



PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**Fairmeadow Elementary School**

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*Iris Wong, Principal*

August 2, 2022

Dear Fairmeadow Families,

The 2022/23 school year is within reach! Whether you are a returning Firebird Family or a brand new member of our amazing community, we are all excited to start a school year filled with new beginnings together here at Fairmeadow. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer spent doing things that make you happy. My family and I were able to take a handful of trips to Lake Tahoe and Truckee where we did some swimming and explored the outdoors. I am excited for the start of this new school year and am so eager to see our students! All of our teachers and staff have been working hard throughout their summer in preparation for an adventurous teaching and learning year ahead. Below is an outline of a few important items to be aware of in the upcoming weeks.

- ❖ **Safety Updates** – Our campus air circulation and filtration are checked, monitored, and maintained throughout the year, and this summer was no exception. Our classrooms have been calibrated and have Merv-13 filters along with extra portable filters. Additionally, all air filters have been changed and are ready for the return of students and staff! Face masks are optional for everyone. As per the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), PAUSD will no longer provide surveillance testing. This means that only individuals who have COVID symptoms or have been exposed should test. Two testing locations for staff and students who are symptomatic or have been exposed may go to the following locations for COVID testing:
  - o District Office: 25 Churchill Ave., Palo Alto, M-F, 8:00 am- 3:00 pm
  - o Cubberly Campus: 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, M-F, 10:00 am- 5:00 pm
  - o If your child(ren) are not feeling well, please keep them at home and inform the front office staff at [fairmeadow@pausd.org](mailto:fairmeadow@pausd.org). For additional information on attendance, please see attached.
  
- ❖ **School Campus Updates** – Our buzzing campus was filled with hardworking contracted and district workers throughout the summer months working on a variety of projects in and out of classrooms. Additionally, we had our very own parents, students and staff throughout the summer months working diligently on our much-anticipated mural located on our library wall near our Buddy Bench. I am so proud and thrilled to announce our mural is complete. This was a multi-year project in partnership with PTA, staff and students. The goal and theme of this project was to bring a smile or two and capture what Fairmeadow means in the eyes of students; I must say we achieved our goal, and I hope you will agree. Additionally, we've installed a variety of new stencils throughout campus in hopes to encourage more outdoor activities and fun for our students!
  
- ❖ **Bell Schedule** –
  - o Our school day begins at 8:15 am each morning for *all students grades K-5*.
  - o Early release is on Wednesdays at 1:25 pm for grades 1-5 (kindergarten dismissal is at 12:00 pm everyday until October 7th). Starting October 11th, kinders will dismiss at 2:20 except Wednesdays, which will be 1:25 pm.
  - o Dismissal time for grades 1-3 is at 2:20 pm each day except Wednesdays.
  - o Dismissal time for grades 4-5 is at 2:45 pm each day except Wednesdays.

- ❖ *Entry/Exit Locations*– We welcome and encourage all families and students to enter/exit in the main entrance of Fairmeadow (see attached map). I strongly encourage you to walk/scooter/bike with your child(ren) as much as possible to help with traffic congestion. Parking at Mitchell Park is a great way to get to Fairmeadow, while squeezing in a mini exercise and time with your child(ren). Please review the attached Map and practice your school route prior to the first day of school. Once on campus, students and parents may wait in the front of their classrooms starting at 8:00 am, with the exception of Kindergarten, where they will line up near the kinder yard (see map). We ask that children remain off play structures in the mornings and after school, until 2:45 pm, due to limited yard supervision.
- ❖ *Class Placements* – Class placements will be emailed to you on **Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please remember to check your email SPAM folder. For returning Fairmeadow families please make sure you complete the Annual Data Update (ADU) which was emailed out this past Spring. This annual process is required by California law to validate residency, emergency contacts, and health information for your children.
  - o Students will not receive their 22-23 classroom assignments until the Annual Data Update is complete. To complete the ADU you will need to be logged into the ID Portal (<https://id.pausd.org>). It is usually best to complete this process on a computer instead of a smartphone. Please make sure you are logged in using your *parent account*, not your child's account. If you do not have access to a computer, please [click here to make an appointment](#) to complete the ADU on a district computer with district staff assistance. Instructions and more information can be found at: [ADU Detailed Instructions](#).
  - o Immunizations: By [law](#), children in California are required to receive certain immunizations in order to attend public and private elementary and secondary schools. Schools are required to enforce immunization requirements, maintain immunization records of all children enrolled, and submit reports. Any student not compliant with their immunizations will not be able to start school.
- ❖ *Back-to-School Student Supplies* – **Thank you** so much to our **wonderful PTA** for helping to fund our student supplies for our classrooms, which students will receive when they come to school! In addition to classroom supplies, each student should come to school with their own backpack and water bottle (label with child's name). If you need assistance with gathering any of these supplies, please contact the front office.
- ❖ *School Lunches* – PAUSD will continue to provide complimentary school brunches and lunches to our students each day. Although all students may receive free meals without applying, we *strongly encourage* parents to apply, as completion of these forms may **bring significant additional funds to our schools**, as well as, qualify students for **individual benefits** such as discounts and/or waivers of some application fees, internet services, summer programs, access to higher education scholarships, after-school club scholarships, holiday gifts, and many other learning and enrichment opportunities. You or your children do not have to be United States citizen to qualify. Please review the following link: [Food Services](#) for more information, including the lunch menus, contact information, and applications.
  - o Apply online at [paloalto.familyportal.cloud](https://paloalto.familyportal.cloud) or return a completed application form (available at all school sites and at the district office, or download here: [English](#) and [Spanish](#)). Return completed forms to Food Services, 25 Churchill Ave., Palo Alto CA 94306.
- ❖ *Kindergarten Families* – A huge thank you to **Annie Rubin**, our Kindergarten Coordinator. She organized play dates for kindergarten families at Mitchell Park Playground/Park (near the

Fairmeadow campus) during the summer, and one more on **Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am**. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to her at [annie.e.rubin@gmail.com](mailto:annie.e.rubin@gmail.com).

- ❖ *Principal Coffees* – I will be hosting a series of Principal Coffees throughout the school year where we can connect and have community conversations centered around specific topics. Please mark your calendars for my first Coffee on **Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:25-9:25 am** in our MP Room here on campus. I would love to meet with families who *are new to Fairmeadow*. I will host a presentation all about Fairmeadow Elementary entitled "**Fairmeadow 101.**"
- ❖ *Before/After School Care* – For information about before/after-school care options, here is a link: <https://fairmeadow.pausd.org/school-life/after-school>. Please note, PAUSD and Fairmeadow are not affiliated with any of these organizations other than me sharing information and options for families. Bessie Bolton Kids Club and Right at School are both *on-site options* for childcare. If you have further questions about enrollment and/or safety procedures, please communicate with the organization directly. All staffing, communication, protocols, and procedures are determined by each individual organization listed.
- ❖ *Back-to-School Informational Packets* –These will be communicated digitally this school year as we continue to work in conjunction with our PTA. All PTA information will be emailed out to families next week before the first day of school. Please make sure you check your email inbox and SPAM folders. If you haven't already, please take a moment to explore and bookmark the Fairmeadow PTA website at <https://www.fairmeadow.paloaltopta.org>. We highly encourage you to join our fabulous PTA! More information on how to become a PTA (and PiE) member will be available on the first day of school as well as on August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Fairmeadow Welcome Back Social Event (see below).
- ❖ *Welcome Back Fairmeadow Social*- PTA and I are thrilled to bring back our annual Welcome Back Social. All Fairmeadow families and staff are invited to this evening event where our wonderful community can be together and meet new faces as well. Mark your calendars for **Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 pm**. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase food and treats from a variety of Food Trucks that evening.
- ❖ *Back to School Night (BTSN)*- Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** for our in-person BTSN. BTSN is where parents have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher to learn more about grade-level/classroom norms, procedures, curriculum, and events for the year. Please keep in mind that BTSN is an **adult-only event**, so please plan accordingly. The times will be communicated to you shortly.

That is all for now. I will connect with you again soon and look forward to seeing students on campus on our **first day of school** which is **Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**! As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions that may arise [iwong@pausd.org](mailto:iwong@pausd.org).

With warm regards,

Iris Wong, Fairmeadow Principal