



Dorothea Lange Elementary School

1661 Via Alta Mesa

Nipomo, CA 93444

A California Gold Ribbon School



August, 2017

Dear Lange Parent/Guardian,

The 2017-18 school year is almost upon us. Wow! I hope you all had fun, relaxing, safe, and productive summers. I certainly did. I was able to spend a lot of time with my family, get outside, travel, see friends, do some reading, and recharge my batteries. As a result, I am ready to see you and your children again. In fact, make sure you know that our first day of school is August 17 at our regular start time of 8:55 am- get to school early!

Class placements: If you have a Homelink account you will be notified at noon on Aug. 16 by phone, email, and text who your child's teacher will be. If you do not have a Homelink account class lists will be posted at 4 pm on Aug. 16 at the school. (Note: If your child is in TK or Kinder you will receive a call, text, and email on Aug. 15 and the TK/Kinder class lists will be posted at 4 pm on Aug. 15.) We take a lot of time, thought and care when placing students and balancing classes, and all of our teachers are excited to meet their new groups.

In my closing letter at the end of the school year in June I summarized the year we had and gave a glimpse of what our year might look like this coming school year. As I stated in that letter, I am so happy to be part of this community and look forward to our continued growth and work together to make Lange the best school we can. So, I want to give you a "heads up" on some things that happened this summer and some things to look forward to in this next school year.

- We have a new website and it is nice. However, it is not quite live, so I can't give you the link yet. We will let you know when it is up and available. In the meantime, please know that it will be a work in progress for a while, so any suggestions are welcomed. The district also has an "app" that you can use for all things Lucia Mar and Lange. It is great. You can download the app to your smart phone by going to your app store and searching for Lucia Mar Schools. Download it!!!
- We welcome new staff members at Lange. We have had a coup this summer with some excellent additions to our staff- some of which were mentioned in the end of the year letter in June. Please welcome Jennifer Philson, our long-serving and beloved PTO president as our new Librarian; Alyssa McChristian, 1st grade teacher; Conan Bowers, 4th grade teacher (Mr. Bowers is the previous principal at AGHS and brings great teaching experience and expertise in education to Lange); Priscilla Johnson, TOSA/Intervention Teacher (previous 6th grade teacher at Lange); Sarah David, Resource SPED; Juliet Iannoli-Ballard, Psychologist; and Amy Juday, Speech. We are so happy to have all of these incredible individuals at Lange. With their expertise and positive energy I am confident that this year will be even better than last. See other staff movement at the end of the letter.
- We have added a Transitional Kindergarten class this year and welcome about 20 students to our TK program at Lange. Yay!
- This year we will continue our support of literacy with our guided reading groups and Intervention Teachers. Our percentage of students on or above grade level continues to increase. We are so proud of this.
- LMUSD adopted new math curriculum for grades K-5. As a result, this will be a change for everyone as we adapt to a new way of instructing, learning and interacting with math. Both the district and school will be providing supports for students and parents throughout the year. This will be a major focus for us.
- Lange is working hard to become Future Ready. We are continuing to acquire Chromebooks so our students have more access and can practice and use the digital skills they need to be competent in the 21st Century. We are also continuing to learn and practice other skills (communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity) through authentic problem and project-based learning opportunities in the classroom and beyond. We will continue with our Coding Classes and Garden Class and are hoping to add an Audio-Visual Production Class where students will produce the Bobcat Brief.



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- All these are added onto an already comprehensive educational experience for Lange students that includes trips to Coloma, Science Camp, art in classes provided by the PTO, music in grades 4 and 5, band in 6, tech skills being built in our lab, physical education, a Jogathon, monthly evening family events, and all that goes on in our classes each day.

I could go on, but those are the big ones. Just thinking about what we are doing makes me excited and hope you all are as well.

It goes without saying as well that you, parents and guardians, are crucial to the education of our students and we not only want you to feel part of your child's educational experience, but we want you to know that we need you. Our students' success depends on how well we work together as a team. There are many ways to get involved at Lange even if you cannot be present at the school. First, our PTO is incredible and does amazing work beyond just raising funds for our school. Please contact Shannon Arkinson at dlangept@gmail.com for information on how to join and help out. Come in and volunteer in our classes. We love to see you around school and volunteering is a great opportunity to see what actually goes on here. If you would like to volunteer you must be fingerprinted at the district office. Support your child at home by reading with them, asking them about specifics of their day, and communicating with the teacher. Follow us on social media to see what's going on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#) and watch the [Bobcat Brief](#).

Again, I am so looking forward to seeing you on August 17. I enjoy meeting with parents, so if you would like to talk, please call me, stop by or email me.

If you are new to the school please be aware that if you are dropping off, parking can be an issue so please plan for that.

- TK: Mr. Ridge
- Kinder: Mrs. Meenzhuber, Miss Gripp, Mr. Licea
- 1st grade: Mrs. Curran, Ms. Madrid, Mrs. Van Alstyne, Mrs. McChristian
- 2nd grade: Ms. Borges, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Martin
- 3rd grade: Ms. Costello, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Kaml
- 4th grade: Miss Fischer, Mr. Bowers
- 4th/5th grade: Mr. Cavazos
- 5th grade: Mrs. Carlisle, Miss McDonald
- 6th grade: Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Le, Mrs. Quijano
- Resource: Mrs. David, Mrs. Lubin
- Intervention: Mrs. Langley
- ELD: Mrs. Reed
- TOSA/Intervention: Mrs. Johnson

Sincerely,

Michael Flushman
Principal, Lange ES