

Venado Middle School Newsletter

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Events for August-September 2017

8/14	Registration for ACE Classes Begins
8/24	First Day of School for 7 th Graders (Minimum Day) - School Ends at 12:45 p.m.
8/25	First Day of School for 8 th Graders (Regular Day for Both Grades; Not a Late Start Day)
8/28	First Day EDPE "Zero period PE" Meets
9/01	First Late Start Friday - School is in session from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
9/01	First Black and Gold School Spirit Day
9/04	No School - Labor Day
9/07	Minimum Day: School Ends at 12:45 p.m.
9/07	Back to School Night, 6:00 p.m.
9/08	Makeup School Picture Day, 8:45 a.m., The Commons
9/08	Black and Gold School Spirit Day
9/12	ELAC Meeting, 3:15-4:15 p.m. in Room 113
9/15	Black and Gold School Spirit Day
9/20-9/27	School Site Council Parent Representative Elections via Electronic Ballot
9/22	Black and Gold School Spirit Day
9/25	School Site Council Student Representative Elections in Homeroom
9/29	Black and Gold School Spirit Day

A Message from the Principal

On behalf of the entire Venado staff, welcome to our new students and families, and welcome back to returning students and families. With the start of an exciting school year just a few days away, staff members are busy getting ready for your child's return to school. Please take a moment to review this newsletter as it contains important information about the opening of the school year, as well as information about various events at Venado during the months of August and September.

New Staff Members:

I am pleased to share that we have several new staff members joining the Venado team this year. Mr. Chris Kopczynski will be re-joining our staff. Mr. Kopczynski served Venado as an Education Specialist from 2006-2015. During this time, Mr. Kopczynski built a very strong reputation with the staff and the school community. He is passionate about working with, and supporting students receiving Special Education Services. Mr. Kopczynski earned his B.S. in Justice Studies from Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho and his M.S. in Special Education from Portland State University. We are thrilled to have him back.

We are also pleased to welcome Mr. Ryan Vande Wydeven to the Science Department. Mr. Vande Wydeven holds a B.S. in Kinesiology from Westmont College and earned his teaching credential from Concordia University. He completed his student teaching last year at University High School, where he is currently the head swim coach for the men's swim team. During the summer, Mr. Vande Wydeven is a head coach for the Irvine Swim League. He is an alumnus of Venado, and is excited to return as a teacher.

The newest addition to our English department is Ms. Shelby Matthews. Ms. Matthews received her B.A. in English and her teaching credential from California State University, Fullerton. She completed her student teaching last year at Irvine High School. An Orange County native, Ms. Matthews spends much of her free time exploring and taking advantage of O.C.'s wide array of outdoor activities and hikes. She is passionate and excited about teaching middle school English and is beyond happy to be joining the Venado team.

We are also pleased to announce that Mr. Chris Teel is our newest P.E. teacher. Mr. Teel holds a B.A. in Health from Springfield College, Massachusetts, and a M.A. in Education, Curriculum and Instruction, from NOVA Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He also has a Certificate in School Administration and Supervision from The University of Scranton in Pennsylvania, and a Single Subject Credential in Physical Education and Health Sciences. Mr. Teel has taught Health, Physical Education and Swimming for the past 10 years in New Jersey. He recently moved to Orange County and is very excited to meet new students, parents and staff members.

Ms. Erika Rojas will be joining our Math department. Ms. Rojas holds a B.A. in Business Administration from California State University, Fullerton and a M.A. in Teaching from UCI. She is an Orange County native and spends her free time visiting the beach with her dog, spending time with family and traveling. Ms. Rojas completed her student teaching last year at Thurston Middle School in Laguna Beach and loves the energy that middle school students bring to her math classes.

We are also pleased to welcome Mr. Edgar Estrada, our new Night Custodian. Mr. Estrada has an A.A. in Business from Santa Ana College, and hopes to one day pursue a higher degree. He is an Orange County native, a car enthusiast, and enjoys hiking.

Final Class Schedules:

The district office will be opening the Parent Portal for final class schedule viewing late in the day on Wednesday, August 23. Unlike the schedules that were distributed at our Re-registration events, this schedule will list periods, teacher names, and classroom numbers. Please print out the schedule and make sure your child has it on the first day of school. All students will also receive a copy of their final class schedule in Homeroom on their first day of school. Staff members will be available to assist students who show up that morning who don't know who their Homeroom teacher is this year. We will

be accepting schedule change requests if there is a program or placement change needed due to an error in placement; however, we are unable to take requests for class period, specific teacher or elective changes. The last day to submit a schedule change request is Tuesday, August 29. Schedule Change Request Forms are available in the front office.

First Day of School:

The first day of school for 7th graders this year is Thursday, August 24. This is a minimum day. School begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:45 p.m. Staff members and leadership students will be present in The Commons and hallways during passing periods to assist students in locating classes. A map of the school is provided on the back cover of the Student Planner. Eighth graders begin school on Friday, August 25, which is a regular day (this Friday is not a late start day). School begins at 8:30 a.m. that day and ends at 3:00 p.m. The first day of EDPE (“zero period PE”) will be on Monday, August 28. Students do not need to dress out into PE uniforms on this day. At the start of the school day on Thursday and Friday, all students will report to their Homeroom class. The first late start day of the year will be on Friday, September 1. Please see the Calendars/Schedules page of our website (www.venadoms.org) for our bell schedules for the 2017-2018 school year.

How to Be Involved:

As the school year begins, I encourage parents to actively monitor their children’s progress. Even though adolescents begin to seek greater levels of independence at this age, they still need your strong guidance and support. It’s important to know what your child’s assignments are in each class and when quizzes and tests will be administered, as well as class grades.

Prior to this school year, Venado teachers used a variety of tools to post assignments due dates, including Canvas, Google Classroom, Gradebooks on the Parent Portal, classroom whiteboards, etc. Last spring, our certificated staff members carefully considered the advantages and challenges of using one system as a school. After several months of collaboration, discussion and problem solving, I am proud to share that our staff members elected to use Canvas to post assignment due dates and quiz and test dates beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Canvas allows parents/guardians to see all of their child’s assignments in all classes on one calendar. It will no longer be necessary for parents to navigate and use different tools to obtain this information. Please see the Parents page of our website (www.venadoms.org) for the *Canvas Parent Account Guide* (this information is also provided on page VII of the Student Planner). There is also a Canvas Mobile App for Apple iOS and Android devices. Please see the *Canvas Parent Account Mobile App* document on this webpage for information about how to set up and use the App. Please give teachers sufficient time to post assignments, quiz and test dates at the beginning of the year. This information will be updated regularly by teachers throughout the school year.

Another way parents can monitor their child’s progress in each class is by viewing teacher gradebooks on the Parent Portal routinely throughout the year. Teacher gradebooks will be set up by teachers at the beginning of the school year. For instructions on how to view gradebooks on the Parent Portal, please visit the Parents page of our website (www.venadoms.org) for a *Quick Guide for Viewing Gradebooks on the Parent Portal*. This information is also on page VI of the Student Planner.

We are looking forward to working with your child and you, and to a great school year!

~ Luis Torres, Principal

Bell Schedules

Please click on this link to view the Regular, Minimum Day and Late Start Friday bell schedules at Venado Middle School:

[VMS Bell Schedules](#)

Please note that our Late Start Days are now on Fridays, and not Wednesdays this year. Also, passing periods will be 3 minutes in length this year.

School Calendar

Venado maintains an up-to-date school calendar of events on our website. Please click on this link to view the calendar:

[VMS School Calendar](#)

Did you miss Re-Registration?

Parents who did not complete Re-registration, should complete Part 1 of the process (online) and come into the main office to complete Part 2 at their earliest convenience. To view a copy of the Re-registration informational letter and the instructions, please click on the following link:

[Re-registration 2017-2018](#)

Thank you to all of the parents and staff members who volunteered at our annual Re-registration event on August 15 and the make-up event on August 17. This year we had approximately 100 parents, students and staff volunteers to help at the event, the majority of whom were parent volunteers. I am very grateful and appreciative of all the help and the strong support we have from our parent community and staff. I would like to extend a special thank you to our PTSA for providing lunch for parents, students and staff that worked the entire day. I would also like to thank our office and custodial teams for their efforts in planning and executing this organized event!

~ Luis Torres, Principal

DEAFinitely Cool

Venado is home to 21 Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students who live all over Orange County. Students come from as far north as La Habra, as far south as Laguna Niguel and everywhere in between, which can make for some very long bus rides. Each month, this portion of the newsletter will inform you about things happening within the DHH program, give some fun facts about Deaf Culture or American Sign Language, and provide an additional link to a short student made GIF file to teach a basic signed phrase. Because our DHH students are integrated within many aspects of Venado's community, American Sign Language (ASL) is also offered as an elective course and after school enrichment class for hearing students as a way to foster interaction amongst the hearing and deaf students on campus.

~ Janet Dicker, DHH teacher and Site Liaison

Black & Gold Spirit Day

To promote school spirit at Venado, spirit days are held throughout the year on Fridays. Students are encouraged to dress up to reflect each spirit day's theme. Every trimester, a competition is held between classrooms to determine which class has the best participation. At the end of the trimester, whichever class has the highest percentage of participation, wins a prize! The first spirit day is a Black and Gold day on Friday, September 1. Be prepared to display your finest school spirit and pride by dressing up in your best black and gold (yellow works too). Stay tuned for more info about fun dress up days!

~ Cory Adelman, ASB Leadership

PBIS Orientation Activities

Our students will take part in orientation activities during the first few weeks of school through Homeroom class. As a *Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports* (PBIS) school, it is important to teach the expected behaviors and define our Venado school culture from day one: Honest, On Time, Noble, On Task, Respectful and Responsible (HONOR). Students will learn to demonstrate appropriate positive behaviors throughout our campus, including in The Commons, Library, hallways, lunch area, restrooms, and classrooms. Positive behavior is acknowledged and shaped systematically through the use of HONOR Cards, weekly prize drawings, and other incentives. Students will also learn about ways to be academically and socially successful in middle school by going over the Student Handbook, learning organizational skills, and study tips. Time will also be spent teaching students our emergency procedures and learning about "Expect Respect." This program promotes respectful communication and interaction among students, and teaches students safe and prosocial ways of dealing with disrespect.

~ Shannon Van Dam, Assistant Principal

Back to School Night

Venado's Back to School Night (BTSN) this year is scheduled for Thursday, September 7 from 6:00-7:45 p.m. This day is a minimum day for students. Please plan on joining us for this informative night. The purpose of the evening is for parents to meet their child's teachers and hear about curriculum and classroom expectations. Because this is an evening intended for adults, and classroom space is limited, we ask that students not attend. A flyer with detailed information, including your child's schedule of classes and a map of our campus will be sent home with your child on Tuesday, September 5. Please bring this flyer with you to BTSN. If the flyer does not make it home for some reason, please report to the main office when you arrive at Venado, and we'll print out your child's schedule for you.

Parking is limited, so if you live close to the school, please consider walking. Parking is available in the parking lot in front of the school. You are also welcome to use Deerfield Elementary's parking lot. We have also obtained a parking variance from The City of Irvine, which allows people to park on the school-side of Deerfield starting at Doe Trail/Deer Creek and ending at Fawn Glenn/Deer Spring. We look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night!

~ Luis Torres, Principal

Make-up Picture Day

Any student who did not get his/her photo taken for school pictures, the yearbook, and photo ID card (all the same photo) at our Re-registration and Re-registration makeup events will have the opportunity to have a photo taken on Friday, September 8 (this is a late start day.) Students who do not get their pictures taken on the Re-registration or Make-up Picture Days will not have their photos featured in the school yearbook. To avoid interruption of the school day, students may report to The Commons as early as 8:45 a.m. to have their photos taken. If you wish to purchase school photographs, the flyer from South Coast Photography is available in the front office. There is also a link to South Coast on the left-hand side of our web page (www.Venadoms.org.)

~ Peggy Mariani, Administrative Assistant

ELAC Meeting

If you are the parent of an English Learner at Venado, we would like to invite you to attend the first *English Learner Advisory Committee* (ELAC) meeting of the school year. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12, from 3:15-4:15 p.m. in room 113. Topics to be discussed include important school policies and information about classroom instruction/strategies for English Learners. A survey will also be conducted in order to better provide parents the support they want and need. The *English Learner Advisory Committee* advises the principal and school staff regarding the school's program for English Learners. The ELAC also advises the *School Site Council* (SSC) on the development of the Single Plan for Student Achievement. ELAC meetings are also a great place for parents to connect, ask questions, and get important information regarding their student's education and how to better support them at home and prepare them for high school. If you have any additional questions, please contact our EL coordinator, Sherilyn Cammarato at (949) 936-6840 or SherilynCammarato@iusd.org.

~ Sherilyn Cammarato, EL Coordinator

School Site Council

Members of the *School Site Council* (SSC) participate in developing recommendations in matters pertaining to Venado and its educational program. The committee members plan and assist in implementing and evaluating the programs. Meetings are held 4 times per year, typically on the third Thursday of the month from 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Seventh grade students will be provided the opportunity to run for two Student Representative positions on the SSC. Applications may be picked up from the front office beginning Monday, September 11 and are due by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19. An election will be held in Homeroom on Monday, September 25.

Parents/guardians will also be provided the opportunity to run for a Parent Representative position on the SSC. Currently, we have two open positions for parents of 7th grade students. If you are interested in running for a position, please submit the School Site Council Interest Form. You may pick up this form from the Venado front office beginning on Monday, September 11. There will also be information sent home via email. The deadline for submitting the interest form is Tuesday, September 19 at 4:00 p.m. An election will take place online (electronic ballot) from Wednesday, September 20 until Wednesday, September 27.

If you have questions about Venado's School Site Council, please contact Mrs. Van Dam. Thank you for your interest in serving our school.

~ Shannon Van Dam, Assistant Principal

Afterschool Classroom Enrichment (ACE)

Afterschool Classroom Enrichment (ACE) is a program sponsored by the Irvine Public Schools Foundation (IPSF) in cooperation with the Irvine Unified School District. Classes are taught by IUSD teachers or professionals contracted by IPSF. Venado will be offering a variety of classes throughout the year. I will send out an email during the first week of school with detailed information. Registration for the fall classes (Homework Club, After-School Hoops, Math Counts, American Sign Language (ASL), Flag Football, VEX Robotics: BotSports, Jazz Band) began on Monday, August 14.

Please click on the following link for a detailed flyer:

[IPSF ACE Flyer Fall 2017](#)

~ Dawn Baranski, ACE Coordinator and Math Teacher

Venado Middle School PTSA

On behalf of the Venado PTSA, I would like to welcome you to the 2017-2018 Venado school year. If you have not already joined the Venado PTSA (membership is just \$15 per person), please do so by filling out the online membership form on the Venado site: <http://web.iusd.org/ve/parent-pta-info.html>

At this time, we are also looking for parents who wish to be involved. Currently we have 2 openings: we are in need of a *Reflections Chair* as well as a *Vice President of Ways and Means*. Activities for both positions mainly take place in the Fall. If interested, please contact Theresa Collins at theresa@campjames.com.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

~ Theresa Collins, 2017-2018 Venado PTSA President

An Update Regarding Test Scores

This past spring, students took part in the 2017 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). CAASPP consists of computerized Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics for students in grades 3-8 and 11. Students in grades 5, 8, and some students in high school also participated in a pilot for an online science assessment based on the Next Generation Science Standards. This science pilot was a 'test of the test' and not a test of student performance. As a result, no scores will be reported for the science pilot test this year.

In the next few weeks, your child's CAASPP score report will be mailed to your home. When looking at these reports it is important to keep in mind that these scores should be considered as just one of many measures of student learning. Remember, your child's teacher is always your best resource when it comes to information regarding your child's academic progress. For more information about statewide testing in IUSD, please visit iusd.org/statewide-testing.

IUSD Blended Learning Program

At this time, there are a limited number of openings for 8th grade students to take a world language course through the IUSD Blended Learning High School Program for the 17-18 school year. This is a great opportunity for your child to be introduced to a world language in the blended learning model. Language offerings for this year are: *French 1, Latin 1, Spanish 1, Korean 1, and Chinese 1.*

Students in the blended learning model complete coursework online and attend one mandatory in-person meeting per week for collaborative speaking activities and test proctoring. Students in the blended program can expect about the same rigor and time requirements as the in-person course equivalent. Although 8th grade students will not receive high school credit, students could potentially take a level 2 language as a freshman at their comprehensive high school, upon successful completion. Please note that the course will still appear on the student's middle school transcript as an academic course.

Although there are plans to offer the level 2 of each language as a blended learning course, this cannot be guaranteed. This is a consideration since not all languages are offered at all high schools, and each high school has specific prerequisites. Please check with the high school your child is planning on attending if unsure about language offerings or requirements.

In general, successful students in blended learning have excellent time management skills, are self-motivated, and communicate regularly with their instructors. Basic technology skills for taking a blended class include:

- The use of the keyboard and mouse
- Basic web skills, including the use of navigation and search tools
- The use of word processing documents, the ability to open, modify, save, scan, and upload documents in different formats
- Composing, receiving, and replying to electronic messages

Below is the in-person meeting schedule for the upcoming school year. Before requesting a referral, please make sure your child is available all year for the in-person meetings.

Class	Teacher	In-Person Meeting Days
<i>French 1</i>	Ms. Tracy Clark	Mondays, 4:00-5:00 pm Irvine High School, Room FL-11
<i>Latin 1</i>	Mr. James Alvarado	Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 pm Woodbridge High School, Portables
<i>Spanish 1</i>	Ms. Aling Bogosh	Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:30 pm Woodbridge High School, Room L102
<i>Korean 1</i>	Ms. Su Young Yu	Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15 pm Irvine High School, Room FL-7
<i>Chinese 1</i>	Ms. Theresa Yu	Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 pm Creekside High School, Room 3

To obtain a referral for enrollment, please contact your child's middle school counselor, who may approve the request. Referrals will be accepted in the order received by our office, with high school students having priority.

Please contact me if you have any questions at RacquelNedden@iusd.org or 949-936-7433.

Thank you,

~ Racquel Nedden, IUSD Coordinator, Online Learning

The Knights' Café Serves up Breakfast and Lunch

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. We want to make sure that all students are starting the school day off right, with breakfast. The Knights' Café serves breakfast meals each day 30 minutes before the start of school and at break. The cost of breakfast is \$2.00 or \$2.75. Breakfast meals are served with fruit and milk. Lunch is served daily at the cost of \$3.75 or \$4.25. Lunch meals are served with fruit, vegetable, milk and water. Please visit our website for further information. <https://iusd.org/department/nutrition-services>

~ Rosemarie Klucsar, Cafeteria Manager

Free and Reduced Meal Program

Free and Reduced Lunch applications are available in the front office and at Nutrition Services. Please visit our website for more information. <https://iusd.org/department/nutrition-services>

MySchoolApps is an easy and convenient way for parents and guardians to submit applications for school meal benefits online. There is no fee for using the MySchoolApps website to submit your application for benefits. This service is provided to you free of charge by IUSD.

Entering your application online is quicker, easier, and more accurate than filling out a paper application. This step-by-step process and guided help makes applying for school meals simpler and easier to understand than ever before. Click the button below to get started:

<https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>

~ IUSD Nutrition Services

Immunizations

As you may be aware, there was a change in student immunization requirements in 2016. Under the law known as Senate Bill 277 (SB 277), as of last year, immunization exemptions based on personal beliefs are no longer available for the vaccines that are currently required for school admission. Personal belief exemptions (PBE) on file with the school district *before January 1, 2016* for a student already enrolled in school will remain in effect *until the student reaches the next immunization check point at Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten or 7th grade*. All other students are required to submit documentation verifying compliance with the State immunization requirements, unless a valid medical exemption is on file with the school district. Please refer to the IUSD website for more

information about immunization requirements to attend school by clicking on this link: [IUSD Health Services Page](#).

~ Julia Monarch, School Nurse

Health Insurance Coverage is Available:

The Irvine Children's Health Program provides enrollment assistance for children and adults for Medi-Cal, Covered California plans and more. The Children's Health Program is a partnership between the City of Irvine and the Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers. This program helps families and individuals enroll in affordable health coverage and other available assistance programs. To make a free appointment with a Certified Enrollment Counselor or for more information, please call 949-724-6645 or email enroll@coccc.org.

~ IUSD Health Services

Student Empowerment at Middle School (SEAMS)

Hello Venado! My name is Officer Rick Gramer. I am a School Resource Officer with the Irvine Police Department. I have the wonderful opportunity to help build a safe campus for everyone at Venado and support the needs of students, faculty, and parents. I also have the pleasure of bringing the Student Empowerment at Middle School (SEAMS) program back this year. SEAMS is an educational program for 7th grade students that builds upon common themes they learned in their elementary school D.A.R.E. program. Throughout the year, 7th grade students and I will discuss issues related to internet safety, bullying and other related topics. I'm looking forward to a great year. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (949) 724-7318, or email me at rgramer@cityofirvine.org. Thank you.

~ Rick Gramer, Venado Middle School Resource Officer/ City of Irvine, Police Department

City of Irvine Middle School Program (MSP)

The goal of the City of Irvine's Middle School Program is to engage youth in positive social-recreational activities during non-school hours. Students are encouraged to participate in the development and implementation of programs and activities that focus on community service, personal skill development, and social recreation. Services are provided in cooperation with the Irvine Unified School District. See the [Irvine Middle School Program website](#) for further details.

October MSP activities include Youth Action Team, Flag Football, Knott's Scary Farm, Gnarly Outdoor Adventures, and more! To view the MSP Monthly Activities Calendar, or for more information regarding upcoming programs with the City of Irvine Middle School Program, visit the "Students" section of the Venado homepage. Program flyers are located in the Venado Commons next to the Knight or you may visit our website at www.IrvineMSP.org and choose "TEENS."

~ Ashley Botana, MSP Venado Site Coordinator
abotana@cityofirvine.org (949) 724-6746

Home of the Venado Knights
Honest • On-time • Noble • On-task • Respectful and Responsible

4 Deerfield Avenue, Irvine, CA 92604 ♦ 949.936.6800 ♦ FAX 949.936.6809 ♦ www.iusd.org/ve

