

From the Principal, Joci Kelleher

Welcome to 2017-18 at Crocker Highlands!

I hope you all had a wonderful, restful summer! Over the summer, we did a lot of cleaning up and improving the organization at school. I also managed to get away for a bit and have just started rehearsing “Beauty and the Beast” at Woodminster Amphitheater. It’s good to be back, and I’m excited for this coming year.

Staff Changes Over the Summer

Unfortunately, a few beloved staff members won’t be at Crocker this year. Ms. Dino moved to Los Angeles this summer, Ms. Nola will now be working at another school in OUSD, and Ms. Bobbi resigned her position as a small group activity leader.

Fortunately, I am beyond excited about the new staff members we welcome to our Crocker team. The teachers who interviewed these incredible professionals with me were really impressed with them as well, and we feel confident you will feel the same way.

Dana Parsons will be teaching kindergarten. Ms. Parsons comes to us with 7 years of successful experience teaching transitional kindergarten and kindergarten in OUSD. She holds a B.A. from UC Berkeley in African-American Studies and English as well as a Master’s in Urban Education from Holy Names.

Lisa Harp joins us as a 3rd grade teacher. Ms. Harp has 18 years of teaching experience. She has spent her career teaching 2nd and 3rd grades and has also been a reading specialist. Ms. Harp earned her B.A. in Mass Communications and a Minor in English at UC Berkeley.

Ruchi Wijayarathne is our new 4th grade teacher. Ms. Wijay, as she will be known to the kids, grew up all over the world. Before getting her teaching credential, she worked for 16 years as an environmental scientist. Her Bachelor’s Degree is in Environmental Science with a Minor in Mathematics, and her Master’s is in Environmental Management. She student taught at Lum Elementary in Alameda and can’t wait to meet her students here.

Mary McLaughlin (introduced last spring by her maiden name, Mary Leroe-Muñoz) will be our new 5th grade teacher. An Oakland native, Ms. McLaughlin taught for 11 years at a private school in Oakland. She holds a B.A. in History and a Minor in Music from UC Berkeley and a Master’s in Early Childhood Development from Mills College.

Vonka Taliaferro is coming on board as an additional noon supervisor through OUSD. Ms. Taliaferro has experience running her own childcare and raised 4 children of her own. She’s very excited to be coming to Crocker.

Registration Days

We could use some more volunteers to help us with registration. If you are available, please sign up here: [Registration Volunteers](#).

All families must come during our registration days (August 15-18) to fill out forms or drop off the printed ones you completed online. If you are unable to come during registration week, please plan to bring them between 7:00 and 8:15 on the first day of school. If you are unable to access them online for any reason, we will have paper copies for you. We are trying to minimize the waiting in line on the first day, so it really is best, if at all possible, for you to come Tuesday through Friday of registration week. **Please bring updated immunization records if your child has had any new shots since the last time you brought them** or email them to office@crockerschool.org or principal@crockerschool.org. For information about which immunizations are due at what ages and for other information about the new law regarding immunizations and schools, please visit this website: <http://www.shotsforschool.org/k-12/>

Tuesday, 8/15 and Wednesday, 8/16 from 8:15 – 12:00

Thursday, 8/17 from 12:30 – 3:30 PM

Friday, 8/18 from 8:15 AM – 3:30PM

Minimum Days – First Four Days of School (not Friday)

Kindergarten: Released at 1:30

1st – 3rd Grades: Released at 1:40

4th – 5th Grades: Released at 1:45

Drop Off and Pick Up – Big Crowds Expected!

Please follow these instructions to maximize student safety.

- 1) Give yourself plenty of time and drive slowly around the neighborhood.
- 2) If you are driving and want to join your child on the playground before school, please park a block or two away and walk.
- 3) If you are driving and dropping off your child, please go in the direction that places your passenger side door on the school's side of the street.

- 4) Never park in front of our neighbors' driveways, in red zones, or blue zones unless you have a disabled placard.
- 5) There is no parking except for the disabled spots adjacent to the school. There is limited parking across the street from our school.

So that teachers can get started right away, ***please say goodbye to your 1st through 5th grade children on the playground***, rather than following them into their classrooms. ***Kindergarten parents will be bringing their students to the MPR***, saying goodbye from there, and staying with me for a quick orientation before heading to the library for a Welcome Coffee on the first day. On the 2nd and 3rd days, kindergarten students will be dropped off in the MPR as well. Teachers will meet them on the playground for the first time on the morning of Thursday, August 25.

Class Assignments - Posted Friday, August 18 at 5:00pm

Lists will be posted outside the main school entrance and will remain there until Monday at about 9:00.

Adventure Time's New Location

You probably received information from Adventure Time this summer. Just in case you did not, here is important information about morning drop off and afternoon pick up procedures: The Adventure Time program is now located in the school MPR. When dropping off and picking up your children please access the MPR through the Sunnyhills Rd. entrance. It is important if your child is scheduled for morning care, he or she is escorted to the MPR and signed in each morning. If your child is scheduled for afternoon care, please come to the MPR to sign your child out at the parent table. We will have a teacher escorting to and from the MPR and playground. You may meet your child on the playground after signing out and collecting your child's backpack and possessions. Please do not pick up directly from the playground without first checking in at the MPR and signing your child out. We look forward to seeing you August 21!

Safety Patrol - 5th Graders

Fifth graders interested in serving our community as members of our safety patrol are invited to submit applications the first week of school. Applications are available on the school's website.

Lunches and Snacks

All students should bring lunches and a morning snack (or a plan to get a cafeteria lunch). We have many children with severe nut allergies, so we respectfully request that you avoid sending food with nuts. Please remind your students that they may never share food with

their friends. Lunches can be purchased for \$2.50 and milk is \$.40. You may sign up to pay online at <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/login/getmain?requestAction=home>, send cash with your child or write a check to OUSD and bring it to the office to purchase multiple lunches in advance.

Allergies and Critical Medical Issues

If your child has any serious medical conditions, please inform the teacher on the first day. We will be sure to have a Health Plan in place as soon as possible. If your child needs to take over-the-counter or prescription medication, please bring the completed form signed by a doctor authorizing us to dispense. We need updated forms each year, and it is available on our website here:

[https://dxbxg0cumj033.cloudfront.net/551122_201683_authorization-for-medication-assistance%20\(1\).pdf](https://dxbxg0cumj033.cloudfront.net/551122_201683_authorization-for-medication-assistance%20(1).pdf).

Increasing Safe and Secure Schools – All must enter the main door by the office.

Our superintendent has placed a high priority on making our schools as safe and secure as possible. Therefore, all gates must be locked between 8:45 and 1:20 on minimum days and between 8:45 and 2:35 on full days. This means we are not to open the playground gates even for people we know well during the school day. When you arrive, please stop by the office and sign in first. We understand this is not always convenient and appreciate your cooperation in helping us meet this expectation.

Parent/Guardian Handbook and Kindergarten Handbook

These handbooks are updated each year and are chock full of information about how things work at Crocker. They are hosted on the school's website.

Phew! That was a lot of information. I look forward to seeing everybody at registration or on the first day of school. Enjoy this last bit of summer!

After School Enrichment Classes

The schedule of all of the classes being offered starting in September will be available on our school's website in late August. Type "After School" in the search bar, scroll down, and you'll find FAQs as well as the schedule.

Best,

Joci Kelleher