



Natomas Park Elementary School

4700 Crest Dr., Sacramento, CA 95835 (916) 928-5234 FAX (916) 928-5219

Dear Coyote Families,

On behalf of our fantastic staff, we would like to welcome all of you to another school year at Natomas Park Elementary School! I am beyond humbled to be embarking on the 2023-2024 school year with the NPE coyote family and fortunate enough to be serving as the new principal. You have all seen many changes and challenges occur the last few years but there has always been one thing that remained through it all: family. I am so grateful to be a part of such a loving, diverse, and compassionate community.

In order to foster an even greater sense of community and build upon the traditions of the Natomas Park Community, I would like to introduce the use of an annual theme. The purpose of a theme is to convey a message within a story. The theme will be our annual mission in that it will highlight our approach to teaching, learning, and school culture and celebration of our success. As we embark on the new school year, our theme is “YOU Matter.” Together, we will create a sense of oneness and make every effort to show each individual scholar, staff, and family member how important they are to the overall success of the Natomas Park Community. We are committed to partnering with all members of our school communities to ensure safe, healthy spaces that affirm the identity of each and every scholar, leveraging the assets they bring.

As I learn about Natomas Park Elementary since opening in 2000, it is apparent the school has always taken pride in its inclusivity. Outstanding academics, and exceptional contributions to the world. I am honored to have the opportunity and incredible privilege of being part of Natomas Park Elementary. Not only does our school provide enrichment programs, counseling services, and extended support, but it also utilizes data to inform instruction. The teachers, staff members, and families have always ensured that our scholars are at the center of our work every day and now that we are becoming a certified AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) school we are challenging our scholars to take ownership of their own learning.

We are excited to share that we have a new afterschool program, the LEAP Academy. The LEAP Academy is an 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 student's enrollment status.

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 Portal to have access to those two items.

Important dates and information:

- **To Do: Download the app for [ParentSquare](#) to receive important communication information from our school and district.**
- Our school office will open on August 1 at 1 pm. If you need immediate assistance, contact [Constituent and Customer Services](#).
- Enrollment Nights: July 26th, August 2nd, August 7th (5pm-7pm) open on August 1st
- Elementary class assignments will be finalized and available through Infinite Campus and posted in front of the school entrance gate by 4:00 pm Aug 4th. 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. 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 your school, or email icportal@natomasunified.org.
- The first day of school will be **Thursday August 10, 2023**. **The first bell will ring at 7:40 am** and the **instruction bell will ring at 7:45 am**. Being early is to be on time!! Everyday attendance is important, because if you are not here you can't learn. Our school goal is to have a 95+% attendance rate.
- School dismissal will be at 1:38 pm for Transitional kindergarten and Kindergarten students, and 1:55 pm for 1st through 5th grade students.
- **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.
- Back to school night is **September 7, 2023 from 6:30 pm -8:00 pm**
- Please see our [digital backpack](#) for more resources, and a copy of the NPE bell schedule

Traffic and Safety - School is open at 7:30 am and in regards to traffic and student safety dropping your child off early reduces the traffic congestion at the 7:40 bell. Remember that if you are dropping your child off at the front of the school you must pull all the way forward to the drop off area. Please do not drop them off at the red zoned area, because this causes congestion where cars are backed up into the street and makes it unsafe for students, staff and families. Also when you do pull up please have your children ready to get out of the car, this will help keep the flow of traffic consistent. Lastly and most importantly, please discuss with your child about the rules of the road and to make sure they look both ways before they cross the street.

I am truly excited to be a part of the NPE family community where parents, teachers, and students care for each other and strive to build a positive relationship that supports academic and social growth. If you have any questions about our school, programs, or expectations, please do not hesitate to contact us at (916) 928-5234

Sincerely,

Principal Maurice Gause
Natomas Park Elementary School