

THE BLACH BANNER

Blach Intermediate School

1120 Covington Road Los Altos CA

650.934.3800

www.blachschool.org



[Home Page](#)

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[Fliers](#)

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[District News](#)

Principal's Message

The first semester of school ends on this Friday, January 15 and now is the time to help students set new goals for the remainder of the school year.

For many students, the end of the first semester brings high achievement worth celebrating while other students' reports will outline areas in need of support. In any case, the end of the first semester is an important time for adults to help students understand how their study habits contribute to their achievements. It is also an important time to work with your adolescent on the skill of setting realistic goals.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to have a detailed conversation with your student about each course's grade and help your student understand why they earned the grades indicated on the report. Help them celebrate successes and set high standards for their own achievement. During this period of an adolescent's development, students should be able to make connections between their work habits, their effort, and success in course work. By the end of the eighth grade year they should be able to keep track of their schoolwork, homework, and grades in order to predict how they will do on a report card before it comes out. This is a basic litmus test for the student's academic maturity and taking responsibility for their own learning. Can they tell you how they are doing in detail at any time? If a student claims that middle school performance does not matter, they are not correct. Middle school performance is the best indicator of initial success in high school and grades are used for course selection. Poor performance in middle school can set a student back from the start.

Students often need help from parents to make choices about how many activities they can reasonably do along with challenging course work as they progress through the secondary grades. Adolescents may also need help in overcoming low esteem or the belief that some coursework is too difficult for them to achieve. Developing persistence, self-monitoring, sustained concentration, and the capacity to renew one's efforts with increased challenges are learned behaviors that will require adult support for most students. Parents may need to give more praise to their student than they did in elementary school and make sure that students' have appropriate external incentives to support motivation and confidence.

On behalf of the entire staff, we wish you a happy new year and thanks for all you do to support your student at Blach!

Warm Regards,
Leslie Crane
Principal

PS: PLEASE CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND. ALL CLOTHES WILL BE DELIVERED TO CHARITY THIS FRIDAY!

Educational Events

Parent Connection

- **Thu. Jan.14th 6:45pm-8:30pm** "Transition to High School," Blach Middle School, 1120 Covington Rd., Los Altos, Contact: Sharon Greenberg, Ph.D. 650-949-0875

Parent Education

- Great information resource for parents: Kidscal.org
- **Tues. Jan.12th 7pm-9pm** Po Bronson "Nurture Shock: New thinking about children" Los Altos High School Theater, 201 Almond Avenue
- **Wed. Jan.20th 7pm-8:30pm** Dr. Jerry Shapiro "What Boys Need" Creek side Center, Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos Event is Free. Registration required: <http://whatboysneed.eventbrite.com/>
- **Tues. Jan.26th 7pm** Common Ground Series, Dr. Laura Kastner, "Navigating Emotions with Teens and Tweens", Harker Upper School, 500 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, Contact: 408-249-2510
- **Tues. Jan.27th 7pm** Common Ground Series, Dr. Laura Kastner, " Tween/Teen Years ", Woodside Priory School, 302 Portola Rd., Portola Valley, CA, Contact: 650-851-8221
- **Tues. Jan.28th 7pm** Common Ground Series, Dr. Laura Kastner, "Navigating Emotions with Teens and Tweens", Crystal Springs Uplands School, 400 Uplands Dr, Hillsborough, CA, Contact: 650-342-4175

PTA Announcements

- **Thu. Jan. 14th** – Hot Lunch orders DUE!!! [Order Lunch Now!](#) Thursday, Jan. 14 is the order deadline for the Spring session that begins Monday, Jan. 25. New menu choices are veggie chow mein, a Gyro sandwich, and larger sized turkey bagel dog. **Please also consider donating to the Hot Lunch Scholarship Fund. Thank You!**
- **Thu. Jan. 21 7pm** PTA Meeting at Blach School Library

School Sports and Community News

- **Thu. Jan. 21 3:30pm-5:30pm** MVLA Green School Summit; LAH Eagle Theatre; Students from our K-14 schools will be spotlighting unique Green Actions and Activities that can be implemented at your school campus or at home to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, as well as Organic Gardening projects. An exhibit and display board section will add to the event. Find convenient local drop off locations for recycling batteries, wire hangers, those pesky packaging peanuts! Be impressed by the sometimes surprising things made from recycled materials - sox made from recycled coke bottles!?! Learn about super Green Fundraising projects, Green resources, and more. For more information: email sybilcramer@mac.com or call (650) 940-4650.
- **Thu. Jan. 21** Scholastic Book Orders Due. To place an [Order Online](#), class user name **blachschool** and password **losaltos**.
- For more School & Community News [Click here](#).

Happy New Year to All Blach Families

Send your request to: blachinfo@yahoo.com