

# Orchard Hills K-8 Expansion

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

February 6, 2018

**Q: Do I need to fill out a transfer application in order to attend Orchard Hills for 2018-19?**

**A: If you reside within the Orchard Hills Attendance Area, you do not need to complete a transfer in order to attend Orchard Hills School. The attendance locator should be used to make sure a student's address falls within the appropriate attendance area. If you do not live within the OH Attendance Area, but want to attend Orchard Hills School in 2018-19, you would need to seek a transfer. Transfer placements at OH will be made according to space availability.**

**Q: When can I enroll at Orchard Hills?**

**A: On approximately February 26, 2018, the enrollment of new students for the 2018-19 school year will begin. The enrollment window continues up through the start of the following school year.**

**Q: What are the steps to enrolling at Orchard Hills?**

**A: Enrollment for students new to TUSD can be done online by making an Aeries parent portal and by entering your student's information. It is then typical for parents to call the school to schedule an appointment to provide their proof of residency (proof of residency, utility bills, etc).**

**Q: Will there be combo classes at Orchard Hills in grades K-5?**

**A: TUSD aims to have grade level specific classes wherever possible, but combos can occur if student enrollment (especially in smaller sites) is not balanced from grade to grade. Therefore, it is possible that Orchard Hills School may have combo classrooms. Combination classes occur at many elementary sites in California, and can be a positive thing for many students.**

**Q: Will Orchard Hills School have a "GATE" program?**

**A: Yes. The same GATE program that is provided at all TUSD elementary schools will be provided at Orchard Hills School. While Tustin Memorial Academy (TMA) is the "GATE Magnet" site for Tustin Unified School District, all TUSD schools provide differentiation that supports students at every ability level. This includes the students identified as APL/GATE. Further, Orchard Hills School will make every effort to provide GATE trained teachers at every grade level.**

**Q: Will Orchard Hills School have a special curriculum?**

**A: No. Orchard Hills School is designed to be a neighborhood school and to offer a comprehensive K-8 curriculum. Curriculum within Tustin Unified is similar from site to site (including magnet school curriculum). While teachers may have autonomy to approach given topics in a variety of ways, the standards and materials used are fairly uniform.**

**Q: What time will the school day start at Orchard Hills?**

**A: The exact start times for Orchard Hills School are still being identified. It is anticipated that arrival and departure times for students would be staggered according to grade level to help in traffic flow and to reduce interaction between younger and older students wherever possible.**

**Q: Does Orchard Hills have a Child Development Center (CDC) program?**

**A: Yes. Orchard Hills School does have a CDC located on campus to serve K-8 students. The CDC has limited space availability and is operated independently from TUSD sites.**

**Q: How do you keep the elementary and middle school students apart while they are on campus?**

**A: Students at K-8 environments are kept separated by both the layout of the campus and through purposeful scheduling. Orchard Hills School was designed to house grades K-8 from initial concept. It has two classrooms and a separate playground area designed for kindergarten. Orchard Hills School also has two specific sets of classrooms (one set for grades 1-5 and one set for grades 6-8) that each have separate quad areas. Any shared spaces like libraries, gyms, playgrounds, multi-purpose rooms, and lunch areas are located in the center of the campus. These shared facilities would be level-specific through intentional scheduling. Arrival and departure times are likely to be staggered to allow for better traffic flow and to keep the grade spans separated to the best of our ability.**