



Dr. Joe Ashby, Principal



I am elated to begin my 11th year as Monte Vista's principal. Starting as a K-5 school with around 200 students, Monte Vista has now become an elaborate TK-8 configuration with around 700 students. I moved into School Administration upon moving back to California ten years ago with Monte Vista being my first and only principalship.

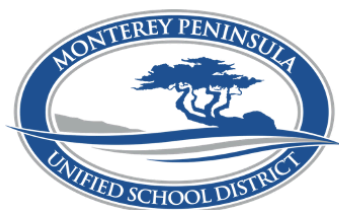
I bring a variety of experiences to the table. I received my Liberal Arts degree (Music and Math Minor) at Pepperdine University with a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. While teaching in the field for many years (elementary and middle school) as well as being an instructional coach, I went on to receive my Masters and Ed.S. degrees in Elementary Curriculum and Instruction at University of Alabama and then my Educational Doctorate in Leadership, Policy, and Organizations from Vanderbilt University, Peabody College. I have taught several different grade levels, participated on and presented with many different teacher affiliated coalitions and organizations, and have served on many teams and committees at a district level in order to elevate teaching practices and drive student learning to higher levels of innovation and achievement.

Over the last 25 years of my career in education, my experiences have become extensive, including such initiatives as Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and STEAM focused/guided curriculum design; restorative justice and mindfulness practices; enriching after school programs, focusing on the arts, music, sports, and foreign languages; and a student-centered, whole child learning model through the use of multi-disciplinary inquiry-based learning, which brings in student-led conferencing, formative and summative assessments, and fostering of entrepreneurial and creative mindset.

I am also a very dynamic and charismatic leader that has a strong pulse and application of distributive leadership and multi-stakeholder engagement, including leveraging and connecting the expertise and talents of parents and local community members to the enhancement, cultural responsiveness, and relevance of classroom learning experiences and community-building events. Lastly, I have been a long-time supporter and have a strong understanding of many different school models—which have qualities that can cohesively come together to help students become passionate, lifelong, and transformational learners.

We have had much success in turning around and making Monte Vista TK-8 a higher performing and highly desired school in MPUSD. We have received Honor Roll three times from the Educational Results Partnership, were published in a report from Pivot Learning on Growth Culture, and were awarded the 2020 California Distinguished School Award.

One thing I love most about my job is how to facilitate teachers to develop growth mindsets and increase their instructional capacity (through such practices as instructional rounds and job-embedded PD and student-centered coaching cycles). In turn, I foster and nurture teachers to cultivate this same growth mindset with their students on academic, social-emotional, and civic levels. Ultimately, fostering the *whole child* of every child helps students self actualize their best envisioned identities over time--leaving an indelible mark on them for the rest of their fulfilling lives.



**New Assistant Principal,
Tierney Wessel!**

I am honored to be starting my 11th year in MPUSD and my 5th year at Monte Vista TK-8! I am a graduate of California State University Northridge, where I received my Bachelors in Arts in liberal studies. I continued my education at CSUN and received my multiple subject teaching Credential. I then completed my administrative credential and received my Masters of Science, School Leadership in 2017. I have taught many different grade levels throughout my 21 years in education. I also have experience in a leadership role as an Academic Coach in MPUSD. This will be my first role as Assistant Principal and I couldn't be more excited!

Monterey Peninsula Unified School District's priority in student learning and achievement correlates with my values and beliefs as an educator. I believe in arts integration with core academics while supporting social emotional learning allows students to inquire, explore, and use creativity while mastering the skill of critical thinking, reflection, and self-regulation. I enjoy providing teachers with support in successful implementation of positive behavior through arts integration and mindfulness in the classroom integrated with our district adopted ELA and Math curriculum.

I have been a teacher at Monte Vista TK-8 since August of 2021 where I continued my role as a teacher leader. I joined the Equity Leadership Team and served as a COMP (Classroom Organization Management Program) trainer for new teachers in the district from 2021-2024. I am passionate about Monte Vista's inquiry arc work and partnership with the New School of San Francisco. Our teachers created and wrote our inquiry arcs utilizing district adopted curriculum including Benchmark, STEM scopes, TCI, and Ready Math.

I am passionate about school leadership and working closely with students, teachers, parents, and staff to provide an equitable education and ensure student success and achievement. I look forward to getting to know each family at Monte Vista TK-8 as I transition into my new role as Assistant Principal.