



# Laurel Elementary School

Dr. Santa Acuña, Principal

*"Building a community of lifelong learners"*



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## Greetings

Welcome back to another exciting new school year at Laurel Elementary School! Everyone here at Laurel hopes that you are having a fun and restful summer vacation. We are all excited to have students back in our classrooms and our hallways, filling the site with energy and enthusiasm for learning. It is our mission to help every child feel welcomed, connected and part of our Laurel family.

This year our school will be embracing the "**GAME ON**" theme where we will be committed to putting forth our team effort in building our district wide capacity for the 5 C's (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Community, Creative Thinking) and preparing our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners for the future. We are excited to see our students return with their lion pride and be motivated to embrace new challenges. Laurel is an awesome place to learn and grow when we are all part of the same team: students, staff and parents!

The Laurel staff is committed to providing your children with exceptional instructional experiences. We will continue our commitment to work diligently to raise students' academic achievement as we open the door to every child's future. I am thrilled and excited to open up our school! So, let's get our "**GAME ON!**"

## New Staff Updates:

As you are all aware, each year brings about positive change. This year some of those changes include a few additions to our Laurel Lion staff. We are delighted to welcome Rebecca Schroeder, our new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. Rebecca brings with her a wonderful skill set for our students and we are excited she is joining our team. We are also fortunate to welcome two new special education teachers: Jacqueline Hoffmann and Yadira Ortega. Both special education teachers are excited and eager to support our Laurel students and families.

Support staff for our students is also changing. This year we are pleased to welcome Katherine-Thompson-Goode our new school site counselor. Katherine comes to us with new strategies and experience in counseling students. We are excited and we are pleased to have her join our team. Lastly, Marian Reyna will be joining us as our new School Office Assistant. We are thrilled to welcome Marian she comes to us with many years of experience and a strong commitment to EWSCD. Again, please join me in welcoming all of our new Laurel staff members.

## Communications

Establishing and maintaining a close school to home communication system is vital. **Beginning this year, all general communication will be sent or available electronically.** It is critical you complete your Aeries Data Confirmation on the **PARENT PORTAL** at the beginning of each school year and as needed when contact information changes. You can complete your update and data confirmation by visiting [aeries.ewcsd.org/parent](http://aeries.ewcsd.org/parent) and selecting "Parent/Student Portal." You will also be able to access important information, such as SBAC SCORES, REPORT CARDS, ELPAC SCORES, and your new teacher this year by logging into Aeries Parent Portal. Please contact the school office if you need help creating or updating your **Aeries Parent Portal Account**

## Facilities Updates:

As you step on the campus, you will see that there have been some positive changes. Gallagher Occupation Therapy will now be located on Laurel Avenue where they will have their own entrance. This movement will help alleviate some of the foot traffic in the front office. We are excited about these changes and we look forward to continuing to make Laurel a safe and a great place for students to learn!

**Early Release Thursday**

Beginning in September, students will be released early on Thursday per month in order to provide professional learning and collaboration opportunities to our teachers and support staff working to implement school and district initiatives. At Laurel, our professional learning and collaboration will be focused on our school initiative, which include, Thinking Maps, the 5 C's (communication, collaboration, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, Accountable Student Talk, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Technology. Students will be released early on the following Thursdays:

September 26	February 27
October 24	March 12
November 14	April 30
December 12	May 28
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	

General education students will be dismissed at 1:30pm and Kinder will be dismissed at 1:15pm. Please mark your calendars and notify your child care provider.

**Important Updates:**

The office will officially open Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, and Ms. Gerri Pineda, School Office Coordinator will be available to answer your questions at that time. Regular school hours are from 7:30-4:00pm. The official **First Day of School** for students will be **Tuesday August 13, 2019** and it will be an early release day. Students in 1<sup>st</sup> grade – 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be dismissed at 1:30pm and Kindergarten will be dismissed at 11:30am. Classroom assignments will be posted on Aeries at 4:00pm on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (please note that changes cannot be made to any class placements until two weeks after school begins). As for the remainder of the 2019-2020 year, our schedule will be as follows:

<b>Kindergarten Schedule</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Schedule</b>
Gates open at 7:50am 8:05am school begins 9:30am-10:10am- staggered recess 11:30am-12:10pm- Lunch <b><u>2:15pm Dismissal</u></b> <u>*Tuesday Dismissal- 1:15pm</u> <b>*First week of school 11:30am dismissal</b>	Gates open at 7:50am (gate open at 7:30am for those students eating breakfast) 8:05 school begins 9:45-10:45- staggered recesses 11:10-12:15- staggered lunches 2:30 Dismissal <u>*Tuesday dismissal 1:30 pm</u> <u>*1:30 pm dismissal one Thursday a month</u>

We look forward to seeing all of our Laurel Lions embarking on a new and successful 2019-2020 school year. Gear up, get ready...**"GAME ON!"**

Sincerely,

Dr. Santa Acuña  
Principal