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Promise FEATURES
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A Bright Start: PJUSD's New Before School Program

For this month's Promise Feature, we visited our new Before School Program at Walnut Grove and Apricot Valley. Read how students are starting their mornings with fun activities, weekly themes, and friendships that help them feel ready for the day.

A Resource for Families

This school year, our district piloted a brand new Before School Program for all Walnut Grove and Apricot Valley students. The program provides a safe and welcoming environment where children can start their day with energy, creativity, and connection, while also offering a valuable new resource for families who need an earlier drop-off option.

"This is a good opportunity for working parents," said Apricot Valley's, Isabel Nair.

The program began on August 7, the first day of school, and already has students enrolled at both Walnut Grove and Apricot Valley. Doors open at 6:30 A.M., which makes it a great option for families that commute to work. Students spend time socializing, learning, and playing before heading to breakfast at 7:30 A.M. and then on to class.

Each morning offers a mix of activities like homework help, arts and crafts, board games, Lego building, outdoor play, and fun learning projects. At Apricot Valley, Before School Program students enjoy having choices, whether it's coloring, building, or playing games. "We like to give them different options," said Nair.



"We like to get them mentally prepared for the day."

At Walnut Grove, the program introduces weekly themes that keep mornings exciting. Last week's theme was Under the Sea, with activities like making paper jellyfish, turtles, sharks, and mermaids.

Staff member Isaiah Gallegos said that next week's theme will be Outer Space, which the kids are already looking forward to.

A recent visit to the program showed how much students enjoy being together before school. Many were playing games, coloring, or building Legos while talking and laughing with friends. It was a great way for them to start the morning feeling connected and ready to learn.

"We like to get them mentally prepared for the day," said Site Supervisor, Amber Meza.

The Before School Program is open to all Walnut Grove and Apricot Valley families, particularly those who need an early drop-off option. Enrollment is still available, and the district encourages parents to sign up and take advantage of this new opportunity.

Are you interested in learning more about the Before School Program or enrolling your child? Apricot Valley families can reach out to Interim Site Supervisor, Joshua Navarro - jonavarro@patterson.k12.ca.us (209) 543-2941, or Walnut Grove Site Supervisor, Ambermarie Meza - ammeza@patterson.k12.ca.us (209) 543-5152 for more information.