



1970 MORRILL AVENUE, SAN JOSE, CA. 95132 - PHONE (408) 923-1930 - FAX (408) 946-0776

Morrill Middle School



HOME OF THE TIGERS

Springing Into Semester Two

Since February is a short month, we are combining our February and March newsletters to provide you with updates and important information for the next two months. We have many exciting events upcoming, such as Career Day, Math Week, after school clubs, and our Band and Orchestra concerts. We hope you will encourage your students to participate in the many engaging events we have planned!

We would like to congratulate the 363 students who made the Honor Roll for their academic achievement in the first semester, earning a grade point average of 3.5 or above! Over half of our students earned this recognition, and we are very proud of their accomplishments. Additionally, we would like to congratulate the 93 students who were honored with a Perfect Attendance award for the first semester. I am very impressed with the continued dedication, determination, and perseverance of our students.

There are several ways to help your students stay focused on their studies and remain successful in school, especially as we move into the Spring and Summer

months. One way you can help keep your student on track is to monitor their use of technology, specifically how your student is using their cell phone or electronic devices. The reality is that many of our students have their own phones or technology devices, which can be used as valuable resources. Unfortunately, these devices can also be very distracting and cause students to lose focus of their attention to school. By reviewing your student's social media, text messages, and email accounts, you can help keep your student safe and on-track while at school. Keeping an open line of communication with your student and having conversations about their use of technology will allow you to ensure they are being respectful, responsible and safe with their devices. Please reach out to our counselors or administrators if you would like support or ideas about how to monitor your student's technology and spark conversations around the topic.

With Gratitude,

Mr. Thomas Carroll, Principal

Calendar

Please check the Morrill Middle School website regularly to stay up-to-date with school events and functions: [Click Here](#)

02/27 – SF Hacks Computer Club @ 3:30pm

02/27 - School Site Council Meeting @ 5:00pm

03/14 – Career Day

03/21 – Morrill Enrollment Night from 3:45pm - 6:45pm @ District Office

03/21 – 03/24 – Music Trip to Disneyland-Heritage Festival

03/26 – District Orchestra Concert @ BYC

03/27 – District Band Concert @ BYC

03/27 – School Site Council @ 5:00pm

03/27 – PTSA General Meeting @ 6:00pm

Upcoming Minimum Days:

02/14, 02/28, 03/06, 03/07, 03/14,
03/21, 03/28

No School Days:

02/18 - 02/22 – Winter Break

Berryessa Education Foundation Raffle

The Berryessa Education Foundation raffle will be held on March 23rd. Tickets will be on sale through Morrill Middle School at the office. Half of Morrill's raffle proceeds go to the Morrill BEF account for our use, the other half goes to support the Berryessa Ed. Foundation, which supports teachers in our district through grant opportunities. Prizes this year includes: \$1,000, 4 tickets to Disneyland, iRobot Vacuum, Southwest gift cards, and more! More details will be coming soon.

Morrill Math Week

Morrill Middle School is hosting our annual Math Competitions week from March 11 through March 15, 2019. We are excited to continue this tradition of engaging students in mathematics focused games and activities. The schedule of events is as follows:

- March 11:** Sudoku Puzzle Challenge (during lunch in the library)
- March 12:** Rubik's Cube Contest (during lunch in the library)
- March 13:** Pi Recitation Contest (during lunch in the library)
- March 14:** Tangrams Contest (after school in classrooms)
- March 15:** Pie Eating Contest (during lunch in the large amphitheater)

SF Hacks Computer Club

Morrill Middle School is happy to offer a FREE Monthly Computer Club. The club will focus on Programming Workshops on February 27 and March 27 from 3:30PM to 4:30PM in room B5. High school students from St. Francis High School host the club, and our teacher, Ms. Papert, moderates the club. Our Student Programmers work with Python. Last month, programmers learned how to write code to emulate a calculator. No experience is necessary! All are welcome! Snacks are provided! We hope that your students will join us!

For more information, please call the School Office (include your school number)
** Información en español al 923-1902 **
Thông tin tiếng Việt gọi số 923-1903 **
如果您需要講中文的服務, 請致電 (408)



Above: AVID students engaged with a special guest speaker, San José State Student, Mr. Gerardo Olvera.

Assistant Principal's Message

Hello Morrill!

I missed you all while I was away, but am very grateful that we had a teacher like Mr. Alvernaz who was able to step up into a leadership support role during my absence. I'm looking forward to getting back into the middle school groove (though the elementary kids were cuter).

During the last month I've also received a lot of information regarding mental health and so I'd like to bring some of what I've learned back to help our students, our staff and our community. One of the things that we do not normally address as a school is grief. Our grief can be based on a number of things: a student who was doing well suddenly struggling with the new workload, parents seeing their child struggle with learning about themselves and those around them, or a teacher not sure how to reach out and address the needs of a student. This unaddressed grief can cause anger, denial, bargaining, and depression, all of which can lead to behavior issues, increases in illness, and in general an ever increasing anxiety to school.

What can we do to address this? We at Morrill will be looking deeply at these issues, but parents and students still have a huge impact on these as well.

1. **Listen more, talk less.** Sometimes the most effective approach in a situation like this is just to listen to everything your friend, student or partner has to say, even if it is hard to hear.
2. **Be present and authentic.** Put the phone away, turn away from a computer, but down the burger. Give them your real attention.
3. **Accept their emotions.** Don't tell them they're being crazy, don't tell them they need to toughen up. Saying those things increases their sense of shame and other emotions.
4. **Repeat back the ideas they are telling you.** Don't repeat every word; don't add your own opinion, just saying it back to them lets them know you are hearing them.
5. **Get help if needed.** If you are worried about folks harming themselves, let others know. Call the school for help and we can direct you where you need to go.

This is a very stressful time of year. Tax season is coming, 8th graders are being informed of their ability to participate in the end of year activities and preparing for high school, 6th graders are realizing there are still two more years and 7th graders are realizing they'll be the 8th graders soon. Being there for each other is what makes our community strong. I look forward to being back for students, parents and staff and hope we can continue to build up our community.

Kindest Regards,

Mr. Tony Alberts

Cisco Donation List

Good News!! MORRILL MIDDLE School has been added to Cisco's list of approved organizations. Cisco Systems employee (Parents) can now request a match whenever they donate cash/volunteer for Morrill Middle School. Cisco donates \$10.00/Hr for time volunteered by their employees at School. Our sincerest thanks to Nithya Nagarajan for helping us get this up and running.