



Monterey Hills Elementary School

A California Distinguished School

Dr. Laurie Narro, Principal



Dear MHS Families,

I am so excited to begin my second year as the principal of Monterey Hills Elementary School! I learned so much last year from SPUSD's strong Leadership Team; MHS's diligent and reflective teaching staff; MHS's concerned and involved parents and the always-inquisitive, MHS students.

I spent the summer reflecting on the growth we made as a school last year and creating plans for our continued growth for the 2013-14 year. We will start where we left off. By the end of last school year, we had developed a Technology Plan and a Response to Intervention (RtI) Plan. Both of these plans were put in place to ensure the achievement of all MHS students. This school year the teachers will use these plans to guide their instruction. Our Technology Plan addresses the staffs' and parents' desire to prepare our students for 21st century learning outcomes of critical thinking and creativity. The Tech Plan also addresses the need for relevant curriculum and active engagement. Our RtI Plan will help us close the achievement gap for our under-performing students and it will provide time for teachers to differentiate instruction in order to respond to individual student instructional needs.

In addition to these school-wide areas of emphasis, this year we will double our efforts for character education. Instruction in the classroom, school-wide assemblies, and developing a common language around the Six Pillars of Character will be the methods used to strengthen this focus area.

To ensure the achievement of these curricular goals, instructional strategies were and will continue to be built. Last year, our teachers received a great deal of professional development on the implementation of Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Teachers will continue receiving the training this school year with the help of Mr. Speck, our new Curriculum Specialist. He, along with all the staff members in SPUSD, believes that the implementation of CCSS will help us achieve the district's goals of student collaboration, increased opportunities for communication and an increase in college and career preparedness. Our teachers will build their understanding of depth of knowledge, Project Based Learning, differentiation of instruction, strategies to build reading and writing skills, and iPad usage!

As I stated at this beginning of this letter, I am so excited to begin my second year at MHS. With your help and encouragement of your children and your support of our school's mission, we are going to have a great year!

Sincerely,

Laurie Narro, Ed.D.

Principal, Monterey Hills Elementary