

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians of Mission Hill:

Welcome to Mission Hill Middle School! This handbook begins your middle school journey. Middle school is a time of change, growth, challenge and fun. Some of the changes you'll experience include having more than one teacher, dressing out for PE and having to figure out a combination lock! Expect to meet new friends, have a locker and perhaps be on a school sports team. Mission Hill Middle School looks forward to being your guide on this important journey.

For over 75 years, Mission Hill has been educating the students of Santa Cruz County. Now it is time for you. Our school prides itself on the exceptional quality of our staff and our rigorous Common Core standards-based curriculum. Mission Hill teachers work collaboratively to build strong links to students and the community. Teachers also hold office hours three days a week to offer extra support for students and families. All members of the Mission Hill community strive to make the middle school years academically challenging, rewarding and fun.

What are the three pillars of the Mission Hill Code of Conduct: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful. These provide the foundation upon which we build our school. Moving from elementary to middle school is an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to *respect* yourself and others, be a *responsible* member of the school and community in an environment that is *safe* for all. In following Mission Hill's Code of Conduct, you will be ready to learn and meet our high academic expectations. Are you ready for this journey? We know you are! Welcome to Mission Hill! Enjoy the ride!

**Julia Hodges
Principal**

**Kat McElwee
Assistant Principal**

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT MISSION HILL?

Mission Hill does what's best for middle school kids! The staff has studied schools nationwide to research what makes the best educational experience for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. We have successfully planned a meaningful, high-quality instructional program for students, with a focus on differentiated instruction. In addition to a strong academic curriculum, we have plenty of activities that are active, creative and fun, and support services that will help you feel connected to our school. Mission Hill classes run on an odd day/even day schedule in which students have three courses each day of 93 minutes each. On Wednesdays, students meet for the full six periods with a dismissal at 12:52 p.m. We have found that the odd/even scheduling assists students to successfully meet the academic rigors of Mission Hill.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

Each student belongs to a grade level team which includes all of his/her teachers. On Wednesday afternoons these teams have time to collaborate in a number of ways, including discussion of student needs, and planning for lessons, projects, assemblies, field trips and special recognition for students. These teams also meet together with students and parents for extra support as needed.

STANDARDS AND PROMOTION

In each of the three years at Mission Hill, students are expected to meet grade level standards for promotion to the next grade. At present, students are to meet certain criteria with the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment consortium) results in math and reading, a school-wide writing benchmark, and grade point average. More information will be shared with you in the first semester.

WEDNESDAY ARTS ACADEMY

This will be our sixteenth year offering the Wednesday Arts Academy, an after school enrichment program. Past offerings have included Painting & Drawing, Martial Arts, Minecraft, Bicycle Club, Jewelry, Make & Play your own Ukulele, Gardening, Yoga, and others. We look forward to continuing to provide students with these and many other learning opportunities.

HOW TO BELONG AND GET ALONG

You'll have the opportunity to get into the Maverick spirit at Mission Hill!

Athletics/After School Sports

Mission Hill is home to the Mavericks. Our school has athletic teams that compete in the Coast Conference Athletic League/CCAL. Most of our athletic teams offer one team at each grade level with the exception of individual sports such as wrestling, cross country, and golf where students of all grade levels may compete and tryouts are not required. Students who wish to participate on an athletic team must maintain a 2.0 average without any F's. For more information see our athletic handbook.

MHTV

We start every day at Mission Hill with a live, student-run televised broadcast. Announcements, sports, weather reports, special presentations, and much more are simulcast to every classroom. To be part of this awesome production, join the Leadership class and volunteer for MHTV.

Block MH

Mission Hill believes in rewarding students for outstanding scholarship, citizenship, school and community service, sports, and extracurricular activities. A *Block MH* emblem can be earned in each of these areas and is considered one of the highest honors at Mission Hill.

Intramurals

Intramurals are a component of the athletic and social development of our students at Mission Hill Middle School. The Intramural Program allows students at Mission Hill the opportunity to participate on a team. Games take place at lunchtime and can be officiated by students or teachers. Intramurals provide an arena for students who may be interested in team play and competition but may not be able to play on an after school sports team.

And in Addition.....

Look forward to assemblies, Advisory period, music programs, drama performances, a yearbook, dances, theme days, spirit days, a talent show, rallies at lunch, field trips, community service, awards, treats, prizes and more! Do your personal best and be on your best behavior to participate in all Mission Hill has to offer!!!

MISSION HILL'S SAFE SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are expected to behave at all times in a manner that will bring credit to themselves, their team, school, family and community. It is important for students to recognize that they are responsible for their behavior on the way to and from school, during school hours, and at all school events. Mission Hill staff and adult volunteers are responsible to monitor student behavior and provide a safe and productive learning environment. We want students to develop habits of mind that reinforce the Mission Hill Code of Conduct - Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful.

BE SAFE

Mission Hill Mavericks make good decisions to be safe! They follow directions as well as follow school and classroom rules. Refer to the full set of school rules and expectations in your planner.

APPROPRIATE SCHOOL ATTIRE

Clothing worn to school should be comfortable and appropriate for school activities. Many students proudly wear their Mission Hill sweatshirts several times per week. While we encourage self expression, your clothing should not distract from the learning process. Clothing must cover undergarments and the midriff. Refer to the dress code in your planner. Clothing which promotes alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gang affiliation, violence, nudity or profanity is not allowed.

BICYCLES AND SKATEBOARDS

If you ride a bike to school, you need to park it in the bike cage. Lock your bike. ***The school is not responsible for damage or theft while bikes are parked on campus.*** Remember: all students are required by law to wear a bike helmet. Skateboards may be used only for transportation to and from school and must be locked in the school's skateboard locker. They may not be ridden or stood upon anywhere on campus. Follow the "no wheel" rule while on campus.

BE RESPONSIBLE

Mission Hill Mavericks take responsibility for the task of learning. They are expected to:

- come to school and class on time, prepared to work and study*
- listen, follow directions, participate and cooperate*
- walk in a safe and orderly manner in school buildings*
- leave at home games, toys, gum, radios, laser pens, iPods, and other items that distract from learning*

WHAT TO EXPECT

Get ready for more homework! **Plan to spend an average of 20-30 minutes per night per class on homework.** You will need to take into consideration daily homework as well as long term reports and projects. Turning in all assignments on time is a priority. You are expected to be in class on time with necessary materials, ready to work. If you miss school, check school loop on the Mission Hill website for your assignments. If you don't have access to a computer, and you miss or expect to miss three or more days due to illness, you can call the Counseling Office and request your homework assignments. If you are absent, you are required to attend office hours to get missed assignments and instructions. You will have one day for every day missed to get your assignments completed.

REGISTRATION FAIR

A Registration Fair will occur before the school year begins. You will receive detailed information about the Registration Fair and the registration process in the mail a few weeks prior to the beginning of the school year. During the Registration Fair you will turn in registration forms, buy a school planner, pick up your student's schedule, receive a locker, purchase PE clothes as well as other important items.

SCHOOL PLANNER

Students must have a MHMS school planner. They must bring it to school every day. Students find that a backpack, binder and the *school planner* help them to keep organized. The planners will be sold during the Registration Fair and then in the counseling office for \$10.00. Scholarships are available for those who need them.

SCHOOL LOOP

School Loop is an Internet based program used by teachers to post all homework assignments, class work assignments, test/quiz dates, and scores for each student. Parents and students are able to log in to School Loop at any time to access homework and grades. New students will create their account within the first few days of school and parents are able to create their own account via the Mission Hill website, <http://www.missionhill.santacruz.k12.ca.us/> once school begins. Parents will need their student's five digit student ID number (found on student schedules) to create an account. School Loop can be accessed with any smart phone, computer or tablet. Download the app for your mobile device at <http://www.schoolloop.com/mobile/>. Staff and teachers regularly update students and parents in the news portion of School Loop and Loop Mail is a convenient way to send messages to teachers.

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

The Library/Media Center offers you a variety of materials and individualized support for both your academic and personal interests and success. Computers, databases, books are available for research. We have audio books for many class novels and free choice. Need to get that right book? Ask us for ideas. Check out our Library Catalog Pathfinders for lists of books like High Lexile or Bibliotherapy. If you need help and materials for class assignments, think LIBRARY. You can go to the Library at various times during the day with a pass from your teacher, or before school, during lunch or after school.

The library is a sweet place at lunch. You can bring your lunch to the library and read or visit with friends. There are activities like Book Club and Thursday Game Day also. If you have homework, you can work on it at a table or on the computer. If you prefer something a little quieter for lunch time or just love being in the library, join us for Library Lunches.

COUNSELING

Counseling services are available to all students. The Mission Hill Counseling Office is here to help you with any issues, concerns, or struggles you have about school, friendships, family, and growing up. The Counseling Office is also available to assist with educational planning and schedules, interpretation of test scores, and the issuance of work permits. Parents, if you want to see a counselor, contact the secretary in the Counseling Office to arrange for an appointment.

EXTRA HELP, OFFICE HOURS, AND TUTORIALS

If you have any questions about a class or are having difficulty, talk with your teacher. You can meet with your teachers before school or after school during office hours on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. and on Thursdays by appointment. It's better to get help soon so you can correct any problems before it's too late. If you continue to have difficulty with a class, talk with a counselor.

AND...

Along with the other great things you've heard about Mission Hill, we have a long-standing commitment to meeting the individual needs of students. Special needs students (e.g. English Language Learners, Title I, and Special Education) are mainstreamed into the fully integrated Mission Hill program where they receive their support services.

BE RESPECTFUL

Mission Hill Mavericks maintain and show respect for others and the school environment. They are expected to:

- show courtesy and respect towards others*
- use acceptable language at all times, free of name calling, insults or profanity*
- settle differences without put-downs, threats or fighting*
- ask staff for help as needed to resolve a conflict*
- eat in designated areas only and keep the school clean and free of litter*
- interact with each other safely without pushing or roughness, share equipment, and demonstrate good sportsmanship*
- remain on school grounds from the time of arrival until dismissal (Mission Hill is a closed campus)*
- take care of school grounds, property and equipment*

CONSEQUENCES FOR POOR CHOICES

Students who fail to meet Mission Hill's positive behavior expectations will face logical consequences. If a student misbehaves, appropriate consequences may include:

- warnings*
- letter of apology*
- Wednesday School*
- detention*
- parent call*
- referral to administration*
- parent conference/team contract*
- loss of privileges and participation in school activities*
- suspension of computer use*
- conflict resolution*
- campus beautification*
- suspension from school*
- parents attending school day/s with student*
- Student Attendance Review Board*

Chronic misbehavior will result in exclusion from major school functions, which may include athletics, field trips, dances and other special events.

Illegal activities such as vandalism, graffiti, use or possession of drugs, paraphernalia, alcohol, tobacco products or other controlled substances are prohibited. Matches, lighters, laser pens, weapons, firearms, or any other dangerous items are also illegal on campus. Intimidation, fighting, or harassment can result in suspension, expulsion and/or police action.

The Governing Board recognizes the serious health risks presented by tobacco use and desires to ensure that, through adoption of consistent policies, district students are made aware of those risks and, to the extent possible, protected from them. Students shall not possess, smoke, or use tobacco or any product containing tobacco or nicotine while on campus, while attending

school-sponsored activities, or while under the supervision and control of district employees. Prohibited products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. (Education Code [48900](#), [48901](#)) Students' possession or use of electronic cigarettes, electronic hookahs, and other vapor-emitting devices, with or without nicotine content, that mimic the use of tobacco products is also prohibited. Students in possession of tobacco or tobacco products or electronic cigarettes will be referred for disciplinary action and will also be referred to Seven Challenges or other smoking cessation programs available.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

LOCKERS

Locker assignments will be received at the Registration Fair before the school year begins. We have enough lockers for all students to have their own. However, please remember, lockers are a privilege, not a right.

CAFETERIA

Before school, brunch, and lunch food are served from the cafeteria snack bar windows. You may purchase food there or bring your own from home. Before school and brunch, a variety of healthy breakfast and lunch items are available to be purchased. All food must be eaten in the outside eating areas. No food or drinks are allowed on the track or field. Open packages of food are not allowed in the halls or classrooms at any time. To put money into student accounts for use at the cafeteria, go to the Mission Hill website <https://missionhill.santacruz.k12.ca.us> click on “Food Service” under Quick Links. At the bottom of the Food Service page, click on “payments” and follow the instructions.

STUDENT ID CARD

Photographs are taken during the first month of school and student ID cards are distributed soon after. Watch for announcements. Student ID cards are also valuable outside of school with various local businesses offering discounts to MHMS card holders.

INFINITE CAMPUS

Infinite Campus (IC) is the database program used by Santa Cruz City Schools and Mission Hill for attendance, tardies, semester grades and contact information for each student. Parents are encouraged to sign up for their own Parent Portal which gives access to student information and allows parents to update household information. Parents need an activation code available in the counseling office to create an account..

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

6th

English 6
Social Studies 6
Science 6
Math
PE 6
Electives (1 each semester)

7th

English 7
Social Studies 7
Science 7
Math
PE 7/8
Electives 7/8 (1 each semester)

8th

English 8
US History
Science 8
Math
PE 7/8
Electives 7/8 (1 each semester)

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

In 2010, California adopted their version of the Common Core Standards. These new standards will be implemented beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, and will change the instruction and assessments for math and English Language Arts in the next few years. Content Literacy will be the strand that runs through the remaining content areas. The Mission Statement provided on the Common Core Standards Initiative website states:

“The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.” (www.corestandards.org)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SCIENCE

In 2013, California adopted the Next Generation Science Standards. We will begin to implement the new standards in the 2014-2015 school year.

Hands-on activities, labs, engineering projects and experiments along with technologies and local resources are combined to fully engage students as productive learners. As per Santa Cruz City School District, age appropriate nutrition, human development (family life) and drug abuse prevention are part of the curriculum as well. Parent information nights are provided to preview materials. **Students also have the opportunity to participate in the science fair--a long-standing tradition at Mission Hill.**

6th Grade Science: Focus on Earth Science

Sixth grade science is a year-long course of study aligned with the California Science Content Standards and therefore focused on earth science. Some life and physical sciences are also integrated into the program. Units are developed in the following areas:

- Plate Tectonics and Earth's Structure
- Shaping Earth's Surface
- Energy in the Earth System
- Heat (Thermal Energy) (Physical Science)
- Resources
- Investigation and Experimentation
- Nutrition
- Human Development & Sexuality
- Substance Abuse Prevention

7th Grade Science: Integrated Life Science Studies

Seventh grade science is a year-long course aligned with the California Science Content Standards. The primary focus is on life science with physical and earth science concepts integrated into our units of study. Units include the following areas:

- Physical Principles in Living Systems
- Genetics
- Evolution
- Earth and Life History
- Structure & Function in Living Systems
- Cell Biology
- Investigation & Experimentation
- Nutrition
- Human Development & Sexuality
- Substance Abuse Prevention

8th Grade Science: The World of Physical Sciences

This year-long course combines class lectures and note taking with laboratory activities, reading, and the development of content reading skills, research and class discussion to explore physics and chemistry. Students learn and practice basic scientific skills including metric measurement and the scientific method of problem solving including qualitative versus quantitative analysis and critical thinking. Units are developed around the following content areas:

- Motion and Forces
- Reactions
- Density and Buoyancy
- Earth in the Solar System
- Nutrition
- Drug Abuse Prevention
- Structure of Matter
- Periodic Table
- Investigation and Experimentation
- Chemistry of Living Systems
- Human Development & Sexuality

HUMANITIES

Recognizing the social and academic needs of students, Mission Hill has established a two-period year-long Humanities core class which balances group learning with individual learning. Student performance in writing and reading is assessed upon a set of state and district standards, including the Common Core state standards. Writing samples are compiled in a

student portfolio in order to show evidence of student achievement and progress.

6th Grade Humanities Core: Language Arts and Social Studies

Students will use the standards-based Holt Literature and Language Arts program, and Core Literature to meet state standards in literacy. Our program incorporates important grammar and vocabulary skills to enhance writing. Students will learn literacy concepts and active reading strategies that support academic, functional and recreational reading experiences. Throughout their reading, students will be encouraged to think critically. Through the writing programs, the writing traits of organization, content, style, and conventions will be emphasized as the students are asked to write argumentative, explanatory/informative, and narrative compositions.

Utilizing the standards-based text History Alive!, students in grade six will expand their understanding of history by studying the people and events that ushered in the dawn of major western and non-western ancient civilizations. Students will develop higher levels of critical thinking by considering why civilizations developed where and when they did. Students will be encouraged to explore the link, despite time, between the contemporary and ancient worlds of the Paleolithic Era, Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Middle East, Greece, India, China, and Rome.

7th Grade Humanities Core: Language Arts and Social Studies

Humanities Core integrates Language Arts and Social Studies in a daily 2-period class. Social Studies focuses on world cultures from AD 500-1789. The text and student notebook, History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond, provide a content base for the study of the cultures of the Americas, West African cultures, the history of Islam, medieval times in Europe, Japan, and China, as well as the European Renaissance, Reformation, and Exploration. The curriculum is presented through the TCI Teachers' Curriculum Institute model of active instruction that is carefully developed to address the 7th grade content-standards with activities designed around Gardner's Multiple Intelligences.

Language Arts encompasses creative writing; expository writing, including argumentative and explanatory; vocabulary building; and mastery of writing conventions (grammar, punctuation, syntax and spelling). Literature includes contemporary novels as well as historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction, mystery, and autobiography/biography genres. Our literature series, which includes the Interactive Reader, gives students many different opportunities to explore, analyze, and synthesize concepts presented in a wide range of genres. The power of improving writing through revision of drafts and reading skills are emphasized throughout the year. We strive to meet each student's needs and potential through Differentiated Instruction strategies.

8th Grade Humanities Core: Language Arts and Social Studies

Students in Eighth Grade Humanities Core study the span of United States History from the

colonial times until the 1880's. This year-long course includes the geography of North America, causes of the American Revolution, the framing of the Constitution, perspectives on Manifest Destiny and Westward Movement, the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students also study important people who have contributed to events which shape the course of history and the development of our shared values.

Lecture, reading of primary sources, textbooks, projects and activities provide students with key events and stories of U.S. History and help them to identify major themes. Several primary sources and classic novels add richness and depth to our studies, and materials from Stanford's Teaching Curriculum Institute. Literature which presents different points of view, writing styles, and genres is integral to our successful reading and writing program. Students read several historical novels and biographies throughout the year. Routine reading is a required part of the course, and student reading is evaluated regularly, with growth measured through the Scholastic SRI.

Writing skills are taught throughout the course. Types of writing instruction include expository, narrative, and poetry. Grammar and spelling are vital to the skills involved in a writer's repertoire and are therefore integrated into the instruction on a regular basis. Projects completed, whether group or individual, contain a writing, presentation and/or research component unifying all aspects of the subject taught.

English Language Development (ELD)

This class focuses on the development and enrichment of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in both academic and social English. Classes are small, and are organized by level of English proficiency.

MATH

Our Core Connections math courses are a 3 year sequence of classes designed to prepare students for a rigorous college preparatory algebra course. All three years use a problem based approach with concrete models. The courses help students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize connections between concepts. The lessons meet all of the content standards and embed the "Mathematical Practices of the Common Core State Standards released in June 2010.

Lessons are structured for students to collaborate actively by working in study teams. During class time, students work in study teams on challenging problems that introduce new material. The teacher provides guidance as needed and helps to consolidate topics. The homework for each lesson reinforces previously introduced skills and concepts and prepares students for new

ones. The homework problems also allow students to apply previously learned concepts and skills in new contexts and deepen their understanding by solving the same type of problems in different ways.

Course Offerings:

- **Core Connections Course 1**
- **Core Connections Course 2**
- **Core Connections Course 3**
- **Core Connections Algebra**
- **Math Support (When Available)**

Course Sequences:





For specific course descriptions, and additional information about the CPM Program, please visit the Mission Hill website www.missionhill.santacruz.k12.ca.us and look under the “Curriculum” heading / Course Offerings/ Math or go to www.cpm.org.

AVID

The mission of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is to ensure that ALL students and most especially the least served students who are in the middle range of a 2.5 - 4.0 G.P.A. will:

- succeed in rigorous curriculum,
- will complete a rigorous college preparatory path,
- will enter mainstream activities of the school,
- will increase their enrollment in four-year colleges, and
- will become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society.

AVID’s systemic approach is designed to support students and educators as they increase schoolwide/districtwide learning and performance. This is accomplished with daily in-class tutorials using AVID trained university tutors, lectures from guest speakers sharing their college-going stories and career choices, field trips to colleges and building a strong community of learners that support each other within and outside of their AVID classes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The following student equipment is required:

- MH gym shorts
- MH gym shirt
- pair of athletic socks
- tennis shoes (recommended - inexpensive & separate from school shoes)

The following student equipment is highly recommended:

- blue, white or gray sweatshirt and pants for cold weather

Clothing can be purchased for \$25.00 at the Registration Fair or from your physical education teacher during the first week of school. Also available for sale are sweatshirts for \$25 and sweatpants for \$15. Scholarships are available for those who need them.

Physical Education

All students are required to take year long physical education classes. Students are assessed and graded according to the California state standards. These standards can be viewed at www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/pestandards.pdf. There are five standards each with their own subcategory. The major domains are as follows: Motor skills and movement patterns needed for performance in physical activities, knowledge of movement concepts, principles and strategies and how to apply them to learning and performance, the ability to maintain a level of fitness to improve health, how to apply the fitness concepts, principles and strategies to improve health and performance, and proper psychological and sociological concepts, principles and apply them to learning and performance. Students are taught the basic skills and techniques of individual and team sports and recreational games. Activities may include flag football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, track & field, pickleball, ultimate frisbee, softball, strength training, and physical fitness testing. Self defense is offered as long as we have funding. Using the State Physical Fitness Standards, 7th grade students will set personal achievement goals. Social development, skill acquisition, and achieving and/or maintaining a healthy lifestyle are the overall goals of our program.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT CLASSES

Our general objective is to demonstrate improvement in IEP goal areas through targeted intervention class(es), in order to become more confident, successful, and independent students.

Math Intervention

Curriculum: Direct instruction, small group remediation, independent, technology-based work and project-based assessment. Emphasis placed on math vocabulary and word problem strategies.

Reading Intervention

READ 180, a research based, comprehensive reading curriculum that is proven to raise reading achievement for students in grades 4-12. READ 180 provides small group instruction and technology based individual instruction specifically tailored to each student's needs.

Study Skills

Improve independent access of the general education curriculum through the integration of executive function skills curriculum: Executive function curriculum specifically designed for Mission Hill, emphasizing prioritization, time management, goal setting, study strategies, spiral organization, and monitoring of grades.

MH TECHNOLOGY

Mission Hill is proud of its comprehensive technology program. In addition to the state of the art computer labs in the computer lab and the library, MHMS has computer carts teachers check out for use in their classrooms.

Mission Hill promotes computer skills and the use of technology to support the curriculum and student learning. Students receive twenty hours a year of regularly scheduled class instruction, based upon the California state scope and sequence framework for technology. Instruction takes place through classes and is coordinated with class assignments.

All MHMS classrooms are equipped with an LCD projector, document camera, TV, DVD and cable access. Through the combined efforts of Comcast Cable and Mission Hill, the cable connection also provides a local Video Area Network (VAN) throughout the school. It is via the VAN that we are pleased to host our MHTV station and Morning Connections.

MH LIBRARY

Our **Mission Hill Library Media Center** offers a wealth of materials, in a variety of formats, for student academic and personal success. Several computer stations are also available. You can go to the Library during class time (with a pass from your teacher), before school, during lunch, and after school. So if you need help and materials for a class assignment, a suggestion for a good reading book, or to check your School Loop, think **LIBRARY**.

Mission Hill has an amazing Library with a collection of 10,000+ books and materials. We have a substantial fiction collection in a spectrum of reading levels, non-fiction, magazine subscriptions, and reference books, supporting all areas of the curriculum and topics of personal

interest. Many titles are available in Spanish. We also support and teach all classes how to access online databases accessed through Santa Cruz Public Library and how to use the Scholastic Reading Counts program which allows students to show what they understand about the books they read in a motivating and effective way.

Our mission is to promote a love of reading and to provide equal access to a wealth of current, appealing, diverse, and challenging reading materials to increase student literacy and support your academic, personal, and cultural needs and interests.

Mission Hill Middle School Library Learning Objectives for Fostering Information Literacy:

- 1. Locate, evaluate, synthesize and use information from a variety of sources.**
- 2. Understand and use basic research techniques appropriate to the course discipline.**
- 3. Understand the various ways in which information is organized and structured.**
- 4. Understand the ethical issues involved in accessing and using information.**

(Mackey and Jacobson, 2007)