



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 he attend a tour of Oak Valley?

In mid-August, we will have our incoming 6th grade Welcome Day that will include tours, games, meeting new students, etc. All incoming 6th 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 6th 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 2022-23 school year on **April 1 at 6:00 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 counseling assistant for more information: Belinda Pagaduan bpagaduan@powayusd.com.

4. When will my 5th 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 handed out during the 5th grade field trip on Friday March 18th. Your student's 5th grade teacher will help students complete these forms with parent input. If you are missing your form or needing help please reach out to our counselor Jobethem Tahapary jtahapary@powayusd.com

5. Is looping still an option?

Yes! Looping an option that is 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 back of the form.

6. If a child loops, can he decide to opt out of looping with his teachers for 7th grade if he decides he no longer wants 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.



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7. 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.

8. 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, Pride Club, Jewish 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](#).

9. 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 8th grade students have a CAASPP science test they take. These assessments are all taken via a computer 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

10. 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 elective wheel. More information can be found on the Course Selection section of our website [HERE](#).

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

The main school gates open around 20 minutes before school starts and close around 20 minutes after school is out, so 7:40-3:05ish each day. Unfortunately, we do not have ESS or any other after school care at our school.

12. 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 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 a full time campus security guard that works each day as well as 6 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



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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.

13. 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 at Oak Valley.

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.

<https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Schools/MS/OVMS/Student-Life/Activities/Science-Olympiad>

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 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.

16. 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.

17. How does my student take advanced math?

We do not offer advanced math classes in PUSD. All students take the same classes with the same content, some are just accelerated and move quicker in middle school and high school (there are a lot more choices and opportunities in high school). Math placement at the entry into 6th grade is based on multiple factors and no single factor will qualify or disqualify a student. All current PUSD families will receive information on this process on March 7, 2022 from your elementary school 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.



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18. Can you provide information on 6th grade camp? How are the cabins at 6th grade camp supervised?

First let me say that 6th grade camp is awesome!! 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 that in 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. Typically staff from Camp Cuyamaca will be present at our Back to School night in early September. I would highly encourage all parents to attend the informational session Camp Cuyamaca hosts on that evening. More information can be found on their website [HERE](#).