

I want to welcome you to the 2015-2016 school year and to our Graves Middle School website. We were recognized as a California Gold Ribbon School and a Title I Academic Achievement School, so we take great pride in our school and our students. At GMS we strive to prepare our students for high school and then college or a career track. In doing so, we have a great balance of strong core classes alongside fun and exciting elective classes and programs. We offer additional periods of math and language arts classes for those students who need extra academic support. Also, we are diligent about maintaining a safe and orderly campus where students feel secure and respected.

GMS is a campus where students and adults get along and enjoy learning together. There is a pervasive feel of love and respect for students and for the learning process at GMS. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers serve to transition students from the elementary school model of one teacher to a “single subject” high school model that will effectively prepare them for high school and beyond. We also offer a strong program for our GATE and EL students. We offer Honors/Academy classes and fieldtrips and activities to help our students meet their personal and academic potential. We offer AVID Excel classes for our English Learners and will continue to support all of our English Learners so they can achieve academic success. We also have an outstanding special ed. program that serves the needs of all students in a fair and caring manner.

Furthermore, we have a strong band program that features two orchestra classes. Our band and orchestra students are taught to read musical notes so our musicians are truly being prepared to shine at the high school level and beyond. Moreover, we have strong AVID and STEM programs that are preparing our students for high school and college. Our traditional AVID program received excellent Site Certification and we are on the path to becoming an AVID National Demonstration Site. Additionally, we use the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum in our STEM program. All 7<sup>th</sup> graders are taking a technology class this year, we have four awesome computer labs, we have three iPad carts, we are continuing our iPad 1-1 program in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and we have two classes of 7<sup>th</sup> graders using Chromebooks and Google Classroom! This gives us a 2:1 device-to-student ratio for our kids and they are using a ton of technology.

We are also proud of our intramural sports program at GMS. We offer co-ed football and volleyball, boys’ and girls’ basketball, boys’ and girls’ soccer, and co-ed track and field. Our students find that these are wonderful outlets for their athletic endeavors and for some social interaction as well. Our ASB (student body government) conducts many dances and other fun activities for our students to enjoy and to build positive school spirit. Our drama program allows for our kids to act on their creative side. From the moment you walk on our campus you will feel the difference at Graves Middle School. The TEAM at Graves is committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure success for every student. We invite you to come to GMS and experience the difference!