



Welcome 5th Grade Families



OAK VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026



**While you are getting
settled, please visit our
answer garden.**

answer garden.ch/4902447

Welcome to the Falcon Family





Welcome to the Falcon Family





Agenda for the Evening



- Who Are We?
- Falcon Culture
- What do our Falcons Learn?
- The Nitty Gritty
- How do We Support our Falcons?
- Get Involved!
- Help! I still have questions

To follow along, use this QR code:





Who Are We?



- 63 Teachers
- 66 Staff Members
- 5 Custodians
- 4 Counselors
- 1 Student Services Specialist
- 3 Administrators
- Health Tech
- Librarian
- And so much more!

Mission Statement
Students are at the Heart of Oak Valley and Meeting Their Need is Our First Priority



Who are We?



- Colin Young, Principal
 - coyoung@powayusd.com
- Bonnie Gonzalez, AP (A-L)
 - bgonzalez@powayusd.com
- Maureen Johnston, AP (M-Z)
 - mjohnston@powayusd.com





Who are We?



Our Counseling Staff

- Jocbethem Tahapary (A-E)
 - jtahapary@powayusd.com
- Kayla Matthews (F-Le)
 - kmatthews@powayusd.com
- Emily Berns (Li-Sa)
 - eberns@powayusd.com
- Esrael Chandler (Se-Z)
 - echandler@powayusd.com
- Belinda Pagaduan (Counseling Assistant)
 - bpagaduan@powayusd.com



Our Student Services Staff

- Sandy Stromberg – Student Services
 - SStromberg@powayusd.com
- Cheyenne Rabadia– Mental Health Therapist
Mending Matters - www.mendingmatters.org
 - crabadia@mendingmatters.org





Falcon Culture





What It Means to be a Falcon

My goal is for students to leave Oak Valley as Forever Falcons with amazing memories, real world skills, and a lifelong love of learning.





Our Falcon Teachers

6th Grade Curriculum

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science
- Math
- Physical Education
- Elective





6th Grade Curriculum: Language Arts

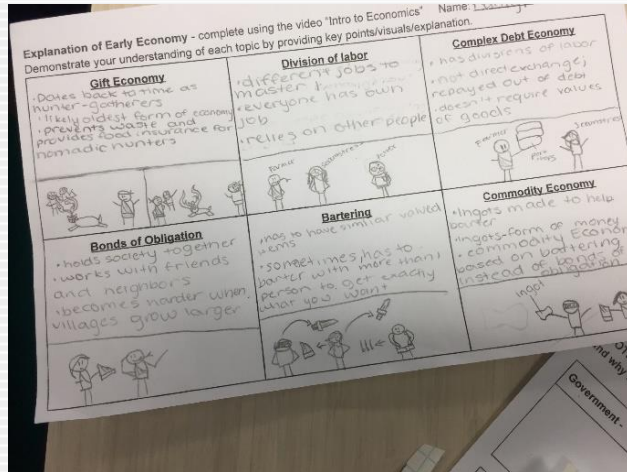


- Focus on finding key facts and details from information sources then learning how to use these in analysis.
- The three main writing areas are informative, persuasive, and narrative.
- Assignments can include essays, short answer responses, artistic (infographics), and oral presentations.
- Reading assignments include short stories, news articles, poetry, as well as longer books (*Maroo*, *The Cay*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, as well as small group and personal choice books).
- There is also emphasis on grammar, particularly pronouns and prepositions, as well as vocabulary, especially roots.





6th Grade Curriculum: Social Studies



- Focus is on exposing students to ancient civilizations and how to make inferences based on primary and secondary sources.
- Civilizations studied include: Early Humans, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Kush, India, China, Ancient Hebrews, Persia, and Greece.
- Students get to explore these civilizations through a mixture of readings, hands on projects, investigations, and simulation activities.
- The curriculum is supplemented by the social studies-centered art corps lessons and the ancient history museum project in May.



6th Grade Curriculum: Science

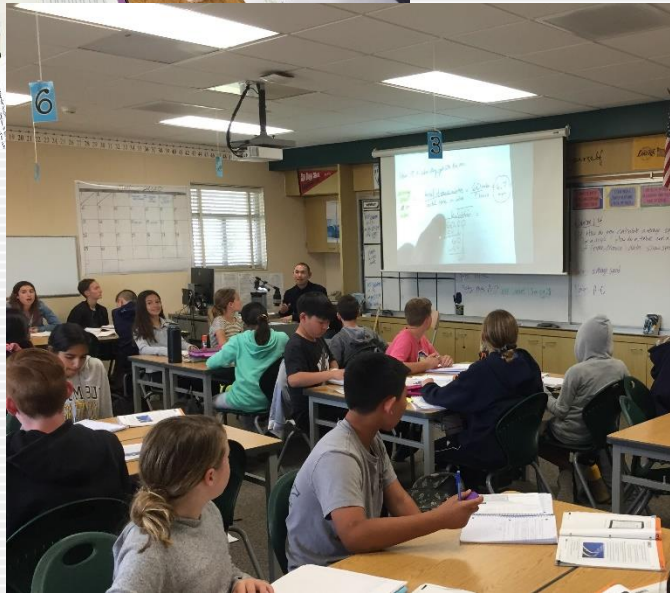
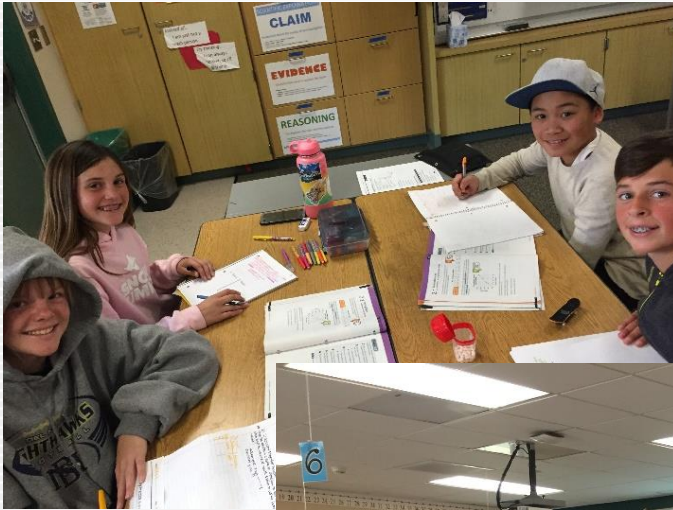


- Earth-Earth's processes, human impact on the environment
- Life- Body Systems with Frog Dissections, Inheritance & Heredity, Cell parts and Functions
- Physical Science-Heat transfer: Conduction, Convection, Radiation
- Engineering--(Some examples of what we do in class) designing a prosthetic hand, creating earthquake resistant structures, chocolate chip mining





6th Grade Curriculum: Math



By the end of 5th grade, students be fluent in:

- The four basic operations of whole numbers
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole number, decimals, and fractions.

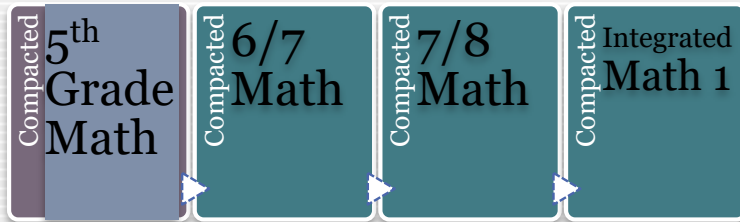
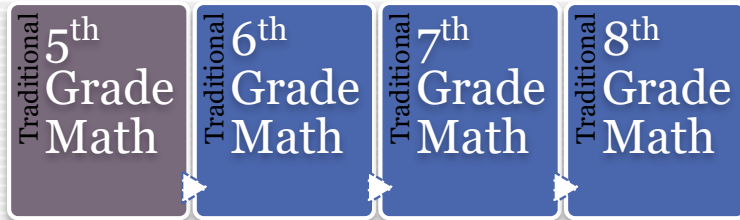
These skills are critical to their success in 6th grade.

In 6th grade, students learn about:

- Number sense
- Algebraic thinking
- Geometry
- Ratios and proportions
- Statistics



6th Grade Curriculum: Math



Compacted Math

- Two math tracks in PUSD middle schools that are determined before entering Oak Valley
 - Traditional Math: 6,7,8
 - Compacted Math
 - ✦ 6/7 – All of 6th grade and half of 7th grade
 - ✦ 7/8 – Half of 7th grade and all of 8th grade
- All students will participate in the same math curriculum with the same textbook; math 6/7 class just moves at a much faster pace.
- There is no movement between tracks during middle school and we do not allow outside courses to count for skipping PUSD math classes.
- Students will be able to accelerate again in high school.
- Both middle school tracks allow for students to take AP math classes in high school.
- Detailed information was sent by the district office to all 5th grade families on March 10th. If you have questions, please contact your elementary school.



6th Grade Curriculum: Physical Education



- All students at Oak Valley will be enrolled in one period of PE
- We focus on skill development, goal setting, and sportsmanship.
- 14 different units in middle school
- Lots of information on our website
- Locker-room, PE clothes, locks





6th Grade Curriculum: Elective Options



- 6th Grade Elective Wheel (assigned 3 of 4)
 - Art
 - Introduction to Engineering
 - Music Appreciation
 - Photography
- 6th Grade Band [LINK](#)
- Beginning Chorus
- 6th Grade Orchestra



[Click here](#) to go to the OVMS web page on electives





The Nitty Gritty



- Bell Schedule
- Block Schedule
- Our campus
- Lunch
- Drop off and pick up
- My student takes the bus
- Family Handbook



Our Bell Schedule



The Weekly Bell Schedule and Calendar

Regular Day		
ODD		EVEN
1	8:00-9:40	2
Break	9:40-9:50	Break
3	9:55-11:30	4
A Lunch	11:30-12:10	A Lunch
B Connections	11:35-12:10	B Connections
B Lunch	12:10-12:50	B Lunch
A Connections	12:15-12:50	A Connections
7	12:55-2:30	8

Wednesday Late Start		
ODD		EVEN
1	9:00-10:20	2
Break	10:20-10:30	Break
3	10:35-11:50	4
A Lunch	11:50-12:30	A Lunch
B Connections	11:55-12:30	B Connections
B Lunch	12:30-1:10	B Lunch
A Connections	12:35-1:10	A Connections
7	1:15-2:30	8



2024-2025 ODD/EVEN CALENDAR

August 24				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
		21 O	22 E	23 O
26 E	27 O	28 E	29 O	30 E



December 24				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
2 O	3 E	4 O	5 E	6 O
9 E	10 O	11 E	12 O	13 E
16 O	17 E	18 O	19 E	20 O
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

April 25				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
	1 E	2 O	3 E	4 O
7 E	8 O	9 E	10 O	11 E
14	15	16	17	18
21 O	22 E	23 O	24 E	25 O
28 E	29 O	30 E		

January 25				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
		1	2	3
6 E	7 O	8 E	9 O	10 E
13 O	14 E	15 O	16 E	17 O
20	21 E	22 O	23 E	24 O
27	28 E	29 O	30 E	31 O

May 25				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
			1 O	2 E
5 O	6 E	7 O	8 E	9 O
12 E	13 O	14 E	15 O	16 E
19 O	20 E	21 O	22 E	23 O
26	27 E	28 O	29 E	30 O

February 25				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
3 E	4 O	5 E	6 O	7 E
10 O	11 E	12 O	13 E	14 O
17	18	19	20	21
24 E	25 O	26 E	27 O	28 E

June 25				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
2 E	3 O	4 E	5 O	6 E
9 O	10 E	11 O	12 E	13



H = Holiday (No School)

Minimum Day

Wednesday - Prof. Time/Late Start

P = Pro-Grow Day

6 Week Progress

End of Trimester

End of Semester



A Typical 6th Grade Schedule



- Block Schedule
 - Even and Odd Days
 - Lunch A versus Lunch B

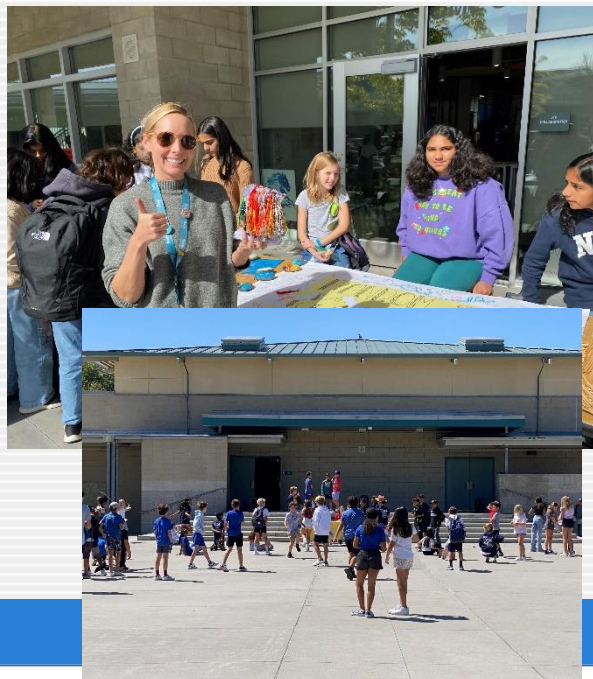


Sample Schedule			
Odd Days		Even Days	
Period 1	Language Arts	Period 2	Math
Period 3	P.E.	Period 4	Science
	Lunch A		Lunch A
Period 5	Connections	Period 6	Connections
Period 7	Social Studies	Period 8	Elective



What Can I Do at Lunch?

- Chill and Relax and Play
- Falcon Center
- Library
- ASB Activities
- Blacktop/Grass Fields





Our Campus



- 62 Classrooms
- 6 dedicated science labs
- Library
- Performing arts space
- Multiple purpose room
- Gymnasium
- Locker rooms
- PE Facilities
- Lunch area
- Two large collaboration spaces





Our Campus



Classroom locations, per building

	Building 400	Building 500	Building 600	
2 nd Floor	462	451	660	650
	461	454	658	651
	460	455	657	652
	459	457	656	653
1 st Floor	415	402	615 & 613	601
	414	405	611	602
		406		603
	412	410	608	

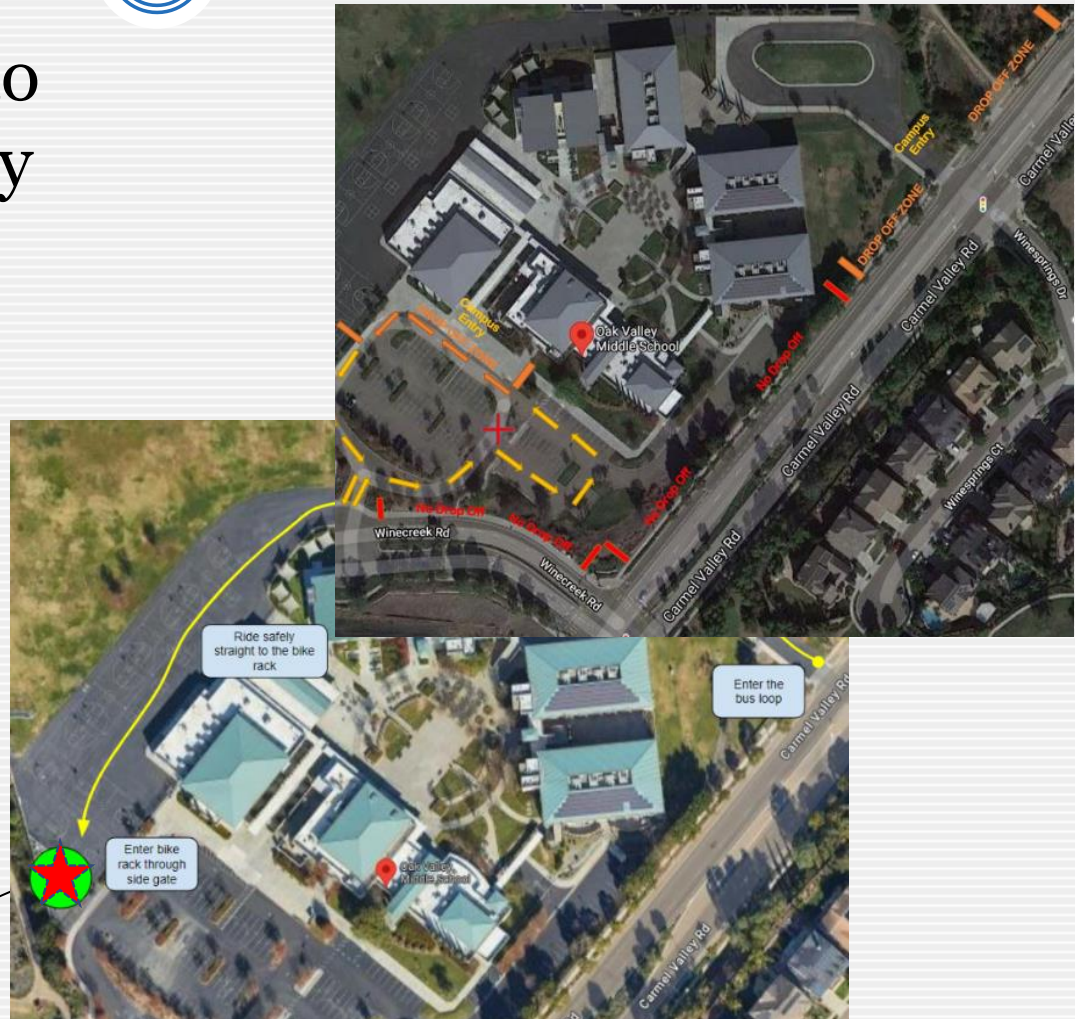


Drop off and Pick up



- Getting all students to school safely each day is a priority for our entire community.
- There are TWO drop off areas
 - Front of the school
 - Carmel Valley Road
- Please be patient
- Bike permits

Bike
Rack
Area





My Student Takes the Bus



- All buses use the bus loop
- Busses leave at 2:52
- Late bus leaves at 4:07
 - Mon-Thurs at the front of the school
- If you have questions about buses please contact the PUSD Transportation Department: 858-679-2636
- Our school site rep for bus passes questions is our receptionist : Mrs. Choi
 - lchoi@powayusd.com



ASES



- Before and After School
 - Before - Wednesdays only
 - After - 5 days a week
- Free
- Sports, homework help, enrichment activities
- Enrollment based on grant priorities

**Enrollment request form
opens April 1**





6th Grade Curriculum: 6th Grade Camp

- All 6th grade students at Oak Valley have the opportunity to attend Cuyamaca Outdoor School.
- Fully functioning school run by SD County Office of Education, not a tent camp in the wilderness.
- Tentatively scheduled for March.
- Camp is chaperoned by our 6th grade faculty.
- This is an amazing opportunity for our new Falcons to get to know their teachers and peers outside of the regular school setting.
- While at camp students participate in a variety of educational and team building activities.





How do we Support our Falcons?



Three School Counseling Domains:

- **Career/College** – high school planning and career exploration
- **Academic** - schedule, academic support, grade checks, intervention supports
- **Social Emotional** – peer concerns, life situations, grief, parent divorce, anxiety/depression, self esteem, one-on-one/small group counseling, restorative practice/circles





How do we Support our Falcons?



- Falcon Center
 - Games, equipment checkout
- Student Support Groups
- Work with Counseling/Admin to support individual students
- Support ASB/Belong Crew
- Help build social programs to promote community on campus
 - Start with Hello, No Place for Hate
- Substance Use Education/Intervention





How do we Support our Falcons?



Tips for Success

- Encourage daily attendance. It makes a big difference in your student's learning.
- Encourage your student to do any homework the day it is assigned and assist them with time management.
- Check their planner and help monitor assignments.
- Check Canvas/Synergy Gradebook weekly for assignments and updated grades.
- Communicate with your student's teacher.
- Set goals with your child and celebrate their growth!





How do we Support our Falcons?



Cell Phones/Electronics

- Students are permitted to carry their cell phone on campus; however, phones must remain OFF (not on SILENT) and out of sight during the ENTIRE school day, 8:00-2:30.
- 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.
- 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.





How do we Support our Falcons?



Bullying/Harassment

- This is a wonderful and kind school!
- Sometimes student do make poor choices.
- We have lots of staff out monitoring students:
 - Teachers have daily supervision responsibilities.
 - 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 4 dedicated lunch supervisors we call Falcon Guides.
- 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.



Get Involved: Student Activities



Associated Student Body

- The Oak Valley ASB Mission Statement: Students are at the heart of Oak Valley and raising their spirits is our FIRST priority!
- Get involved as a student
- What ASB does
- Journey through middle school
- Transition from 5th to 6th
- WEB 6th grade Orientation tentatively scheduled for Thursday 8/7/25
- Join or Create a Club at OVMS





Get Involved: Oak Valley Falcon Foundation



About Us:

- We are a Parent-run 501(c)3 and the primary source of fundraising on campus, raising money through direct donations and special-event fundraising
- Focus on supplementing curriculum, such as providing STEAM supplies and equipment for classrooms and enhancements to the Language Arts program
- In the past we have funded larger projects like the shade structure for 300 building
- We are currently fundraising for major Library improvements - from replacing unsafe and outdated furniture to reimagining the space to include a large Maker Space, game areas and mobile seating for classroom visits
- ovfalconfoundation@gmail.com , www.oakvalleyfalconfoundation.com

Scan the QR Code for more info or to donate!



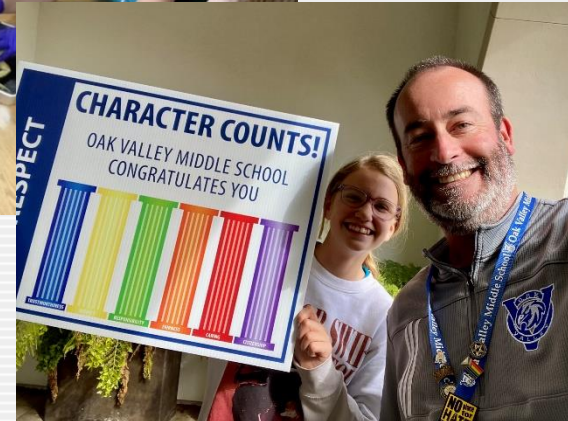


Get Involved: Oak Valley Falcon Foundation

Some of the great activities that the Falcon Foundation provides our students, families, and staff:

- Art Corps
- Book Fair
- Character Counts Champions
- Connections Classrooms
- Falcon Center
- Spirit Wear
- Staff Appreciation Events
- Spring Gala & Auction

We can't do it without
YOU





Get Involved: Oak Valley Falcon Foundation



Sign our **Volunteer Interest Form** and be entered in a drawing to win an OVMS Spirit Wear t-shirt!

(2 winners will be contacted before registration in August!)



We can't do it without YOU



Help! I Still Have Questions



- If you still have a question (or two or ten) that we have not answered, please ask us via this form and one of us will get back to you with the answer.

Many questions can be answered via our website and the FAQ [HERE](#).



5th Grade Family Night Questions

Please submit any questions you would like answered during 5th Grade Family Night. We will address questions during the presentation (with the time permitted). Please see the Frequently Asked Questions sheet before submitting your question. You may resubmit this form as many times as you need to.





Thank You For Coming!



- We Look Forward to Seeing Your Students Next Year!
- 6th Grade Registration and W.E.B. Orientation is in August (tentatively scheduled for August 7th)
- We hope to see everyone there!





Thank You For Coming!

