



Irvine Unified School District

5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, California 92604-4652 • 949/936-5000 • FAX 949/936-5259 • www.iusd.org

January, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian of Sixth Grade Students:

The Irvine Unified School District is fortunate to have outstanding schools serving middle school students.

To facilitate the transition from elementary to middle school, the district will automatically make an initial middle school assignment based on the neighborhood middle school to which your residence is assigned. If your child is currently attending Plaza Vista or Vista Verde K-8 schools, their enrollment will continue unless you elect to return to your neighborhood school by following the open enrollment process described below. The three digit number opposite your student's name on the address label on the envelope is the number of the middle school to which your student is currently assigned. (Please see table below for school codes.) You will be enrolled in this school unless you pursue the open enrollment option described below. If you have misplaced the address label, you may identify your assigned middle school by accessing the school locator map from the Enrollment page of the IUSD website at www.iusd.org or by calling (949) 936-5000.

School	Code	Principal
Lakeside	504	Gina Cuneo
Plaza Vista	170 or 506	Heather Phillips
Rancho San Joaquin	508	Scott Bowman
Sierra Vista	512	Lynn Matassarini
South Lake	520	Bruce Baron
Venado	516	Robert Valdez
Vista Verde	174 or 502	Catherine Holmes

Open Enrollment Policy

Though each of the district's middle schools enrolls students primarily from their assigned attendance area, the district does have an open enrollment policy. This policy provides the opportunity for parents who reside in the district to enroll their student in any school within the district on a space available basis.

The following conditions *restrict* opportunities for open enrollment:

- approvals are for one year, and are reviewed each year
- parents must provide transportation
- space must be available at the requested school, and
- transition to middle school or high school is based not on previous school of enrollment, but on the school attendance area assigned to the neighborhood of residence

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IUSD . . . providing the highest quality educational experience we can envision.

- parents may only request **one** school of choice other than the school to which they are assigned
- * Please note that both Sierra Vista and Rancho Middle Schools, due to impacted enrollment, are closed to students living outside of their attendance areas.

The younger sibling of students who are currently enrolled in or formerly attended the preferred school will be approved under the district's open enrollment policy providing the student resides within the IUSD attendance area. **Sibling requests** must also follow the School Choice Request steps as described below and adhere to the same deadlines.

Students wishing to pursue open enrollment must make a request prior to noon on **February 24, 2012**. If you would like to request a school other than the school to which you have been assigned, please complete the School Choice application online via the link provided below, print it, and return it to the registrar at the school in which you wish to enroll.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SchoolChoice12-13>

Special Education and 504 Plan students will be approved for transfer only if the receiving school has the capacity to provide appropriate services per the IEP or 504 Plan.

Each middle school will be hosting an incoming 7th grade parent night (6th grade parent night at K-8 schools) on Thursday, April 26, 2012. You will receive information regarding parent night from your designated school.

In order to facilitate final staffing at each school, once enrollment at a given middle school is declared, no changes will be permitted after **April 1**. We are also requesting families who are invoking the sibling rule, notify and commit to their school by **April 1**. Appeals can be submitted to the Director of Secondary Education; however, families do need to be aware that the worsening economic climate has impacted staffing at all of our schools. When enrollment changes occur and student numbers drop, principals must often reduce the number of sections they offer which affects course offerings for students and teaching positions for staff at their respective sites. Families can assist us in providing the highest educational experience we can envision by adhering to the **February 24th** and **April 1st** deadlines.

We look forward with you to a very successful middle school experience.

Sincerely,



Cassie Parham
Assistant Superintendent, Education Services

CP/mb