



LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT INFORMATION PRESENTATION

Superintendent
Dr. Andrew Pulver

Board of Education:
Marlys Davidson, Diana Hill, Matt Bragman, Chris Forehan, Farnaz Pardasani



PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- Welcome families to their secondary school journey in Los Alamitos Unified
- Share District highlights and philosophy
- Introduction of the Middle School Student
- Overview of middle school program
- Middle school registration process
- Busing/Before and After-school care options
- Answer questions





MEET THE DISTRICT TEAM



Dr. Andrew Pulver
SUPERINTENDENT



Mrs. Ondrea Reed
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT
EDUCATION SERVICES



Dr. Ryan Weiss-Wright
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
HUMAN RESOURCES



Dr. Jerry Friedman
DIRECTOR
SAFETY & STUDENT SERVICES



Igniting Unlimited Possibilities



Welcome *Class of 2032* to
the beginning of your
secondary school journey!



LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Los Alamitos High School
Home of the Griffins



Oak Middle School
Home of the Lions

McAuliffe Middle School
Home of the Eagles



**Hopkinson
Elementary**

**Los Alamitos
Elementary**

**Lee
Elementary**

**Rossmoor
Elementary**

**Weaver
Elementary**

**McGaugh
Elementary**



**One High School
Two Middle Schools
Six Elementary Schools**



Los Alamitos Unified At a Glance

- All Schools are California Distinguished Schools
- Los Al Unified consistently ranks in the top in Orange County on state assessments for over 20+ years
- 94% Post-Secondary Enrollment Rate + 3% Military
- 80% “a-g” Completion
- Named to College Board Honor Roll for ten years
- Thriving Athletics, Activities and Arts programs



**100% Graduation Rate -
Class of 2023 & 2024**





AWARD WINNING MIDDLE SCHOOLS

*National Blue Ribbon, California
Distinguished and Gold Ribbon Schools*

Offer the same rigorous instructional program
and robust elective options for all students.



McAuliffe Middle School



Oak Middle School

MCAULIFFE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of the Eagles

4112 West Cerritos, Los Alamitos 90720



Eddie Courtemarche
PRINCIPAL



Jenn McGuire
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Julie Foot
PSYCHOLOGIST



Shelby Olmstead
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR



Dr. Jensen
WELLNESS COUNSELOR





OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of the Lions

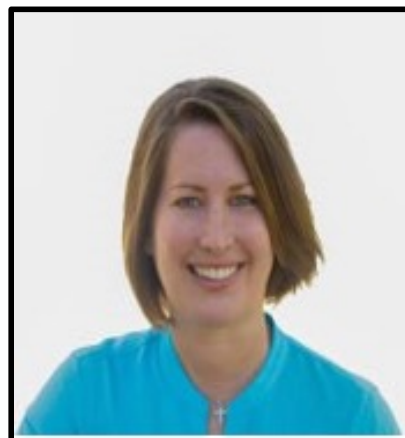
10821 Oak Street, Los Alamitos 90720



Evelyn Garcia
PRINCIPAL



Stephen Segura
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Jerilynn Kuhar
PSYCHOLOGIST



Adrienne Reynolds
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR



Dr. Jensen
WELLNESS COUNSELOR



Meet Your Middle Schooler

5 FACTS ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

#1 Rapid Physical Development

Key Fact: Middle schoolers experience significant physical growth during this phase of adolescence, including hormonal changes, which can affect their energy levels, focus, and self-esteem.

Implications for Schools:

- Create a safe and supportive environment that normalizes the physical changes students experience. (Teachers who love the middle school child.)
- Provide regular opportunities for movement through physical education and brain breaks to channel their energy productively. (Intramurals, Lunch Activities...)



“LAG PHASE”



#2 Heightened Emotional Sensitivity

Key Fact: The adolescent brain undergoes rapid development in the limbic system (emotions) before the prefrontal cortex (decision-making), making middle schoolers highly sensitive to emotions and social feedback.

Implications for Schools:

- Create calming spaces (e.g., wellness centers) where students can decompress during stressful moments and learn strategies to cope with emotions.
- Establish clear anti-bullying policies and promote inclusivity through school-wide initiatives. (Challenge Success Partnership, No Place for Hate...)
- Train teachers to build strong relationships with students, using positive reinforcement and active listening.

BIRTH – Age 3

Most rapid development
of the brain.



Age 11 – Age 14

Second largest spurt of brain growth. This is also what scientists call a “sensitive period” for social and emotional learning, when the brain is primed to learn from social cues.

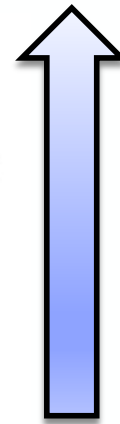
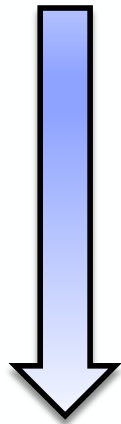
#3 Developing Identity & Peer Influence

Key Fact: Middle schoolers are exploring their identities and seeking a sense of belonging, making peer relationships a central focus of their lives. Middle schoolers begin to prioritize friendships over family relationships.

Implications for Schools:

- Offer opportunities for collaboration and teamwork to foster positive peer interactions. (Focus on collaborative learning, Student Leadership)
- Provide clubs, extracurricular activities, and diverse learning experiences to allow students to explore their interests and identities. (Clubs, Choice Based Electives)

Friendships are Unstable
Change frequently due to shifting interests, group dynamics, and social skills development.



Friendships Become More Intimate
Friendships often shift from being activity-based (e.g., playing together) to being emotionally supportive, characterized by shared secrets, loyalty, and trust.



#4 Cognitive Growth & Abstract Thinking

Key Fact: Middle schoolers transition from concrete thinking to more abstract and critical thinking, enabling them to understand complex concepts, question authority, and develop their own opinions.

Implications for Schools:

- Incorporate inquiry-based learning and real-world problem-solving to engage their developing critical thinking skills. (Socratic Seminar, Project Based Learning)
- Allow space for students to voice their opinions and participate in decision-making, fostering autonomy and responsibility.

Students start to question rules, authority, and societal norms as they form their own values and beliefs. They may challenge parents, teachers, or societal expectations as they develop critical thinking skills and a sense of independence.



Students begin forming their own opinions on issues such as justice, fairness, and ethics. They often enjoy debates or discussions that allow them to explore and defend their views.

#5 Need for Structure & Autonomy

Key Fact: While middle schoolers crave independence, they still need clear structure and boundaries to feel secure and succeed academically.

Implications for Schools:

- Establish clear expectations and consistent routines in the classroom while allowing flexibility for student choice.
- Teach organizational skills explicitly, such as managing homework, setting goals, and using planners, to help them navigate increased academic demands.



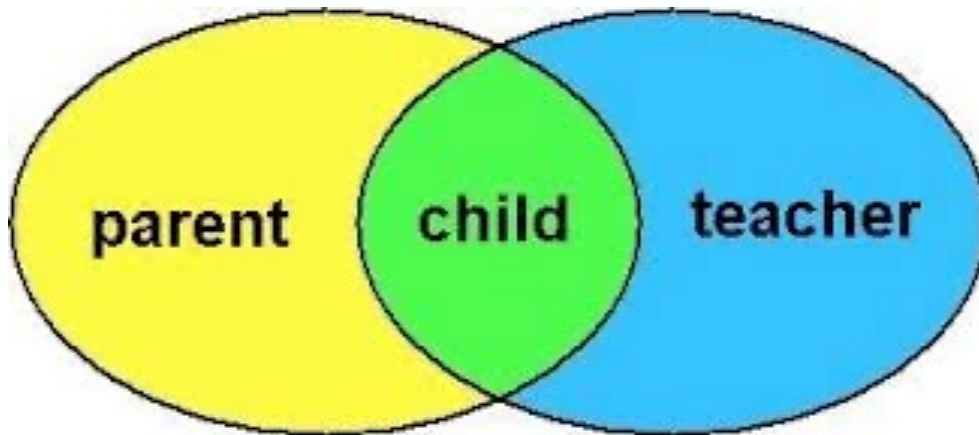
Excessive rigidity can limit students' independence, while too much freedom can lead to confusion and hinder their ability to make responsible choices.



Brains are still developing, particularly the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for decision-making, planning, and impulse control and is not fully developed until age 26.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN AT MIDDLE SCHOOL ?

The PARENT-CHILD-TEACHER relationship
is more important than ever.





Los Al Middle School Program

Designed for Middle School Students to Thrive

- Continue to foster a love of school & learning
- Promote behaviors of independence
- Guide social emotional growth
- Focus on critical thinking in academics
- Discover and develop passion and interests
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Value student voice
- Foster friendships
- Partner with parents



Middle School Student Day

8:50AM – 3:10PM: 6 Periods of Instruction*

8:50AM – 9:47AM Period 1 (+Announcements)

9:52AM – 10:44AM Period 2

10:44AM – 10:52AM Nutrition

10:57AM – 11:49AM Period 3

11:49AM – 12:19PM **LUNCH**

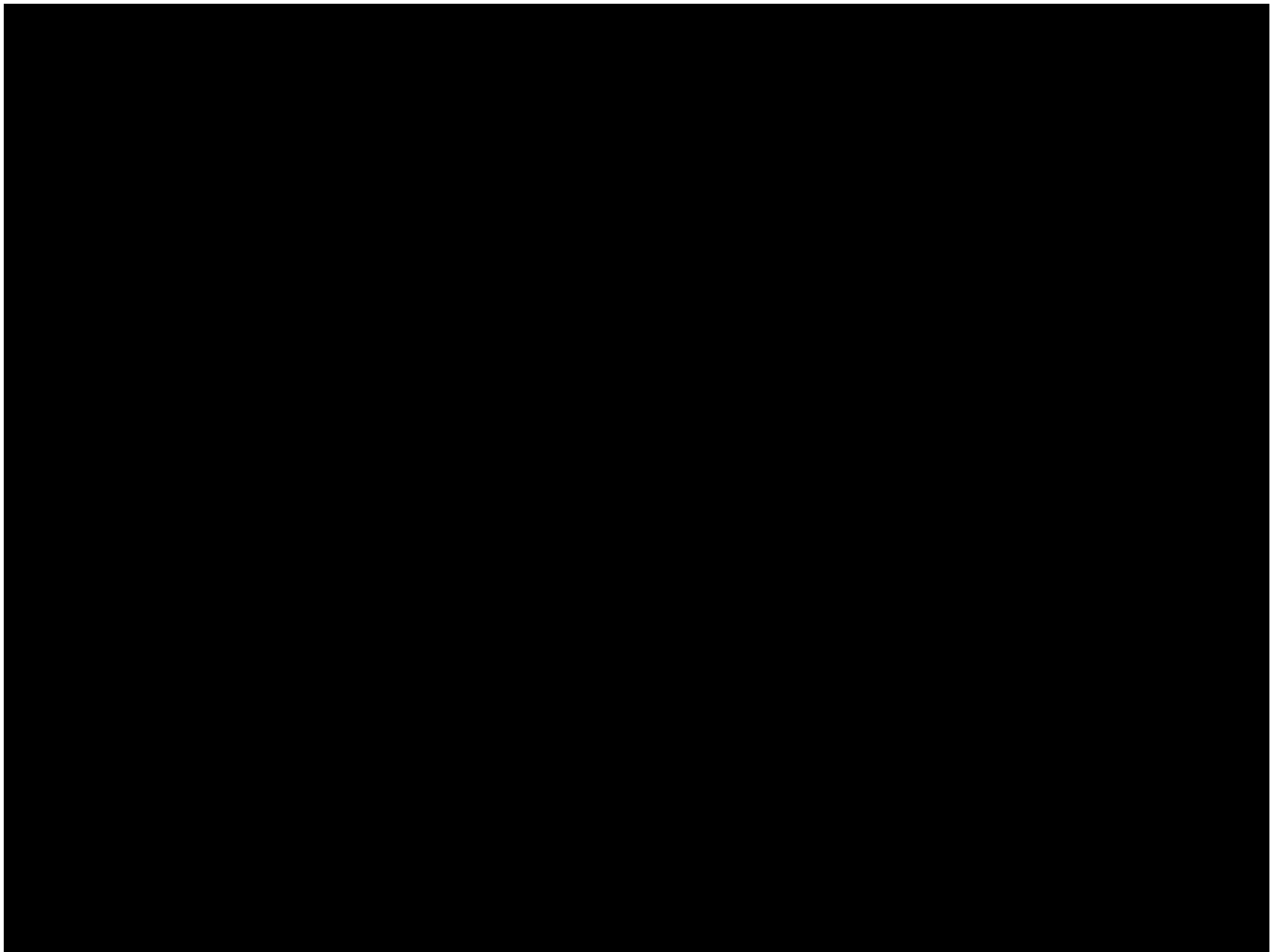
12:24PM – 1:16PM Period 4

1:21PM – 2:13PM Period 5

2:18PM – 3:10PM Period 6

- 5-MINUTE PASSING PERIODS
 - NUTRITION
- 6th Gr. Only: 30 MINUTE LUNCH
 - ACCESS TO CAFETERIA
- WEDNESDAY EARLY RELEASE

*Bell schedules are specific to each middle school. This is a sample schedule.



CHALLENGE SUCCESS PARTNERSHIP

Transform the Student Experience

Less Pressure
More Balance
Deeper Learning

THE SOLUTION

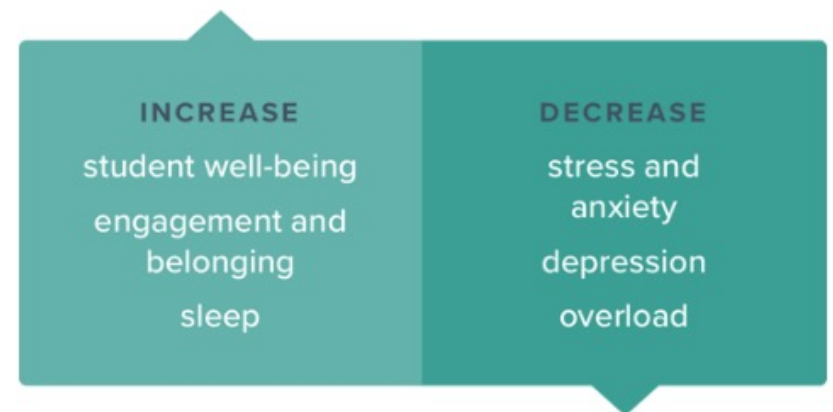
It's time to embrace a broader definition of success and transform the student experience

“Success is measured over the course of a lifetime, not at the end of a semester.”

Challenge Success is partnership with Stanford University's Graduate School of Education. They provide Los Al secondary schools and families with proven strategies that promote well-being and engagement with learning in order to transform the student experience into one where all kids can create their own paths to success.

THE PROBLEM

A narrow definition of success is hurting our kids



HOMEWORK AT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School Homework Minutes

- Grade 6 = 0-60 minutes per night average M-Th
- Grade 7 = 0-70 minutes per night average M-Th
- Grade 8 = 0-80 minutes per night average M-Th

**Undistracted
Time**

- Homework should consist of reading, practice and application of key skills and concepts across subject areas, application of writing skills, preparation for future classes and beginning research.
- Homework should continue to build independent study habits.



HOMEWORK AT MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Long-term assignments should be limited in number and duration. These assignments should include clear checkpoints to monitor progress towards completion.
- No assignments should be given during a school break, and any long-term assignments should not be due during the first week back from a school break.
- Homework shall not be assigned during standardized testing for grades 3-8

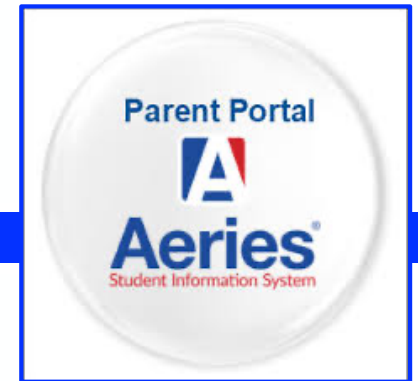
Communicate with Teachers...

Guidance Counselor is a HUGE middle-school resource...



Student Grade Reporting

Semester Reporting



QUARTER 1: (August 13 – October 10) 9-Week Progress Report
Fall Middle School Parent Conferences October 21-23-24

QUARTER 2: (October 13 – December 19)
Semester I Report Card Issued Electronically

SEMESTER I

QUARTER 3: (January 6 – March 13) 9-Week Progress Report
Spring Middle School Parent Conferences March 24-26-27

QUARTER 4: (March 16 – June 4)
Semester II Report Card Issued Electronically

SEMESTER II

Middle school report cards should focus on growth and learning, promoting balance and meaningful reflection over grades alone.

Sample 6th Grade Schedule

6-Period Day



ZERO PERIOD 8:00AM-8:45AM
(Special Programs and Interventions...)

Period 1: English Language Arts (College Prep/Honors)

Period 2: Social Science

Period 3: Math (Math 6 or Math 6/7)

Period 4: Elective

Period 5: Science

Period 6: Physical Education





Course Placement

READING & LANGUAGE ARTS

OFFER TWO PATHWAYS FOR ENGLISH INSTRUCTION

COLLEGE PREP

HONORS

Placement rubric completed for every fifth-grade student, which takes into consideration: (Placement Rubric Used)

- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Score
- Semester I grades in Reading & Writing
- Current independent reading level
- On Demand Writing Assessment (Response to Literature) - Ability to write a clear, cohesive paragraph and analyze text
- Student work habits and organizational skills



Course Placement

FLUID ANNUAL PLACEMENT

English Language Arts

COLLEGE PREP

HONORS

ELA placements in middle school are fluid and students are evaluated annually.

6th Grade/middle school placement is not tied to high school placement.



Course Placement

MATHEMATICS “a-g” Pathways

OFFER TWO PATHWAYS FOR MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION

COLLEGE PREP: MATH 6

ACCELERATED: MATH 6/7

Both courses use the same Grade 6 Mathematics textbook.

Math 6 – Covers 10 chapters of instruction

Math 6/7 – Covers 15 chapters of instruction

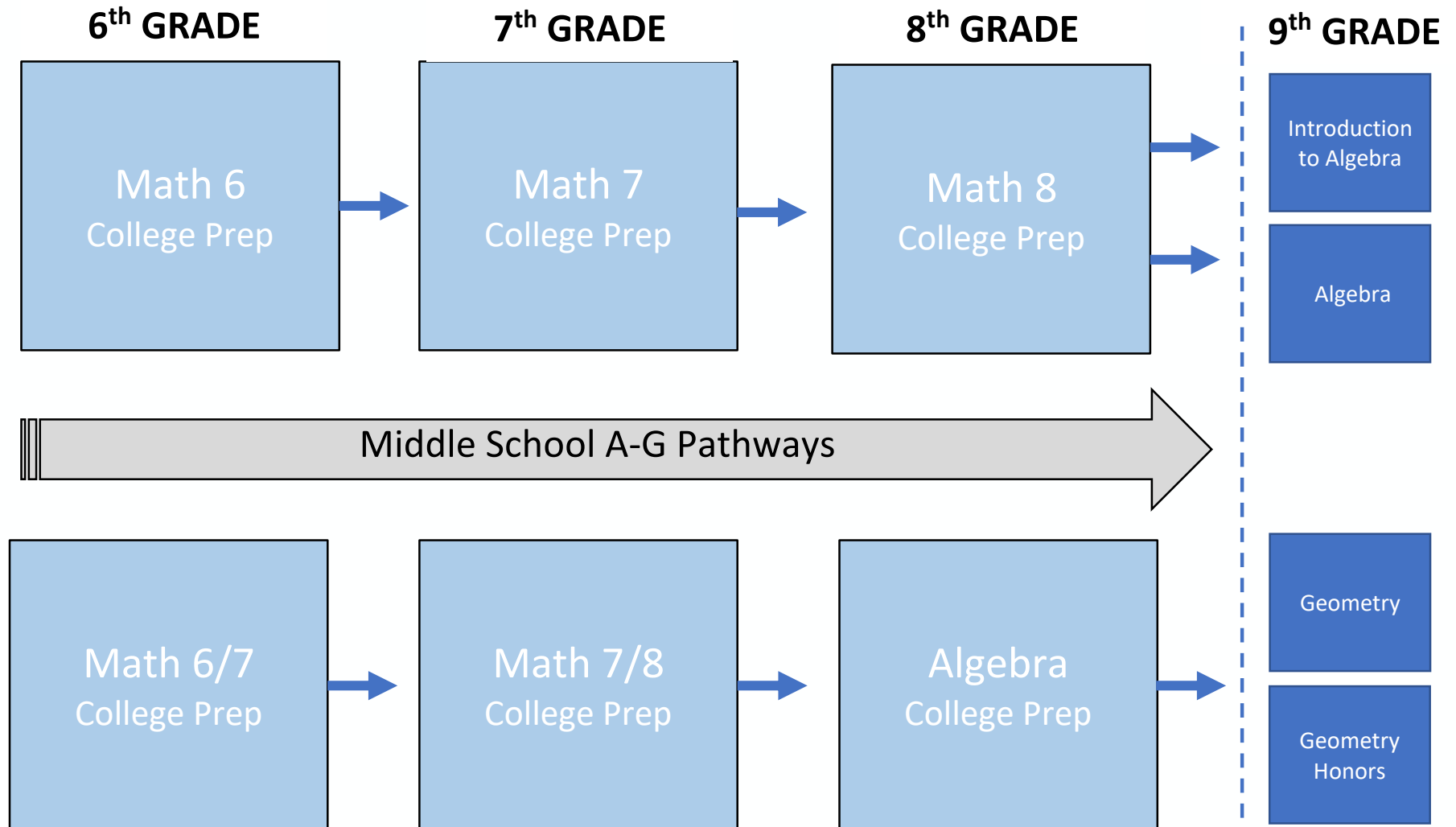
Placement based on: (Placement Rubric Used)

- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Score
- Semester I grade
- Standardized testing scores (CAASPP)



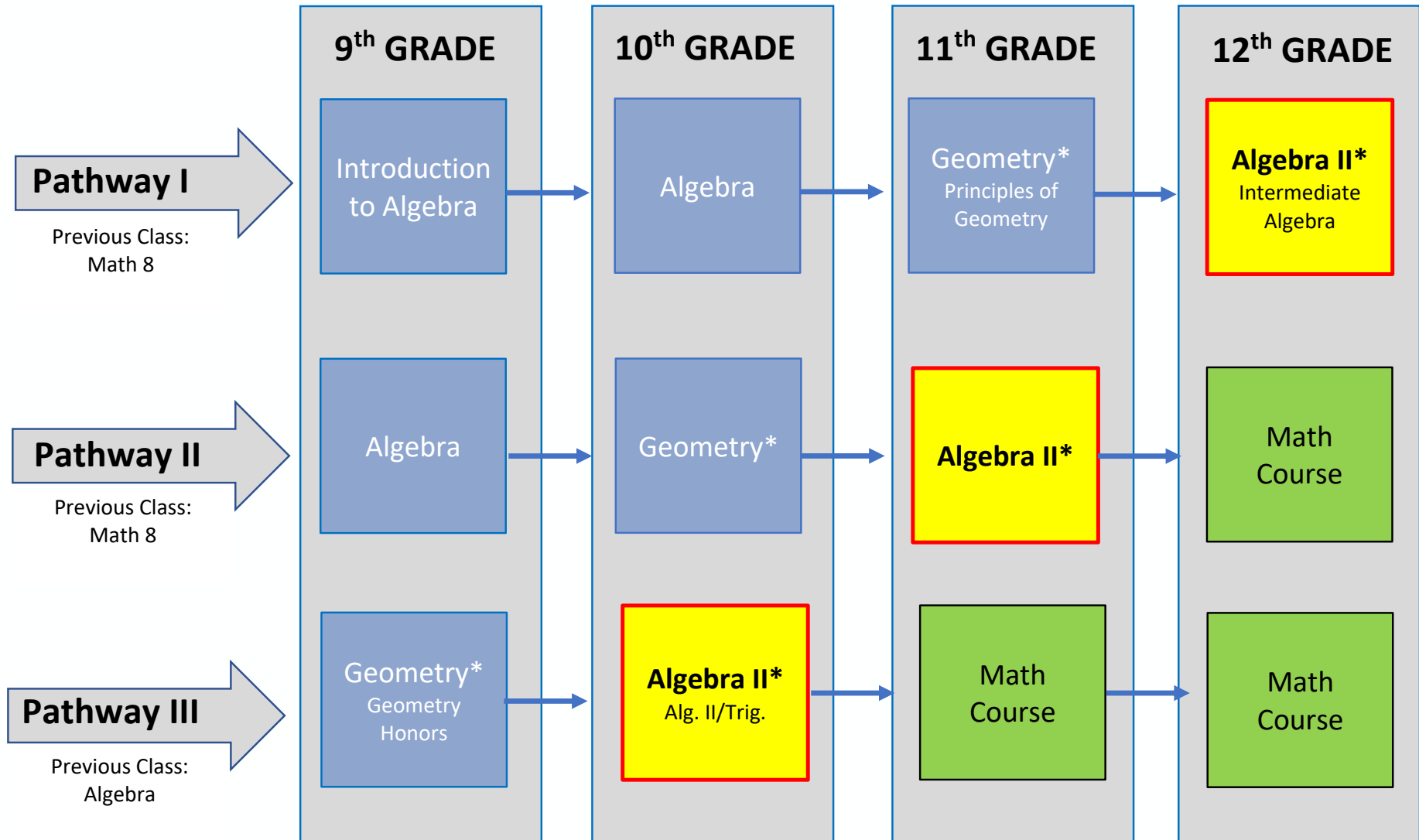
LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Middle School Mathematics College Bound Pathways



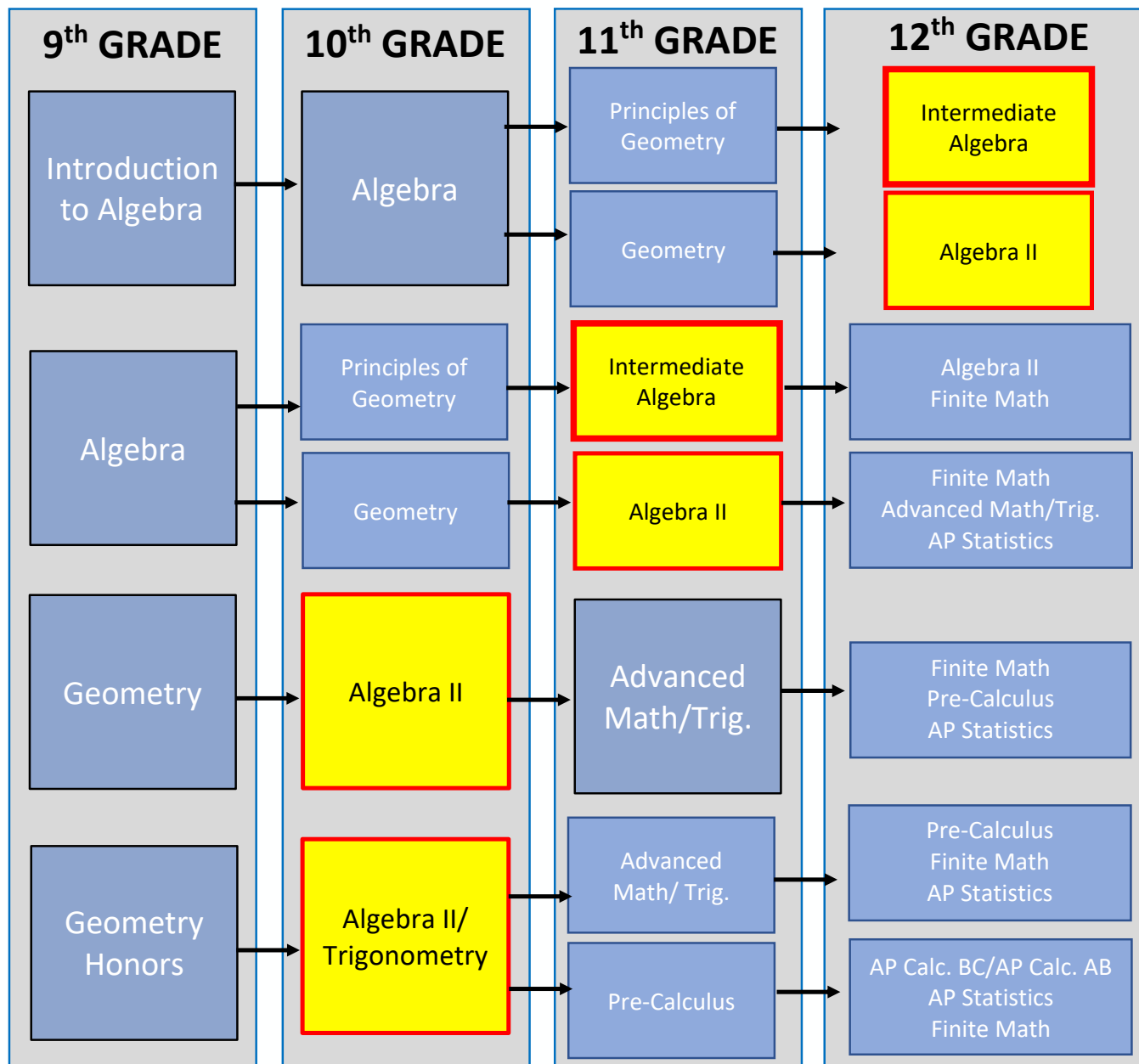
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High School Mathematics A-G Pathways



Algebra II	= Meets A-G College Entrance	* Equivalent Courses	Math Course	= See Back for Math Progression Option
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High School Mathematics Course Progressions



Algebra II

To meet UC/CSU Entrance Requirements students must complete Algebra II or an equivalent course.

CSU, UC and private university entrance requirements for math course completion vary. Please partner with LAHS guidance counselor to determine required course progression.

Math course options and progression is based on semester grades.

COURSE EQUIVALENCIES

GEOMETRY

Principles of Geometry

Geometry Honors

ALGEBRA II

Intermediate Algebra

Algebra II/Trigonometry



COURSE PLACEMENT

ELA & Mathematics

COLLEGE PREP

HONORS



Trust the Process

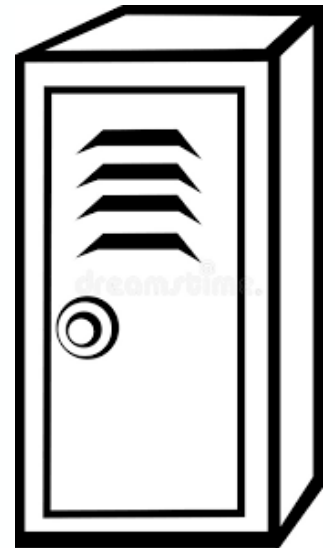
**NO TEARS
NO TUTORS**



Physical Education

- 6th/7th Grade Students in Same Period
- Focus on the CA State Standards for Physical Education
- *Students are required to “dress out” for class each day*
 - *PE uniforms can be purchased on Registration Day*
- *Students receive a separate PE Locker*
 - *Lockers & Locks are given out to students during the first week of school*

Students do not dress out the first week of school.



6th Grade Electives



- **Exploratory Wheel:** Visual Art, Drama, Music, STEM, etc. (*Exact rotations change year-to-year. Gives students exposure to multiple courses*)
- **Choir:** (Year-Long Elective) Beginning choir for both boys and girls.
- **Instrumental Music:** (Year-Long Elective) Band or Orchestra; Jazz Band and advanced sections of band and orchestra hold auditions in Spring.
- **STEM I:** (Year-Long Elective) Engineering & Design Process; Robotics

Special Education

Continuum of Services

**Individualized
Education Plan
(IEP)**

**Occupational
Therapy**

Special Day Class

**Vision/Audiology
Services**



**Speech &
Language Services**

**Specialized
Academic
Instruction**

**Adaptive Physical
Education**

**Counseling
Services**

All services that a student on and on an IEP receives transfer to the middle school setting. Specific questions are best answered by your current school psychologist.

COURSE SELECTION

Middle School Welcome Presentations

WELCOME PRESENTATIONS

MARCH/APRIL – Middle school counselors visit elementary school campuses to facilitate welcome presentations with fifth grade students. Students will come home with a registration card to indicate preference in their elective choice for sixth grade.

TEACHER RECCOMENDATIONS

Fifth grade teachers complete District placement rubrics for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Counselors meet individually with each fifth-grade teacher to discuss and review each student.



Students/Parents provide input for **elective course selection.**



Teachers complete rubrics for **academic course selection.**



STUDENT CONNECTIONS



Middle School Socials
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025
3:30PM – 4:30PM

Middle School WEB Days
AUGUST (DATES TBD)



*More information and details about events will be
shared as dates get closer.*



ENROLLING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL



All District residents are automatically enrolled in their home middle school. All residents should have received an email welcoming them to their home middle school in December.

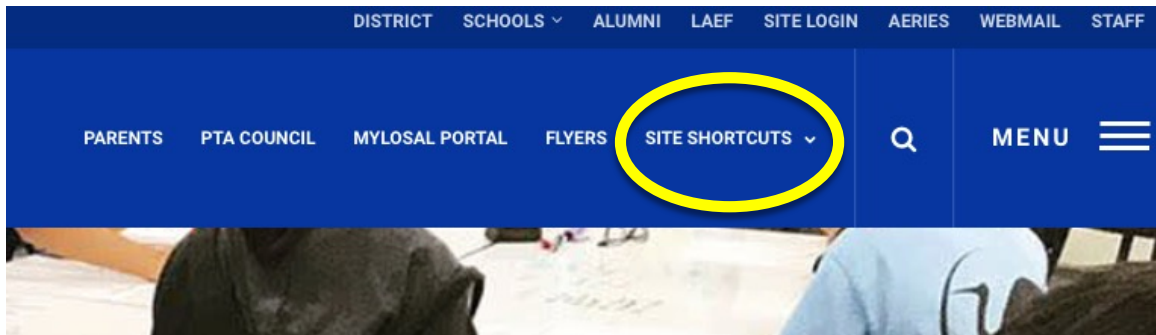
School of Residence

Home address determines school placement

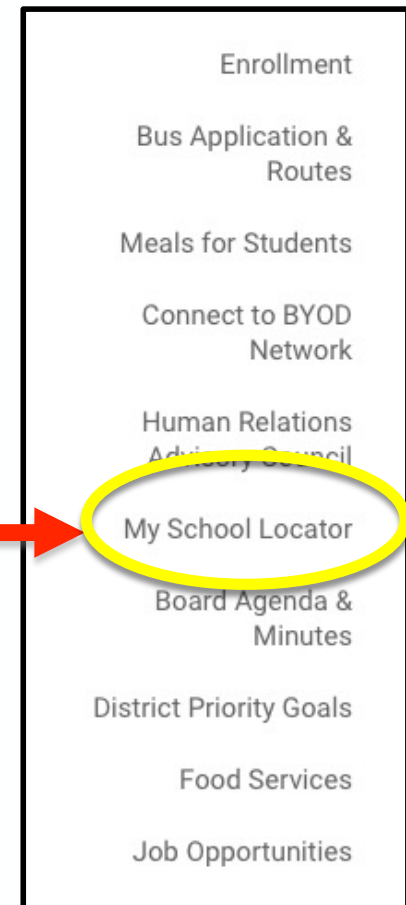
Families interested in attending a middle school other than their home school need to electronically submit an Intradistrict Transfer Request by **January 31, 2025**.

SCHOOL LOCATOR

Home address determines school placement.



Click here to locate
your school of
residence.



www.losal.org

Enter your home address.





Los Alamitos Unified School District

Enter Your Address Here

Select Language


To Get Started:

- Enter your address above.
- Or Use the button  to click on the map to tell us where you are.
- Or click  on the map to use your current location.

Explore the map:

- Click and drag to pan around.
- Double Click to zoom in.
- Click on a school view phone number, webpage, and directions.




Top Left side Controls:

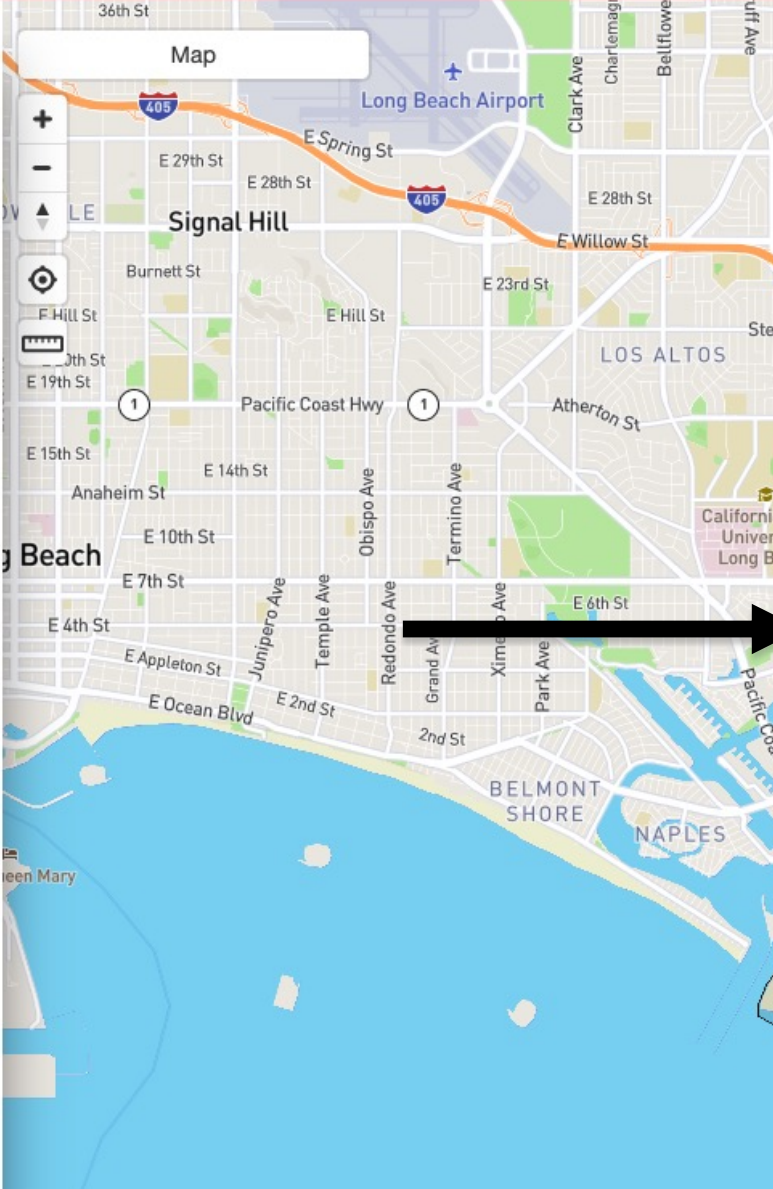
- Change background using Map menu (Satellite, terrain, street, etc.).
- Zoom controls in (+) and out (-). (Alternatively: use scroll wheel)
- Use  to Use Your Current Location
- Measure distance
- Select a language preference

Top Right side Controls:


- Open the Map in Full Screen
- Select a Layer


Legend:


 Elementary  Middle  High



Browse assigned Schools:
Click on a school below to popup info on the map

 **Hopkinson ES (K - 5)**
12582 Kensington Rd
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

 **McAuliffe MS (6 - 8)**
4112 Cerritos Ave
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

 **Los Alamitos HS (9 - 12)**
3591 Cerritos Ave
Los Alamitos, CA 90720



SELECTING A PREFERRED SCHOOL

A School Other Than Your Home School

Step One: Complete the home school enrollment process that was just reviewed

Step Two: Return to losal.org

- **Site Shortcuts**
 - **Enrollment**
 - **Intradistrict Transfers**
 - **Elementary Intradistrict Request Form**
- Complete all questions and submit before **January 21, 2025.**
 - Transfers are accepted based on space availability
 - Parents will be contacted by the end of February regarding status of transfer request

FLYERS **SITE SHORTCUTS** ▾

Enrollment

Enrollment Requirements/Enroll New Student

Intradistrict Transfers

Interdistrict Transfers

Preschool Enrollment

Intradistrict transfer requests that are received are considered until late July when enrollment is on an availability basis.
We cannot guarantee open enrollment request

Elementary Intradistrict Request Form

Middle School Intradistrict Request Form

Enrollment Timeline

DECEMBER/JANUARY

District residents receive "Welcome Letter"
from their home middle school.



LATE JANUARY

Intradistrict transfer request forms
due by January 31, 2025.



LATE MARCH

Continuing students on an Interdistrict
permit will receive a placement letter in
Late March - Early April



How do I start the enrollment process for my upcoming middle schooler?

ENROLLMENT vs. REGISTRATION



FEBRUARY – MARCH

STEP 1: ENROLLING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Formal confirmation of which middle school a student will be attending next school year.

APRIL – MAY

STEP 2: REGISTERING AT YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Placement and selection of courses and verification in AERIES of all parent/guardian information.

Registration Timeline

APRIL

Students come home with a registration card to indicate preference in their elective choice for sixth grade.



JULY

Families receive an email from their middle school providing them with information to log into AERIES and complete the registration process.

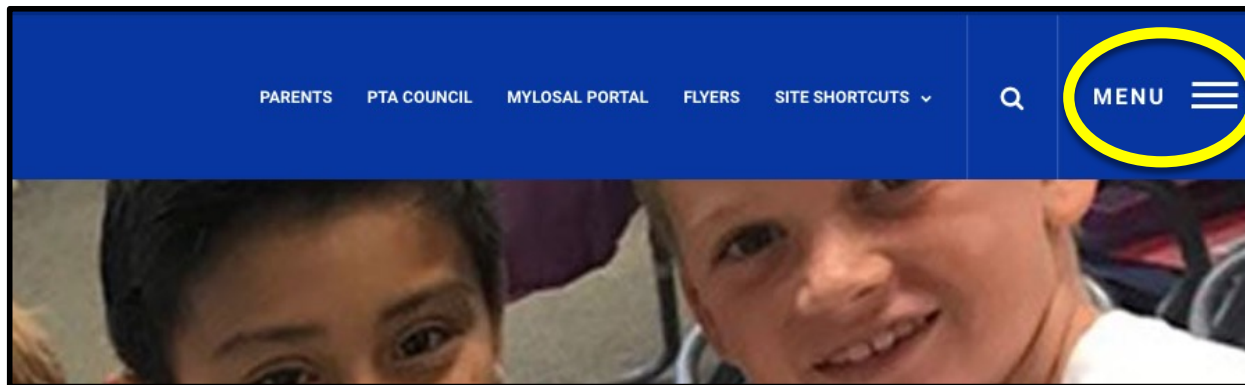


LAUSD Before & After School Care

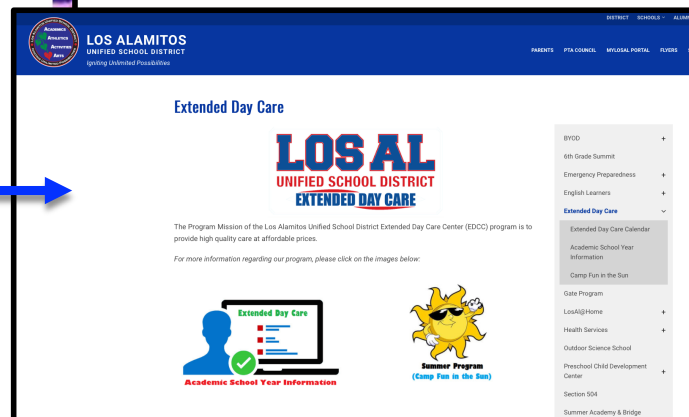
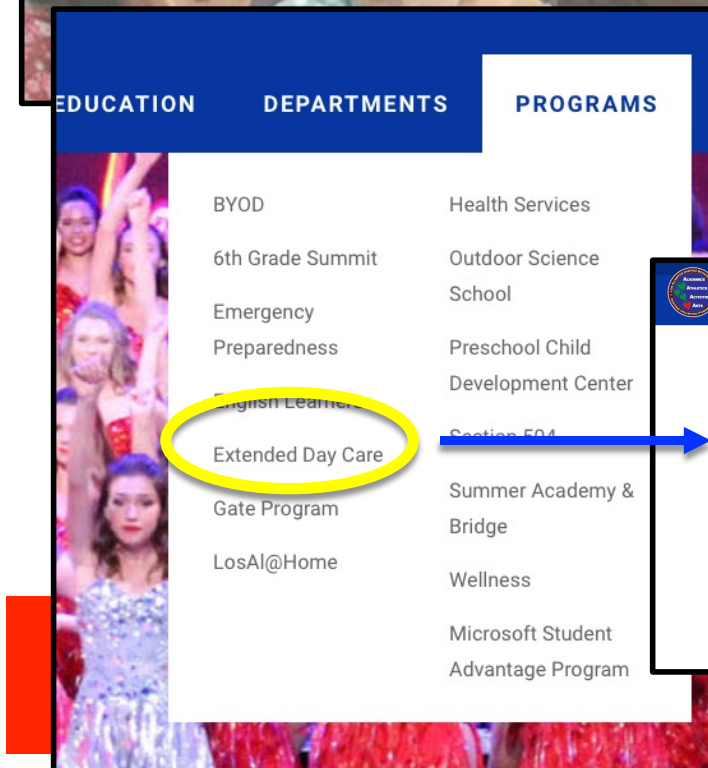
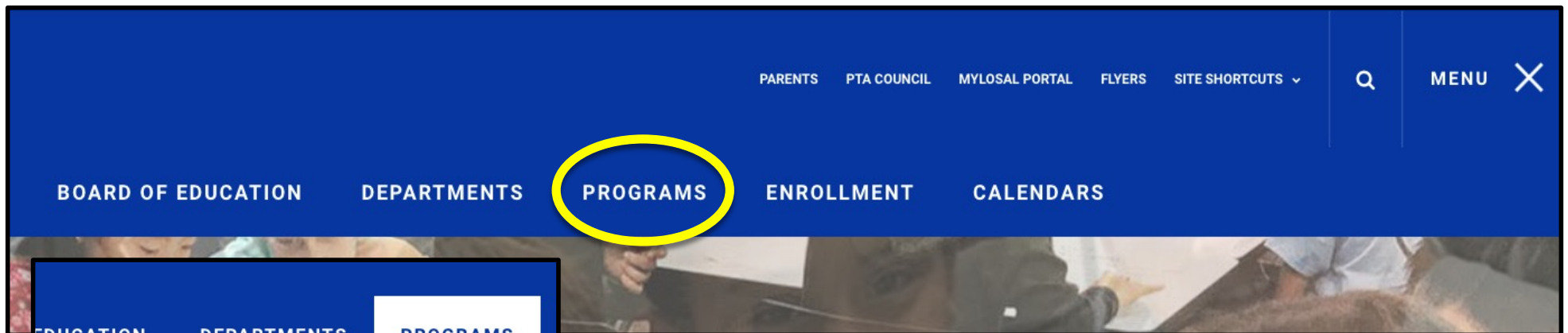
Yolanda Mortensen, Program Supervisor



Outpost Available At Both Los Al Middle Schools.



FOR EXTENDED DAY CARE
Information & Registration
www.losal.org





LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District API 922 - Igniting Unlimited Possibilities for Students!



[Our District](#) | [Board of Education](#) | [Departments](#) | [School Calendars](#) | [Programs](#) | [Shape T](#)

Los Al has a long-standing legacy of excellence in Academics, Athletics, Activities, and the Arts. All District schools have been honored as California Distinguished Schools and Gold Ribbon Schools. With a District API of 922, highly-talented teachers and staff ensure that students achieve unlimited possibilities following high standards. We are honored to be a District Community.

SITE SHORTCUTS

- > [Superintendent Search](#)
- > [My School Locator](#)
- > [Board Agendas & Minutes](#)
- > [District Priority Goals](#)
- > [Food Services](#)
- > [Los Alamitos Education Foundation \(LAEF\) - Donate Today!](#)
- > [Job Opportunities](#)
- > [School News Publications](#)
- > [NEW - Bus Application and Routes](#)
- > [District Attendance Boundaries](#)



Consider Taking the bus to
Middle School...



ELECTRONIC BICYCLES

Mandatory E-Bike Safety Course



To park an electronic bicycle (e-bike) on the school campus, the e-bike must have a Los Alamitos Police Department registration sticker and the rider must have taken the E-Bike Safety course. The course is offered on the middle school campuses and taught by Los Alamitos Police Department officers.

Both middle schools will offer the course prior to the school year and at the start of the second semester.



California law requires the rider of a Class-III E-bike to be 16 years of age. Therefore, no Class-III bikes can be ridden to, nor parked on a middle school campus.



Bring Your Own Device & Cell Phones at Middle School



District Home **Select a School...** Sign In

MCAULIFFE
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Be yourself, try your best, and never be afraid to dream

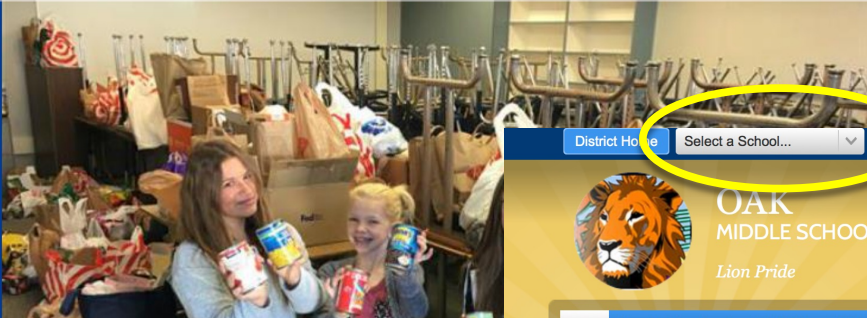
Calendar Aeries Portal Classroom Portal Webmail

Parents Staff Alumni LAEF

Our School News Parents Programs PTA Students Teachers

McAuliffe staff and parents believe in providing a rigorous, nurturing, and active learning environment for all children that ensures personal success, a life-long desire to learn, and civic responsibility.

"Igniting unlimited possibilities for students!"



Canned food drive is a success!



District Home **Select a School...** Sign In

OAK
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lion Pride

Calendar Aeries Portal Classroom Portal Webmail

Parents Staff Alumni LAEF

About Academics Activities PTA News Resources Staff

Oak Middle School
10821 Oak St.
Los Alamitos, CA 90720
Tel: 562-799-4740
Fax: 562-799-4773

24 Hour Attendance Line:
562-799-4740 Ext. 76001

Igniting Unlimited Possibilities for All Students!



HEAR US ROAR! ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHAPE THE FUTURE
CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

NEWS

BYOD
The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program is coming to Los Alamitos Unified next year! The district has partnered with Brick by Brick to provide discounted prices



SITE SHORTCUTS

- > About McAuliffe
- > McAuliffe Student Calendar 2017-18
- > McAuliffe Student Events Calendar
- > Eagle Weekly News
- > Lunch Menu
- > Aeries SIS Portal-Online

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The PTA is looking for volunteers for the 2018 McAuliffe PTA Board. If you're interested in serving executive board as President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Auditor or His/Her position please fill out the PTA Board Interest Form which can be found on the [PTA webpage](#) on this website. The form is due Tuesday, October 23rd.



SITE SHORTCUTS

- > Aeries Online Grades
- > Lunch Menu
- > Middle School Student Calendar 2017-2018
- > Bell Schedule
- > Non-Discrimination Policy and Title IX Statement
- > School Accountability Report

www.losal.org



Tonight's presentation will be available for viewing and download on the District website at www.losal.org. Click on the **SITE SHORTCUTS** tab, then **ENROLLMENT** and then select *Middle School Enrollment*.

**Directly following Q&A:
The Interdistrict Permit Process
LAHS College & Career
with Dr. Jerry Friedman**



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

Welcome to the Los Al Family!

QUESTIONS?

General Q&A:
Performing Arts Center

Interdistrict Permit Process:
College & Career Center

