



Miramonte Freshman & New Parent FAQs

What will my student need to do on Mat's Day?

Mats Day is the official kick off to the school year and a proud tradition at Miramonte High School, both because of the fun of students reconnecting as they begin another school year and due to the efficiency with which this day is run. Unlike most schools, Mat's Day is a student-only event - no need for parents to come along and stand in line!

Prior to Mats Day parents should ensure that registration and residency verification is completed. Students without completed registration and residency verification **will not be able to go through Mats Day**. Registration can be completed at [SchoolMint](#) and [residency verification](#) is either checked online (for 10th through 12th graders) or in person in our Attendance Office (new students and 9th graders).

Students should bring their Registration Verification email to Mats Day to ensure quick student processing. In addition, students should also bring their Web Store receipts. During Mats Day, students will take their school photo, obtain their ASB cards (with stickers for the ASB package, if purchased), complete an athletic health clearance if desired, pick up parking permits (11th and 12th graders), and receive their schedules.

Freshman students will arrive early to Mats Day to attend Freshman Orientation with Link Crew. This involves fun team-building and a tour of campus by spirited upperclassmen.

There are so many different things to purchase on Mat's Day. What are they?

Our [Web Store](#) is the place to go to pay for a variety of services and merchandise for Miramonte High School. To begin, set up an account using your student ID number. This is important because it helps us ensure that your purchases are aligned with your student. The Web Store is open all year for donations to Parents' Club, Boosters, and the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO). It is also the location for athletic contributions to our sports teams and our athletic budgets.

During registration, the Registration Web Store is a guide through the important beginning of school purchases. Click through all these pages to ensure your child does not miss out. Special pages for each grade level outline popular and recommended items for students.

Why do I need to donate to EFO, Parent's Club Annual Fund, and Boosters?

Due to the state's education budget, we rely on Miramonte Parents to fill the funding gap so that we can offer all academic classes, sports, and many many extras to students (see below links for more information). At Miramonte, that means donating to [Miramonte High School](#)

[Parents' Club](#), [EFO](#), and Boosters. Please give to all three organizations during registration or in the coming months. These funds are spent in the current school year and, without them, our students would not have the rich high school experience we have come to expect at Miramonte.

What is Class Fundraising?

Student Class Officers, with the guidance of Parent Advisors, organize activities over the 4 years to raise funds for class events such as Senior Ball, Senior Breakfast, and Junior Prom. Parent Advisors also take responsibility for raising funds to produce Grad Night. Funds raised enable the Classes to maintain reasonable ticket prices for these events, which enable all interested Miramonte students to participate. Most classes attempt to raise at least \$60,000 during their four years at Miramonte. Fundraising activities include T-shirt sales, snack shack sales, car washes, raffles, restaurant nights, and sales of Miramonte-centered gear and seasonal items. There is also an annual "Activity" donation requested during online registration, but it is also available at any time through the [Web Store](#).

Can students buy brunch and lunch at school?

Counselors recommend freshman bring their lunch if possible the first day or two of school so they can learn the "lay of the land." The lunch line can be a little bit long sometimes, and we frequently hear that freshman enjoy having the first week of school to figure out where they'd like to eat their lunch geographically on campus, so not having to wait in line for food can be a positive.

The cafeteria is open daily before school, during brunch, and during lunch. Students may purchase food in the cafeteria, at the cafeteria window, or from a cafeteria cart. See the [Nutrition Services](#) page for more information about free and reduced meal applications and pre-payment options.

What is Academy & Freshman Seminar?

Academy is a 55-minute period that occurs on Wednesday and Friday between 4th and 5th periods. During Academy, most students will have the option to see a teacher for additional help, have time to complete homework, or study. Some students will be required to attend specific sessions in order to get more targeted support from their teachers. Occasionally students will have the option to see guest speakers or participate in enrichment activities.

Freshman Seminar is a series of five Academy sessions during the 1st Semester that all freshmen are required to attend. The sessions are lead by teachers and counselors and cover topics that include making connections at Miramonte, communication skills, equity, how to succeed at Miramonte and high school life.

What is peer tutoring and how can my student participate?

Peer tutoring is offered during Academy in the upper level of the Student Center. Students have the opportunity to receive help on a variety of subjects from other students. Students can make

an appointment using the TeachMore app or drop in during the Academy periods. Many teachers also invite peer tutors to work with students in their classrooms during academy.

Peer tutors are trained, students (10-12 graders) who volunteer their services 1-2 academy periods each month. Peer tutors can be most effective because they know the Miramonte curriculum and Miramonte teachers from first hand experience. Students interested in becoming peer tutors can ask to be nominated by one of their teachers.

What happens if my student needs to leave school early for a school-sponsored sporting or co-curricular event?

If your child needs to leave early for an appointment, please call the Attendance Office to excuse the absence and leave details regarding the the time of the appointment. All students must sign out through the Attendance Office when they leave for their appointments and obtain an off-campus pass. When students arrive back at school from appointments, they must sign into the Attendance Office so we are notified of their return. Failure to do this could result in a truancy. Please help us to keep our students safe by following this policy.

If your child is leaving for a school event, lists are sent by coaches or teachers in advance to the Attendance Office. Teachers are notified of early releases so that students may leave class at the appropriate time without penalty.

How do I pick up my student from school?

Students can be picked up from the bus circle in front of the gym. Please do not pick up your student in student or staff parking lots or on the part of Ivy Drive that is in front of the school. Many parents wait for their student on the other side of Moraga Way on Ivy Drive.

What are the library hours?

The library is opens at 7:30 am and closes at 5:30 pm Monday through Thursday and closes at 4:30 pm on Fridays. The Miramonte library is a great resource and place for all students to study before, during, and after school.

Are there any social events for parents?

There is only one annual all-parents social held in the fall, called the Fall Food Festival. In addition to this fun, each class typically hosts a Fall and Spring get together in order for parents to get to know one another -- these events raise funds that support the graduating class' budget.

How do we find out what is happening on campus?

Sign up for Mats News, the Daily Bulletin, and the Mirador (our student-produced publication). In addition, please follow our various clubs, teams, and classes on Twitter (some good starters are @MHSParentsClub, @MiramonteHS, @MatsBoosters, and @MatsStampede) and Instagram (@miramonteparentsclub, @mats_principal_parks, @mats_stampede). When in doubt, head to the Miramonte [website](#) which is a helpful resource for all families.

How can my student get involved socially in school?

Encourage your student to attend Club Day on September 26th! It is held on the quad at lunchtime (students can't miss it if they are on the quad), and every club has a booth open and encourages students to sign up. Counselors recommend students sign up for more clubs than they'd actually go to so they can "shop around." Who knows, the club they know the least about might be the one they're most excited for after the first meeting! Club leaders contact students via email to alert them to meeting times/locations. Meetings are typically held during lunch.

Students should attend as many school sponsored events as they can: sporting games, dances, performances, etc. It's a great way to get involved and make friends.

Sports are also a great way to meet new people and build a "family" at school.

What is the Miramonte Student Center?

The Miramonte Student Center is located adjacent to the theater in the heart of campus. Formerly the Miramonte Library and more recently used as the Art Center, the Student Center will be opening in August of 2018. Within the Student Center, students will have the opportunity to access both Peer Tutoring, in the lofted area, and wellness services on the main floor. The Student Center will be staffed by our Intake Specialist and Wellness Coordinator. We have high hopes for programming in this space, including Parent Education, student seminars, and student events. More to come!

How do I make an appointment with my counselor?

The [counseling office](#) is here to support all students at Miramonte. Your counselors are a great resource for questions and concerns related to course selection, graduation, and college applications. We encourage you to reach out if you to your counselor often!

How do I register my student for Miramonte sports?

[SportsNet Registration Instructions](#)

Where do I find information about sports tryouts, practices, and competitions?

[MHS Booster Club & Team Information](#)

Why does each sport ask for an athletic contribution from each family?

Athletic contributions are collected by teams to help cover the costs of operating each team, including coaches' stipends, uniforms, travel, PAL (Program-at-Large), tournament entry costs, and team events. In addition, [Boosters](#) contributions allow us to replace and upgrade equipment and facilities, in order to enhance our student athletes' experience and be competitive.