



# 6 Reasons to Join the Claremont Knights

**1. We're a small school.** With an annual enrollment of only 425 to 450 students, our staff *knows* our students: where they struggle, where they excel, what their interests are. This kind of knowledge—along with the smallest class size in the district (averaging 26 students, with many classes closer to 20)—creates a personal, supportive learning environment. Enrollment for 2008–09 stands at 436, with 155 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 138 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and 143 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**2. We help 6<sup>th</sup> graders adjust.** To ease the transition from a single elementary school teacher to many different ones in middle school, we assign 6<sup>th</sup> graders the same teacher for both English and social studies. We also give 6<sup>th</sup> graders their own space: Most of their classes and their lockers are in a single wing of the main school building, and they have their own lunch period and PE classes separate from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**3. We use “best practices” in our teaching.** We're implementing instructional strategies that research and practice show raise achievement. In addition to small class size, these include frequent assessments and other checks for understanding, integration of the arts into traditional academic disciplines, expanded elective opportunities, and intervention classes. We also have math and English coaches on site giving regular feedback to our teachers so they can provide more and more rigorous and engaging instruction for all students.

Instructional Highlights:

- We teach to a range of abilities—from two years' below grade level in math all the way up to high-school-level geometry for 8th graders who are ready for it.

- We have an exceptional electives program, with beginning, intermediate, and advanced band and strings classes (involving a third of the school!); visual arts; cutting-edge computer animation; dance; drama; student leadership; and AVID.
- Our free after-school program offers “homework club” and tutoring services to support students' academic progress as well as numerous enrichment opportunities, including yearbook, sports, paid gardening internships, filmmaking, and more.

**4. We're a comprehensive middle school.** We draw a diverse set of students from all over the city and have the mission and resources to serve every child—from Special Ed to GATE, from poor to wealthy, from athlete to artist, from all backgrounds. Here students learn to understand how we're different and similar, and they learn to live and work together to build a tolerant, respectful, and anti-racist community.

**5. We provide social and emotional supports.** Students can experience a lot of confusing changes in adolescence, and Claremont helps them manage the drama and acting out that sometimes go with that. All students have an Advisory class every Wednesday that serves as a homeroom: This is where they learn about school values and expectations, and engage in discussion and reflection tied to a common curriculum for conflict prevention (Too Good for Violence). We also have two conflict resolution coordinators on staff, as well as a therapist, a psychologist, a case manager, and a peer mediation program.

**6. We're building a community of support.** Our families and community partners are key to our success. We have a large and active PTA and School Site Council, as well as an English Learners Advisory Committee, Dads Club, Grandparents and

Guardians Club, and Concerned African American Parent Council. Claremont's PTA is leading our efforts to improve our facilities, and provides financial resources and sweat equity for the music, media and technology, visual arts, and many other programs, as well as funds for major field trips like the annual weeklong 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Yosemite.

## Daily Schedule

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm  
 Wednesday: 8:30 am – 12:16 pm

## Required Classes

<u>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>
English	English	English
Social Studies	World History	US History
Math 6	Math 7/Algebra	Alg./Geometry
Earth Science	Life Science	Physical Science
PE/Explore	PE	PE
Elective	Elective	Elective

## After-School Program

**3:05 – 4:15 pm** Tutorial, Homework Club/Study Hall, various electives  
**4:30 – 5:45 pm** After-School Enrichment  
 Yearbook, sports, paid gardening internships, filmmaking, martial arts, dance, and more!!!  
**5:45 pm** Release/Parent Pick-up

## Claremont Vision

Claremont Middle School will be a small, diversified school, both in student population and staffing. We will provide a challenging and engaging education that prepares students to succeed at the highest levels in high school, college, or other post-high school pursuits. The curriculum will be challenging in terms of creating critical thinkers and adherence to state-mandated guidelines. Our students will not only be distinguished as scholars, but also by being "noble" human beings.

Our students will be aware of and reflective of local, city, and worldwide issues. Students will be able to voice and articulate their wants and desires from a manner of respect and humility. Our students will also develop skills to be proactive in the local and general community when the need arises.

When a student crosses the stage, the students will exhibit the following attributes:

Academic skills, knowledge, and behaviors: Students will have

- Reached a minimum of proficiency in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade California content standards.

- Developed meta-cognitive skills, such as the ability to self-reflect, compare evidence, understand perspectives, make connections, etc.
- Developed strong communication skills, both verbal and written, that allow them to present and support their ideas.
- Developed the ability to organize and revise work until it is their "best," to identify and access resources, and to cooperate in a group setting.
- Literacy in key areas of the fine arts, in computers/technology, and in geography/environment.

Personal skills, knowledge and behaviors: Students will

- Behave in a manner and make choices that promote their well-being and allow them to be successful in a variety of social and work environments.
- Demonstrate intra-personal habits, including awareness of self, confidence, pride (with self and as Claremont alumni), self-respect, and positive goal-setting.
- They will demonstrate inter-personal habits, including problem solving, respecting others, accepting responsibility, displaying empathy and compassion, and acting in solidarity with others.

Community skills, knowledge and behaviors: Students will

- Demonstrate a willingness to act and vocalize on local and global issues and a confidence they know they can make a difference in the world (one person at a time).
- Express a sense of community (CMS, neighborhood, city).

**Address:** 5750 College Avenue  
 Oakland, CA 94618  
 879-2010  
 879-2019 (fax)  
[www.claremontms.org](http://www.claremontms.org)

## Key People to Know

**Principal:** David Chambliss

- [David.Chambliss@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:David.Chambliss@ousd.k12.ca.us)

**Asst. Principal:** Janice Lord-Walker

- [Janice.Lord-Walker@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Janice.Lord-Walker@ousd.k12.ca.us)

**Counselor:** Sandra Beck

- [Sandra.Beck@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Sandra.Beck@ousd.k12.ca.us)

**Family Outreach Coordinator:** Valerie Denise Alexander

- [valex8570@aol.com](mailto:valex8570@aol.com)

**Communications Coordinator:** Julie Harris

- [julieharris61@gmail.com](mailto:julieharris61@gmail.com)

**PTA President:** Joaquin Alvarado

- [alvarado.coco@gmail.com](mailto:alvarado.coco@gmail.com)