
Grade 6 Parent-Connect

11 Nov 2025

Agenda for this morning

- Welcome - Mr. Evan Barth
- Trip wrap-up and looking forward - Ms. Alison Ung
- Adolescent development - Dr. Melinda Gonzales
- Academics and Questions from you - Mr. Barth

Grade 6 trip to Camp Newman in Santa Rosa

Alison Ung, Assistant Division Head

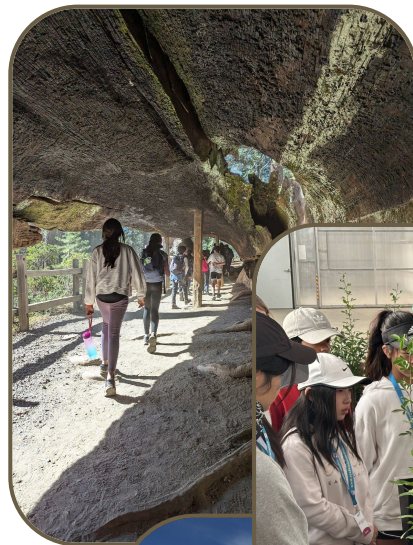
Trip Goals

- Academic Learning
 - History and Culture:
 - Camp Newman as a Jewish Site
 - Indigenous culture through Kule Loklo and a guest speaker
 - Joe Salinas - Southern Pomo and Coast Miwok tribes
 - Science: Fire ecology, local wildlife, earthquakes impact
- Social Learning
 - Teamwork
 - Communication
 - Problem Solving
- Personal Growth
 - Challenge by choice
 - Independence



Looking Ahead - 7th Grade Trip

- California Explorations
 - Working CA Farm
 - Hiking at elevation
 - Ancient and enormous trees
 - Trip to Manzanar
 - Site of Japanese Incarceration Camp
 - Kayaking in Monterey Bay
- What to expect
 - More details in our Spring trip meeting
 - Registration and roommate sign ups in late Spring
 - Hotels, not cabins
 - Still no cellphones or smartwatches



Classroom Connections

6th Grade:

- Guest speaker for Community Time
 - Eddie Madril - Pascua Yaqui tribe, SFSU Professor on American Indian Studies
- Student presentation on Jewish symbolism at Camp Newman
- Plate Tectonics in Science class
- Discussions and reflections on the trip



7th Grade:

- Summer Reading: Analysis and assessment in English class
- Historical analysis of racism across the medieval world with modern connections in History class
- Discussions and connections on the trip



Trips / Global Education

- Greece - Trip Lead, Mr. Hirota
- Peru - Trip Lead, Mr. Janda
- Costa Rica (Spanish immersion), Trip Lead, Sra. Pinzás

Future International Trips:

Information/applications will be sent out later this year (typically in March)!

Adolescence & Parenting

Dr. Melinda Gonzales, Counselor



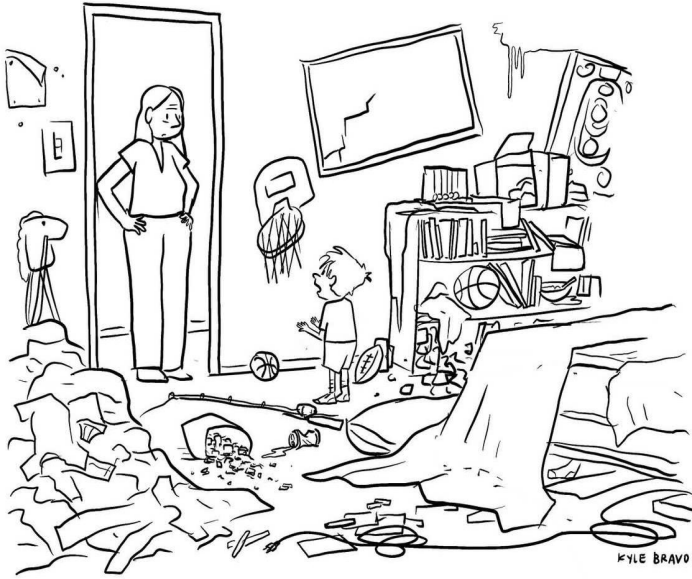
“Bye, sweetie—have a day filled with social drama, drastically shifting friendships, and academic milestones, which you’ll describe to me later as ‘fine.’”

And yes this is normal ...

Goal of an adolescent ..leave childhood behind, establish independence, make new social connections

Goal of parenting...listen, be calm when they are not, don’t rush to fix, create a safe space for sharing and conversation

The relationship matters...what you say and how you say it matters, this will last a lifetime



"Trust the process."



293

Growth & change will happen...be patient, the adolescent brain is working hard, parenting is a marathon not a sprint

Parenting Resources...

Counselors available anytime

Ms. Kara Seeger A - L

Dr. Gonzales M-Z

ISACS Speaker Series

Common Ground Speaker Series

LIFE Parent Coffee at Boynton

11/18 - *The Power of Showing Up*

12/2 - Watch Party - *Helping Kids*

Thrive in the Age of AI

Academics and Questions from you

Evan Barth, Division Head

6th grade academics

- 6th graders have long (90 minute) class meetings the last week in December
- These may include regular unit tests
- Cumulative semester exams do not begin until 7th grade.
- OLSAT last week in December

Student progress

- How does the school know when a student is ready for an academic challenge?
 - Thriving – Questions – Anticipation – Grades
- How can a student balance office hours with other activities?
- Homework

Online behavior and decisions

- Computer Science class - personal information
- Kid Power (this week)
- Community Time speaker
- Health class
- Parents

Artificial Intelligence

- Future-Ready
- Learning-First
- Safety Conscious
- Integrity-Focused
- Ethical

school 



Flint

Health classes

- Grade 6 curriculum (a one-quarter class)
 - Nutrition and Physical Activity
 - Growth and Development
 - Personal and Community Health
 - Injury Prevention and Safety
 - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
 - Mental, Emotional, and Social Health

Gr 7: Continuation of these topics, more learning on alcohol, tobacco, and drugs

Gr 8: includes a sex education unit

Parent information



- Isaacs and Common Ground (and LIFE Parent Coffees)
- Long term perspective: “Harker College Matriculation”

ISACS and Common Ground

ISACS Parent SERIES 2025 2026

A Series of Six One-Hour Webinars for Independent School Parents & Caregivers

Webinars p. 2-4
Registration & Fees p. 5

School Leaders:

The ISACS Parent Series has become a cornerstone program for independent schools, designed to strengthen school-home partnerships. This year, ISACS is proud to offer another outstanding series of six one-hour webinars tailored for parents at every stage of their children's development.

Parents & Caregivers:

Join fellow independent school parents for six evening webinars led by renowned experts, offering guidance and support across all aspects of your child's development. We look forward to learning alongside you!

6:30–7:30 p.m. CT / 7:30–8:30 p.m. ET

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

School Skills: Setting Kids Up for Success

Lisa Damour, Author & Ask Lisa Podcast

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025

How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Impacted Everything + What We Can Do About It

Jonathan Haidt, Author & Social Psychologist

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

Elevating Discipline with the Brain in Mind

Tina Payne Bryson, Author, Speaker & Pediatric Psychotherapist

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

10 to 25: The Science of Motivating Young People

David Yeager, University of Texas at Austin, Psychologist & Author

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

Happier Parenting: Evidence-based Strategies for Improving Parent Happiness

Laurie Santos, Yale University

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

Conscious Parenting: Raising Resilient, Self-aware & Connected Children

Dr. Shefall Tsabary, Clinical Psychologist & Author



CALENDAR FALL 2025

inform engage inspire

Please join us for a new season dedicated to inspiring strong families and engaging school communities through parent education. All events are free of charge to the parents, faculty and staff of our member schools. Adults not affiliated with a member school may attend for a \$10 fee at the door.



Tues, Sept 16; 7pm-8:15pm

St. Francis High School, Mountain View

DREAM SCHOOL:

Finding the College That's Right for You

JEFF SELINGO



Thurs, Sept 25, National Math Story-Telling Day; 6pm
Mid-Peninsula High School, Menlo Park

COUNTED OUT:

Math is Power – Film Screening and Q+A

with **DIRECTOR VICKI ABELES**



Thur, Oct 9; 7pm-8:15pm

Menlo School, Atherton

THE PARENT PLAYBOOK:

Improving Family Dialogue

DR. RONA HU'S THEATRICAL VIGNETTES



Thur, Nov 6; 7pm-8:15pm

via Zoom

HEALING THE MODERN BRAIN

Protecting Mental Health and Mental Fitness

DR. DREW RAMSEY



Tues, Dec 2; time TBD

via Zoom

HELPING KIDS THRIVE IN THE AGE OF AI
with the Authors of *The Disengaged Teen*

REBECCA WINTHROP and **JENNY ANDERSON**

www.commongroundspeakerseries.org

Growth mindset and helping your child thrive

- Ask about what they are learning, what is going well, what needs more work
- Do not focus on grades as an answer - use grades as an indicator of where to seek help or where to put in energy
- Ask your child about their processes. Gently nudge...

STeP Conferences

Thank you!