



BALBOA

Middle School

August/September 2021

Principal's Message...

Mr. Covarrubias

IMPORTANT

- ✓ **First Day of School: Wednesday, August 25**
- ✓ **School Hours: 8:55 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- ✓ **Class information will be posted on Q Student Connect and Q Parent Connect at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 24**

Hello Balboa students and families! We are excited to welcome you to this 2021/22 school year! In spite of Covid-related restrictions, I hope you were able to relax and spend safe, quality time with your loved ones.

We have an exciting year ahead. As we return to school and move forward with another academic year, know that we are aware of the different challenges that distance learning posed for

families. We will work together to ensure that supports are in place to make this year a successful and memorable one!

Our goal is to continue maximizing student learning, fostering social-emotional learning, and creating life-long memories. Our Balboa staff is committed to helping you through your middle school years and preparing you for success in the future. Please take advantage of our clubs, student groups, counseling

supports, and positive peer relations to help you on this journey. New clubs are formed each year based on student input and requests.

We welcome parent involvement at Balboa. The partnership between parents, students and staff is the key to success of our entire school community. Parents, please ask about volunteer PTO opportunities throughout the year. We appreciate all the help we can get!

PTO Message...

Tawnya O'Neil, PTO President

Welcome back! We hope you had a summer full of great memories. This school year promises to be an amazing educational experience for your child. The PTO Board continues to work hard to find ways we can enhance your child's time at Balboa!

We want to send a big welcome to all the new students to Balboa Middle School. Each year our Activities Director Jose Duenas and student leaders host a New Student Orientation. The Orientation will be held at school on August 18, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Parents, we will be selling spirit wear, answering questions, and providing information about PTO volunteer opportunities at this time as well.

On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank every family who has contributed to PTO through the many hours you volunteer, your support in fundraising, membership dues and more. Your involvement makes a HUGE difference to the school, faculty, and most importantly, to our children.

There are many ways of staying connected to all of our events and upcoming activities. Download the Parent Square app (or at the Parent Square website) and JOIN Balboa Middle School. Be sure to fill out an interest sheet that will be included in the first day school

packets as well as your PTO membership envelope.

On behalf of the PTO Board, we look forward to meeting you and to a great school year!

EARLY DROP-OFFS

Students on campus before 8:30 a.m. must report directly to the cafeteria where there is adult supervision beginning at 7:30 a.m.

BANKING TIME

Our first 3 Fridays will be full days, 8:55 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. On **Friday, September 17th**, we will begin our Banking Time Schedule with **1:30 p.m. dismissal on Fridays.**



COVID PRECAUTIONS

Masks are required for all indoor spaces, including buses, classrooms, library, cafeteria and gym. Masks are optional for outdoor activities, including meal breaks and P.E., per CDC/VUSD protocols.



TESTING INFORMATION

Mark your calendars now, please.

The 2021-2022 testing dates for school-wide testing are:



April 18th -
June 10th,
2022

3x Honor Roll Trip Spring 2022

Students who are on the Honor Roll for the first three quarters of the 2021-2022 school year will be invited to attend the Honor Roll field trip in the spring. To qualify for the Honor Roll, students must earn a GPA of 3.50 or above and maintain satisfactory citizenship and behavior.

First Day of School

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

All students – Check Q Student Connect or Q Parent Connect after 5pm on Tuesday, August 24th for your class schedule. Student and faculty guides will be available to assist you finding classes on the first day of school. All sixth grade students will report to the cafeteria for morning orientation at 8:45 a.m. **All students will receive their full-day class schedule from their first period teacher as well.** Water fountains will again be open and available to students.



1st Day Student Information Packet

Your child will bring home an information packet the first day of school containing important school information. The **emergency card must be returned the next day to your child's first period teacher.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Back To School Night September 8, 2021

Balboa Back-To-School Night provides an opportunity for parents to follow their child's program on a mini-schedule and meet each teacher. The evening starts with a general meeting at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Parent Conferences November 8-15, 2021

School will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m. on these dates for parent conferences.

Throughout the year, parents are encouraged to contact teachers, counselors, or administrators about any concerns.

Student Accident Insurance

Information about accident insurance will be sent home with your child the first day of school. **The school does not carry accident insurance for your child.**

Cafeteria News...

Every family must fill out and return the single pink meal sheet sent home in your student's "First Day of School" packet, even if you do not qualify for the free or reduced lunch program. Ventura Unified School District's Food and Nutrition Services Department will be offering meals free breakfast and lunch to all students throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Each student is welcome to one breakfast and one lunch each day at no charge.

Free and reduced meal applications will not be available, but families will be required to fill out the alternate income survey provided by the District.

If you have any questions regarding Food and Nutrition Services, please call 805-641-5000 x 1306.



Buses, Traffic and Parking

- Bus transportation will be available to students who live 2 or more miles from the Balboa campus. Please check the VUSD website for bus information on or after Monday, August 23, 2021.
- The 2021/22 school year will start with approximately 1,125 students enrolled and 85 staff members. This large population generates some traffic conditions that we can all make safer by following some basic driving rules and courtesies.
- There is a turn-around area and parking lot between Mound and Balboa directly off Hill Road. Drop off and pick up in this area is similar to airport terminal passenger loading zones. Pull forward, drop off, don't linger, and pull away. To drop off students follow these steps:



- Approach Balboa using Hill Road from the direction of Telegraph Road.
- Enter the lot making a right turn at the northern entrance (the one nearest to Balboa).
- Proceed to the lane furthest from the street.
- Pull all the way forward along the right curb.
- Drop off your student onto the sidewalk along this area.
- Carefully pull away from the curb.
- Exit by turning left back onto Hill Road.
- This is not a parking area. Please do not park here to go to classrooms for drop off or pick up. There is also a parking lot in this area that parents can use for parking purposes.
- Remember airport passenger loading.
- Be courteous to other parent drivers. Set a good example. Students are

watching how we treat each other.

- **The parking lot off of Woodland is for bus traffic only from 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. minimum days). Please yield the right of way to the school buses.** The drivers are responsible for getting up to 100 students home as quickly and as safely as possible. Your courtesy to all the buses is greatly appreciated by the drivers, the student riders and their parents.
- The parking lot between Balboa's portables and permanent building is for staff parking only. Parents **cannot** use this lot because many students are present in this area. The parking lot gate will be locked from 8:30 a.m. until 3:10 p.m. (1:45 p.m. on minimum days).
- Please do not pick up or drop off on the east (orchard) side of Hill Road. This is illegal and extremely unsafe for students.
- Please do not double park on Hill Road or Woodland St. This is illegal and creates an unsafe environment for student safety.
- Students crossing Woodland St. **must use the crosswalk** at Hill Road or Brookshire Ave.



Thanks for keeping our students, parents, and staff safe!

New Student Orientation

Tuesday, August 17, 2021
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.— Balboa Gym
Refreshments provided

The administrators and ASB/Leadership Class of Balboa Middle School invite the incoming sixth grade class and all new seventh and eighth grade students to our **WEB New Student Orientation**.

The purpose of this orientation is to help students make the transition to Balboa Middle School a positive experience. Eighth grade students will serve as leaders and mentors to small groups of incoming students. Large and small group activities are designed to actively involve new students in learning more about Balboa's programs, while meeting other new students.

Wear tennis shoes and comfortable clothing for a morning of fun activities. This is for **students only**. Bus transportation will not be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!





Attendance Policy

ON THE DAY THE STUDENT IS ABSENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL TO REPORT THE ABSENCE. You may leave a voice mail message at any time by calling (805) 289-1800, ext. 1002, replying to the Parent Square message or emailing Amada.Castaneda@venturausd.org at the attendance desk. Students may also bring a note to the attendance clerk on the day they return to school between 8:30 and 8:50 a.m. to the attendance clerk. The note must include the student's first and last name, the date and reason for absence, and parent signature.

STUDENTS OR PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE THREE DAYS TO CLEAR ANY ABSENCE

Absences and tardies may impact the student's grades. Excessive absences and tardies will result in parent notification and/or other consequences.

Closed Campus/Leaving School Grounds

Balboa has a closed campus policy. Students may not leave the campus between the time they arrive in the morning and the time they are dismissed in the afternoon. Any exceptions must be cleared through the attendance office ahead of time. This rule still applies on shortened days, dances after school, etc. Once you leave campus you cannot come back to catch a bus, attend a dance, or participate in any other activity.

If it is necessary for students to leave campus for doctor's appointments, etc., a parent may call in the morning or send a note with their child containing pertinent information, dated and signed by a parent, to the Attendance Assistant before school to obtain an off-grounds pass. Only adults on the student's emergency card may check the student out. Students must sign in with the Attendance Assistant before they leave school and when they return. A doctor's note is required after all doctor appointments to excuse an absence.

PARENTS MUST COME INTO THE OFFICE AND CHECK OUT THEIR CHILD. STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SIGN THEMSELVES OUT OR WAIT OUTSIDE FOR A PARENT TO DRIVE UP.

Make-Up Work/Buddy System

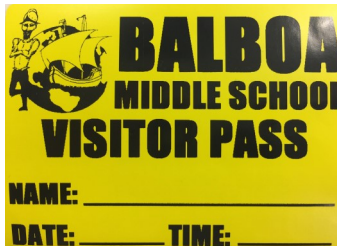
Students may want to choose a buddy who has assignments written down. Students, choose your buddy carefully; you can return the favor when they are out. **Homework cannot be requested from the office until after the third day of absence. Once requested, it may take 24 hours to be available.** We encourage you to contact teachers by e-mail and/or check online to see if homework is posted by individual teachers.

Visitors' Policy

It is a well known fact that when families, educators and communities work together, students get a high quality education. We encourage everyone — families, community agencies, colleges — to make education a top priority and visit our school. When you come to our school, please help us ensure the safety of our students and staff by observing the following:

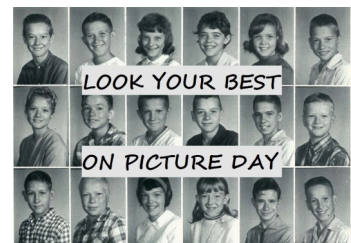
During school hours the campus is restricted to students and staff. All visitors MUST report to the main office.

Violators are subject to a fine (P.C. 6276).



Yearbook Picture Day

**Thursday,
September 2, 2021**





School Site Council 2021/2022

August 24, 2021

Dear Parents,

Every year our School Site Council (SSC) meets to evaluate, revise and monitor our school's School Plan for Student Achievement and site budgets. Our council is composed of a minimum of 10 members, with five of these members being parents, students and/or community members. The term of office is two years and this school year we have **one position** to fill. The process for filling this position requires parents to elect a parent and/or community member and for school staff to elect staff members.

Please consider taking part in our School Site Council nomination process. Meetings are held on Tuesdays after school and there are up to six meetings per year. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, please email our School Support Secretary at lisa.urwick@venturaedu.org by Friday, September 3, 2021. Election of School Site Council members will take place as part of our Back to School Night (9/8/2021).

Thank You,

Carlos Covarrubias
Principal, Balboa Middle School



Consejo del Plantel Escolar 2021/2022

24 de agosto, 2021

Estimados Padres,

Cada año nuestro Consejo del Plantel Escolar (SSC) se reúne para evaluar, desarrollar y supervisar el plan escolar (Single Plan for Student Achievement) y los presupuestos de nuestra escuela. Nuestro consejo está compuesto de un mínimo de 10 miembros, con cinco de estos miembros siendo padres/madres, estudiantes y/o miembros de la comunidad. El término del puesto es dos años y este año escolar tenemos **dos puesto** que llenar. El proceso para llenar estos puestos requiere que padres elijan a padres y/o miembro de la comunidad y que facultad escolar elija a miembros de la facultad.

Les pido que tomen parte en nuestro proceso de nominación del Consejo del Plantel Escolar. Las juntas se llevarán a cabo en día martes y habrá por lo menos 6 juntas durante el año. Si está interesada/o en nominarse o en nominar a alguien, favor de darle a saber a nuestra Secretaria de Apoyo Escolar a través de correo electrónico al lisa.urwick@venturaedu.org antes del viernes, 3 de septiembre. La elección de miembros para el Consejo del Plantel Escolar se llevará a cabo como parte de Nuestra Noche de Regreso a Clases (9/8/2021).

Gracias,

Carlos Covarrubias
Director, Balboa Middle School

ID CARDS

Temporary ID cards will be issued to students the first day of school.

Your card will be used in the cafeteria and in the library. At the beginning of the year, the lines are long and having your ID card will help to speed up the process.

Permanent ID cards will be issued during picture day. Replacement cards are \$5.00 and available in the library.



From the Library...

- The library is open to students at 8:30 a.m., nutrition break, lunch and after school until at least 3:15 p.m. (2:00 p.m. on Fridays).
- There are over 9,000 books, 19 Windows and 6 Raspberry Pi computers, and a 3D printer available.
- Accelerated Reader quizzes may be taken in the library before school, during lunch, after school and during class if a teacher sends a student with a library pass to take a quiz.
- The Destiny Library Catalog and Library Research Links are available on the Library website (<http://library.venturausd.org>). Make sure you choose "Balboa Middle School" OR on the school website, <http://www.balboamiddleschool.org> under the "Student" tab.
- Textbooks average \$75 per book and students are responsible for damage to their books. Textbooks must be covered at all times and no liquids should be kept in backpacks or lockers. Students may not use adhesive or fabric book covers. Brown grocery bags work best. Encourage your child to use the locker provided by the school.
- 6th graders will be given an information sheet about the library and Accelerated Reader during their library orientation class. The information sheet should be signed by you and placed in their binder.
- If you have any further questions, please call or email.
- Parents, the library needs volunteers to help shelve books and help with book repairs. Any time you have available will be appreciated!



Mr. Cromie, Library Media Teacher
289-1800, ext. 2019
michael.cromie@venturausd.org

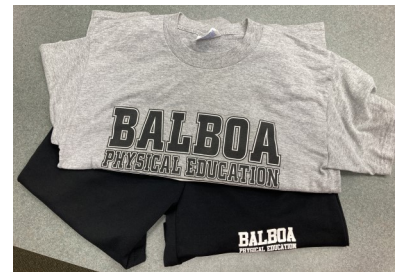
Information about Physical Education...

Physical Education classes sometimes raise unique issues. Here are some of our expectations:

- Physical Education is a class just like any other class.
- Students are required to attend every day with the appropriate uniform.
- **There is no "rest" P.E.** We honor short-term notes from parents requesting limited activity for health reasons. A note, however, does not exclude a

student from the class. We expect the student to report to class, dressed in a P.E. uniform, and participate as much as possible. For longer restrictions, three (3) or more days, we require that you obtain a doctor's note. Please have the doctor indicate the kind of activities the student can accomplish safely. A doctor's note should not be a blanket excuse from P.E., but rather a prescription for possible activities.

- Due to safety concerns, no jewelry is allowed to be worn during P.E. class. This includes newly pierced earrings.



P.E. Clothes Sales

Balboa's P.E. uniform consists of black shorts and a gray T-shirt. The cost is \$20 for the set.

P.E. clothes will be sold at school during your child's P.E. class and at orientation for new students.

Cash or checks accepted.
Checks should be made out to
Balboa Middle School.

Technology Services Helplines

VUSD has also implemented a helpline for families to assist with questions about devices, Wi-Fi, Q Connect, etc. Please choose one way to reach out to them (either by email or phone). Please leave your first and last name, a description of the problem/question and a call back number or email address where you can be reached.

Family/Student Helpline - (805) 641-5000 x1450 or yusdparenthelp@venturausd.org. The VUSD Call Center can also assist families with questions about Canvas, Google Classroom, etc. They are open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. English: (805) 641-4500, x1380 and Espanol: (805) 641-5000, x1390.



Immunization Rule for School

LAW AB354 says that all 7th –12th grade students must provide proof of a T-dap booster (whooping cough) before starting school on August 25, 2021.

If your child has already received a T-dap vaccine or receives one during summer, please bring a copy of your original record to the front office.

**If you have any questions
please call: (805) 641-5000 ext. 1136**

Reminder to All Balboa Parents

If your child is going to take any medication during school hours for the next school year, please complete the Medication Authorization Form in the office. Doing so before school starts should allow you plenty of time to see your physician and prepare appropriate paper work for our Health Office. Please send the paper and the medication with your student to the Health Office on the first day of the school year.



Due to an inability to verify callers on the phone, messages for students should be delivered

to the office in person. If parents come in and drop something off or bring in a message, we will do our best to deliver it. Middle school is a great time for students to learn to be responsible for themselves and for remembering all items **BEFORE** they leave home for the day.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Students are not allowed to use cell phones while on the Balboa campus, unless approved to do so by a staff member, teacher or administrator. Students should not call or text parents to be picked up early. Any student who is not feeling well during school hours needs to tell their teacher immediately who will send them to the Health Office.



DRESS CODE POLICY

Each school shall allow students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day. (Education Code 35183.5)

In addition, the following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities:

- Shoes must be worn at all times. Sandals must have heel straps. Flip flops, backless shoes, sandals or slippers are not allowed.
- Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, gym bags, water bottles, etc.) shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, which bear drug, alcohol or tobacco company advertising, promotions and likenesses, or which advocate racial, ethnic, religious or any other kind of prejudice.
- Hats, caps and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors. When a cap is worn, it needs to have the bill protecting the face from the sun.
- Clothes shall conceal undergarments at all times. See-through fabrics, halter tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops, bare midriffs and skirts shorter than mid-thigh and shorts with less than 2 inches of a seam are not allowed.

- Your gym shorts may not be worn in classes other than Physical Education.

Coaches, clubs and teachers may impose more specific dress requirements to accommodate the special needs of certain sports activities and/or classes. (cf. District board Policy 3260 – Fees and Charges)

The principal and staff at each school may establish reasonable dress and grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities.

