

## MVMS 2021-22 Sixth Grade Information FAQs

*Generated from parents in response to the Incoming Sixth Grade Parent information that was presented on March 23, 2021 and from those who reviewed the copy of the presentation slides.*

**If my child joins the after-school ASES program, can they be picked up before 4:45 p.m. for appointments or other reasons?** *As a grant funded program, there is a requirement that students fulfill their required hours each week. Only under some circumstances would they be able to leave prior to 4:45pm.*

**What will the GATE program look like in middle school starting in 6th grade?**  
The PUSD GATE program will sunset at the end of this academic year, 2020-21 and that includes Mesa Verde. Our district continues to be focused on creating an inclusive, personalized learning path for all students. Teachers will integrate research-based best practices based on students' academic and social emotional needs to customize teaching and learning experiences. All GATE identified students will continue to receive differentiated instruction in a general education setting. This has not changed as our program has for many years been defined as providing GATE students differentiated learning experiences aligned to grade level core curriculum.

The change in the GATE program will be that students will no longer be clustered or placed in homogeneous classroom configurations based on a GATE identification. However, teachers will be able to organize flexible instructional groups based on students strengths, interests and academic/ social emotional needs.

<https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Departments/Learning-Support/GATE/GATE>

**I heard that there are advanced classes like language arts for students. How are students selected to be in those classes?** *We do have a math course that is accelerated... the students cover three years of middle school math in the span of two years. Selection is based on a number of criteria and parents will receive a separate letter and information from the District about the 6-7 Compacted Math Course. There was an advanced language arts class in past years, but in the 2021-22 school year there will not be any advanced language arts classes at any of the PUSD middle schools, including Mesa Verde. Teachers will use formative assessments to determine and meet their students' strengths, interests, academic readiness, and social emotional needs via flexible instructional groups, one on one, and*

*through personalized pathways. Students will be encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of content through creative and innovative processes.*

**Will 5th grade teachers tell parents if our child needs to be tested for compacted math?** *Fifth grade teachers will not notify parents regarding compacted math. Please review slide 22 for criteria.*

**I'd love to know what kind of services you're offering for kids, both academically and socially, after a year of virtual learning. My child has definitely fallen behind due to this terrible online system and will need help getting caught up. Will MVMS offer that?** *PUSD will offer summer sessions in 2021. We are also already planning for support for the students for 2021-22 and looking at support classes for academics and study skills.*

**What are leadership and exploratory [electives] like?** *Leadership will focus on learning to plan events, community service, and team building. Obviously it will flex throughout the year. Exploratory will be a class that has half taught by one teacher and the other half by a second teacher with a switch at the semester. We are still firming up the different halves, but students will have a chance to explore different pathways.*

**My child has not been assigned a chromebook during the pandemic due to no availability. How do I get one assigned to her?** *All students will receive a Chromebook at MVMS.*

**Will incoming 6th graders be given a campus tour to know where their classes are located?** *Yes. A few days before the start of school there will be a WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) Event for 6th graders. This includes a tour of the campus.*

**Is there any school bus transportation for dropping off and picking up from MVMS? How much is it? Where do I sign up?** *Transportation information can be found on the District website. Link >*  
<https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Departments/Business-Support/Transportation/Transportation>

**What's the date of sock hop?** *We have other ASB sponsored events, but there is no specific Sock Hop.*

**If you don't take 6th grade band or orchestra and decide to take it in 7th grade, will the learning curve be difficult? So in other words is 6th grade band and orchestra a prerequisite for 7th grade band/orchestra?** *Band and orchestra are open electives that*

*can still be selected in 7th grade. There is no prerequisite. There will be a learning curve, but our music teachers are committed to students being part of their programs.*

**Where would a student change into their PE clothes?** *We have locker rooms for the students to change clothes for PE classes. Each child has a locker in the locker room to use to store personal items.*

### **Questions Related to Inter and Intra-District Transfers**

**Do I have to wait until the interdistrict application gets approved before registering for ASES? Would ASES at full capacity and no longer able to take her?** *You may apply but please put on the application that you are waiting for your IDT approval.*

**We will be choosing our electives sometimes in June when we get an answer for our intradistrict transfer. Will our chances of getting our 1st choice lessen since our request came in later, after the deadline of March 30th?** *This may affect your chances of getting a specific elective, but students will have an elective available. It is important to include your first and second choices.*

**If we are waiting for intra-district transfer to MVMS, when/how can we be eligible to select electives by the 3/30 deadline??** *You will need to wait for your approval in order to be able to choose electives as your child's information will not be in our system until then. Once you are enrolled in Mesa Verde, our counseling tech will go over the elective selection with you.*

**When will families be notified of the successful intra-district transfer?** *You will be notified directly by the Attendance and Discipline Office regarding the status of your IDT.*