



Carmichael Campus
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Dear Carmichael Parents,

We have now completed our first full week of school. Students and staff are adjusting well to our new, larger campus. I would like to give you a facility update and tell you what is happening at the Carmichael Campus.

We are all happy to see the bathrooms in the 500 wing finished! Work has already begun on the 300 wing bathrooms, so we will eventually have two sets of restrooms for the students.

The recess play equipment and additional lunch tables arrived this week. Thank you, Gary (our Executive Director) and the middle school students for putting them together for us! While the children are given the choice of eating at the tables, many of them are choosing to sit picnic style.

Gary is working with the Parks Department on the purchase and installation of a playground structure. Gary and I will keep you updated on this as information becomes available. Meanwhile, the children are enjoying the large field. We will also be utilizing the small gymnasium, and teachers have begun scheduling the gym for PE. Gary has negotiated the use of the large gym by CMP for Monday afternoons/evenings.

Renovation work has begun in the 400 wing classrooms. Once these rooms are fully renovated, the temporary classrooms will relocate to the new and improved 400 wing. Meanwhile, the teachers have made the temporary rooms look amazing!

A mesh screen has arrived that will be installed over the large locked gate between the 200 and 300 wings providing a visual barrier. Gary and I have also requested a similar visual screen be placed over the small gate between the 300 wing and the 800 office building, since that hallway outside the classroom area has public access.

I would like to inform all of you that I observed the Laureate boys and staff several times before we moved forward on the decision to come to La Sierra. A CMP Board member and I researched the Laureate program. At no time are these boys unsupervised. Even when using their own restroom, a staff person stands outside the door and then radios to the classroom staff that the student is coming back inside the building to their classroom. Their ratio of staff to students is very high. The students are brought by van from foster and group homes. They have displayed behaviors that prohibit them from attending a traditional high school. The special attention given to these boys helps them so they are able to assimilate back to a regular school environment. The La Sierra and Parks Department staff informed Gary and me that in the 20+ years the Laureate school has been on the site, there have been no incidents.

We have observed small groups of their students being escorted past our office to their counselors at the end of the hallway in the 800 wing. I have communicated through the La Sierra director at times when I have seen or been told that the Laureate students have walked through

that area when our students are in the area. CMP's presence is requiring the Laureate Program to adjust processes since our arrival at La Sierra. Also, I have worked out an articulated schedule with the La Sierra director to ensure separation of the programs.

The other program on the site is the California Community Collaborative School housed in five classrooms of the east 600 wing. The majority of these students are of Russian decent and the school has staff trained in English Language Development. I have been asked if their parents are live scanned. CMP requires that any of our parents or enrichment teachers working with our students be live scan fingerprinted. We do not ask that every one of our parents do this, so nor would we require this of parents from this charter. They play in front of their classrooms and also have field use time in the schedule. They are currently a small charter of K through 8th graders. I have spoken with their principal and vice principal several times about coordinating our loops. Their parents have been asked not to park in the driveway and walk in to get their children. Once again, we have come into their space and are asking that they adjust their routines. Please be patient as both schools communicate and "work out the bugs."

Orchestrating this move and the renovations was a huge task. Our first priority was, of course, the classrooms. The rooms are beautiful, and it is such a joy to walk into each one and see the smiling faces of the children working with their teachers. We have many, many plans for continued improvements to the site to make it a glorious place for our campus community.

Starting in October of last year, our CAC (Campus Advisory Council) began the dialog of moving to another, larger site. The different options were discussed in subsequent CAC meetings and in newsletters. Gary and I discussed over the course of time various options for the Carmichael Campus which we had hoped to share at community meetings. When we unexpectedly learned about the significant rent increase, the previous plans became obsolete, and Gary re-entered negotiations with the Parks Department for the relocation of the entire school to La Sierra. While this move was discussed at open session of the CMP Board meetings, and letters were mailed home to inform families of the decision, we apologize, for not hosting a community meeting during the summer.

If you have additional questions and/or would like to learn more about charters and facilities, including future plans for the site, please attend the Facility Presentation this Thursday, September 1st, beginning at 6:00, in the 700 West Gibbons room. The event will include a facilities presentation, followed by a questions and answer period. We hope to see you there.

As we move forward, I look forward to your support. Together we can make a difference and create the best Montessori educational program for the children of the Carmichael Campus.

Sincerely,

Kim Aldridge
Principal