

Monthly School Liaison Newsletter

February 2025



Hello Monterey Military Connected Community!

My name is John “J.” McKenzie, the new School Liaison Officer at Naval Support Activity Monterey (NSAM). I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my role as the School Liaison Officer.

I am a local product of the military – born in the former Fort Ord Army Base on the Monterey Peninsula to a career Army Staff Sergeant. Although I technically would not consider myself an “Army Brat” as my father retired when I was 5 years old, through extension of my five older siblings’ experiences, I have an astute understanding of the challenges of military connected students and the many Permanent Change of Stations they all endured.

Educationally, I matriculated through the schools of Monterey, California. This included both public and private school and our local community college, Monterey Peninsula College. Beyond Monterey I pursued higher learning at the California State University at San Francisco and San Jose where I earned a BA in English, Teaching Credential, and MA in Education.

My career as an educator spans multiple facets of public schools: English Teacher, Journalism Advisor, Track Coach, Department Chair, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Coordinator.

Both teaching and school administration offered experiences within and outside the classroom that have imbued my understanding of what it means to support a student to achieve social, emotional, and academic success. Through my experience and background in education and understanding of the military connected student, I hope to develop support and understanding, create nurturing school climates, challenge and strengthen a resolve for learning, and foster outcomes for our students that will ensure optimal success.

Personally, my wife and family make the Monterey Peninsula our home. Currently, we reside at the community of East Garrison, California, which is on the former Fort Ord Army Base and where, coincidentally, my father had an office. My wife Karen is a career educator as well, and a proud alumnus of the University of Michigan (“Go Blue!”).

I look forward to working and collaborating with the entire military community in serving our families, students, schools, and communities. Please reach out to me for any education-related issues or questions that arise.

Contact Information

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Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Enrollment & Registration Information

The Monterey Peninsula Unified School District's new student enrollment and returning student confirmation process for the 2025-2026 school year for grades Transitional Kindergarten (TK) - Kindergarten has begun! 1st through 12th Grade registration will begin in April.

Don't delay as early new student enrollment and confirmation of returning students helps the district plan and prepare its teaching and staffing needs for the upcoming school year.



School Board Highlights: Community-wide Engagement Meeting

Please join the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Board and Leadership for a Community-Wide Engagement Meeting as part of a special Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. The School Board wants to hear from all education partners as they endeavor to create the Local Control Accountability Plan or LCAP. This is your opportunity to provide valuable **input and feedback** on how the district should invest **\$20 million in federal funding** to better serve our students. Your voice matters!

Where: Seaside High School Makerspace

When: Tuesday, February 25

Time: 7:00 PM (approximate following regular board business)

*Light refreshments and childcare available. Click the link for more information on MPUSD's current [Local Control Accountability Plan](#).