



## Madera Unified School District

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August 7, 2023

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s),

This new school year represents an opportunity to reignite ***an unparalleled educational journey that is intellectually, socially, and personally transformative!*** We are still recovering confidence, friendships, and learning after the pandemic but we feel better each month! We have intentionally developed conditions for a more joyful learning experience that mirrors a private school education program for public schools. Our elementaries will continue enrichment blocks of art, music, STEM, physical education, and library time each week. In middle school, we are thankful our students will again have a seventh period but our teachers will only instruct five classes. Extra collaborative planning time in both elementary and middle school is producing stronger outcomes. MTEC will continue to create 8th graders who are more ready for high school than ever before! Like last year, we expect our high school students to achieve historic levels of success at the regional, state, national, and world levels in activities, arts, athletics, and career technical education - ***like the Madtown Robotics 2023 FIRST Robotics World Champions!***

Success in the 21st century takes a team approach and our community is clearly up to the challenge. Our colleagues, regardless of role, proved we can each be a Student Champion. Last year we worked to reset our culture to meet the modern needs of our current student body. We developed an entire course to define our expectations that all educational employees can be Student Champions and uplift the lives of students and families. We are determined to build and maintain a more effective and responsive learning organization. The message was received clearly with great support but the struggle to change our culture toward higher expectations remains real.

As part of a more responsive culture with higher expectations and built-in support services, **WE BELIEVE** our students' experiences in school needed to be richer in terms of creativity and inspiration. Across all levels, a vast effort is being made to bring joy back into teaching and learning so everyone's experiences are more uplifting and healing than ever before!

To understand how this plays out for your student, please use this handbook as a guide. The MUSD Student Bill of Rights and Student Believer document help make crystal clear our belief in treating students with kindness, fairness, dignity, and respect. Education in the 21st century seeks to prepare students for occupations and technologies that have not yet been conceived. The MUSD Graduate Profile seeks to guarantee our students know how to learn on their own after graduation. Students who are confident in their ability to **THINK, ADAPT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNICATE, PRODUCE, and CONTRIBUTE** will find the flexibility to respond to an ever-changing future. The Class of 2025 will conduct an oral defense of their learning as a requirement their senior year.

We really need each other as partners and extensions of collective values. Your expectations at home and ours at school can be aligned. When we work together on positive skills, attitudes, behaviors, and outcomes, students feel supported. Our choice to work together will truly define the success of our students.

You will find the most updated information on our website at <https://www.madera.k12.ca.us/> and we ask you to carefully consider all the district communications we send out. **The Student and Parent Rights and Responsibilities Handbook** is accessible year-round under the Students/Parents section, or by requesting a copy from your school site or from the office of Student Services at Price's Plaza, 1820 Howard Road, (559) 416-5858.

In the following pages, you will find key policies and laws that affect your child's education; processes for accessing services; and procedures for finding answers to questions or voicing concerns. Please consult the District's website ([www.madera.k12.ca.us](http://www.madera.k12.ca.us)) or your local school webpage for more detailed information, which is updated throughout the year.

Within the handbook you will find these important topics:

- ☐ Governing Board Policies (BP) and Administrative Regulations (AR)
- ☐ California Education Codes (EC)
- ☐ Special Education, Categorical Funding and Child Development
- ☐ Dress Code
- ☐ Student Discipline

The MUSD Community Compact states our vision this way: ***Madera Unified will set the standard for hard work, creativity and resiliency with a fearless drive to continuously improve.*** This challenging vision requires us to work together as partners. We're proud to serve you and value your collaboration and communication to help us all improve!

Sincerely,

Todd Lile  
Superintendent