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Dear Witter Families:

I want to warmly welcome you back to the 2023-2024 school year. I hope you and your family have enjoyed your summer and had the opportunity to have some quality family time. Witter Ranch's top priority for this school year is the social emotional well-being and academic support for our students. Our staff is ready to provide whole group and small group instruction with interventions to support your students academic and social growth this year.

Witter Ranch school is looking for parents to be involved in our school community and education plans. Please consider joining our School Site Council (SSC) and English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) where we review and evaluate school improvement programs and the school budget. Nomination forms will be available August 21st.

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. See information below on how to access Infinite Campus.**

I am excited to enter the new school year with a collaborative focus and year 5 implementation of the AVID program as we continue to prepare our students to achieve at high levels and to be college and career ready. All of our classrooms and support teachers will use AVID teaching strategies, with a focus on literacy, to enhance the learning environment. The following link will provide you more information on AVID: <https://www.avid.org/AVID-effect>

**Our school goals for the 2023-2024 school year are:**

- Build a culture of collaboration
- Continue to improve academic achievement through AVID
- Intervention for all students with a focus on literacy
- Implementation of a school-wide positive behavior system.

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.

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 student's enrollment status.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to help your child and the teachers of Witter on working to meet our school goals for 2022-2023. The year ahead is going to be a great one! The list below outlines important information to help you begin the school year.

**Important dates/times and information:**

- **To Do:** Download the app for [ParentSquare](#) to receive important information from our school and district.
- Our school office will open August 1 at 1 pm. If you need immediate assistance, contact [Constituent and Customer Services](#).
- Elementary class assignments will be finalized and available through Infinite Campus (IC) no later than August 4 by 4pm. Class assignments will also be posted outside of the front office on August 4 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 provided.
  - 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](http://natomasunified.org/icportal); contact your school; or email [icportal@natomasunified.org](mailto:icportal@natomasunified.org).
- **First day of school Thursday, August 10, 7:45 am- 1:55 pm for grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**
- **Kindergarten and TK start at 7:45 am and dismisses at 1:38 pm**
- **Back to School Night - September 5, 6:30-8pm**
- [Bell Schedule](#)
- **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 feel free to visit or call us anytime, (916) 567-5620 or you can find information on the [Digital Backpack](#). From all of us at Witter Ranch School, we look forward to our successful educational partnership.



Respectfully,  
Patrick J. Birdsong  
Principal