



San José
Unified
School District

August 5, 2017

Dear Los Alamitos Families,

Los Alamitos Elementary
6130 Silberman Drive
San José, CA 95120
408.535.6297

The 2017-18 school year is upon us and I am very excited to welcome you back! I hope everyone enjoyed the summer recess and are ready and looking forward to another school year. Please join me in welcoming the Los Alamitos Class of 2024 and 2025 to kindergarten and transitional kindergarten, as well as new students in other grades, as our newest addition to the Los Alamitos School family. We believe that through our “halls” walk the world’s greatest students and staff. We believe we have the best parents in the world, who provide the necessary support we need to be a great school.

I have been transitioning from summer habits to new school year actions. As I gear up for 2017-2018, I am reminded of the importance of relaxing and rejuvenating when away from school. I was fortunate to do some traveling this summer. During this time, I was able to meet interesting people from different countries. I also took some time to read! Russka by Edward Rutherford provided me with some background to Russia’s history, building my schema for my travels in St. Petersburg and the surrounding Baltic countries. I also read Teacher Leadership by Charlotte Danielson and Multipliers by Liz Wiseman. . These books focus on the leadership capability in all of us and how to bring it out in people. We have a talented school community and activating the knowledge and leadership of our staff, students and community only makes us stronger. I know our staff and I look forward to hearing about your summer adventures and a few things that you might have had the opportunity to read!

sjusd.org

Moving forward, this year the staff at Los Alamitos is excited to transition to work on implementing the revised San Jose Unified Strategic Plan, and is committed to the SJUSD Vision of “Preparing today’s students to be the thinkers, leaders, and creators of tomorrow”. This year, we will continue our implementation of Common Core State Standards for all grade levels.

Our focus on writing using Lucy Calkins will continue as well as our focus on Literacy: Guided Reading and Close Reading Strategies. As a school, we will be looking at problem solving and critical thinking as students apply strategies they are learning in math.

Please join me in welcoming new staff members, Mr. Lozano, in fifth grade and Mrs. Bukhari as school psychologist. Also, changing grades is Mr. Dinh (3rd to 4th)

Again, welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I am looking forward to another wonderful school year where we create a strong love for learning, a fun and safe environment for all students to thrive and a caring community that puts all students first. I will see you on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 16th at 8:50 am.

Now for some nuts and bolts information:

Please read all the following information in this letter carefully.

School office

The school office re-opened on Monday, August 7th. Office hours are 8:30am-4:30pm. School Website- For comprehensive information got to [Http://www.sjUSD.org/losalamitos/](http://www.sjUSD.org/losalamitos/)

Classroom Assignments:

We do not accept teacher and friend-in-class requests, however we will accept letters or emails if you would like to share any special needs your child may have that we are not aware of. You should also have shared any concerns with last year's teacher as we are committed to meeting the needs of all our students and we are very thoughtful in the process of creating new classes for the next school year. As enrollments settle over the first week or two of school, we will not make any classroom adjustments until after that time if possible. Our school is very full and we have students waiting to get into Los Alamitos, therefore waitlist students' placement is a priority. If you would like to share any information about this year's placement, you may share it via the process above. **We will only respond to requests if a change is going to be made.** Thank you for your understanding.

Uniforms Uniform Sale (gently used clothing) will be on Monday, August 14th and Tuesday the 15th from 4pm to 6pm in the cafeteria.

Enrollment and Attendance:

In order to effectively plan grouping and staffing, we must have an accurate enrollment count. Please notify the school office if your child will not be attending Los Alamitos on the first day. In addition, students who have been absent the first day of school will be dropped, unless the parent has contacted the school. If your child will be attending another school, please inform the Los Alamitos office at 408-535-6297 so that your child can be dropped from our rosters.

First Day of School and Daily Schedule

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 16, 2017. Campus supervision begins at 8:35am. Students may not be dropped off prior to that time. The daily schedule is as follows: First 8 days for Kindergarten & TK- 8:50 AM – 12:59 pm (First 8 days are minimum days for K & TK only.)

Regular Schedule for all other grades is

1st/2nd/3rd 8:50AM – 2:58PM

4th/5th 8:50AM- 3:05PM

Early Out Tuesdays – STARTS AUGUST 22nd

1st/2nd/3rd 8:50AM – 1:56PM

4th/5th 8:50AM- 2:04PM

Afterschool Dismissal

School is finished at dismissal. District policy states that all students not in afterschool activities **MUST** leave school promptly at dismissal. **At no time should a child be told to wait, unsupervised on the play structure until someone comes to pick them up. If you are going to be late picking your child up, please notify the school office or your child's teacher. Children may wait by the flagpole or in the front office if you are running late.** Students are dismissed between 1:58-2:00 PM on Early Out Tuesdays, and **may not play on the blacktop or play structures on this day. On Tuesday's, students must also leave campus when dismissed and picked up.**

Tardies and Absences

Please help your child attend school on time each and every day! That means they must be on campus when the bell rings. All late students must report to the front office to obtain a tardy pass prior to going to class. If your child will be absent, please call the school by 9 am. Since Los Alamitos only receives CA State ADA money when students are actually in school, and we know the value of consistent school attendance; we ask that your schedule family vacations during school breaks. (Which we have about every 6 weeks) In addition, whenever possible, please schedule appointments before school, or on non-school days.

Lunch/Snack

Transitional Kindergarteners and Kindergarteners, only, will start eating lunch at school on August 28th. Any students on a lunch plan may get a lunch in the cafeteria at 12:38 but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Please be certain that your child arrives to school with lunch money (cash or money on the account) or a sack lunch from home each day. Students should also bring a nourishing snack to eat during morning recesses.

Food Services (for hot lunches) going cashless for 2017-2018

Beginning in the Fall of 2017, San José Unified Food Services will introduce “cashless” breakfast and lunch lines in all of our schools. Our goal is to move to a completely cashless system by January 2018. We encourage you to use the **MySchoolBucks** online prepayment system to pay for your student’s meals.

Using **MySchoolBucks** is a safe, simple, and secure way to make payments to your student’s meals account. There is no additional cost to you. Funds are available the same day you deposit them. As an added incentive, *for every 10 meals you purchase, you will receive a bonus meal!*

MySchoolBucks has a number of additional benefits to you, your student, and the school:

- *Time savings* – Meal lines will move faster, giving students more time to eat, play, and relax during breaks from class.
- *Safety* – Your student’s meal money will be kept in a secure place, with no risk of misplaced cash or checks.
- *Peace of mind* – You can set your account to send you automatic reminders when the balance is low, and even make automated payments when the account reaches a certain limit. You’ll also know that the money is being used only for school meals.

We understand this transition may cause an inconvenience. That’s why you will still be able to prepay for meals with cash or check, if needed. Here’s how:

- *Elementary students (Grades TK-5)* – You may bring money to the school office or send it with your student to give to their teacher. Please put the cash or check in an envelope that is clearly marked with the following information:

- Student name
- Student ID number
- Amount enclosed
- Check number (Please make checks payable to: “SJUSD Food Services”)
- Date of payment

You can also pick up a meal envelope at your school office. *Please note that no cash or checks will be accepted on the meal line.*

- *Secondary students (Grades 6-12)* – There will be one line designated at each school site to accept both prepayments and cash.

We look forward to serving your student’s meal needs this year. If you have any questions or need help setting up a MySchoolBucks account, please call us at (408) 535-6021.

District Nutrition Policy

SJUSD has a nutrition policy aimed at addressing the long-range health and eating habits of students. The Policy states that, "...classroom celebrations should occur after the last lunch period and are limited to no more than one per class, per month when non-nutritious foods are served". It also mentions that homemade goods are not allowed for treats or at class parties. Please keep this in mind when planning class celebrations with our staff this year. During Back-to-School-Night teachers will provide guidelines that will both address this policy and how they plan to celebrate special occasions. throughout the school year. The complete SJUSD Nutrition Policy is available to view on the district webpage.

Traffic Monitors and Lunch time Supervisors

Adult volunteers are needed to help monitor traffic safety during the first few weeks of school—at least until parents become accustomed to the routine. Los Alamitos also needs parents to help cafeteria and yard duty supervision during lunch recesses for one or more days per the school week. Please call the office if you are interested in this opportunity. There is absolutely no better way to demonstrate that you value education than volunteering your time and talents at Los Alamitos Elementary School. Please make it a personal goal to be an active part of Los Alamitos Community in the classroom and the PTA.

Volunteers

Important - Time-Critical Los Alamitos Volunteer Process Reminder: Volunteer screening is an essential SJUSD school safety process. A procedure to register the many committed Los Alamitos volunteers has been in place for several years. This process involves all campus, and classroom volunteers, new and returning, Volunteers must fill out either the new or returning form every year.

**2017-2018 NEW and RETURNING VOLUNTEERS, we are going paperless!
Complete and submit your form electronically - copy and paste this URL:**

go.sjUSD.org/losalamitosvolunteers

No one will be permitted to volunteer until they have completed a valid volunteer application.

Back-To-School Night

Parents and Guardians please join the staff on Tuesday August 22nd to meet your student's teacher and learn about the specific grade level program.

Student information and Release Form

In addition to the information provided by the SJUSD Parent Portal, we ask that you fill out the Emergency Student Information & Release Form. This form will go home with your child the first Friday of school. This form often gives up up-to-date information and will be used to contact parents/release students in the event of a natural disaster or other school wide emergency.

I hope you all had a great summer. I look forward to seeing you on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 16th at 8:50 am on the pavement for the Flag Salute.

It is a great time to be a Lion!

Warmly,

Mr. Rousseau