

# THE BOLT

## Welcome Back Edition!



### Letter from the Principal

Welcome Back Franklin Families! I'm very excited to be starting my third year as principal of Franklin School! Franklin School is a community that prides itself on being engaged, forward-thinking, passionate, and generous. We continue to work hard to fulfill Franklin's mission to inspire and equip every student to become a life-long learner and positive contributor to society through high expectations and rigorous academics, engaged and individualized instruction, shared Franklin values, and a strong and supportive community. At Franklin School, we are committed to exemplary instruction designed to educate the whole child so that he or she may become a productive and contributing member of the global economy. *(Continued on Pg. 3)*

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*Welcome back Bolts! Go Blue and Gold!*

## The Franklin Handbook

Everything you need to know about Franklin is in the Franklin Handbook, which was distributed in the first day packets and is available on the school and PTA websites. Be sure to take some time to read this detailed document that describes the school's philosophy, policies, and procedures. Every family is expected to sign the agreement sheet and return it to school after reading the handbook.



## Donation Opportunities



*"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." Benjamin Franklin*

There are two ways you can donate to Franklin:

1. Annual Fund- Funds **stuff** like classroom materials.
2. SMMEF- A donation to the Santa Monica Malibu Education Foundation funds crucial **staff** and programs at Franklin including but not limited to:
  - An arts program consisting of 15 weeks of visual arts, and 15 weeks of music or theatre, taught by professional educators
  - Programs like Ballroom Dance
  - Training for our staff in Thinking Maps and WFTB
  - Highly trained instructional aides in every classroom to support all students
  - Noon-duty aides who provide support and supervision during lunch recess
  - A part-time Health Office Specialist so Franklin can have full-time coverage in the nurse's office
  - STAR Science classes for K-5

Donation info is provided in your first-day packet, on the PTA website, and in the office.

**ARE YOU IN?**  
Your child. Amazing programs.  
Donate today at [smmef.org](http://smmef.org)!



## Volunteer Opportunities



In order to volunteer you must have attended a volunteer training and submitted a completed volunteer packet (provided at the training). There are many ways you can get involved helping in classes, supervising at lunch, joining a committee, helping at carnival, or attending a governance meeting. Attend a PTA meeting or the first-day Orientation/Info Session, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am in the Cafetorium, to find out more.

### *New Volunteer Trainings*

*August 30, 6:00pm, Room 3  
(Before K-2 Back to School Night)  
or  
September 8, 8:00am, Room 3*



## Check out the New Science Lab!



Thanks to all the parents and staff who volunteered their time over the summer to help set up the new Franklin Science Lab! The old computer lab in Room 25 was converted into a high-tech lab equipped with everything needed to conduct scientific experiments from microscopes to lab tables with stools for collaboration. This year Franklin has hired STAR Science, who will be sending experienced STEM educators to teach 10 lessons to each class so that teachers and students can be introduced to Next Generation Science Standards. The staff at Franklin are very excited to utilize this dedicated space throughout the year to more effectively conduct various STEM projects and experiments!

### Principal's Letter (Continued from page 1)

Our devoted and collaborative staff, supportive PTA, and Site Governance Council are dedicated to providing an education that readies students for the challenges they may encounter through their lifetime and encourages a love of learning. At Franklin we have a rich tradition of providing students with a high quality education that fosters creative and critical thinking, effective communication, academic achievement, self-advocacy, and learning through the arts. The entire school community has worked in unison to provide a safe and nurturing environment where students can attain their highest level of achievement while meeting the diverse needs of all. Our school provides an environment where students can learn, expand their creativity, and develop social-emotional strength through having high expectations of both students and adults on campus. We differentiate instruction, embrace technology, and also believe the arts and organized play are vital to the education of children. Our school rules are carefully designed to protect our students' best interests and to help our students attain success. Adults are expected to demonstrate integrity, courtesy, respect and model appropriate behavior while on the campus. We have regular PTA and Site Governance meetings where you can hear the latest information and have a voice in school decisions. We also provide regular updates and announcements through our monthly newsletter. I encourage participation in our school community and encourage you to share your constructive suggestions and ideas. Together we make Franklin a phenomenal place to be! Let's have another fun and rewarding year.

### UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 19, 8:30am- K-1  
Meet and Greet

August 20, 10:00am- K  
Play Date on Yard

August 22- First Day of  
School, Minimum Day K-  
5

August 22, 8:30am,  
Cafetorium- Parent  
Orientation/Info Session

August 23- Minimum  
Day for K

August 23, 8:30am, Room  
3- PTA Meeting

August 26, 8:30am, Yard-  
Welcome Back Assembly

August 29, 3:15pm,  
Room 3- Budget Meeting

August 30- Minimum  
Day K-5

August 30, 6:00pm,  
Room 3- Volunteer  
Training

August 30, 6:30pm- Back  
to School Night K-2

September 5- No School

September 6- Minimum  
Day 1-5

September 6, 6:30pm-  
Back to School Night 3-5



# Behavior: Programs and Policies

Franklin uses the research-based anti-bullying program called Olweus. As part of this program, Franklin uses many positive reinforcements such as “Franklin Values” Assemblies, Yellow Slips, Stand By Me Awards and more. At the start of every year administration reviews with all students the definition of bullying and our anti-bullying rules. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Student Committee members will also help out as Playground Monitors, modeling positive behavior and helping students make friends.

As a parent you can help promote a positive school community by knowing the definition of bullying, and modeling appropriate behavior at school. Regularly talking to your child and knowing what’s going on in his/her life will help to improve your communication with the school so we can assist you if there are any issues. If you have any concerns, please contact your child’s teacher (see email etiquette below).

### Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as  
**Repeated (pattern over time)**  
**Intentional (on-purpose)**  
**Power-imbalanced**  
 behavior that makes someone feel uncomfortable or threatened. It can be physical, emotional, or cyber.

### Franklin’s Behavior Philosophy

**Everyone has the right to feel safe.**  
**We are responsible for what we say and do.**  
**Everyone has equal worth.**  
**We solve problems peacefully.**  
**We respect each other.**  
**We have the power to positively affect our community and ourselves.**



### Franklin’s Anti-Bullying Rules

**We will not bully others.**  
**We will try to help students who are bullied.**  
**We will try to include students who are left out.**  
**If we know someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.**



**Parents, teachers, and staff are part of the school community, so adults are expected to uphold these rules and expectations as well. Whether it’s a PTA meeting, Carnival, or an email, we strive to be role models for our students/children. Thank you for helping to make our school a safe and positive environment for all.**

Members of the Franklin community uphold the District’s Email Policy. This policy can be viewed at <http://www.smmusd.org/directory/EmailProtocol.pdf> Thank you for helping Franklin to maintain professional, productive, efficient communication.

- Make personal contact, face to face or voice to voice, a priority over mail; especially when the issues are sensitive.
- Maintain professional tone and language at all times.
- Employees will strive to respond to persons within SMMUSD within one business day (24 hours).
- Use group distribution lists and the “reply all” function sparingly.

## Academics: Key Programs and Instructional Strategies



SMMUSD's mission statement is *Extraordinary achievement for all students while simultaneously closing the achievement gap*. Equity and access are needed to ensure excellence for all of our students.

In order to achieve this, teachers at Franklin use Differentiated Instruction. Differentiated Instruction is an approach to teaching in which teachers proactively modify curricula, teaching methods, resources, learning activities, and students' products to address the diverse needs of individual students and maximize their learning.

Some ways Franklin teachers Differentiate Instruction are:

- Thinking Maps- 8 specific visual patterns allow students to visualize their thinking and create a concrete image of abstract thoughts.
- Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) in math- Students are challenged with math explorations where a problem is given and students are asked to draw upon their prior knowledge and reasoning skills to use and explain a reasonable approach to the problem.
- Write from the Beginning (WFTB) writing program- Students work at their own level so struggling writers have more support while high achievers are expected to have more detailed and advanced writing products.
- Response to Intervention (RTI/Tier III Intervention)- Teachers look at a variety of data to determine who needs support in what areas. In addition to utilizing the Literacy Coaches, Math Coaches, and instructional aides, student may receive small group instruction in reading and math during and/or after school. Similarly, students who need to be challenged are given opportunities to expand and extend their learning via project based learning, collaboration, and deeper depth and complexity.
- Integrating Technology- All students grades 2-5 have Chromebooks so they can research, write, and learn with programs such as Lexia, Successmaker, Accelerated Reader/Math, Khan Academy, Type to Learn, and other computer programs.
- STEM- Instruction in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics deepens students academic knowledge and skills, and develops students 21st Century skills and critical thinking. Check out our new Science Lab!

## Too Much Homework?

GRADE	DAILY TIME
K	10 minutes
1 <sup>ST</sup>	20 minutes
2 <sup>ND</sup>	30 minutes
3 <sup>RD</sup>	40 minutes
4 <sup>TH</sup>	50 minutes
5 <sup>TH</sup>	60 minutes

**If your child is not finished with their homework by the approximate amount of time, STOP!** Seriously, it's okay, just stop. You can draw a line and initial where your child finished. If you are very concerned write or email the teacher a note, and the teacher will contact you.

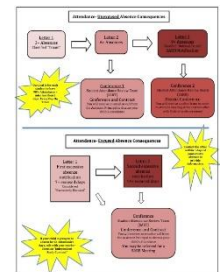


## Have a Concern?

It's always best to go directly to the teacher first when you have a concern regarding academic, classroom, or teacher related matters. You can email the teacher to set up a phone or in-person conference. Be aware that before school teachers are getting ready for instruction, so they probably won't be able to accommodate a surprise drop-in appointment. Similarly, when teachers walk outside to pick up their class line, they are not going to have a chance to talk to you, because they are excited to get the students inside and ready to learn. It's always best to schedule a meeting with the teacher, so they can be prepared with data and will have time set aside to focus on your meeting.



## Attendance: Every Day On-Time!



Students should be in line by the warning bell at **8:27am**. Instruction begins at 8:30am. **Students not in the classroom by 8:30am will be marked Tardy.**

Franklin's goal is for every student to have at least 98% attendance; that means less than 3 days absent and no more than 2 tardies for the whole school year!

Remember that 3 tardies (arriving late to school), and/or picking up your child early from school 3 times, equals 1 absence. Email [FSabsent@smmusd.org](mailto:FSabsent@smmusd.org) within 72 hours to clear your child's absence. More information about attendance is in the Franklin Handbook, on the school and PTA websites, and will be backpacked in September.

**You will get a letter from the District, and a call/email from an administrator, if your child has 3+ unexcused absences or 6+ excused absence.**

This year we are cracking down on Independent Study; IS will typically only be granted in the case of emergencies, not for family vacations. **Vacations and appointments should be booked after school or during breaks.** To get the most out of school and maximize learning time and learning potential your child needs to be in school every day. Your child can make up an assignment but they can't recover what is most valuable: the questions, the activities, the explanations from the teacher and the interaction that brings learning to life.