

Middle School New Parents Frequently Asked Questions

Congratulations, and welcome to the Nueva Community! Here's a list of commonly asked questions. Please don't hesitate to email the Admissions Office, admissions@nuevaschool.org if you have any other questions.

What is done to ease my child's transition to Nueva? Attending new family events and connecting with your family grouping prior to the start of school (August 31) will help your child find familiar faces when school begins. The teachers and the Social-Emotional Learning Specialist work as a team to help new students transition to lower school routines, and they explicitly engage the classes in activities designed to help the new students feel comfortable. Please speak with your child's teachers or the division head if you or your child needs extra support.

When and how often should I expect to speak with the teacher? Nueva teachers welcome open communication with parents. They have worked out a variety of methods to ensure a balance in meeting the needs of families in their classrooms. If you have questions, or need more information, contact your child's teacher or advisor. Communication plans are outlined at Back to School Night (BTSN). The Middle School BTSN is September 10. Parents should attend this important event.

When will I hear how my child is doing? Nueva offers three parent-teacher conferences a year. The first conference is an opportunity for teachers and parents to exchange information about a child's progress thus far in the year and set goals for the rest of the semester. The February conferences are parent-advisor-student conferences led by the students as they reflect on their portfolio and their personal and academic goals.

June conferences are between advisors, students and parents with one eye towards summer work and preparation for the next grade level. We also have four times where we share written feedback on student progress, twice informally at the midterm and twice formally at the end of each semester. These evaluations will be posted to your homepages.

When will I know my child's teacher and classmates? Advisory assignments will be provided to parents in late August via the website and students will spend their orientation with their advisors. Class placements are shared the first day of school.

Do students remain with the same group all day long, all year long? Students are in multiple groupings throughout the day. Class groupings and schedules may change to be in class with various teachers and students. There are also curricular-based reconfigurations throughout the year.

When does the school day begin and end, and what are the drop-off and pick-up times for school? We have a staggered start time for Lower and Middle School. Due to construction, these times will be confirmed and released in late June.

Children in grades K-8 can be dropped off as early as 7:30 am; the latest pick-up time is 6:00 pm. Children arriving early or staying after school must make arrangements to go to Extended Care. Additional details and sign up for our Extended Care Program, Enrichment Classes (for grades K-8), and Homework Club (for grades 2-8) will be available in late August.

Drop-off/Pick-up: Additional information on traffic flow and pick-up/drop-off locations will be provided in late August. Please observe traffic guidelines to ensure a safe and steady flow of traffic. Park in designated areas, and never on Skyline Boulevard or public streets adjacent to campus.

Bus and Shuttles: We encourage anyone who can to ride the bus! Multiple routes (north and south) as well as inter-campus shuttles are offered to minimize trip time and maximize convenience. The bus is a safe, fun, cost effective, and environmentally friendly way for students and faculty to travel to and from school. Additional details and sign up for our bus and shuttle service will be available in late August.

Carpooling: Parents arrange carpools informally by grade/region. The Nueva Directory has a "Find Carpool" option for you to find other families in your zip code. Speak with your buddy family or class representative to find out if you can join an existing carpool or would like to coordinate a new group.

Is Extended Care the same as the afternoon enrichment classes? No. Many enrichment classes are offered after school. Topics for the classes range from Dungeon and Dragons, to fencing, cooking and robotics. After classes, children can go to Extended Care to wait for their carpools or the late bus. Details and registration will be available in September.

Can my child play after-school sports? Yes! Nueva belongs to the West Bay Athletic League for grades 5-12. For a full list of sports offered, please visit our website. All Nueva athletics teams are formed on the basis of interest and participation. When participation is adequate, everyone is accepted on a team, and everyone can participate at their level of skill. Teams are generally formed through assessment, while groupings take into account age and developmental ability. In addition, depending on enrollment, teams may be all boys, all girls, or coed

What are my child's lunch options? Children may bring their own lunch, or sign up for the lunch program, which includes fresh, nutritious, organic ingredients. All children and their families are welcome to eat at the café by checking their names in at the register. Nueva is a nut-free campus. **Please do not pack any lunch or snack items containing ground or tree nuts, or their derivatives.** Details and registration for the lunch program will be available in late August.

THE NUEVA SCHOOL

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What if my child gets hurt or is ill during school? The Nueva School nurse attends to minor scrapes, injuries, and illnesses. If your child is unable to return to class, you will be called to come and pick him/her up from school. Children may return to school 24 hours after the cessation of fever or vomiting. We call emergency services as needed. All faculty and staff receive annual training in first aid/CPR. Parents must complete, sign, and submit Nueva's Emergency Information Sheet by May 15. We require an annual update of this information.

What is the school policy on absences and lateness? If a student is absent, email msattendance@nuevaschool.org. If your child arrives late or needs to leave early, s/he also needs to go to the Middle School Office to sign in or out. If an extended absence is unavoidable, please talk with your child's teachers or advisor ahead of time and email msattendance@nuevaschool.org along with their advisor.

Can I volunteer in the class or in other ways? Yes! Ask teachers what opportunities are for your child's grade. Volunteer jobs range from supporting lessons and helping with field trips to organizing special events, and teaching in an area of expertise. The Nueva Parents Association (NPA) coordinates school-wide events. Please attend Tea on the Plaza on the first day of school to meet NPA representatives and discuss your interests and availability. Teachers will discuss other volunteer opportunities during Back to School Night. All Nueva parents are automatic members of the Nueva Parents Association and are welcome to attend meetings.

Will my child have electives or a choice in the academic program? A variety of electives are available to students beginning in 5th grade. Students in grades 4 and above also participate in Academies. Academies, which meet on Friday afternoons, allow students to choose from a wide range of goal-oriented activities led by teachers, parents, or other students.

Who can I contact with additional questions?

- Diane Rosenberg, Head of School (drosenberg@nuevaschool.org)
- CC: Caron Anscombe, Upper School Executive Assistant (canscombe@nuevaschool.org)
- Liza Raynal, Head of Middle School (lraynal@nuevaschool.org)
- CC: Sarah Howard, Middle School Division Assistant (showard@nuevaschool.org)
- Elizabeth Rossini, Director of Teaching & Learning (erossini@nuevaschool.org)
- Taryn Grogan, Director of Admissions (tgrogan@nuevaschool.org)
- Alegria Barclay, PreK-12 Equity & Social Justice Director (abarclay@nuevaschool.org)
- Angi Chau, I-Lab Director PreK-12 (achau@nuevaschool.org)
- Chris Wade, PreK-12 Athletics Director (cwade@nuevaschool.org)