



Vista Newsletter – Vol. 2, Issue 2
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Countdown to Vista's Opening

I'm typing this newsletter on the final weekday in June. School ended for students two weeks ago, and after a busy and productive week of faculty in-service, the campus is markedly quieter these past few days.

This hiatus from the sounds of students in the corridors and the wonders of exciting discoveries in the classroom is short-lived, however. Summer Exploration 2007 commences on Monday, and for all of July and part of August, Open Window classrooms will once again be places of learning, marvel, and lots of fun.

Yet summer classes are far from the only thing happening on campus. Many a delivery truck has already made its way up Cougar Mountain, and key pieces of the middle school identity that I discussed last month are falling into place. Specifically:

- the student laptops arrived and are being configured
- two additional Smartboards were delivered; all sixth grade classrooms will be equipped with Smartboards and mounted projectors
- 2 basketball hoops were delivered and the fence posts were set as part of the Vista Commons area
- the rocks and boulders for Vista Hill arrived and will be placed next month
- Vista classroom furniture was delivered and is being installed

As Vista prepares to open its doors in 68 days, the faculty is busy tailoring curriculum and instructional practice to best meet the needs of our students. I look forward to spending time this summer creating a vibrant middle school humanities classroom. While most of the materials currently reside in boxes, I relish the opportunity to transform an empty space into a dynamic learning environment.

The science lab will have a more sophisticated flavor come September. This space will serve as Mike Montgomery's math and science hub, and it won't be long before microscopes, beakers, and safety goggles permeate this area. This will be the place where mathematical and scientific thinking are at the forefront of class discussions, dialogue, and experimentation.

I'm pleased to introduce Chris Gutierrez Flynn as the new Spanish teacher for fifth and sixth grade. A native of Mexico City, she most recently taught Spanish to middle and high school students in Texas. Chris is excited to be part of our school, and will work collaboratively with Mary Brodahl to deliver a coherent and innovative Spanish program to our students.

These are busy and enlivening times for Vista Academy. We are working hard to deliver the best possible middle school program to our remarkable students, and I'm more excited about the start of the 2007-2008 school-year than I have been about any other year. It's thrilling to know that sixth graders will walk through our doors in a few short months, and I have the honor of being part of their experience.

I hope all of you are enjoying these early days of summer, and I look forward to seeing you campus sometime soon.

Tim Costello
Middle School Head

