

# THE SPARTAN TIMES

## SEPTEMBER 2017

Sierra Middle School  
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Stockton, CA 95209  
209.953.8749

Scott Tatum, Principal  
Jennifer Heck, Assistant Principal



Hi Spartan Families! I am very excited to be writing our first newsletter of the year. We are off to a Great start. I use the word "Great" very strategically. Our staff does not want to be a good school, our expectation is to be a Great school. This means we want to excel in academics, student/staff relationships, to have engaging lessons and opportunities for students each day, and to have a safe school environment.

Academically, Sierra has two major focuses this year. As a site we are committed improving student-writing skills. As a staff, we will spend our meetings and professional development time learning new strategies, reading selected articles, writing responses, and analyzing the data through writing rubrics. We will also place an emphasis on using engaging and strategic strategies in teaching math concepts to students.

The Sierra Staff wants one hundred percent of students to have success. We are offering multiple opportunities for students to receive help.

Our goal is to have great communication with both our students and families. As a parent please stay connected with what is happening at Sierra and with your child. Please make sure you have an Aeries account for your child. This account allows you access to see your child's grades and attendance. If you have not done this, open your internet browser and type in: <https://lincoln.asp.aeries.net/Student> All families received this information in the back to school packet. In the packet, was information specific to your child to create the account. Then follow the directions. Please see the handbook for teacher's email information.

We currently have over 200 PTA members. If you have not joined, please do. It is only \$10 and your child will get a Sierra t-shirt that they can wear to school. Let's try and reach the 300 member mark!

I hope your child will talk to you about the Spartan Code. This is the code our site has created to try and establish a high expectation for our campus. Students following the code will receive Spartan t-shirts. These shirts must be earned for the students to receive them.

The Spartan Code is:

- A Spartan pushes their mind and their body to their limits.
- A Spartan masters their emotions.
- A Spartan learns continuously.
- A Spartan gives generously.
- A Spartan leads.

In each newsletter I will share discipline numbers and attendance numbers. I want us to be upfront with this information. Please discuss with your son or daughter the importance of being at school and not being in a situation to get a detention, Saturday School, placed in the Focus Center, or to be suspended.

For the first 13 days of school, Sierra discipline is:

<b>Detentions:</b>	<b>Tardy</b>	<b>Dress Code</b>	<b>Behavior</b>
	52	2	1

<b>Saturday Schools:</b>	7
<b>Focus Center:</b>	0
<b>Suspensions:</b>	2

For the first 13 days of school, Sierra's attendance rate is: **98.2%**

We are going to have a Great year! Families, thank you for all of the support as we begin the 2017 - 2018 school year.

With Spartan Pride,

Scott Tatum, Principal

### CJSF News

Eighth grade students are invited to join CJSF. Applications can be picked up from Room 7, Room 3 or in the office. Attached to the application must be their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grades from last year. Please return to Mrs. Rehbien or Mrs. Miller. Requirements for this year:

- At least two A's and two B's in academic classes
- No D's or F's in any class
- Six hours of community service each semester on Sierra's campus.
- Students who did not participate during 7<sup>th</sup> grade year must make up the 6 hours of community service; therefore, the student is required to complete 9 hours per semester.
- Participate in the cookie dough fundraiser
- Attend all meetings (usually every other Tuesday at lunch in library)

#### Dates To Remember

##### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Labor Day, No School
- 6 LUSD Board Meeting
- 7 Hollywood Dance, 3-5pm, MUR
- 7 Picture Day, Free Dress Day
- 12 LLL, LE, 6pm
- 18-29 Parent Conferences, Release at 1:30pm
- 18 Arena Conferences, 1:45pm-4pm
- 20 LUSD Board Meeting, CH, 7:30pm
- 20 LCPTA, LE, 6pm

##### OCTOBER

- 2-6 Spirit Week
- 6 Spirit Carnival, 1pm
- 10 LLL, Brookside, 6pm
- 11 LUSD Board Meeting, 7:30pm, SMS
- 18 LCPTA, VO, 6pm
- 19 Picture Make-Up Day
- 23 Band Spooktacular Concert, 7pm, PAC
- 25 LUSD Board Meeting, 7:30pm, Don Riggio

Dear Sierra Families:

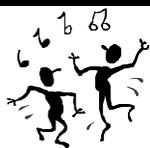
In Houston, Texas, thousands of citizens await rescue as conditions worsen and the death toll increases in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. An estimated 30,000 to 40,000 homes have been completely destroyed, leaving men, women and children without shelter, food, and other bare necessities for survival.

Here at Sierra, we strongly believe in lending a helping hand to the Stockton community and beyond. With your help, we would like to provide much needed relief for the good people of Houston who have been adversely affected by the hurricane. We are asking staff and Sierra families to consider donating much needed supplies for this community.

Our plan is to use the items that have been donated and create care packages to be sent to Houston. We have already reached out to Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church who is serving the Greater Houston community as an intake and distribution center. They are happy to receive care packages and will be dispersing them to shelters and other citizens who've been affected.

Below is a list of items that you can donate. All items can be dropped off in Ms. Nickelberry's classroom (Room 5) at Sierra Middle School. Your help is greatly appreciated!

- Yours in service,  
Ms. Nickelberry
- Towels, Baby Formula, Shampoo/Conditioner
  - Blankets, Feminine Hygiene Products, Non-perishable food items
  - Diapers, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
  - Baby Wipes, Mouthwash, Soap, Deodorant, Clothing items (socks, new underwear, shirts, pants)



### Sierra Dance Party Guidelines

Students, please take note of the following dance "rules." You are responsible for following them. Please take this flyer home and share it with your parents as well.

- ◆ It is easiest for students to buy their ticket in advance. Tickets will be on sale for about a week. They are on sale from Room 11 during lunch. We will also sell them at the door of the dance, but the people who buy theirs ahead of time will get to come in first. The cost is \$6. This includes a snack and drink.
- ◆ Since Sierra is a uniform school, all students must come in uniform to the dance.\* **Students will not be allowed to enter the dance if they are out of uniform**, or if their clothes are out of compliance with the uniform/dress code policy. (\*The only exception to this is **if** there is a dress up day/free dress day on the day of the dance.) **They may also NOT chew gum in the dance for safety reasons, nor use their cell phones as this is against school policy.**
- ◆ Backpacks are not allowed in the dances. They will be stored in classrooms 7, 8, 9, and 12. Adults will supervise their check-in and check-out, and students will be given a backpack ticket so that we are sure to get the correct backpack returned to its owner. **Students should look outside the rooms for a poster. They should go to the room that has the first initial of their last name posted.**
- ◆ Students may only leave the dance early if they have an appointment. A **parent with ID may check out their child with the principal/principal's designee.** Early dance dismissals should be a rare occasion as it is difficult to find kids in a busy dance setting.
- ◆ **The dance concludes at 5:00 P.M. and students will then be released. Please wait patiently outside (in the main parking lot) for your child.**
- ◆ **There are no refunds on dance tickets**, if a student leaves school and shows up after 3:15, we cannot let him/her in and **we cannot issue a refund.** Please keep this in mind.
- ◆ Students are expected to show courtesy and respect for all parent/staff chaperones and the dj in the dance. They are here to ensure our safety. Please be sure to be polite ... we are able to have dances because of these wonderful volunteers.
- ◆ We encourage students to have fun and show off their moves, but remind them **that freak dancing, and other inappropriate gestures are not acceptable at a middle school dance.** We encourage them to show their creativity, but if it would embarrass Grandma, it probably isn't appropriate for school. ☺ If dancing is inappropriate, chaperones will ask the student to stop and parents may be called. **Students may also not be allowed to attend future dances.** Dance attendance is a privilege that can be revoked by school administration.
- ◆ We play a variety of music to meet the needs of all students. At any given dance you may hear rap, R&B, Pop, Country, Alternative, etc. We try to play stuff for everyone. All music will be radio edited, and school appropriate.
- ◆ **Please remember that students MUST confirm their own eligibility before buying a dance ticket. Students must have a 2.0 grade point average with no Fs in order to attend and meet all LUSD and SMS behavioral and grade eligibility requirements. Students will also not be allowed to attend if they have earned a referral or are suspended on dance day.** If you have questions, see Mrs. Heck or Mr. Tatum. **REFUNDS WILL NOT BE GIVEN if students purchase a ticket ahead of time and are ineligible to attend. Tickets can be bought at the door if they are unsure of their status.** Mr. Tatum will confirm eligibility at the door. If a student is ineligible, he/she will not be allowed to attend. (FOR THE FIRST DANCE, WE WILL NOT BE IMPOSING THE GRADE REQUIREMENT ... THIS WILL TAKE EFFECT FOR THE SECOND DANCE IN OCT.)
- ◆ Phones do not belong at the dance ... since we are still on campus, students need to leave their phones in a safe place and **do not take them out to talk or text during the dance.**



Sierra Middle School

School Site Council Elections 2017

Sierra SSC will meet the second Wednesday of every month.

Meetings will begin at 3:00pm

Please vote for two candidates for this position.

\_\_\_\_\_ Anthony Ratto

\_\_\_\_\_ Toshi Sessoms

\_\_\_\_\_ Write in candidate

### Leadership Is Off and Running

Our Leadership Classes are already planning and putting on a number of school wide activities. We have already put on New Student Orientation, Unity Day, and our first rally. Next week we will put on the first school dance, our Hollywood Dance. (Please read through and review the dance procedures with your child so they know what is expected of them during the school dances.)

Before school started, we also cleaned up the student park planter boxes and planted an array of beautiful flowers. Special thanks to the following volunteers who donated materials and/or their time to make our campus look great: Mr. & Mrs. Randle, Kyle, Dylan, and Ethan Loth, Jack Rhea, Mrs. Rossiter, Alex & Jonathan Rossiter, Carlee Cumpian, Bradley Randle, Carli Self, Emily Nelson, Semaj Moore, Mr. Wes Rhea, and Mr. Gadeke. The flower beds look great and really helped us to kick start the year in a positive way. The Leadership Classes have been maintaining these flower beds to help keep them looking awesome!

A special thank you goes out to all of our Leadership Class parents for encouraging their amazing kids to be a part of this important program. We are also appreciative of the kids and the great work they have already done. We do a lot of behind the scenes work to help Sierra maintain a positive school culture and climate, and we are grateful for your efforts and energy!

**Family and Community Engagement News**  
**Lincoln Unified School District continually works to**  
**Strengthen partnerships between school and families.**  
PARENT SURVEY

We would like to gather your feedback, promote parent involvement in your child's learning and find out more about how we can best support you by having you complete an online parent survey. Our



goal is to develop a strong partnership between parents and the schools to help all children be successful. The survey should take ten minutes to complete. Survey results will provide us with answers about parent-school partnerships and family training. You can complete the SM survey by going to: <http://bit.ly/2wXTSAT>.

#### YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

Please complete the survey and submit it by October 31, 2017. If you are a parent/guardian needing assistance reading and interpreting this survey in a language other than English or Spanish, please seek assistance by calling 953-9710 or emailing [dbronson@lUSD.net](mailto:dbronson@lUSD.net). Thank you very much in advance for your input..

#### Noticias Sobre la Participación de la Familia y la Comunidad ¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

El Distrito escolar unificado de Lincoln trabaja continuamente para fortalecer asociaciones entre escuelas y familias.

#### Encuesta Familia

Nos gustaría reunir sus comentarios, promover la participación de los padres en el aprendizaje de su hijo y averiguar más sobre cómo podemos apoyarle mejor. Por favor completa una encuesta en línea para la familia. Nuestra meta es desarrollar una fuerte asociación entre los padres y las escuelas para ayudar a todos los niños a tener éxito. La encuesta debe tomar diez minutos para completar. Los resultados de la encuesta nos proporcionarán respuestas sobre las alianzas entre padres y escuelas y la capacitación familiar. Puede completar la encuesta de SM yendo: <http://bit.ly/2wjScin>. by going to: .

*¡Su Opinión Cuenta!*

Por favor complete la encuesta y envíela antes de 31 de octubre de 2017. Si usted es un padre / guardián que necesita ayuda leyendo e interpretando esta encuesta en un idioma que no sea inglés o español, por favor busque ayuda llamando al 953-9710 o enviando un correo electrónico a [dbronson@lUSD.net](mailto:dbronson@lUSD.net). Muchas gracias por su opinión.

Questions: Dolores Bronson  
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