

2024-2025

REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



PARENT CO-OP Welcome Packet



GET TO
KNOW YOUR
NEW SCHOOL!

- Meet our Staff
- School Communications
- School Organizations

LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR
PROGRAM

- Fundraising
- Fundraising Calendar
- Volunteering
- Mandarin Immersion Program
- In Summary

MEET OUR STAFF



WINNIE CHEN - PRINCIPAL WINNE 校长 (WINNIE XIÀOZHǎNG)

Winnie began as a Mandarin Immersion teacher and quickly took on roles as a curriculum development specialist, teaching coach, and vice principal before becoming principal in 2023. She is dedicated to creating a positive school culture where every student can feel a strong sense of belonging at Orion. Connect with Winnie: ychen@rcsdk8.net

BRIANNA TURNER - VICE PRINCIPAL 副校长 (BRIANNA FÙ XIÀOZHǎNG)

Brianna has over a decade of experience as an elementary educator in both teaching and literacy specialist roles. She is committed to providing students with high-quality educational experiences that promote their academic, social-emotional, and physical development. Connect with Brianna: bturner@rcsdk8.net



ELIZABETH ARIAZA OFFICE MANAGER

Elizabeth has worked at the school for nearly a decade. She knows everything and makes sure our school keeps running on a daily basis. She speaks Spanish as well as English. Connect with Elizabeth: earaiza@rcsdk8.net

CRISTINA RYFFEL - LIBRARIAN

Cristina Ryffel is a long time veteran of Orion Alternative. She brings an unmatched passion for literacy (in all languages) that is reflected in our core curricular events such as Author Illustrator Fair during November literacy month.



Orion Communications

From parents/teachers/leadership/committees/volunteers

Konstella

A calendar with school events that can be synced to your account/phone

Reminders in app and/or email

Chat with class/groups/committees

From the principal

Ad hoc texts, emails with important notifications or requests.

Orion Gazette –updates from the principal every other week.

From the teacher(s)

Teacher defined -some use email or apps like Class Dojo with updates and messaging.

Konstella–most teachers are also on Konstella

From the PTO –all parents and teachers are automatically members!

<https://www.starshiporion.org/>

Occasional emails from leadership

Additional communication resources

Facebook –Orion and Mandarin Immersion Parents:

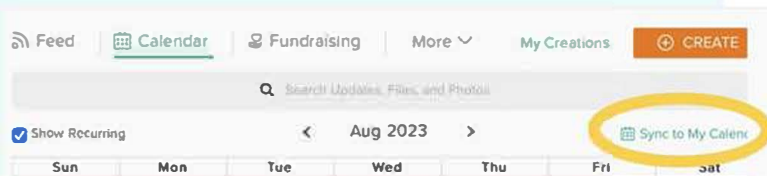
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2381301398814851/>

Instagram -@orion_alternative

Join Konstella!

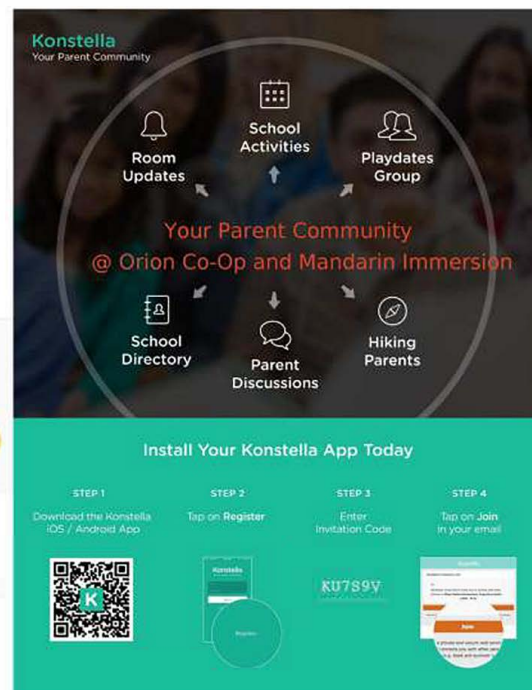
One platform for communication and events

- Sign up and join the school
<https://www.Konstella.Com/cd/KU7S9V>
- Sync your calendar: log in (computer or app), go to calendar, find the button in top right.



- Join your classroom –new and previous students! Updates from teacher and class, along with program specific information.
- Committees and volunteer opportunities soon!
- Questions or help needed?

viktoria.gontcharova@gmail.com or jerryberry@gmail.com



Volunteering at Orion



Orion Elementary School is two distinct programs, Parent Participation and Mandarin Immersion, that form one school. The programs share an administration, PTO and resources. We are fortunate to be a part of a wonderful school community, and are excited to welcome you to it.

As a member of the parent participation program your family is expected to contribute around 8 hours per month to support our school and our students' education and experiences. There are many varied opportunities throughout the year to volunteer, and we are here to support you in finding the options that best suit your skills, interests and availability.

How do I get involved?

To volunteer with the students you will need to be cleared by RCSD. There are 3 levels of clearance, depending on what you will be doing as a volunteer. Complete the volunteer application (and Livescan if needed). You will need a valid California DL/REAL ID and a valid TB test or TB assessment (we can help with this).

Level 1 - Supervised classroom volunteer, no need for Livescan

Level 2 - Occasionally unsupervised, Livescan required

Level 3 - Unsupervised, Livescan required

We have fingerprinting available at Maze Day, Co-op info night and Back to School night. District clearance can take a few weeks at the start of the year.

Returning volunteers: If you have been cleared as a RCSD volunteer, you need to complete the "Returning Volunteer" form on the District website. Livescan clearance remains valid for 5 years before it needs to be undertaken again.



Complete this PTO form to express your interest in the various volunteer opportunities available at Orion



RCSD application form and more information at the district website

Voluntariado en Orión



La Escuela Primaria Orion tiene dos programas distintos, Participación de Padres y Inmersión en Mandarín, que forman una sola escuela. Los programas comparten una administración, PTO y recursos. Somos afortunados de ser parte de una maravillosa comunidad escolar y estamos emocionados de darle la bienvenida.

Como miembro del programa de participación de padres, se espera que su familia contribuya alrededor de 8 horas por mes para apoyar nuestra escuela y la educación y las experiencias de nuestros estudiantes. Hay muchas oportunidades variadas durante todo el año para ser voluntario y estamos aquí para ayudar a encontrar las opciones que mejor se adapten a sus habilidades, intereses y disponibilidad.

¿Cómo me involucro?

Para ser voluntario con los estudiantes, deberá obtener la autorización del RCSD. Hay 3 niveles de autorización, dependiendo de lo que harás como voluntario. Complete la solicitud de voluntariado (y Livescan si es necesario). Necesitará una licencia de manejar/identificación REAL de California válida y una prueba o evaluación de tuberculosis válida (podemos ayudarlo con esto).

Nivel 1: voluntario de clase con supervisión, sin necesidad de Livescan (Huellas)

Nivel 2: ocasionalmente sin supervisión, se requiere Livescan (Huellas)

Nivel 3: sin supervisión, se requiere Livescan (Huellas)

Tenemos huellas dactilares disponibles el Día del Laberinto, la noche de información cooperativa y la noche de regreso a clases. La autorización del distrito puede tardar algunas semanas a principios de año; tenga paciencia.



Complete este formulario de PTO para expresar su interés en las diversas oportunidades de voluntariado disponibles en Orion



Formulario de solicitud de RCSD y más información en el sitio web del distrito

Voluntarios que regresan: Si ya tiene autorización como voluntario de RCSD, debe completar el formulario de Voluntario que regresa en el sitio web del Distrito. La autorización de Livescan sigue siendo válida durante 5 años antes de que sea necesario realizarla nuevamente.

PTO FUNDRAISING

\$700 per Family

FUNDRAISING SUPPORTS

- School wide enrichment programs including STEAM, Music, Art & Garden
- Classroom Supplies
- Tutoring
- Fieldtrips

Donate to the PTO
here



OUR 2024-2025 STARSHIP GOAL

Our goal for this school year is \$260,000.

Donations are voluntary. We encourage generosity for those that have more, to lift up others to help them succeed in our wonderful school community.

PAYPAL DIRECT DRIVE DONATIONS

The PTO direct drive runs from the start of school to October 31st. Funding commitments for the following year are made based on the amount of funding the community contributes by December 31st.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- Direct Donations
- Thursday Bake Sale Market
- Read - A - Thon
- Spring Auction
- Dine Outs



All donations are
tax deductible
EIN: 94-3179780

Ask if your company
matches donations

2024-2025 FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

FOR ORION CO-OP FAMILIES:

While donations are accepted year round, here are the major Starship Orion PTO fundraising drives:

- **August - October 2024** | PTO Fall Direct Drive Fundraising
 - Kicks off at Maze Day August 9th and runs through October 31st
- **November 2024** | PTO Read-a-Thon
 - November 1st - 30th
- **March 2025** | **PTO Spring Auction**

Note: Please support your class by contributing to class funds. Ask your class coordinator for more information. Your chosen after-school program may have donation drives of their own.



Orion is home to two programs. Get to know our neighbors:



Parent Co-op Program



Orion Alternative Elementary School's Parent Cooperative Program offers a nurturing learning environment where students develop positive values of self-reliance, initiative, kindness, resourcefulness, courage, creativity and joy.

Orion's strength is built on the participation and commitment of families. We request each PP family to contribute 72 flexible hours of volunteering time per school year, in or out of school hours.

Cornerstone Programs:

- Author Illustrator Fair
- Multicultural Studies
- Art in Action Classes

Culture of Orion

- Prioritizes Whole Child Education and Social-Emotional Skills
- Global Citizen Curricular Focus
- Teacher and Family Collaboration
- Community Building with Whole School

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Library Support and Readthons
- Art Docents/Aides
- Event Planning
- In-Class Support
- Weekend Garden Days



Learn more at:
<https://www.starshiporion.org/>



MANDARIN IMMERSION

社区合作带给我们成功

"Community collaboration brings us success"

VISION

Orion MI Students will:

- Express themselves in Mandarin
- Understand and appreciate Chinese Culture
- Become lifelong-resilient learners

Redwood City Mandarin Immersion Scholars (RCMIS)

RCMIS was founded as a fundraising nonprofit organization to support Mandarin Immersion in Redwood City. They provide funding for Mandarin teachers aids and a Mandarin Coach

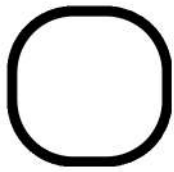
Mandarin Immersion Culture

- Community engagement through school-wide events like the Mid-Autumn/Harvest, Lunar New Year, and Dragon Boat Festivals
- Developing Mastery in Mandarin
- Cultural Immersion & Outreach
- Encouraging global citizenship



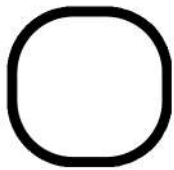
PARENT CO-OP

Collect all of these stamps to meet your teacher!



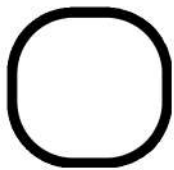
How to Volunteer

Parent volunteers drive the success of Orion. Volunteering is a great way to meet fellow families and make friends! Talk to your class coordinator to get involved, and fill out this survey to let us know your interests, whether in or out of school hours. Let us know how you would like to help by [filling this out](#)



Get Connected

Our PTO uses Konstella to inform parents of upcoming events and information, and to facilitate communication in classrooms and the wider school community. [Click here](#) or Scan this QR code to get signed up!



PTO Fundraising

PTO funds STEAM, Music, Art & Garden, Classroom Supplies, Tutoring, Field Trips, and more across both programs. [Donate here](#)



Get your fingerprinting done today!
Look for the fingerprinting station
available in the library