



HERON SCHOOL
5151 Banfield Drive
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Hello Heron Families,

This is Principal Stephanie Schulzkump, and I am excited to welcome each of you to the 2023-2024 school year! At Heron TK-8, School, we embrace the Responsive Classroom Model. Responsive Classroom is an approach to elementary and middle school education that emphasizes social, emotional, and academic growth in a safe school community. Our STEAM academic focus ensures that students are actively engaged in their learning through inquiry-based science instruction and the integration of technology, engineering, art, and mathematics throughout the day. We will continue our literacy focus through writing by using explicit writing strategies TK-8 such as Step-Up-Writing that will help our students organize their thinking and writing.

On Friday, August 4, Heron is hosting our “Back-to-School Kick Off” from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm. Class lists will be posted on the Minden gate and the middle school schedules will be ready for pick up during that time, and Kona Ice will be selling cool treats. Families can also locate the elementary class information for your student(s) and middle school schedule assignments through Infinite Campus. If you do not have an Infinite Campus account set up, you can find instructions on how to do that by following these [Parent Instructions](#). 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; contact our school office; or email icportal@natomasunified.org.

Summer enrollment nights are July 26th, August 2nd, and August 7th from 5 pm- 7pm. For all up to date school information please visit our [Heron Digital Backpack](#).

Every effort has been made to create classes that are strategic to students’ needs and as balanced as possible; it is important for parents to understand that requests for class changes will not be considered once the class lists have been finalized. However, please know that it is important to me that every child at Heron has a positive, joyful, and engaging school experience, and I will always be available to hear and address any concerns you have regarding your child’s education.

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**



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via Infinite Campus so we encourage parents to keep the IC Portal to have access to those two items.

As we prepare for the 23-24 school year, I want to take a moment to talk about student attendance. 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, and they also have higher rates of being college and career ready. We want our students to SOAR socially and academically. Therefore, our attendance goal is 95%. It is important for students to BE HERE. EVERY DAY. ALL DAY. As a reminder, middle school start time is 8:05 am and our TK-6th grade start time is 8:15 am.

We are also excited to share about our new after school program, the 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 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 student's enrollment status.

Lastly, 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. In order to prepare for the upcoming school year, please keep your child's immunization records on hand. Please visit the district website [here](#) for detailed information on the immunizations that are required by the state of California.

Again, I am so excited to start this school year, and I hope you can join us for our "Back-to-School Kick Off event on Friday, August 4th from 4:00-6:00 as well as our Back-to-School Night scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023 from 6:30-8:00.

In partnership,

Stephanie Schulzkump

Heron Principal