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NEWCOMER FAMILY **HANDBOOK**

Navigating the Education System in
Pleasant Valley School District

Welcome



Welcome to the United States! As you settle into your new life here, one of the most important aspects to consider is your child's education. This handbook aims to address some of the most frequently asked questions about the education system in California and provide you with helpful answers.

Pleasant Valley School District



About PVSD

Pleasant Valley School District (PVSD) educates students in Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade. There are 11 schools in PVSD, six elementary, three K-8 schools, and two comprehensive middle schools (grades 6-8). PVSD proudly serves around 6,000 students who attend our schools. and their families. We welcome you to the PVSD family!

Vision Excellence for ALL!

Mission The Pleasant Valley School District prepares 21st-century learners who are responsible members of our global society.

Core Values

Student Centeredness	Equity
Teamwork	Integrity
Embracing and Celebrating Diversity	

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

01

How do I enroll my child in school?

To enroll your child in school, you will need to complete the pre-enrollment online, which can be accessed on the PVSD website ([link](#)). Once the pre-enrollment is complete, you will go to your school office to complete the p enrollment process. For assistance, contact the PVSD enrollment specialist, Martha Vazquez, at (805) 389-2100 X1109 or via email at mvazquez@pleasantvalleysd.org. If you need access to a computer, you may visit the District Office or the school site.

02

What documents are required for school enrollment?

You will need to provide proof of your child's age (such as a birth certificate), proof of residency (such as a utility bill or lease agreement), and immunization records.

03

What is the difference between elementary, middle, and high school?

Elementary school covers grades kindergarten through fifth, middle school covers grades sixth through eighth, and high school covers grades ninth through twelfth. Each level focuses on different aspects of education and prepares students for the next stage of their academic journey. The high school district is separate from PVSD. Once students complete 8th grade, they transition to Oxnard Union High School District for their high school years. The Oxnard High School District can be contacted at (805) 385-2500.

04

How can I support my child's education at home?

Encourage your child to read regularly, help them with homework, communicate with their teachers, and stay involved in their education. Create a positive learning environment at home and emphasize the importance of education. You may contact your child's teacher at any time. Your child's education is a partnership between you and the school, and school staff are always available to provide assistance.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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How can I stay informed about my child's progress in school?

Your child will receive progress reports and report cards throughout the year. Elementary and K-8 schools are on a trimester reporting system and students will receive report cards three times per year (December, March, June). The comprehensive middle schools, schools with grades 6-8 only, are on a quarter system and receive report cards four times per year (October, January, April, June). Parent-teacher conferences are held in the fall. All parents of elementary students will be invited for a conference, and conferences in grades 6-8 are held for a student who needs additional support with academics or behavior. You may communicate regularly with your child's teacher(s), asking questions about your child's progress, and expressing any concerns that you may have.

06

How is progress reported?

In elementary grades, TK-5, report card marks reflect a student's level of mastery of the grade-level standards. On the report card, students will receive a 3, 2, or 1. Three indicates that the student is meeting the standard, a 2 indicates that the student is progressing toward meeting the standard, and a 1 indicates that the student has not yet met the standard.

In grades 6, 7, and 8, students will receive letter grades on the report card, A, B, C, D, and F. The letter grades are equivalent to a percentage, A=100-90%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, and F=50% and below. A grade of A, B, or C is considered passing, and a grade of D or F indicates that the student needs additional support in the class. Parents may always contact their child's teacher to ask about grades or for ideas on how they can support their child's learning.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

07 How long is the school year?

The school year begins in August and ends in June. Children are in school Monday through Friday. Students attend school in California for 180 days per year. After a school year, concludes, students typically move to the next grade level. There are breaks throughout the year, Thanksgiving break is one week in November, Winter Break is two weeks in December/January, President's Week is one week in February, and Spring break is one week in March or April. The school calendar can be found on the PVSD district website.

08 How will my child eat at school?

Children may take a morning snack or lunch to school or receive meals from the school cafeteria. The state of California provides nutritious free breakfast and lunch meals for all children enrolled in school. Students do not go home for lunch, they remain at school. Lunch times are typically between 11:30 and 12:30. During the lunch period, students have time to eat and play.

09 What will my child learn in school?

California has state academic standards for schools. These standards outline what all students should know and be proficient in for each grade level in English language arts, mathematics, history/social science, and science. Local school districts decide how the standards should be taught and what materials will be used for instruction. A list of the standards covered by grade level can be found on the PVSD district website on the Educational Services page.

10 Are books and supplies provided for students?

Public schools provide books and school supplies, such as paper, pencils, and crayons. If you have questions regarding supplies, contact your child's teacher.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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What if my child does not speak English?

If your child does not speak English, the school district will evaluate your child's language skills. The school will then provide your child with the instruction he or she needs to learn English and participate in the academic program for his or her grade level.

Upon enrollment in a California public school, a student who has a language other than English listed on the Home Language Survey will be assessed using the Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) to determine English learner identification in grades K-8. If a student is identified as an English learner, he/she will receive additional academic and English language support.

An English learner will receive integrated and designated ELD daily to support language acquisition. Integrated ELD includes the supports that teachers implement to make the content accessible to students. Designated ELD is a dedicated time during the day when English learners receive instruction on how English works. In all grades, students will learn grade-level standards as they concurrently develop their English language proficiency.

Annually, a student identified as an English learner will take the Summative ELPAC to measure English language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The student will take the ELPAC each year until reclassified as fully English proficient. To reclassify, a student must meet the reclassification criteria for their grade level. The PVSD reclassification criteria is located on the PVSD website.

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Is parent/guardian participation at school required?

There are many opportunities for involvement in the school community. There are groups such as the PTA, English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC), and School Site Council (SSC). Additionally, there are opportunities to volunteer in your child's classroom or to help with school events. Participation is optional; however, we encourage you to become a part of your school's community by joining one of these groups or assisting at school. The school office will be able to help with finding the right participation opportunity for you.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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What do I do if my child is absent from school?

If your child will miss school for the day, you will notify the school office of the absence. For an extended absence, you may request to pick up missed work from the office for your child. If a child will be out for three or more days, independent study may be requested, and work will be provided for your child to complete and submit for approved attendance credit. Saturday Academies are offered throughout the school year for absence makeup. Your child's school will communicate information to families before each Saturday Academy. School attendance is mandatory in the state of California for children aged six and over.

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Is my child required to wear a uniform to school?

Children are not required to wear a uniform to school in PVSD. Each school's handbook outlines the dress code. Students are expected to wear clothing that is suitable for the school activities in which they will participate and does not cause disruption to the educational program. In grades 6–8, a uniform is required for the physical education (PE) class. Students will change into their PE clothes for their PE class period.

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Is transportation provided for children to get to school?

Bus transportation is available on a fee-based, space-available program. Eligibility is based on the following:

1. Living in the attendance area of one of these schools: Monte Vista, Las Colinas, Rancho Rosal, Santa Rosa (residing west of Gerry Rd), or PVSEA.
2. Living more than 3 air miles from your school of residence
3. Using the neighborhood bus stop assigned by PVSD.

For additional information on the PVSD transportation offerings, visit the PVSD website or contact the Transportation Department at (805) 389-2100.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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How is information communicated to families?

ParentSquare: ParentSquare is a safe and secure platform for all school-to-home communication. It allows you to stay connected with your child's school, and get involved in your child's education. ParentSquare can be accessed on mobile devices. To sign up for an account visit the PVSD website's Parents tab.

Parent Connect: Parent Connect is the PVSD student information system. Families can access Parent Connect to view enrollment information, standardized test scores, report cards, and grades. For middle school, Parent Connect can be used to monitor student grades. At the end of each marking period, report cards will be viewed in Parent Connect.

It is extremely important to notify the school office immediately if there are changes to enrollment information such as an update of student health needs, parent/guardian contact numbers or address, etc. Ensuring that schools have accurate information will assist with communication between the school and home.

School website: Each school has a website that provides school information and up-to-date happenings on campus. You will also find contact information for the school and staff.

Teacher website: Teachers maintain websites that include their name, contact information, and pertinent information about their class. Families are encouraged to contact teachers with questions or to seek information regarding their child's learning.

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What is my child's school schedule?

For specific school schedule information, visit your school website. Listed below are the start and dismissal times for the different grade levels.

TK and Kindergarten: Early Group: 8:10 am-12:55 pm or Late group 9:40 am-2:25 pm

First through Fifth grades: 8:10 am - 2:25 pm

Middle School on a K-8 Campus: 8:10 am- 2:55 pm (Thursdays 8:10 am-1:57 pm)

Middle School grades 6-8: 8:25 am-3:05 pm (Thursdays 8:25 am-2:05 pm)

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Are there after-school programs or childcare options available?

Schools offer a variety of tutoring, clubs, and sports teams for students to participate in. Each school provides offerings that best meet student needs. For specific information about the school's offerings, contact the school office. PVSD offers a long-standing, quality before and after-school childcare program. For information PVSD childcare program visit the PVSD website.

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How is discipline handled at school?

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) is used as the basis for school discipline. Children will be taught behavioral expectations for the classroom and the school, along with the consequences for not following the established expectations. Corporal punishment is not used in California public schools.

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Who do I contact for assistance?

Enrollment Questions- Martha Vazquez (805) 389-2100 X1109

School-related Questions- School Office Staff or Principal

English Learner Program- Carolina Howard (805) 389-2100 X1107

Spanish Translation- Miriam Rivas (805) 389-2100 X1112

Community Resources- Administrative Services Office

(805) 389-2100 X1104

