



# CHEETAH CHATTER

Chet F. Harritt STEAM School Principal's Newsletter

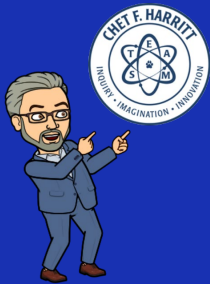


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Volume II

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## ATTENDANCE COUNTS



Ted Hooks, Principal

We have enjoyed an amazing year so far at Chet F Harritt. We have seen the transition from a closed campus to one that is more open, with school events returning in full force. Chet is alive and thriving.

However, as the year has progressed, we have also seen a marked increase in student absences that aren't illness related. Now is the time to send out the word that, unless you are sick, you should be at school every day on time, ready to learn.

Why are we bringing this up?

Here's a fact and a troubling statistic:

Fact - A student is considered *chronically absent* if they miss more than 10% of the school year, regardless of the reason.

Statistic: Over 20% of students at Chet are considered *chronically absent* today. That's one out of every five children on campus.



Remember, we certainly don't want children who are sick at school. That said, students have 180 days to attend school each school year. Those days are valuable and shouldn't be missed. The school year doesn't have a vacation time built in. That is what breaks and holidays are for. When our doors are open, we are providing purposeful instruction that students need in order to progress academically. Those days are precious.

Things that can help:

- Schedule appointments, family events, and travel during breaks and school holidays.
- If a planned event cannot be avoided, check to see if an Independent Study Contract (usually for 5 or more days, possibly 3 or more days of absence) can be created. Please know we need a week or two notice to get the materials together. Return the contract at the end of the absence with all work completed and absences can be excused. Ask the teacher or the School Attendance Clerk, DeAnna Tritthart, in the front office for information.
- Keep practicing healthy habits (even as simple as hand-washing) to prevent illness.
- Try to make it here every day, even the hard ones. If it is a tough day, reach out and let us know. There's a team here to help.

You should expect see more about increasing our attendance rates and making sure everyone is taking full advantage of every day of learning at Chet. It's a great place to be, so let's do this, together.

Have a great weekend, and I'll see you in the halls.

Sincerely,  
Ted Hooks

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## **A SUCCESSFUL KINDNESS WEEK**

Our Kindness Week was a terrific experience with challenges



for classes and individuals based on the Great Kindness Challenge. Students showed their best and reflected on the place kindness deserves on campus and in their lives.

Here's a special shout out to our Middle School Associated Student Body (ASB) for our "[Kind Welcome](#)" during arrival this morning. Click on the image to see a video of the welcome!



## RECESS WITH ROVER

Chet is excited to partner with Momentum Tutoring and Canine Companions to welcome Recess with Rover, a pilot behavioral health program, on campus.

Selected students and staff will have an opportunity to meet a Canine Companion Future Service Dog for a few minutes during their lunch break. There will be opportunities on Thursdays during February.

We hope through this event, more opportunities like this will come to our campus.

Thank you Momentum and Canine Companions!



Canine Companions Future Service Dogs

## RECESS WITH ROVER

Recess with Rover will be at Chet F. Harritt School on Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 @ 11:40-12:50.

Momentum Tutoring has teamed up with Canine Companion Future Service Dogs to visit schools to interact with students and staff during recess.

Recess with Rover is a Pilot Behavioral Health Program, made possible through Momentum's K-12 Community Grant with the County of San Diego. It is designed to meet social and emotional needs after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supportive animals on-campus uplifts spirits and allows students and staff to experience an increased sense of well-being and happiness.



LEARN MORE ABOUT CANINE COMPANIONS  
[www.canine.org](http://www.canine.org)

LEARN MORE ABOUT MOMENTUM TUTORING  
[www.momentumtutoring.org](http://www.momentumtutoring.org)

## KEEPING OUR STREETS SAFE BY DRIVING CAREFULLY

Lately we have received reports of unsafe driving on our neighborhood streets, specifically during arrival and dismissal time. I want to make sure we are working together to keep things safe for our children and families.

Please be cautious and avoid:

- Illegal U-Turns
- Travelling through neighboring streets at high speed
- Illegally passing vehicles
- Using red curbs to stop and wait or unload

We know everyone wants to keep children safe, so thank you!

Also, our partners at the Santee Sheriff substation have offered to increase observation in our area to make sure we are safe. We thank them in advance for their support as well.



## TRANSPORTATION PLAN SURVEY

The 2022-23 State Budget included additional funds that school districts can receive to pay for more of the costs associated with providing student transportation services. In order to receive the funds, the District is required to adopt a [Student Transportation Plan](#) on or before April 1, 2023 after obtaining input from various educational partners.

The Student Transportation Plan is currently in development and will be taken to the Board of Education for approval at the March 21, 2023 regular meeting.

Please click [HERE](#) to access the Transportation Plan Survey and provide us input for developing and finalizing the plan.

## CHET NIGHT WITH THE GULLS

The Chet PTA has an exciting family fun event on the horizon. On Saturday, March 11, the Gulls will be playing against Henderson. A Gulls Tailgating event will start prior to the game at 4pm. Doors open at 6pm with the game starting at 7pm. This game is a giveaway night -reversible bucket hats (while supplies last).

There are a few surprises that the PTA have planned throughout the evening. Chet PTA will be selling tickets



### Section T11

Standard Ticket **\$20.00**

Ticket with Hat **\$24.00**

Ticket with Scarf **\$26.00**

through an online link only. The online link will be open from Feb 1 until March 9. There will be an Information and Chet gear table every Wednesday in February (Feb 1, Feb 8, Feb 15, and Feb 22) at the main gate. To help us create a sea of Chet Blue, the PTA table will have Chet Gear for sale by cashless sales and preorders. If you have any questions, please feel free to come to the table or email the event chairperson, Kimberli Crook [kimberlipta@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlipta@gmail.com). There will also be discounted Gulls snapback hats and Gulls Logo scarfs available as add-ons with your online ticket purchases. <https://fevo.me/3zYO0Xr>

Ticket with Hat & Scarf  
**\$30.00**



## REMINDER: 8TH GRADE FAMILIES SCHOOL CHOICE FOR HIGH SCHOOL IS OPEN NOW!

If your child is planning to attend high school in the Grossmont High School District next year, the window is now open (Dec. 1-Feb. 28) for requesting School Choice (attending a school that is not within your address boundary) and for general registration [click here](#) for more information on how to complete the School Choice Requests, and more information about the [Grossmont High School Boundaries](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1	PTA Table at Main Gate (Chet Gear and Gulls Info)
February 8	PTA Table at Main Gate (Chet Gear and Gulls Info)
February 13	Lincoln's Day (NO SCHOOL)
February 15	PTA Table at Main Gate (Chet Gear and Gulls Info)
February 20	Washington's Day (NO SCHOOL)
February 22	PTA Table at Main Gate (Chet Gear and Gulls Info)
February 28	School Choice for High School Closes (8th gr)

Click for the [Santee School District Current and Future Calendars](#)

Click for the [Chet F. Harritt Website Calendar](#)



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You will be taken to a webpage of past newsletters.

Cheetah Chatter Archives



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