



La Cañada Elementary School

4540 Encinas Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

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Wendy Sinnette, Superintendent

Emily Blaney, Principal

August 1, 2019

Dear La Cañada Elementary Families,

I hope you had a relaxing and happy summer. The LCE staff has been preparing all summer to be surrounded by students again. **The first day of school is Thursday, August 15**, and I want to share some important news for the upcoming school year.

New Staff Members

We have three new staff members joining our LCE family this year. Annie Mergenthaler will be our new Physical Education teacher. Ms. Mergenthaler will bring a lot of energy and some great ideas to our PE program! We added a third grade class to accommodate for the large number of students in that grade level, and Linett Arias will be teaching that class. Ms. Arias taught at Palm Crest last year and has a wealth of experience from Glendale Unified. Finally, Ms. Billie Melillo was hired last year as the LCE Librarian. Ms. Melillo will be a familiar face to many as community member and volunteer. We are fortunate to have all three of these professionals as part of our LCE Family.

I'd also like to announce the hiring of three faculty members who will be working with some of our students throughout the school year. Christy Suh will be with us one day each week as our school psychologist. Ms. Suh will join Terry Crowe, our current psychologist, and the rest of our Special Education team. She will also be working at Palm Crest. Jordan Barrett will be the new drama teacher, taking over for Katelyn Fike. Katelyn is pursuing her career after completing her Masters degree, and we wish her the best. Hilary Gregg, GATE teacher, is taking a year's leave of absence, and Adrianna Glazener will be filling that position. GATE classes are offered to qualifying 4th - 6th graders. Drama is offered to all 4th - 6th graders in the 3rd trimester.

Our amazing support staff will include some new faces this year, too. We were sad to say good-bye to some of them, but we are happy that they are pursuing their goals. You'll see some new faces on our playground, in our carlines, and in our classrooms.

There will be some team-teaching this year in our upper grades. In 5th grade, students will either have two teachers or three. Mrs. Drange teams with both Mrs. Fuelling and Mrs. Franz and will teach Math for all three fifth grade classes. In 6th grade, Mrs. Fungo and Mrs. Redecker are teaming, and Ms. Schwartz and Ms. Schour are teaming. The rest of the grade levels remain self-contained.

Class Sizes

I am excited to share with you that our class sizes remain small, ranging from 20 - 22 students in grades TK - 3rd grade and 28 - 30 students in grades 4th - 6th. This is a result of all of your donations to our fabulous Educational Foundation, which continues to fund our Drama, Visual Arts, Music, and Spanish programs. Thank you!

Online Registration

Don't forget to complete the online registration process as soon as you receive the email from the District office. Current families use an email address to log into AERIES, and new families received directions via email from the LCUSD Technology Department in July. **Your student's registration will not be complete until you have finished the data**

confirmation process online in the Aeries Parent Portal, printed the “Emergency Form,” and turned in the signed “Emergency Form” to your child’s teacher on the first day of school, August 15, 2019. If you run into any glitches, you can meet the tech team at the high school IRC, 4463 Oak Grove Drive on the following dates: 7/29 from 12pm-4pm; 8/8 from 8am-4pm; 8/9 from 8am-5pm. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with our online registration process.

Attendance

As always, we need students to come to school on time (8:10 a.m. for AM TK/Kinder, Early Birds, and 4th - 6th graders; 11:20 a.m. for PM TK/Kinder; 9:10 a.m. for Late Birds). Our teachers take attendance within the first 5 minutes of the school day, and anyone arriving afterwards will be marked tardy. Remember, if your child has a fever, is vomiting, or has diarrhea, do not send him/her to school. If your child is just feeling slightly under the weather, let your child’s teacher know to monitor them closely, and we will call you if he/she needs to be picked up.

Lunch Accounts

The price for lunch remains at \$3.50. You will find the lunch menu and pre-pay option information on the District website, www.lcusd.net under the Food Services tab on the right. Parents are able to set up email notifications as to when your child’s lunch account is running low on funds. The function of the pre-pay system helps with school/home communication throughout the year and is very convenient for families.

Student Drop Off - Pick Up

Both sides of campus (Encinas Dr. and La Cañada Blvd.) are open for early morning drop off and end of day pick up. Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students are usually dropped off on the Encinas side unless they have an older sibling to walk them from La Cañada Blvd. The La Cañada Blvd. entry is locked from 8:15 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Remember that you can use both Lasheart and Loma Vista to enter Salisbury to turn onto Encinas - just pay attention to the four-way stop sign, pedestrian walkways, and the No U-Turn signs. View our carline procedures [here](#).

Security

In order to help us maintain a safe campus, please do not linger on campus or sit outside the classrooms to wait for your child. If you are on campus to volunteer, please sign in to receive a visitor sticker. If you are not wearing a sticker and are seen on campus, a staff member will direct you to the office. Teachers have signs posted on their classroom doors reminding you to sign in, as well. As you know, we are getting new fencing and gates to secure the campus during the school day. Once the front fence/gates are installed, which should be very soon, all visitors to campus will need to sign in at the office and use a single point of entry to get onto campus. When everything is in place, I will share more information about these new protocols.

Bell Schedules

The bell schedules will remain the same this year.

- TK/K students: Parents will receive the AM/PM bell schedules at the TK/K Back to School Night on Aug. 13.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students:
 - 1st day of school = 8:10 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.
 - Aug. 16 - September 3:
 - Students attend every day 9:10 - 2:50 p.m. **AND**
 - One other day as indicated on the assessment appointment letter that will be sent home by the classroom teacher on the 1st day of school.
 - Sept. 3 = Early Bird/Late Bird bell schedule begins.
- 4th - 6th grade: Students attend all day 8:10 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. every day, beginning Aug. 15.

PTA

I’d like to thank outgoing PTA President Karyn Perez for her service for the past two years, and I’d like you to help me welcome Brooke Niemiec as our new PTA President. Please join Brooke, the rest of the PTA Executive Board members,

and me at the first PTA meeting at 8:15 a.m. on Aug. 15 to review important information about school-wide activities and volunteer opportunities. On the first day of school, you will find copies of our campus map to help you find your child's classroom and navigate the campus.

Here are a few important dates for your calendars:

July 17	12:00 p.m.	AERIES opened for parents to update student information and complete beginning of the year forms
August 2		Teacher Placement postcards mailed to TK and Kindergarten families
August 12		New Family Social (for all new families - parents and students)
August 13		Kindergarten Back to School Night (AM = 5:45 p.m.; PM = 7:00 p.m.)
August 13	5:00 p.m.	Finalized Teacher Assignments in grades 1 - 6 available for parents to view in AERIES
August 15		1 st day of school (8:10 for AM TK, Kinder, 1st - 6th; 11:20 for PM TK and Kinder)
August 15	8:15 a.m.	PTA meeting in the Cafeteria
August 23	5:30 p.m.	LCE Back to School Picnic

Please feel free to contact me any time. You can reach me by email at eblaney@lcsd.net. Our website is www.lcelions.net. You can follow LCE on social media, and be sure to follow the PTA website:

[Twitter: @lcelions](https://twitter.com/lcelions)

[Instagram: @lceblaney](https://www.instagram.com/lceblaney)

<http://lcepta.ourschoolpages.com>

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer. We'll see you soon!

Sincerely,



Emily Blaney
Principal, La Cañada Elementary
La Cañada Unified School District
La Cañada, California