



Dear American Lakes Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! Our dedicated staff and teachers are excited to welcome returning scholars as well as new families. We also extend a warm welcome to new members of our Eagles staff. Our enthusiastic and committed staff have been working hard during the summer planning, attending professional development, and getting our classrooms ready to welcome back our scholars. I feel very fortunate to be starting my 2nd year as Principal at American Lakes School along with Assistant Principal, Cassandra Poole. Check out the headlines below for updates and reminders as well as important information regarding upcoming events to help your family start the school year.

### ALS earns authorization as an IB School

Last year our team accomplished a tremendous achievement - we were authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) school for the Primary Years Programme (PYP), making us the 4th NUSD IB PYP campus in company with H. Allen Hight Elementary, Jefferson School, and Paso Verde School, who also offer the IB PYP Programme. The PYP curriculum brings a student-centered approach to learning that is inquiry-based and links concepts and standards learned across the subjects. The PYP programme will support our staff to implement an engaging and challenging curriculum that fosters a rigorous academic environment to support our district-wide focus on literacy so that our students graduate college and career ready. American Lakes is also a STEM school which provides more avenues for scholars to engage with academic content in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We are very excited to continue to integrate STEM into our IB curriculum. We have also been fortunate enough to add a full time Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) to the American Lakes School site to support with IB. Families can learn more about IB by visiting [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).

### Regular School Attendance is Important

Success in school starts with attending school every day, on time. Students who have regular school attendance have higher levels of achievement and self-esteem. They also have more opportunity to develop positive relationships with staff and other students. They also have higher rates of being college and career ready. Our school-wide goal is to have a 95% attendance rate.

### Continued Social and Emotional Supports and Activities for Students, Staff and Families

We look forward to continuing the implementation of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) work to foster positive behavior and support for students. These interventions will be a driving force in instilling our 3 Personal Standards of *Being Respectful, Making Good Decisions and Solving Problems*. During the school year, students will also have access to a number of opportunities to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, including athletics. We want our scholars to feel connected to their campus and to feel encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities to cultivate that connection. Your student will have access to a variety of support on the American Lakes School site. We have two full time social workers, a full time school psychologist as well as a behavior support assistant that help identify students needing additional support and provide outreach through one on one, partner and group counseling sessions like Lunch Bunch. If your student is in need of support, please contact our front office.

### New Afterschool Programming- LEAP Academy

Our LEAP Academy is a new afterschool program paid for by state funds to provide enrichment and learning opportunities after the regular school day for students in grades TK-6 , Monday - Friday until 6 PM. Students participating in the LEAP Academy will engage in art, athletics, cooking, science, technology, and also receive additional academic support. While there are guidelines that we must follow that includes priority enrollment for



scholars who meet certain criteria, we will open enrollment to additional students pending space availability. Space is limited, so complete the [registration](#) as soon as possible if your family is interested. After completing the registration, families will be notified of their scholar's enrollment status. We will also be combining our current ASES afterschool program into our LEAP Academy so that scholars enrolled in either program will have the same opportunities.

### NUSD Launches New Family Communication Tool- Parent Square

NUSD is launching the use of Parent Square at all schools district-wide as our primary communication tool to share information with families. This change is a result of feedback from NUSD families who requested that we streamline the way we communicate. All information from our school, as well as the district office, will be provided using ParentSquare. We encourage all families to download the app in the Apple or Google Play store as soon as possible to be able to access all the features and benefits. One feature that we are extremely excited about is access to 125+ languages. Families can choose the language of their preference to receive and send messages with school and district staff. Please visit the NUSD [website](#) that has a page dedicated to all things ParentSquare including how to access it, training, how-to-guides, frequently asked questions, multiple videos, handouts, printed documents, and more. Please be sure to sign up! **While ParentSquare will be used for communications, student's class assignments/schedules, grades and attendance information will continue to be shared via Infinite Campus so we encourage parents to keep the IC Parent Portal to have access to those two items.**

### Family Engagement

One of our NUSD Core Beliefs is that families are essential partners. If you are a parent or guardian who is interested in becoming more involved in our school community, please feel encouraged to volunteer, join our School Site Council (SSC) or our English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC). If you are interested in volunteering or becoming involved, please contact our school office. Keep informed; in addition to signing up for ParentSquare to receive regular communications, and please also be sure you have access to Infinite Campus. This will allow you to receive notifications about your scholar's attendance and grades on a daily basis.

### Important Safety Reminders

Morning drop off will be in front of the Administration office on Stonecreek Drive at 7:45am. Afternoon pick up for TK and Kindergarten will be in the same location as drop off with 1st through 8th grade pick up taking place in front of the middle school on Brewerton Drive. Please remain in your vehicle and pull up as far as possible when dropping off or picking up your scholar. As a reminder, we also receive support from our NUSD Safety and Safe Schools Department, and work with our School Resource Officers, to keep our campus safe.

### Getting Started: Important Dates and Information:

- **To Do:** Download the app for [ParentSquare](#) to receive important information from our school and district.
- **Enrollment Nights:** July 26th, August 2nd and August 7th from 5:00pm-7:00pm
- **Our school office will open for the 2023-2024 school year on August 1 at 1 pm.** If you need immediate assistance, contact [Constituent and Customer Services](#).
- **Class lists and middle school schedules** will be finalized and available in Infinite Campus (IC) and posted outside the front office and outside the gym Friday, August 4th by 4pm.
  - If you do not have an IC account set up yet, you can find instructions on how to do that by going to these [Parent Instructions](#). When it asks for your activation key, enter the number given.



# American Lakes School

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**Brian Sanino**, Principal

**Cassandra Poole**, Assistant Principal

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- o If you have already set up an account, but do not remember your login information, you can click "forgot password" to retrieve your password. For more help: Visit [natomasunified.org/icportal](https://natomasunified.org/icportal), contact your school, or email [icportal@natomasunified.org](mailto:icportal@natomasunified.org).
- **Middle School Orientation/Schedule Pick-up:** Monday, August 7th 4-5pm (Students-only)
- **First day of school:** Thursday, August 10th. Instruction starts daily for all grades at 7:45am.
- **Back to School Night:** Tuesday, September 5th from 6:30-8pm
- **Immunizations:** Please remember that regular childhood immunizations are required by the State of California unless your child has a medical exemption ([CAIR-Medical Exemption](#)). If your child does not have current immunizations, NUSD offers free immunization. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **Please see our [digital backpack](#) for more resources, which also contains the [American Lakes Bell Schedule](#).**

We look forward to working with you this year! If you have any questions about our school, please do not hesitate to contact us at (916) 567-5500 or visit us on our [website](#).

Sincerely,

Brian Sanino

American Lakes School, Principal