Whether you are new to our community, an empty nester, a parent, and/or a property owner, Menlo Park City School District values you. As one of a handful of community funded districts in the state, community is at the heart of all we do.

Our **Mission Statement** says it well:

We are a community working together to inspire high academic achievement among all students, serve their needs, challenge their minds, and enrich their lives, laying a foundation for success and participation in our democratic society and as citizens of the world.

At MPCSD, we are excited to be reimagining education as we know it, and designing the next-generation classroom experience. In this report, we share with you the highlights of our year. From our financial stewardship to student achievement to ways we lead and learn outside of the classroom, we hope you are proud of your world-class school district and the benefit it brings to our community.

### Our Core Values

- **Engagement**
  Curious, confident learners, and passionate teachers who revel in helping them, allow every child to become their best.

- **Innovation**
  Thinking creatively, taking initiative, and realizing that the world can be changed power continuous improvement in teaching and learning.

- **Leadership**
  Challenging themselves, standing up for what’s right, and serving others is how the adults of MPCSD lead students to do the same.

- **Partnership**
  A culture of inclusivity and a deep commitment to opportunity and success for every child are why we seek the strengths of our whole community.

- **Perseverance**
  Hard work, patience, and persistence yield excellence; by never giving up we achieve more than was thought possible.

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Superintendent Erik Burmeister regularly visits classrooms and engages with students.

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**JUNE 2018**
A Community Funded District

What does it mean to be community funded? Most school districts in California are primarily funded by the state, based on each districts’ average daily attendance. However, in areas with higher property taxes, where about 5% of California students are enrolled, school funding is almost exclusively generated from the local community and not tied to enrollment; the amount of revenue we receive remains the same no matter how many students come to the district.

MPCSD Funding Sources
Total Expenditures 2016-17: $47,378,847

What’s going on with enrollment? MPCSD continues to defy the decreasing enrollment trends of other local districts. Our enrollment is up 53% since 2000 and still growing, while our neighbors are seeing recent declines.

Our per pupil funding has historically been lower than our neighboring peer districts due to constraints created by Proposition 13. Because of local support, we are able to spend more than the California average. Yet we still spend significantly less per student than our neighboring high-achieving districts on each child’s education. MPCSD relies more heavily on community supported parcel taxes and philanthropic donations, in order to provide the same or better learning experience than our community funded neighbors. To learn more about our fund-raising partner, Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation, visit www.mpaef.org.

The district has 3 main priorities that drive our funding needs:

- **Providing a world-class, child-centered education.**
- **Attracting and retaining the best teachers.** Over 34% of teachers leaving in the past two years cite cost of living or commute as the reason.
- **Meeting our state-mandated retirement obligations.**

*Since 2013-14, the amount the district must legally pay into the state retirement plan, as a percent of each teacher’s salary, has risen over 50% in three years, and will rise another 52% by 2020-21. Teachers themselves are also required to pay an increased contribution. This demand on our budget is mandated and is not within our power to change.
Providing a World Class Education

The program and services MPCSD offers its students and families are child-centered, comprehensive, and data-informed. A student’s journey from kindergarten through eighth grade is thoughtfully designed to prepare them for the opportunities and challenges of high school and beyond. We grow compassionate, collaborative, and resourceful students by focusing on the goals of curriculum, achievement, language development, wellness, and parent engagement.

**Curriculum**
- Powerful curriculum aligned to state and national standards in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.
- PE, Art, Music, Library and middle school electives round out the rich and broad program.
- Vast resources for educators and encouragement to innovate learning.

**Achievement**
- Over 80% of students meet or exceed state standards in English Language Arts and Math.
- Accelerated achievement of those who are underperforming, including gains for English Learners.
- College Board AP test in Spanish Language and Culture offered at Hillview for students who have completed the Spanish Immersion program...with similar or better results than high school seniors who take the exam.
- Hillview students placed at the 67th California State Science & Engineering Fair.
- Explore more about our student achievement at caschooldashboard.org.

**Language Development**
- 25% increase in English Learners becoming English proficient from 2016-2018.
- MPCSD students speak at least 15 different home languages.
- Commitment to helping any child who began with us in kindergarten as an English Learner to be re-designated as English Proficient by the time they enter middle school.

**Student teacher ratio**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CA Average</th>
<th>MPCSD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>17.4</td>
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Our ratio 18% lower than state average

**Student Wellness**
- Focus on health and well-being.
- Safe, compassionate, well-balanced, bully-free school environments.
- Full time counselors and psychologists, a rarity in California public schools.
- Leader in restorative practices = less disruption and more cooperation on campus.

**Parent Engagement**
- Annual Parent Education Speaker Series featuring experts in child development and parenting issues (mpcsdspeakerseries.com).
- Parents volunteer 1000s of hours every year to help produce events like science fairs, cultural festivals, plays and concerts, the annual MPAEF auction, as well as volunteer with library, art, classroom projects, and the fully-staffed daily lunch service.
- Vibrant Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at every campus to support school priorities.
- Access to innovative apps SeeSaw and Learning Tree for parent-classroom communication.

**Awards**
Every school has received recognition!
- 13 CA Distinguished School Awards
- 2 CA Gold Ribbon School Awards
- 2 National Blue Ribbon School Awards
- 11 J. Russell Kent Awards
A Rich and Broad Program

As part of a well-rounded education, MPCSD provides many opportunities for arts exploration.

Our Music program incorporates global folk tales, traditional dance, Suzuki Strings, and Orff-Schulwerk instruction. Our talented students inspire the community with performances at retirement homes, professional sporting events, and San Francisco City Hall.

Every child in the district has the opportunity to be part of a Broadway show in our Drama program. Community plays a key role in building sets/props/lights and designing costumes.

The Visual Arts are alive and well. Our students’ art is on display at the Burgess Library, the Silicon Valley Animal Shelter, and the Children’s Discovery Museum in San Jose.

Innovating Student Services

MPCSD has innovated in the area of Special Education services while controlling costs. Highlights include:

- Offering every child the individual support they need to access the curriculum, while including all students in the social-emotional wellness of each school’s culture.
- Reorganizing services to better serve students. We developed a regionalized program that provides state of the art vertical programming for our students who are deaf or hard of hearing, Preschool through high school, at a lower cost than contracting with outside agencies.

Our Schools Build Community

Encinal Elementary School
195 Encinal Avenue, ATH
620 Students, Grades K-5
Growing successful learners for a changing, global society.

Laurel Elementary School
Grades K-2: 95 Edge Road, ATH
Grades 3-5: 275 Elliott Drive, MP
735 Students, Grades K-5
We are confident students, passionate teachers, and an involved community.

Oak Knoll Elementary School
1895 Oak Knoll Lane, MP
675 Students, Grades K-5
Every student an exemplary scholar, a valued friend, a courageous citizen.

Hillview Middle School
1100 Elder Avenue, MP
975 Students, Grades 6-8
Inspiring and empowering students to be resilient problem solvers, compassionate contributors, and lifelong learners.

To find out which elementary school serves your home address, search for “School Locator” on our website, www.mpcsd.org. All students in grades 6-8 attend Hillview Middle School.
i3

MPCSD’s climate of possibility has enabled us to become a model of how a public school district can design classrooms of the future. The i3 (imagine+inspire+innovate) initiative supports teachers who pioneer new ways for students to achieve and engage with school around five fundamental elements: learning personalization; competency-based learning and evidence-based grading; meaningful work; student wellness and agency; and collaboration for learning. Beginning in Fall 2018, some classrooms at each school will be part of i3. We look forward to stretching and learning as we pursue this design adventure.

PBL

Project Based Learning (PBL) is a powerful learning approach that uses real world issues to foster inquiry into students’ own questions, provide an authentic context for why students need to learn content and create a product, and give students extensive voice and choice in what that product is and how they’ll share their learning with others. This process taps into each child’s strengths, and results in highly engaged learners.

Early Learning Center Preschool

After years of dreaming how we might expand our services to bring quality education to our community’s youngest learners, MPCSD is launching its Early Learning Center preschool in August 2018. The ELC’s mission is to nurture young children’s curiosity, sense of wonder, belonging, and deep engagement with the world around them, preparing them to develop the critical skills needed to enter kindergarten and reach their full potential. For more information on this exciting new venture, visit district. mpcsd.org/earlylearning.

Our Staff, Here to Serve

MPCSD has an excellent professional staff to serve the needs of our students and community. We prioritize the hiring and retention of high quality educators and support personnel. Over half of our teachers have advanced degrees, and many have taken the extra step of becoming nationally board certified in their area of expertise. Unlike many California districts, we have full-time counselors and psychologists at every school. Our specialist teachers, for library, art, PE, and Special Education, are credentialed in their subjects and leaders in their fields. When our schools flourish, our entire community benefits.

202 Teachers, 108 with advanced degrees, 9 with National Board Certification
3 Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA) to support and elevate English Language Arts, Math & Science, Technology & Innovation throughout the district
27 Instructional Aides
16 Credentialed Administrators
5 Psychologists
5 Counselors
2 Nurses

MPCSD Board of Trustees
Terry Thygesen, President
David Ackerman, Vice President
Stacey Jones
Joan Lambert
Caroline Lucas

District Leaders
Erik Burmeister, Superintendent
Jammie Behrendt, Assistant Superintendent
Engage with Us

We value community input. We have many avenues for community conversation and partnership:

- **2 Community Input Sessions** with the School Board, one in the fall and one in the spring.
- Superintendent and Leadership Team presence at the Menlo Park Farmers Market monthly to say hello and answer any questions.
- **Annual Community Survey** requesting feedback. Last year 94% of responders said they would recommend MPCSD to a friend. We hope to continue to earn your trust.
- **School Board Committees**: Finance & Audit, Technology, and Bond Oversight. Community members with professional expertise in these fields serve to advise the Board.
- **Financial FAQ** to answer your questions about funding and budgets: district.mpcsd.org/FinancialFAQ

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Send us a note at hello@mpcsd.org

Twitter / Facebook @gompcsd

**Photo credits:** Jeff Chapman, Gina Hart Photography, Connie Tamaddon