



August 12, 2025

Dear Families of P-5,

My name is Ms. Hsiung, and I will be teaching your fifth graders this year at Spangler Elementary. I grew up in Taipei, Taiwan, and moved to San Jose, CA when I was 5 years old. I was an English Language Learner growing up and completed my entire K-12 schooling in San Jose Unified School District. I went on to study at UC Berkeley in the environmental sciences, along with minors in music and education. I received my Masters in Education from Stanford University. I have direct experience teaching science, mathematics, language arts, and social studies, and have incorporated technology, art, and music into my classrooms. During the 2023 school year, I took a six month sabbatical to research successful math practices and strategies in Singapore; I brought my knowledge back to Spangler to start our first Math Club. This is my eighth year in Milpitas Unified School District and at Spangler Elementary. I am excited to work in MUSD because of the collaborative and tight-knit community of teachers, administrators, parents, and students!

I look forward to welcoming each individual student into the classroom and building each students' social-emotional and academic skills. I believe an effective teacher uses a variety of strategies that reflect the students' backgrounds, lived experiences, abilities, participatory styles, and learning experiences. From my students, I have learned to communicate more directly when I want something done, to embrace vulnerability in my classroom, and to be proud of how I am helping my students construct their own understanding of the world in a meaningful educational context. I know I will learn just as much from your child.

### **What is Happening Next?**

In the first few weeks of school, our **main priority** will be building a strong classroom community filled with safe and positive citizens. Spangler will be **reviewing** Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students' academic, behavioral, social, emotional, and mental health. We will be learning and practicing classroom rules and procedures. We will also be doing interest surveys and pre-assessments to see each child's academic level at the start of the year. In Math, we will start with number sense, specifically place value, as we work towards multiplying and dividing multi-digit whole numbers. In ELA, we will start with initial writing assessments and nonfiction text structures. In Social Studies, we will start with a United States geography unit.

## Homework Policy

Students will be given time to write down their homework in their planners each afternoon. All homework will be posted daily **on the board**. In addition, I will give math homework nearly every day so students can develop, practice, and refine the skills and strategies they learned in class. I will also require each student to read at least 30 minutes a day and complete a reading log. Typing essays, on-line learning assignments (Google Classroom), and finishing projects will be assigned on an as-needed basis. Please let me know if a computer/technological device is not available for your child to use at home.

## Classroom Supplies and Materials:

For a smooth transition, your child should bring in these materials **daily** by the **second week of school**:

- 3 black and white composition books/notebooks, **college ruled**, 9.75" x 7.5", 100 sheets (ELA, Math, and Social Studies)
- 1 pack of Expo Markers (all colors)
- 1 pair of earphones/headphones for online testing and assessments (iReady, CAASPP, etc.)
- 1 reusable water bottle
- 1 pack of Wet Ones, Clorox, or Lysol disinfecting wipes

I will provide individual materials for the students (markers, colored pencils, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, highlighters, etc.). I am asking that you **do not** send your child with his or her own *distracting* classroom supplies (mechanical pencils, pencil-top erasers, stickers, etc.).

## Parent/Guardian and Teacher Communication

I welcome all families and students to contact me by email at [ihsiung@musd.org](mailto:ihsiung@musd.org) or by **ParentSquare**. I will respond to all inquiries and questions within 24 to 48 hours. I look forward to discussing your child, what is taking place in the classroom, and how to best support your child's social-emotional and academic learning at school and at home. I will have further information about the curriculum, my classroom and homework policies, and parent volunteer sign-ups in this packet and during our **Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, August 27th, from 6:00 to 7:15 PM.**

Once again, welcome to P-5. I look forward to an uplifting and empowering year. Go Spartans!

Sincerely, Ms. Hsiung

**Please sign and return the next page after reading it through with your parent/guardian.**

**Student: I have read this letter and understood it. I will honor it while in P-5.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**Parent/Guardian:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I have read this letter and discussed it with my child. I understand it and I will support it.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I look forward to meeting Ms. Hsiung at Back to School Night on Wednesday, August 27th, 2025.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Email

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #