



Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Superintendent's Newsletter

August 22, 2018

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, Superintendent



August 22, 2018 - A **Great** First Day in MBUSD!

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! I hope you all had an interesting and relaxing summer, with plenty of time for your family. I had my share of family time, including outdoor time with my family, and I got to witness my 15-year old son doing summer school, summer reading, and all the while really upping his Fortnite game. Sigh. If your child is not into Fortnite or other video games, I'm a little jealous.

We enter this year focused on high quality instruction, with high expectations for all students, and with a heightened focus on personalized learning. Our employees all have t-shirts with our "For US, it's Personal" slogan on them. We also enter the year with a continued focus on safety. All of our employees received safety training on Monday. See more information in the pictures at the end of this newsletter.

So with our focus on safety and helping each student succeed, we look forward to the 2018-19 school year.

79

The number of employees hired by MBUSD this summer. That's 21 certificated positions (teachers and admin) and 58 classified positions (office staff, maintenance & operations, food service, instructional assistants, etc.)! This represents about 10% of our our staff.

Beginning this year, MBUSD is host to deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) students in our region! We hired 5 DHH teachers, 6 sign language interpreters, and 9 instructional assistants who specialize in ASL. We're excited to offer these classes to our entire region at MB Preschool, Pennekamp, Meadows, MBMS and MCHS this year!



Prior to Measure MB passing, our budget projected nearly 60 layoffs over the next few years. But thanks to the passing of Measure MB (by 69.25% of MB voters), NO teaching or classified positions were lost in our District this year. Thank you, voters!

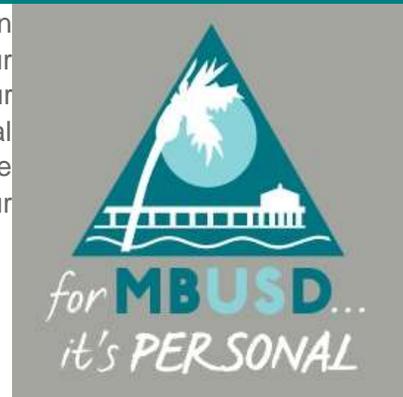
Click [HERE](#) to see the 2018-19 school year holidays. Please note that the 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 calendars are currently being finalized and will be published as soon as they're approved by all parties.



In November 2016, voters in Manhattan Beach passed Measures C and EE. Thanks to these bonds, we are looking forward to breaking ground on our brand new athletic facility late this calendar year, and plans are underway for major improvements at our school sites, including perimeter fencing, HVAC, and major construction at Grand View and Pennekamp elementary schools. To see the full scope of

proposed upgrades, click [here](#).

Our curriculum, our policies, and our district culture are driven by GOALS that are reviewed and approved annually by our school board. We shared drafts of our 2018-19 goals at our July and August Board meetings, and we will submit a final draft for approval at our September 5 Board meeting. We welcome your input! Please feel free to e-mail me with your thoughts prior to September 5.



Our District leadership team spent two days together last week setting goals, sharing ideas for personalized learning, and getting excited for a great year!



MBUSD has 757 exceptional and dedicated employees working on behalf of our children. More than 600 of them gathered Monday for safety training. Teams from MBPD, MBFD, Children's Hospital L.A., Beach Cities Health District and American Heart Association trained us in all areas of physical and emotional safety. Employee response to the day was overwhelming. More than ever, we feel ready for a safe and productive school year. For us, it's personal!

Follow Us!



Do you want to keep up on District happenings? See pictures from our school sites? Follow us, Like us and tell your friends about us! We're over 1,900 followers on Facebook ... push us over 2,000!

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Thanks for all you do to support our students and our schools. Let's have a safe and fantastic 2018-19 school

year!



Mike Matthews
MBUSD Superintendent



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