MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERVIEW

OCTOBER 27, 2021

A PRESENTATION OF THE
PASADENA EDUCATION NETWORK
OUR PURPOSE

Big Picture – what every school offers and what is unique about different schools

Which questions to ask when you “tour” – What’s most important to you (and your student)? Ask your school-specific questions during virtual tours.

Get some perspectives – not everyone’s experience is the same, but it helps to hear from someone who’s been there
A TIME OF CHANGE

• Bigger campus
• Multiple periods, multiple teachers
• PE every day
• From big 5th grader to little 6th grader
• Heightened awareness of peers

Join PEN next spring (date TBD) for “Hello, Middle School!” where we’ll focus on helping you prepare for this time of transition!
ABOUT THIS YEAR...

It’s not just middle school, and it’s not just PUSD...

• This is a challenging year
• “It’s like we’ve forgotten how to socialize since we’ve been out of school for so long.”*

• District, schools working to put additional supports in place, but the reality is that “this is a prolonged adjustment period”*

OVERVIEW OF THE OPTIONS

Three “Stand-Alone” Middle Schools
Tres escuelas medias de grados 6-8
- Eliot Arts
- Washington STEAM®
- Sierra Madre®

Two “Magnet” middle schools
Dos escuelas medias “imán”

Three (soon 4!) Schools with Dual Language programs
Tres (y pronto 4!) escuelas con programa de lenguaje dual

One K-8 School
Una escuela de grados K-8
- McKinley*
  (Vanguard Program)

Two 6-12 Secondary Schools
Dos escuelas secundarias (grados 6-12)
- Blair
  (International Baccalaureate Bachillerato Internacional)
- Marshall Fundamental
  (permit only requiere permiso)

* Math Academy offered

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EVERY PUSD MIDDLE SCHOOL...

Prepares Students for High School – The same core academic subjects (English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies) and Physical Education are taught at all schools, with honors courses available in the core subjects. In addition to an academic counselor, middle schoolers have access to College Access Plan’s nine-week course focused on exploration of college, career, academic, and personal interests.

Has performing arts opportunities – Specific offerings vary, but all schools offer instrumental and choral music and stage productions as well as visual art electives

Offers coding/computer studies, including robotics/use of 3D printers

Has after-school sports (via LEARNS program) as well as clubs and other extra-curricular activities
EVERY PUSD MIDDLE SCHOOL...

Has access to:

Second Step Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) – curriculum and lesson sequence for all grades

PUSD’s Wellness Hub – provides teachers with resources to use with students and a guide to using the SEL curriculum

Reintegration Plan – prepared by District in anticipation of the transition back to on-campus learning and socialization

Workshops and PD for teachers and administrators on how to respond to behavioral issues
SITE-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

**Dual Language** – Students coming from an elementary DLIP can continue bilingual learning at secondary: Mandarin (SMMS); Spanish (Blair or Washington); French (Eliot – starting 2022-23); Armenian world language & culture (Blair)

**International Baccalaureate (IB)** – All 6-10th grade students at Blair are part of the IB Middle Years Programme. Students from Willard have priority for registration.

**Magnets** – PUSD’s 2 magnet programs integrate Visual & Performing Arts (Eliot) or STEAM (Washington) across the core curriculum.

**Math Academy** – All 5th graders receive a math assessment in the spring. Math Academy is a radically accelerated program in which students complete the AB & BC Calculus sequence in middle school. Offered at McKinley, Sierra Madre, and Washington.

**Vanguard** – Summit Learning platform allows students to work at own pace, collaborating on projects and mentored by teachers.

**Special Education** – 5th graders get a Transitional IEP; placement depends on needs
SNAPSHOT OF THE SCHOOLS

"INSTANTÁNEA" DE LAS ESCUELAS

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MCKINLEY

Enrollment = total of 935 students in grades K-8, including 462 middle school students

All McKinley middle school students are enrolled in the Vanguard Program, which allows students to work at their own pace, with teachers mentoring them.

McKinley was the first of 3 middle schools to host Math Academy.
ELIOT ARTS

Enrollment = 517 students
Stand-alone middle school (grades 6-8)

Arts Magnet: Visual & Performing Arts
Partner organizations and artists in residence support teachers in integrating the arts across the core curriculum.

French Dual Language students will begin matriculating from Altadena Arts in 2022-2023
SIERRA MADRE

Enrollment = 588 students
Stand-alone middle school (grades 6-8)

Mandarin Dual Language Immersion continues from Field Elementary

Math Academy
WASHINGTON STEAM MULTILINGUAL ACADEMY

Enrollment = 475 students
Stand-alone middle school (grades 6-8)

STEAM Magnet: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics are integrated across the core curriculum.

Spanish Dual Language Immersion

Math Academy

Schoolwide AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination
BLAIR

Enrollment = total of 1,102 students in grades 6-12, including 525 middle school students.

All Blair middle school students are part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme.

Spanish Dual Language Immersion & Armenian Academy (middle & high school)
MARSHALL FUNDAMENTAL SCHOOL

Enrollment = total of 2,012 students in grades 6-12, including 932 middle school students

Marshall is a lottery-only school. (Preference to students living within a half-mile radius of campus.)

Academy of Creative Industries (high school)
PREPARING TO “VISIT” SCHOOLS
PREPARANDOSE PARA VISITAR ESCUELAS
GET THE MOST OUT OF VIRTUAL TOURS

There is no substitute for visiting schools!

Even though we cannot physically visit campuses during the school day this fall, you will learn a lot and have the opportunity to ask school-specific questions during a virtual tour.

Prepare for your visit:

1. Discuss your student’s interests – academic, athletics, activities, social – what opportunities are they hoping to get?

2. Check the school’s website and PEN’s Fact Sheets for info like school size, specialized programs offered, enrichment opportunities, etc.

3. Make a list of questions – what do you hope to learn from your “visit”? 
SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOLS

Academics and Academic Supports
• How do you support children with ADHD and other learning and behavioral challenges?
• What do teachers do to help students learn and practice organizational skills?
• How much do class sizes vary?
• What electives can middle schoolers choose and how/when are they offered?

Details on special programs, such as IB or Math Academy.
• What advanced or extracurricular opportunities are there in [name the subject or area(s) of interest: computers/coding, visual or performing arts, community services, student leadership]?
• What clubs, interest groups, sports or other activities? [If your student has a particular interest, ask about that]

School culture
• Beyond teaching a social-emotional learning curriculum, how are these skills integrated into classroom practices and school-wide culture?
• How are safety issues addressed? [Try to be specific about what you mean by “safety issues”]
• Will my child be accepted for who s/he is (they are)?
UPCOMING TOUR DATES

McKinley – Nov 30, Dec 14, Jan 25 (virtual)

Eliot Arts – Nov 19 & Dec 2 (virtual, K-8 Arts Magnet); Jan 6 (virtual, MS); Jan 8 (in-person “behind the scenes” tour)

Sierra Madre MS – Nov 10 & Jan 12 (virtual)

Washington STEAM – Oct 28 (in-person evening tour); Nov 4, Dec 9 (virtual)

Blair – Nov 4 & 18; Dec 2 & 16 (virtual); Preview Day Nov. 6 (in-person)

Marshall – Nov 4; Dec 9; Jan 13 & 27 (virtual)

Details including registration links at: penfamilies.org/calendar
LINKS MENTIONED IN PRESENTATION

SCHOOL INFORMATION
PEN Fact Sheets: https://www.penfamilies.org/school-fact-sheets
Schools Tab at https://www.pusd.us – OR –

SPED Services at PUSD middle schools: https://tinyurl.com/SpEd4MS

TOUR DATES (see https://www.penfamilies.org/calendar) for details including start times and registration links)
MORE LINKS...

ENROLLMENT
School of Residence:
https://app.guidek12.com/pasadenaca/school_search/current/
SIBLING & PRIORITY REGISTRATION = Oct. 25-Nov. 15 @ 4 PM
(Details here: https://www.pusd.us/Page/7799)
Pre-enroll online at school of residence starting Nov. 29 at
https://www.pusd.us/registration
Open Enrollment information: PUSD’s Open Enrollment page &
PEN’s Navigating Open Enrollment program on Dec. 1
WE’D LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK!

Participant Evaluation Survey link:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D8BJ2ND

Enlace de la encuesta de evaluación en español:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DKMNXSC