



Welcome to middle school at PVSchools!

At PVSchools, we believe the foundation of any middle school experience is built on a positive learning environment where each student has the resources and support of our caring and nurturing faculty and staff. Middle school is an exciting time for students to gain some independence and to branch out personally to explore and discover their interests. Middle school students are given the opportunity to help build their class schedules by choosing electives that pique their curiosity.

PVSchools continues to invest in a wide variety of specialty programs to fit the learning needs of our students. Our Signature Programs provide students the ability to participate in cutting-edge programs and innovative learning experiences. A few of our highlighted programs include gifted programs, foreign language, fine and performing arts, and intramural sports.

If your neighborhood school doesn't have the program to meet your teen's academic interests, we are confident we have another middle school that will fit your needs.



The Academies

Desert Shadows Middle School

The Academies at Desert Shadows Middle School will keep your teen stimulated, engaged, and challenged in a specific area of interest. The Academies include Computer Science, Engineering (Honors), Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Visual Arts, and World Languages.

Academy placement ensures a student has a focused class for two full years in their area of interest and are among peers that share a similar passion. Teachers create an environment in which students feel invested and engaged in a specialized program that suits their interests. Students leave the program with Academy distinction, ready for success in high school and beyond. An application process is required and begins in early November.



Advancement Via Individual Determination

Greenway, Shea and Vista Verde

PVSchools is helping to make the reach to college a reality for students with Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID). AVID is a college and career readiness system that equips teachers with strategies to teach students writing, inquiry,

collaboration, organization, and reading skills, academic behaviors, and college and career knowledge necessary to succeed at every level of post-secondary pathways. Students in the AVID Elective class specifically address these skills, engage in rigorous coursework, receive extra preparation for the ACT/SAT, leadership training, and receive guidance with college applications, scholarship opportunities, and assistance with financial aid applications

Twice per week students in the AVID Elective engage in tutorials facilitated by actual college students, which are modeled after college study group sessions. Students collaborate as they pose higher-level questions related to their rigorous coursework. Many AVID students are the first in their families to go to college. AVID helps students develop a vision for their future, gain confidence in their abilities, and take ownership of their learning.

The power of AVID is its ability to impact all students throughout the campus by infusing best-teaching practices and academic behaviors that can be incorporated into any classroom to improve engagement and success for all students. AVID promotes a college and career-going culture on campus.



Digital Learning Center

Sunrise Middle School

The Digital Learning Center (DLC) at Sunrise Middle School provides gifted students with an interdisciplinary, project-based learning environment that embodies 21st century learning. Science, Social Studies, Literature and Gifted Writing are combined within the DLC, allowing for a unique problem-based learning environment. This cross-curricular exploration will take students through the 7th and 8th grade standards with built-in continuity, leading to a culminating project that explores how science, history, and the learner fit into the world. Gifted students must qualify to apply for this rigorous program.



Dual Language Mandarin Immersion

Sunrise Middle School

Parents want their children academically prepared with the 21st century skill set to compete and succeed in a global marketplace. The Dual Language Mandarin Immersion (DLMI) at Sunrise Middle School provides students with the pathway to achieve this goal.

DLMI at Sunrise features two courses, taught in Mandarin:

Mandarin Language Arts focuses on using communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities to meet the world language standards. Mandarin is learned and practiced by integrating culture into the whole language instruction process.

Chinese Culture will consist of an exploration of various themes including, but not limited to, holidays, festivals, customs, China in the past including great historical figures, inventors, and China in the present including an exploration of modern media and communication.

Dual Language Spanish Immersion

Sunrise Middle School

The Dual Language Spanish Immersion (DLSI) Program at Sunrise Middle School provides students with the 21st century skill set to compete and succeed in a global marketplace. From the moment students step into one of the DLSI classrooms, they are fully immersed in the Spanish language and culture.

DLSI at Sunrise features:

- A Science, Social Studies and Spanish block of classes taught completely in Spanish;
- Exploration of Spanish-speaking cultures and societies around the world;
- Conversational skill development; and
- 1:1 technology along with a Google Jamboard to enhance the learning environment.

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme

Vista Verde Middle School

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) at Vista Verde Middle School is a four year program that teaches students character, global awareness, and the interdependence of the different disciplines of school. The curriculum reinforces the MYP philosophies and a holistic approach to teaching students about character traits of successful adults, an appreciation of global differences, time management, accountability, how subjects relate to one another. The program also prepares students to be successful in high school, regardless of the programs and goals they have.

Students can continue their IB journey at the high school level. If students successfully complete the 11th and 12th grade diploma program, they will earn an IB Diploma, which can open doors to universities and future career opportunities.

Journey

Mountain Trail Middle School

A personalized path to success for Paradise Valley Gifted Middle Schoolers begins at Mountain Trail Middle School (MTMS). The Journey program provides a differentiated education based on the needs of the individual gifted learner, while keeping

the students together in content blocks and immersing them in multiple modes of learning.

Teachers work with students in small groups or individually based on their individual learning targets, students' strengths, and interests. Students are given choices on how they learn the content, and are expected to be self-directed learners, self-motivated learners, and embrace project-based and problem-based learning.

Journey differs from other Gifted programs by following block scheduling, utilizing a team of two teachers, implementing individualized goal setting, having personalized project-based learning, using cohorts of 20-25 students in each 7th and 8th grade, completing community service projects, and providing leadership opportunities available within MTMS.

The K-8 Experience

Pinnacle Peak Preparatory School

Pinnacle Peak Preparatory School provides the only kindergarten through eighth grade experience in PVSchools. The school's 7th and 8th grade program embraces high academic standards, project-based learning, and high expectations for citizenship and personal accountability. With approximately 50-60 students at both grade levels, the learning environment is personalized, nurturing, and technologically rich with our content-area expert teachers working together to create a unique learning experience for our students. Numerous leadership opportunities are available to our students and we offer a full slate of extracurricular activities.

North Valley Arts Academies

Shea Middle School

PVSchools offers the first fully integrated arts education program in the Northeast Valley. Whether your child is passionate about dance, theater, music technology, or visual arts, the North Valley Arts Academies at Shea offers an outlet for your teen to express his or her creative passions, with a seamless continuation to Shadow Mountain High School.

Students receive daily instruction in one of four signature programs: Dance, Music Technology, Theater, or Visual Arts. This is in addition to the core curriculum and specialized programs offered at the school.



Premier Programs

Explorer and Mountain Trail Middle Schools

Explorer Middle School offers students the opportunity to engage, empower, explore, and experience the best that PVSchools has to offer. Through an extensive selection of elective courses, students can focus on interests in the Fine and Performing Arts, Technology, and World Languages. Eighteen elective course programs offer beginning and advanced instruction in Culinary Arts, Engineering, STEM, Broadcasting, Computer Science, Drama, Art, Spanish, French, and Mandarin.

Explorer Middle School has adopted a unique scheduling model that provides extended Math and English instructional periods. A focus on these core subjects and an integrated class time that blends instruction, practice, and clarification has proven a prototype for success.

Mountain Trail Middle School (MTMS) offers a myriad of advanced electives with the goal of exposing students to as many new learning opportunities as possible, knowing that adolescence is the perfect time to discover new passions.

The most unique elective options at MTMS are in the STEM's, including Environmental Adventures, Digital Media, Video Production, Computer Science, and coming in the 2021-2022 school year, both Engineering and Medical Detectives.

Students interested in traditional elective options can participate in Band, Orchestra, Keyboarding, Choir, Drama, Culinary Arts, Physical Education and Art. Both Spanish and Mandarin are options for those who want to learn a new language. Lead is available for students who want to develop and polish their skills as leaders within the school community.

Similar to Explorer, Mountain Trail Middle School has adopted a unique scheduling model that provides extended Math and English instructional periods.

