, and that water bottles do not leak and are not made of glass.
- Please write your child's name on EVERYTHING that comes to school.
- Students will play outside during the day, so apply sunscreen before school if you wish.

Arriving at School:

- On the first day of school, 1st-6th graders will line up by class on the lower yard by 8:06am while TK and Kindergarten families will meet in the MPR at 9:30am.
- Beginning the second day of school, all classes will line up in the lower yard behind their respective room numbers (painted in yellow on the ground).
- Students must be in line by **8:06am**, and are considered "tardy" if they line up after **8:11am**.
- Once students are lined up they will be greeted by their teachers and led up to their classrooms.
- Parents may walk their children down to the lower yard in the first weeks of school, however our teachers prefer and may direct that families transition to drop-off and goodbyes in front of school, with students walking down to their class lines on their own. The one exception is Monday mornings, when parents are encouraged to stay for the weekly school assembly.

After School Activities and Care:

- The STAR program provides fee-based, after-school care at MWE for our students. Our STAR site supervisor will provide more information and enrollment opportunities on the first day of school.
- TK and Kindergarten students may also sign up for after-school enrichment classes offered by STAR (even if they are not enrolled in regular after-care), as well as PTA-provided classes.
- In addition to programs available on school grounds, the nearby Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center provides after-school care. All participating students in After School Club are met at dismissal by Carlin G. representatives. The group then walks over to the center together. ASC will begin on August 14th. Registration will start Aug 1st, and stay open until they are full. Email Lori at carlingsmith.recreationcenter@lacity.org for more information.
- Please look for more comprehensive after-school information in our PTA welcome packet.



Drop-Off and Parking:

- **Please be respectful of our neighbors.**
- Mt. Washington Elementary is located in a beautiful and peaceful residential area. School drop-off and pick-up mean very congested streets; please NEVER park in RED ZONES or block driveways.
- Parking can be tight so leave yourself plenty of time to park and walk to school, especially on neighborhood trash day (Tuesdays).
- Safety first. Please **do not** drive through the staff parking lot to drop off your child for any reason.
- Please be careful of the *No Parking* signs at the top of the hill across from MWE – LAPD will ticket cars parked there.

Monday Assemblies:

- Every Monday morning Principal Gravino holds our school assembly at morning line-up. She will make important weekly announcements and celebrate students with birthdays that week.

Spirit Fridays:

- Dress your child in Mt. Washington Elementary gear and show your school spirit!
- MWE merchandise, including t-shirts, sweatshirts, bags, mugs, and more will be available for sale through the PTA at the beginning of the school year.

Snack Shack/Wolves Den:

- Beginning in late August, the Wolves Den snack shack (staffed entirely by parent volunteers) will be open most days after school (2:30-3:00pm) selling snacks and treats for our students.

Lost & Found:

- Please label your child's backpack, lunch box, snack bag, water bottle, and jackets/sweaters, and you will never need to visit Lost & Found.
- If you do, it is located outside of Room Nine. Please check it regularly for any lost items, as unclaimed items are cleaned out and donated several times a year.

NICE TO KNOW

e-Howl: Each week the PTA publishes the e-Howl, our school newsletter and blog. Reading the e-Howl is the best way to stay up-to-date on school news and events, so please visit mwpta.org to sign up.

Facebook: Please follow the Mt. Washington PTA Facebook page to stay current on school news, special events, and announcements: (www.facebook.com/mwpta).

PTA Membership: Please join the PTA and help us reach 100 percent membership again this year! You can join the PTA by filling out the envelope that will be sent home in your child's backpack and paying the \$6 membership fee. You can also sign up at the membership table outside of the school gates at drop-off during the first week of school.

Room Representatives: Each classroom will have at least one room representative who manages volunteer and supply requests throughout the year and serves as a liaison between the teacher and parents. The room representative is also responsible for the class contact list and distributes PTA information and announcements.



Coffee with the Principal: These informal monthly gatherings give parents the opportunity to hear directly from Principal Gravino. The small group setting is a great place to meet other parents and bring up any general concerns or questions. Mrs. Gravino will share dates for Coffee with the Principal in her monthly newsletters.

Volunteers: MWE would not be the special place it is without our dedicated parent volunteers! Some help in the classrooms, some work on fundraising and school events, and others pitch in however and whenever they can. We ask for volunteers often, so please jump in when you can, and know that all contributions of time, talent, and treasure are deeply appreciated and go straight to enhancing your children's experience at school. For more information or to sign up, please contact Michelle Jacoby at volunteers@mwpta.org or visit mwpta.org.

Fundraising: It bridges the gap between the money our school needs and the money our school gets. Mt. Washington Elementary receives substantially less state funding than neighboring schools because our demographics indicate less need than schools with Title 1 status. Every year, we appeal to the MWE parent community for their support to provide programs that would otherwise be funded by LAUSD, like classroom aides, drama, physical education and art instruction. And wow, do our parents deliver – we have surpassed our fundraising goals for three years in a row, and we're aiming for similar success this year! Our goal this year is to raise \$120K by the 20th of September. We are aiming for 100% participation from MWE families. Be on the lookout for the launch of the 2018-2019 Direct Appeal on Back-to-School night, Thursday, August 30th.

We have lots of great events planned in the coming months, including the Mt. Washington Made Craft Fair, Pancake Breakfast, Halloween Carnival, Book Fair, and more. PTA events are tons of fun for the whole family and help raise the money that pays for programs the kids and teachers depend on. We encourage you to come, have fun, lend a hand, and support our school!

Friends of Mt. Washington School: FOMWS is our school's booster club, which brings in outside funding from generous neighbors, corporations, and friends. Receiving support from parents, teachers, and administration (PTA), as well as local friends, corporations, and other boosters (FOMWS), is what makes our school such a special, community-centric place; all of our neighbors are rooting for our kids!

Parent Center: The Parent Center is located next to the school's Main Office, opposite the kindergarten gate. It is a great place to drop in and meet other parents, find volunteers working on projects, and learn more about school activities and events. Please stop by and say hello!

Garden Committee: MWE has an active garden committee staffed by parent volunteers. Green thumb or not, we'd love for you to participate! Help teach the kids how to plant, grow, and harvest a vegetable garden. Email: mwschoolgarden@gmail.com to volunteer.

Green Team/ Recycling Mondays: Bring your cans and bottles to school on Monday mornings and a Green Team member will exchange your recyclables for a raffle ticket for the weekly Green Team gift (raffle done at Monday morning assembly). The Green Team funds school beautification projects.

The only thing our MWE community has been missing is YOU! We welcome you to Mt. Washington Elementary and look forward to seeing you at events, around school, and in the neighborhood!

Approved by G. Gravino: 