

Strike Information for Montclair Parents (last updated at 2/24/20)

By parents, for parents

CHECK BACK OFTEN FOR UPDATES

The strike continues into the week of Feb 25 ...

A letter from MES teachers:

February 24, 2019

Dear Families,

Thank you for all of your support! Thousands of families joined our picket lines and rallies last week. By our count, over 97% of parents chose to keep their children home from school on Friday. You have made history! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for standing with us.

The strike continues tomorrow. OUSD has said clearly that no students absent during the strike will face punitive actions ([see their statement here](#)).

We look forward to seeing you on picket lines (6:30am - 10am) and at Frank Ogawa Plaza (12:30pm) on Monday. We will not waver in our commitment to the schools our students deserve. And we can't wait to be back in the classroom teaching our children!

We had strong picket lines on Friday and continue to flex our community strength towards a fair contract with OUSD. Thank you! With more than 90% of OEA members striking and only 3% of students in our schools, OUSD is feeling our power.

We will still be striking on Monday. It is likely to be raining on Monday and the picket line will stand rain or shine. Please join us! OUSD spokesperson John Sasaki confirmed there will be NO consequences for students missing school. With 97% of students missing school, it is extremely unlikely that they can or want to punish students and families.

If you need a place for your child to stay during the day there are FREE options at Fairyland, the Oakland Museum, and all public libraries. Also if you have no other options be in touch with your teachers about solidarity school locations. Thank you for holding strong for the schools we all deserve!

Sincerely,

The Montclair OEA members

2/18/19—[open letter signed by 75 OUSD principals](#): supporting teachers but calling for more state and local funding.

We ♥ Montclair teachers!

Teachers request that parents support their strike by not sending their kids to school. Please make plans for your family as you see fit. To help you do that, below you'll find information on:

1. [Supporting teachers during the strike: info and alternatives to school \(scroll down\)](#)
2. [How Montclair School will operate during the strike \(scroll further down\)](#)
3. [What to expect at the school during the strike \(scroll to the end\)](#)

Each family's response to a strike, including to cross a picket line or not, is personal and based on any number of factors. These could be trying and challenging times for our community. We'll lean on our shared passion for our teachers, our kids, and our school to respect differing decisions.

The Fact Finding Panel (comprised OEA (union) and OUSD reps; see [OEA](#) and [OUSD](#) for info) publicly released their report of facts about issues central to the labor dispute. See the [report here](#). It's possible both sides resolve the dispute in the days leading up to Feb 21.

1. Supporting teachers during the strike (source: teachers, parents)

- a. Resources provided by Oakland Education Association (OEA), the teachers' union, [can be found here](#).
- b. For more information on the strike, helpful tips for parents, other related strike news and updates, *Like* this MES parent and teacher administered Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OaklandStrikeReady>.
- c. Ways to donate to striking teachers: [Support Oakland Teachers and Students – GoFundMe, Bread For Ed, and T-Shirts!](#)
- d. **Solidarity Schools** (an alternative to sending kids to Montclair during strike):
Parent volunteers have secured alternative locations to care for and in some cases provide education during the potential strike. These locations are being referred to as Solidarity Schools. Solidarity School locations include: Montclair Rec Center, local businesses, First Church of Christ (across the street from the school), and a few MES family homes.

If you have questions or would like more info, contact:

Site Coordinator - Liz Stanley (lizstan@gmail.com)

Supervisor and Parent Volunteer Coordinator - Liz Campbell
(lizcampbell333@gmail.com)

Student Placement - Catherine Weis (catherineannweis@gmail.com)

If you have not done so already, complete the Solidarity School Survey (even if you do not need coverage). Every family should submit the [Montclair Solidarity School Questionnaire](#).

The greatest need at the moment is parent volunteers to assist the Solidarity Schools site leaders. Please consider volunteering your time and complete the [NEW SS Volunteer Form](#). Those who have already signed up (Thank you!) do not need to complete the new form.

Would you like to donate snacks for the teachers on the picket line? [Sign-up here](#).

Are you available to show support on the picket line? If so, please sign-up here: [Montclair Picket Line Sign-up](#).

Things to keep in mind while considering the needs of your child (ren):

1. OUSD liability insurance only covers OUSD facilities. As such, the hope is for students to stay home, or with friends whom they regularly have play dates with, or at other similar child care options.
2. All meals normally provided during regular school hours will be delivered to Solidarity Schools during every day of the potential strike. HUGE thanks to Bread For Ed for providing this and to the parent volunteers who will be delivering the meals.

- e. **Curriculum Suggestions by grade level** for your child (ren) to complete at home during the strike. This information is still being compiled. Check back in the coming week for more updates. As always, the updates your child's teachers have sent home throughout the year via MemberHub are a great resource for information and suggestions about what content and practice will benefit your children the most.

[TK/K](#)

[1](#)

[2](#)

[3](#)

[4](#)

[5](#)

- f. **Children's books about labor/social justice.** [Here's a list of books](#) about labor history and labor organizing recommended by [SocialJusticeBooks.org](#), a project of Teaching for Change, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide teachers and parents with the tools to create schools where students learn to read, write and change the world.

g. **Day camps during the strike**

- i. **Day camps in Piedmont next week.** Piedmont Recreation department is offering day camps for Feb 19-22. [See their Winter/Spring catalog for Holiday Camps.](#)
- ii. **Oakland YMCA** is supporting teachers by offering day camps. Get on the waitlist quickly to secure space. [Here's their information flyer.](#)
- iii. **University Village mid-winter break day camps in Berkeley:** Next week, during this year's Mid-Winter Break, February 19-22, join Mid-Winter Break Camp! This mini-camp will include Lego (STEM FUNdamentals), Soccer, Chess (with Berkeley Chess School) and MultiSport (Bowling, Skate and Bubble Soccer). Half-Day camps that can be combined to create a Full-Day! Extended Care options form 7:30am-5:30pm available. Space is very limited! Early registration is highly recommended! [Find Full Details and Registration here.](#)
- iv. **Trackers day camp.** [Here's info to Trackers Bay camps offered Feb 19-22.](#)
- v. **Bladium in Alameda.** Over in Alameda, more day camps for Feb 19-22. [Find info here.](#)
- vi. **Kids N' Dance in Oakland.** [Kids N' Dance](#) is offering daycare during the strike. [Find sign-up form here.](#)
- vii. **AXE Camp** will be providing daycare/camp during the strike. They have a requested sliding scale donation of \$30 to \$50. Activities include: reading, capoeira, homework help, spanish, art, porteguisse, and music. Email axeoakland@gmail.com to confirm attendance.

2. How Montclair school will operate during the strike

(source: developed in collaboration with administration and providers)

02/19/19: [OUSD update to community and staff about the strike can be found here.](#)

- a. Montclair School will be open and operating with regular school hours. We anticipate the majority of teachers will participate in a potential strike. Other employees, like cafeteria staff, may strike to support OEA members. If needed, Montclair will be supported by temporary teachers and central office staff. [Here's an OUSD FAQ](#) describing anticipated student experience as well as background info.

- b. Adventure Time (a separate agency independent of OUSD and PTA) will be open for their regular hours, 7:00–8:30 am and 2:30–6:00 pm. If your child is currently enrolled with AT, they may attend AT whether or not they attend school. Please be advised, however, that you must walk your child into AT to sign in/out if your child does not attend school during the strike.
- c. After School Enrichment classes. Each independent provider is evaluating whether to offer classes during a strike. Participating families will hear from ASE instructors about their specific classes. The most important thing to know from an ASE perspective is that family members will have to escort students to and from ASE class, even if they have gone to school. As you can imagine, this may not be feasible for parents to do this, so many families may opt to not send their kids to ASE classes.
- d. Language League (LL): LL is evaluating how it will manage during a strike. Participating families will hear directly from the LL team.
- e. PTA-paid staff: In support of teachers, the 12 PTA-paid staffers (hourly, non-union employees) will be paid to do alternate, off-site work during the strike. Also, they can't work at Solidarity Schools as PTA employees (liability constraints) but may decide individually to give their time to those initiatives as a personal choice.

3. What to expect at the school during a strike

We may see picketing or other protest activity outside of the school, particularly at drop-off and pick-up times. It's possible a significant number of students will be absent. Classes will be staffed by temporary substitute teachers. Here's [more info from OUSD](#) about schools during the strike.

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