



MENLO PARK

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A brief history of the growth (right side of line) and funding (left side of line) of our district.

Historically in CA, school districts determined their budgets and then taxed constituents accordingly.



First area school, located on Oak Grove near Crane St.



Central School, circa 1915.



Laurel School Upper Campus, completed Fall 2016

Proposition 13 passes changing the way schools are funded in California. Immediately a full third of school funding evaporated.

% of local property tax that school districts receive is "frozen" per Prop 13, causing MPCSD's % to be perpetually lower than neighboring districts. Today property taxes make up nearly two thirds of district budget.

Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation is formed to raise money for MPCSD to help fill the gap between state and property tax revenue and what the district actually spends to educate each child.

Voters approve a bond measure for facilities improvement and modernization.

MPCSD becomes Basic Aid, or Community Funded, paving the way for parcel taxes and philanthropic giving to make up 23% of district budget. Voters approve Measure A, a parcel tax for improved programs, teacher quality, and lower class size.

MPAEF establishes Endowment for Teaching Excellence. Voters approve two parcel tax measures to maintain smaller class size, and restore state funding cuts.

Voters approve Measure U, a bond to expand and modernize facilities.

Voters approve Measure W, a bond to construct Upper Laurel campus.

Voters approve Measure X to maintain quality teachers, reduced class sizes, and programs. Measure X expires in 2024.

Pre-1978

1880

MPCSD is organized to serve the communities of what would become MP, ATH, and EPA.

1892

Ravenswood City School District forms and includes portions of Menlo Park as far west as Middlefield Road.

1904

Neighbors in western Menlo Park form their own school district: Las Lomas.

1914

Central Elementary School opens on what is now the future site of Station 1300 development. San Mateo County Library operated a branch out of the school for many years.

1923

Town of Atherton incorporated.

1927

City of Menlo Park incorporated. Fremont School opens on Middle Avenue near Lyle Park.

1948

Encinal School opens serving grades K-8, later serving 3-5 in conjunction with Laurel serving grades K-2. Encinal now serves grades K-5.

1949

Hillview School opens serving grades K-8, then grades 5-8 in conjunction with Oak Knoll serving grades K-4.

1952

Oak Knoll School opens serving grades K-8, later K-4 in conjunction with Hillview. Oak Knoll now serves grades K-5.

1978

1959

Laurel School opens on Laurel Ave serving grades K-8 before moving to Edge Road and serving grades K-2 in conjunction with Encinal. Laurel now serves grades K-5 on two campuses.

1979

1963

Central School demolished after fire. It had been used as the District Office until that office moved to the Encinal site.

1982

1971

Fremont School closes and property leased to City of Menlo Park. In 1991 MPCSD allowed the City to take ownership of the property.



Hillview Student Council, circa 1970s.

1995

1983

Enrollment had declined to 1100 students in the district, causing voters to allow the Willows, Flood, Suburban Park, and Menlo Oaks neighborhoods to join MPCSD. The O'Connor School site is also transferred to MPCSD and leased out until 2014.

1989

Hillview becomes a stand alone middle school, the only MPCSD school to serve grades 6-8.

2000

2000

MPCSD enrollment is at 1950 students. A period of unprecedented and rapid growth begins, coinciding with the district's re-designation as Community Funded.



Students of today utilize collaboration, choice, flexibility, and technology to support learning.

2003

2002

MPCSD enrollment surpasses 2000 students, and the community values small class sizes and high quality teachers.

2006

2008

MPCSD enrollment reaches 2400 students with continued growth. School Board begins the the planning to re-open the O'Connor school site.

2013

2016

Enrollment peaks at 3000 students, having grown over 50% since 2000. Laurel School Upper Campus serving grades 3-5 opens on former O'Connor school site.

2017

2018

MPCSD preschool, The Early Learning Center, opens serving children ages 2.9-5 years old.