



# OAK VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Hello Future Falcon Families! Here is the list of frequently asked questions. Please reach out to our office if there is anything we can do to help in the transition to middle school.

**1. Is there a fee to ride the bus?**

Yes, there is a fee to ride the bus. Students need a bus pass. Detailed information can be found on the district transportation website [HERE](#).

**2. My student is currently in a private school, can they attend a tour of Oak Valley?**

In mid-August, we will have our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade Welcome Day that will include tours, games, meeting new students, etc. All incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be invited to this event. Keep an eye on the website for more information as we get closer to summer.

**3. My student attends a private school, how do we get a copy of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade course request form?**

Since you are not currently enrolled in PUSD, you will need to enroll during the new student enrollment. **New Student Enrollment** (if your child is new to PUSD, including entering TK, K, or any other grade for the first time in PUSD) will open for the 2024-25 school year on **April 1 at 8:00 a.m.** New Student Enrollment for Poway Unified School District is an on-line process, via a digital packet that will be available on our website [HERE](#). You can also reach out to our Student Data Technician for more information: Belinda Pagaduan [bpagaduan@powayusd.com](mailto:bpagaduan@powayusd.com).

**4. When will my 5<sup>th</sup> grade students get their course request form and when are they due?**

If your student attends one of our feeder elementary schools, CRF's will be emailed to families on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. If you need help, please reach out to our counselor, Jobethem Tahapary, [jtahapary@powayusd.com](mailto:jtahapary@powayusd.com)

**5. Is looping still an option?**

No. We no longer offer the looping option in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**6. What is the policy about my student's cell phone and earbuds?**

Students are permitted to carry their cell phone on campus and use it before or after school only within compliance with the PUSD Technology Use policy. Students are not permitted to use their phones during the school day unless a teacher asks them to engage with it during a learning activity. Students should not be using earbuds/ AirPods during the school day. Please keep those items at home. All cell phones must be turned off or in airplane mode during all learning activities, restroom visits, and during break and lunch. If you need to reach your child, please call the front office. Please do not call or text your child directly as it is disruptive to all students learning.

**7. What clubs are offered at Oak Valley Middle School?**

Oak Valley offers numerous academic and social clubs such as Science Olympiad, Robotics, Coding club, Friendship club, Black Student Union, Cricket Club, Magic Club, and more. This year we had over 25 clubs!! Students are also encouraged to start new clubs. More information can be found on students section of our website [HERE](#).



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## **8. Will students still take iReady in middle school? Are there any other standard tests?**

Yes, students take iReady in grades 6-8, two times a year in math and ELA (fall and winter) just like in elementary school. Our students also take the State CAASPP tests in math and ELA in grades 6-8. Those state tests are also taken in grades 3-5 in elementary school. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have a CAASPP science test they take. These assessments are all taken via a Chromebook during class time with a student's regular teacher. We have no altered bell schedules or teacher changes during testing. Teachers are given a broad window to test and they work that into their classroom timeline.

## **9. Where do I get more information on the electives? Also, are the band and electives from elective wheel mutually exclusive?**

Specific descriptions of our elective options are on the back of the course request form. Students will either choose a yearlong program like Band, Orchestra, or Choir or they will choose the Exploratory Wheel. More information can be found on the Course Selection section of our website [HERE](#).

## **10. What time is the earliest I can drop off at school and latest I can pick up?**

The main school gates open at 7:25am (8:40am on Wednesdays). All students need to be picked up 20 minutes after the end of the school day. The gates to the school will close at 3:05 each day.

## **11. Do you have an after school care program?**

Yes! We have just started an after school program called ASES. More information can be found [HERE](#).

## **12. . My student is coming to Oak Valley from a private school. She has never had iReady testing. Can she take a math placement test?**

Students who are newly enrolled into the district will be offered a math assessment opportunity by the district testing office typically in early August. That score will help determine the math placement for your student. This process is overseen by district office staff not Oak Valley.

## **13. How are so many students on campus managed without overlooking what inappropriate stuff they are doing?**

This is a great question. Our teaching staff have before school and after school supervision duty where they monitor the bus loop, the main campus area, and front of the school. Our counselors and administrators are also present before school, during breaks/lunch, and after school. We have two full time campus security guards that work each day as well as 3 dedicated lunch supervisors we call Falcon Guides. It may seem like we have a lot of students, but it does not feel that way when students are out on campus. Our assistant principals push into all classrooms the first two weeks of school to set some behavior expectations for students in a very positive way which really helps set the tone for the year. Most importantly of all though, we have really great students and in many ways they police themselves. Our students do not tolerate inappropriate behavior, this is a really kind and safe place to be.



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## **14. Do we have Science Olympiad?**

Below is a link to our Science Olympiad program, it is very popular and open to all students. The program is run by parent volunteers through our Falcon Foundation. More information can be found [HERE](#).

## **15. How are the bathrooms monitored during lunch? I have concerns about vaping and other issues.**

We have two sets of bathrooms that are open to students during lunch and eight sets total on campus. All restrooms are monitored by adults and our security staff rotates through them throughout the day. Our counselors and administrators are present during breaks and lunch. There are times when one of the restrooms is closed and locked due to poor student behavior. Historically, this has rarely been an issue on our campus.

## **16. What does my student do during lunch?**

Students have the choice to bring their lunch from home or select one of the school-offered lunch choices. There are also snacks that are available to purchase. It is up to the student to make healthy nutritional choices. After they eat, students can socialize with friends, go to the library, play basketball or other games on the blacktop, or enjoy ASB lead activities and music.

## **17. How does my student take advanced math?**

We do not offer advanced math classes in all PUSD middle schools. All students take the same classes with the same content, we do have an accelerated path where the class moves quicker in middle school and high school (there are a lot more choices and opportunities in high school). Math placement at the entry into 6<sup>th</sup> grade is based on multiple factors and no single factor will qualify or disqualify a student. All current PUSD families received information on this process on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from PUSD and a link to a form to fill out if you want your student to be considered. This process does not happen at our school site. We are given a list in June by the district office and place students accordingly. Students will either be placed in Math 6 or the Accelerated Math 6/7 class. These are the only two options offered at PUSD middle schools.

## **18. Can you provide information on 6<sup>th</sup> grade camp? How are the cabins at 6<sup>th</sup> grade camp supervised?**

First, let me say that 6<sup>th</sup> grade camp is awesome!! Our students in PUSD attend Cuyamaca Outdoor School which is a fully accredited school run by the San Diego County Office of Education. This is not a tent camp in the wilderness, it is a fully operational school in our local mountains. I am so excited for your student to attend camp, it is a wonderful experience. The cabins are wide open with four sleeping areas connected by a common area in the center. There are no closed off areas or doors that can be shut. Each cabin has an adult present 24 hours a day that sleeps in an open room in the common area. This person is the dedicated camp counselor for that cabin and someone who makes great connections and relationships with our students. More information can be found on Cuyamaca Outdoor School can be found on their website [HERE](#).