

5th Grade Family Night Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will there be a tour for 5th grade students this year?

We are still trying to determine if this is possible. We do have a virtual tour available on our website at: <https://tinyurl.com/4p7g3ehr>

2. When will my 5th grade students get their course request form and when are they due?

Students will be selecting their elective for next year with their 5th grade teachers. Teachers will receive the information by Friday, February 26th. The goal is to have selection completed by Friday, March 19th. All forms will also be available on our website under the Academics tab > Course Selection > 6th Grade Course Request Forms.

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

Specific descriptions of our elective options are on the course request form. Students will either choose a yearlong program including band, choir, or orchestra, or they will choose the elective wheel.

4. Is looping still an option?

Looping is an option available for a limited number of students. If you want to be considered for the looping lottery, please make that selection on the 6th grade course request form. More information on looping can be found on the 6th grade Course Request Form.

5. If a student loops, can they decide to opt-out of looping with their teachers for 7th grade if they decide they no longer want to keep looping?

Yes, students who opt for looping in 6th grade, and are selected for the course via a lottery, have the option to exit when they move from 6th to 7th grade. Teachers will communicate this directly to families towards the end of the 6th grade.

6. My student attends a private school, how do we get a copy of the 6th grade course request form?

Since you are not currently enrolled in PUSD, you need to enroll during the new student enrollment period which typically starts in mid-May. Information can be found here:

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

Once your student is enrolled and has been assigned to Oak Valley Middle School, you can also reach out to our counseling assistant for more information: Belinda Pagaduan bpagaduan@powayusd.com.

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

The main school gates open 30 minutes before school starts and close 30 minutes after school is out. We do not have ESS options or other after-school supervision choices.

8. Is there a fee to ride the bus?

Yes, there is a fee to ride the bus and students will need a bus pass. Information can be found on the district transportation website:

<https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Departments/Business-Support/Transportation/BusPassInfo>

9. What is the policy about my student's cell phone?

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. They must be turned off or in airplane mode during all learning activities and lunch. If you need to reach your child, please call the front office. Please do not call your child directly as it is disruptive to all students learning.

10. Will students still take MAPs in middle school? Are there any other standardized tests?

This year the district replaced MAPS with a new program, iReady. Middle school students take the iReady assessment for Reading and Math in the fall and winter. Our students also take the State CAASPP tests in math and ELA in grades 6-8 in the spring. All 8th grade students have an additional CAASPP science test. These assessments are all taken via a computer during class time with a student's regular teacher.

11. My student is coming to Oak Valley from a private school. They have never had MAPS/iReady testing. Can they take a math placement test?

Students who are newly enrolled in the district will be offered an iReady assessment opportunity by the district testing office typically in early August. That score will help determine the math placement for your student.

12. What clubs are offered at Oak Valley Middle School?

Oak Valley offers numerous academic and social clubs such as Science Olympiad, Robotics, Black Student Union, Pride Club, Jewish Club and more. Students are also encouraged to start new clubs. More information can be found on our website under the “Students” tab.

13. How are so many students on campus managed to maintain good behavior and choices?

Our teaching staff have before school and after school duties 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 a full-time campus security guard that works each day as well as dedicated lunch supervisors we call Falcon Guides. Our assistant principals push into all classrooms during the first two weeks of school to set positive behavior expectations for students and set the tone for the year. Positive school culture and creating a space in which students honor and respect each other is key to all staff, and is central to our daily student experience. When something does occur, we engage in restorative practices led by our counselors and administrators.

14. How are the bathrooms monitored during lunch?

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 all of 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.

15. What does my student do during lunch?

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

16. Can you provide information about 6th grade camp?

6th grade camp is a wonderful experience that we invite all Oak Valley 6th graders to participate in. More information will be provided once the 2021-2022 school year begins. Here is a link to the Cuyamaca Outdoor School website:

<https://www.sdcoe.net/student-services/outdoored/Pages/outdoor-schools-6th-grade-camp.aspx>

17. What courses are available to my GATE student?

Oak Valley does not offer any courses that are only for GATE students. All of our courses are open to all students. District Leadership from PUSD held an informational

meeting on February 16, 2021 discussing updates to the GATE program within PUSD. At this meeting it was announced that PUSD was ending the GATE program at all PUSD schools and discontinuing GATE testing. A recording of the meeting has been uploaded to the PUSD YouTube Channel. You can find out more information at the PUSD GATE website [HERE](#).

18. What does this mean for Oak Valley?

Historically the only extra opportunity that was offered to GATE identified students was a lottery for entry into one designated homogenous GATE humanities class. We are no longer offering this class. We will continue to serve all our student needs in all classes and we will continue to offer the accelerated math track. Poway Unified and all schools in PUSD, including Oak Valley, have moved to a more integrated and inclusive approach toward meeting the needs of all students. For years, we have been working with our teaching staff across the district to develop differentiation strategies to meet the needs of each and every student in our classrooms, including those who are identified as GATE. Poway Unified School District's mission is to empower world class learners. In order to do this, all learning environments must be safe, inclusive, innovative, and equitable. For these reasons, Poway Unified has decided to end the GATE program. Poway is not testing new students for GATE. All middle schools will no longer offer homogeneous GATE classes or cluster classes. Oak Valley Middle School will continue to focus on ensuring all classrooms challenge students appropriately.