



# Ravenswood Classroom Partners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Ravenswood Classroom Partners Looks Forward to Renewed Partnership with School District**

Menlo Park, CA (September 19, 2022) - As school year 2022-23 gets underway with fewer COVID restrictions, both the Ravenswood City School District and the classroom volunteer organization that supports it, Ravenswood Classroom Partners (RCP), look forward to more “normal” operations and anticipated additions. Three new aspects of RCP make this fall especially exciting: RCP’s new Program Director brings classroom expertise, Ravenswood’s expanded TK program will be fully supported by RCP volunteers, and the second year of fully aligned district science support gets underway.

RCP spent the summer onboarding its newest team member, Program Director Cristiana Freed, a Menlo Park resident and former educator. In this role, Ms. Freed is responsible for collaborating with Ravenswood District Staff to understand their curriculum and best ways for the nearly 150 volunteers of RCP to support teachers in delivering engaging lessons and students in reaching their academic potential. RCP uses only district-directed curriculum and supports, making it a true partner in the district’s efforts. Ms. Freed’s background in education makes her a natural fit for translating the pedagogy into volunteer training and practices that make the experience rewarding for the volunteers and students alike.

RCP is increasing its support for the district’s new TK classrooms as the state expands early childhood education to reach all four year olds. Each district teacher TK-5th grade may have at least three volunteers each week in their classrooms. As RCP and the district map out best strategies for supporting these young learners, many lessons learned from over 14 years of partnership in the older grades will prove useful. It is especially important to reach the youngest learners as early support is known to have the greatest long-term impact. RCP tutors meet students where they are, practice compassion in their work, and receive extensive training in areas like letter recognition, phonemic awareness, comprehension, and social-emotional skills to find the strategy that works best for each child.

For the second year, RCP also supports teachers with science instruction. Our volunteers assist students who are immersed in hands-on labs and design challenges such as building sundials, testing paper plane designs, and tinkering with materials to create sounds. The addition of science is a win-win as it encourages volunteers with STEM backgrounds to join the team, and provides crucial support to teachers beyond the language arts curriculum. “[Volunteer support for] science has been a godsend. This probably helped me more than the kids...more adults to help one-on-one during science has been great.”

RCP offers regular classroom support and with the district’s other needs such as iPad distribution, the meal program, and English Learner testing. Community members interested in supporting teachers and students in Ravenswood schools are invited to learn more about volunteering with RCP. Training begins in September with the first day in classrooms in early October. Please learn more at [ravenswoodclassroompartners.org](http://ravenswoodclassroompartners.org) today.

**About Ravenswood Classroom Partners:** Inspired by the belief that every child deserves an equal opportunity to learn, Ravenswood Classroom Partners (RCP) has been sending trained volunteers to classrooms in the Ravenswood school district since 2008, helping improve students’ academic performance and self-confidence. RCP is unique because volunteers work with the same teacher and students each week throughout the school year at no cost to the school district. RCP’s dedicated, trained volunteers are a consistent, caring presence in the lives of the children they support. In Ravenswood City School District, nearly 60% of the students are English learners, almost 80% are low income, and 40% are in unstable housing or considered homeless. RCP supports students facing these challenges.

[www.ravenswoodclassroompartners.org](http://www.ravenswoodclassroompartners.org)

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