



Madera Unified School District

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August 8, 2022

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!* Despite the lingering challenges of COVID-19, the coming year will likely bring fewer disruptions. We are ready and will maintain the safety standards and practices that sustain our community. We will also intentionally develop conditions for a more joyful learning experience. Our elementary schools will continue to have art, music, STEM, physical education, and library time each week. In middle school, we are thankful our students will have a seventh period but our teachers will only instruct five classes. There will be extra collaborative planning time in both elementary and middle school to continuously improve our students' outcomes. Our eighth graders will continue to be inspired at MTEC to higher skill levels, and our high school students will continue to compete at the regional, state, national, and world levels in activities, arts, athletics, and career technical education. These new possibilities leave us optimistic after so many lessons in managing illness and anxiety.

The pandemic has taught us that we really do need each other. More than ever, we know our success depends on others and really has never been ours alone. Maderans need each other and Madera's students need all of us. We will forever be proud of all we did to help our students, staff, families, and community. Our colleagues, regardless of role, proved we can each be a Student Champion. We have seen the need to reset our entire organizational culture to develop new behaviors to meet our students' needs. An entire course has been developed to define our expectations that all educational employees can be Student Champions and uplift the lives of students and families.

A brilliant education researcher named Pedro Noguera told us, "Teachers' skills must match student needs." That sounds simple but often it is the students who change to match the teacher. That is not practical today. Students' needs are more extensive than ever before, and as an organization, we must meet the moment. MUSD has worked tirelessly to provide greater support for the social, emotional and academic needs of our students. With that in place, we also believed 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 know 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) 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. Thank you for being part of our team and our mission to provide the opportunity for all students to reach their potential. We're proud to serve you and value your collaboration and communication to help us all improve!

Sincerely,

Todd Lile
Superintendent