



PAUSD Middle School Choice Program 2020-2021 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians of rising 6th Grade students,

Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) offers three Choice Programs at the Middle School level. A description of each program, with dates for Parent Information events, is on the back of this letter.

This letter provides instructions and deadlines for applying to a Middle School Choice Program. Please note the following information:

- Parents may submit only one application to one Choice Program. Multiple applications will be discarded.
- Deadline for all applications is February 19, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. (detailed info below).
- If the number of applicants for any program exceeds the available space, placement will be made through a lottery process, open to the public (parent attendance is not mandatory), on February 26, 2020, 1:00 p.m. at the PAUSD District Office at 25 Churchill Avenue. If there is an insufficient number of applications for a program it may not be offered.
- Concurrent siblings – two children from the same family in the same Choice Program during the same school year – will be granted priority placement. However, parents must submit an application for siblings wishing to enter a program.
- Students who attended PAUSD elementary language programs - Mandarin Immersion or Spanish Immersion - must submit an application to be considered for admission into a Middle School language Bridge program, and are not granted priority placement.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING TO A MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM

Included in this mailing is a Middle School Choice Program application. If needed, this application can also be downloaded at the following link:

pausd.org/teaching-learning/choice-schools-programs

Submit the completed application to the PAUSD Registration Services office by the deadline of 4:00 p.m. on February 10, 2020. Applications can be delivered in person (25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto) or scanned and emailed to RegistrationServices@pausd.org. Applications will not be accepted after 4:00 p.m. on February 19, 2020.

ACCEPTANCE AND ENROLLMENT

If the number of applicants for any program exceeds the available space, placement will be made through a lottery process, open to the public (parent attendance is not mandatory), on February 26, 2020, 1:00 p.m. at the PAUSD District Office at 25 Churchill Avenue. Students not selected for acceptance from that lottery will be placed on a waitlist (waitlist position determined by lottery). If there is an insufficient number of applications for a program it may not be offered.

Parents will be notified by email that their student was chosen by lottery either to be placed, or wait-listed, in the Choice Program. Parents must notify the Choice Program's school of acceptance of placement in the program no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 2, 2020. After that date, students

on the waiting list will be placed in the program as space becomes available and must notify the Choice Program's school of their decision within 48 hours.

Students accepting placement in a Choice Program will attend the middle school where the program is located through the 8th grade. Withdrawal from the Choice Program may necessitate a transfer of the student to the neighborhood middle school. High school enrollment will be at the student's neighborhood high school, regardless of the middle school attended.

Students declining placement in a Choice Program will be enrolled at their neighborhood school based on the priority of their initial registration; the Choice Program application will be discarded.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Connections: The JL Stanford Middle School Connections Program is a learning community of students, teachers, and parents where hearts and minds are inspired through inquiry-based instruction – focused on student choice, cross-curricular units, collaboration, and presentation – which fosters self-directed, reflective, global citizens. The program emphasizes:

- **Connecting to Self:** Students participate in decision-making and learn to take responsibility for their own progress by setting goals, taking risks, and using self-reflection.
- **Connecting to Knowledge:** Through project-based learning, students gain and practice the higher order and critical thinking skills necessary for analyzing, creating, and problem solving. Students choose topics of interest and follow their passions, exploring real-world problems and solutions.
- **Connecting to Community:** Students work in self-directed groups fostering collaborative learning and positive social interactions. Students develop their skills as collaborators, facilitators, and leaders, with an emphasis on social justice and global citizenship. Students have opportunities to present learning publicly in community settings.
- **Parent Information Event:** February 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (at JL Stanford)

Language Bridge: The Mandarin Bridge Program, and the Spanish Bridge program, are both provided at Greene Middle School. Each is a three-year program that bridges the Immersion Programs at the PAUSD Elementary schools (Mandarin at Ohlone; Spanish at Escondido) with the advanced language classes offered at the high school level.

Bridge Classes focus on the four elements of language acquisition: speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Each program is taught primarily in the target language with the understanding that students have various levels of fluency and proficiency levels in reading, writing, and listening. Students are exposed to culture, literature, and language structures needed to be successful in high-academic high school level classes.

Note: Students are eligible to enroll in these programs if they have successfully completed either the Mandarin Immersion program at Ohlone Elementary or the Spanish Immersion program at Escondido. If not, and if space is available, students will be tested to demonstrate grade level bilingual fluency in Mandarin or Spanish through an assessment process.

- **Parent Information Event:** February 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (at Greene)



Application for PAUSD Middle School Choice Program

Listed below are the three choice programs for the 2020-21 school year; **only one choice program may be chosen** – with an "X" in the appropriate box – for each student.

Incoming students who will have a sibling in the same program during the same school year of attendance – known as concurrent siblings – will be granted priority placement, but an application for the incoming sibling **MUST** be submitted.

Please note the language requirements for each of the language Bridge programs, contained in the following link, before making your selection, as your child's fluency in the language may need to be tested prior to acceptance of this application: www.pausd.org/choice-schools-programs/middle-school-choice-programs. Students who attended the PAUSD elementary language programs are **NOT** automatically enrolled in a middle school language Bridge program. All students interested in attending a middle school Choice Program must submit an application.

Submit this completed application to PAUSD Registration Services no later than February 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

The form can be delivered to the Registration Services office at the PAUSD District Office (25 Churchill Avenue in Palo Alto), or can be scanned and emailed to RegistrationServices@pausd.org. The 4:00 p.m. deadline will be strictly enforced.

Parent Name (Last, First) _____

Parent Email _____

Parent Agreement: I understand all the information in this application: _____

Parent Signature

Student Name	CHOOSE ONLY ONE WITH AN "X"		
	Connections (School: JL Stanford)	Mandarin Bridge (School: Greene)	Spanish Bridge (School: Greene)

If the number of applicants for any program exceeds the available space, placement will be made through a lottery (random selection) process, open to the public on February 26, 2020, 1:00 p.m. at the PAUSD District Office at 25 Churchill Avenue. If there is an insufficient number of applications for a program, it may not be offered.

Immediately after the lottery has been completed, parents will be notified by email **at the above email address** if their student has been accepted or wait-listed in the program. Parents must accept placement in the program no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 2, 2020. Instructions for acceptance will be contained in the email notification.

Students accepting placement in a Choice Program will attend the middle school where the program is located through the 8th grade. Withdrawal from the Choice Program may necessitate a transfer of the student to the neighborhood middle school. High school enrollment will be at the student's neighborhood high school, regardless of the middle school attended.

Application received by PAUSD staff:

Name _____

Date _____