



# Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District

MALAGA COVE  
ADMINISTRATION  
CENTER

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[www.pvpusd.net](http://www.pvpusd.net)

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Dear Fifth Grade Parent/Guardian,

Our school district is committed to providing choices and opportunities that support student success. As part of that commitment, a summative math assessment covering the grade-level standards taught through the second trimester will be administered to all fifth-grade students on Thursday, March 4, 2021. Summative assessments are used to evaluate student learning, skill acquisition, and academic achievement at the conclusion of a defined instructional period. Administered in one day and by your child's Math teacher, the assessment is one of the criteria, along with student grades and school recommendation, used to determine sixth grade math placement for your child.

The recommendation for math course placement for the next school year will be mailed home along with your child's score on the math summative assessment. If you do not agree with the school recommendation for the math course placement, you may fill out a Request for Placement form available at the following link on the district website: [www.pvpusd.net/math](http://www.pvpusd.net/math) and return the form to the intermediate school counselor.

Complete details on grade-level standards and the math opportunities and choices offered in the PVPUSD, fourth grade through high school, can be found on our website at: [www.pvpusd.net/math](http://www.pvpusd.net/math)

Please save the date! A parent orientation for incoming sixth grade parents will be held for each intermediate school via Zoom as scheduled in the table below and will cover the course request process, elective options, as well as information on preparing for a successful transition to intermediate school.

Parent Orientation Night	Date/Time
Miraleste Intermediate	April 13 @ 6:00pm
Ridgecrest Intermediate	April 14 @ 5:00pm
Palos Verdes Intermediate	April 15 @ 6:00pm

Questions regarding this opportunity should be directed to your child's math teacher or elementary school principal.

Thank You,  
Michele Marcus, Principal

Department Extensions

Superintendent, x 404

Business Services, x 418

Educational Services, x 163

Human Resources, x 417

Technology Services, x 700

**Grade 5  
Accelerated Math Placement Process  
FAQ's**

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**Q: What is the purpose of the math placement assessment?**

**A:** The math placement assessment is a predictor of a student's likely academic success in Palos Verdes Core Math (PVCM) 6 Accelerated.

**Q: What is the format of the assessment?**

**A:** The assessment is online and administered in one sitting.

**Q: What content will be covered on the assessment?**

**A:** The content on the assessment is aligned to fifth grade math standards published on the district website at:

[www.pvpusd.net/math](http://www.pvpusd.net/math)

**Q: What is the course description for PVCM 6 Accelerated?**

**A:** **PVCM 6 Accelerated** is a rapidly moving course requiring students to rise to understand complex topics with diligence and dedication. The course focuses on five critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division, and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking; and (5) solving problems involving area, surface area, and volume. The Standards for Mathematical Practice will complement the content standards so that students increasingly engage with the subject matter as they grow in mathematical maturity and expertise. This class may require additional homework.

**Q: Will there be additional options to accelerate if I choose not to send my child to PVCM 6 Accelerated?**

**A:** Yes, opportunities to accelerate continue throughout intermediate school based upon the established criteria for acceleration: school recommendation, report card scores for the first and second trimester, and performance on the in-class assessments.

**Q: Where can I find information about the PVPUSD math program?**

**A:** You can find information about math course pathways, grade-level standards, parent resources, and additional FAQ's at the following link on the district website: [www.pvpusd.net/math](http://www.pvpusd.net/math)

**Q: What makes a student an accelerated math student?**

**A:** The accelerated student experiences a differentiated curriculum that includes an accelerated pace which allows for a wider range and greater depth and complexity of subject matter. The curriculum is rigorous and stresses concept development and places an emphasis on critical thinking.

**Q: What are typical characteristics of successful students in the accelerated math program?**

- Mastery of basic arithmetic skills
- Maturity and Passion for Mathematics
- Ability to problem solve and show persistence in solving difficult problems
- Good number sense
- Ability to independently read and follow directions
- Good attendance
- Good organization and homework completion