



Welcome to Ladera Ranch Middle School

February 2026

Our Commitment to You

We look forward to meeting your child in August. Ladera Ranch Middle School is a wonderful middle school and we are sure we can help make your child's three years here an enriching experience. Our sixth grade teachers are experts in their subject areas and realize the importance of helping students make a successful transition from elementary to middle school. Ladera Ranch Middle School is dedicated to academic excellence and student-centered instruction. Our staff is committed to working with parents to help all children reach their full potential.

We strongly believe that the most successful schools work as a community where all members have a key role in the education of our children. Our learning community of students, parents, and teachers work together to help all students reach their potential.

This is a great opportunity for you to set the tone for our school community. Together, we will create a fantastic school where students are happy, learn to their full potential, and receive all the support they need from teachers, staff and parents. Success will be measured in individual student achievements, big and small, seen every day on campus.

School-wide Goals

We teach, monitor, and reward key behaviors as students act with P.R.I.D.E.: Positive Attitude, Respect, Integrity/Responsibility, Determination and Empathy. We are committed to encouraging all students to connect with the LRMS school community so that they are academically challenged, socially comfortable, and intellectually engaged. This makes for happy and successful students. When our students reflect this positive attitude, they are successful!

Our staff focuses on reading, writing, math, information literacy, and character. Our Visual and Performing Arts and Physical Education departments offer high quality programs. We have rigorous expectations for all students to learn, work hard, and achieve academic success while displaying great character and modeling strong integrity.

The Transition to Middle School

Our staff recognizes that sixth grade is a year of transition for our students. We work hard to make this transition a smooth one for students and their families. In the first month of school, we help students adjust to their new environment. Teachers walk their students "through" their daily schedule. We teach students how to use lockers and provide time for practice. We teach expected behaviors, model them, and recognize students when they are successful.

The most critical element of a successful transition to middle school is for students to display effective work habits when it comes to completing classroom assignments and homework. Our teachers provide students with many opportunities to complete high quality work on time. Teachers post assignments in Canvas and encourage students to also record assignments in their agenda with any updates. Students often have time in class to begin homework assignments. They can also make sure that they understand the assignment at that time.

Core Classes

Sixth grade students take six classes every day: an elective, P.E., and four core classes - math, science, English, and social science. Your child will have a team of teachers who work together to help your child transition to middle school.

Daily Schedule (T, W, Th, F)

| Period | Time | Minutes |
|--------|---------------|-----------|
| 1 | 8:15 - 9:07 | 52 |
| 2 | 9:11 - 10:02 | 51 |
| | BREAK | 10 |
| 3 | 10:16 - 11:07 | 51 |
| 4 | 11:11 - 12:02 | 51 |
| | ROAR | 24 |
| | Lunch | 35 |
| 5 | 1:09 - 2:00 | 51 |
| 6 | 2:04 - 2:55 | 51 |

(Bell Schedule subject to change.)

Late-start Monday

Our staff is committed to working as a team to present a consistently high level of education to your child. They need time to do this. Instead of the early-out you may have experienced at elementary school, we have a late start each week. Every Monday, teachers meet from 8:00-9:00 A.M. in staff development. Students come to school a little later than usual at 9:15 A.M. The school day ends at the regular dismissal time, 2:55 P.M. Students should not be on campus before 9:00 A.M. on Monday.

ROAR Time

ROAR (Readiness, Ownership, Advocate, Results) is our School-wide intervention time available for all students to be retaught, receive support, and gain enrichment. As a site we use a program called Enriching Students that allows teachers and students to schedule themselves into the appropriate tutorial each day. Students are trained on our ROAR system during the first few weeks of school.

Home-to-School Communication

We have established many ways for you to communicate with your child's teachers. Each child will receive a student agenda at orientation in which all homework is recorded. This is the key organizational tool for students. Students who use this effectively are usually successful in school. Many parents and teachers write notes in this agenda. Parents can call teachers directly at (949) 234-5922, email on Canvas or they may ask the guidance staff to set up a parent-teacher conference. Unlike elementary school, we do not have a scheduled parent-teacher conference at the end of a grading period.

Our school also utilizes TalkingPoints. This multilingual technology platform connects our families and the school by allowing two-way translated communication via text messaging. There is no required download, these messages will come straight to your phone via text message.

We offer an online service, on Canvas, where parents can check their child's grades, citizenship/work Habits and daily assignments. **Parents can register for Canvas after the first day of school.** Teacher emails are posted here for easy communication. A weekly newsletter from the principal is also sent out and posted on our website. We will also communicate via our school messenger and Talking Points to send you general school information by email. An automated phone message goes out to all families from the Principal periodically. Additionally, please check our school website often for upcoming events and resources.

Report Cards and Grades

During middle school, the year is divided into four nine-week grading periods or quarters. Therefore, student report cards are posted four times a year on the **Parent Portal**. In the middle of each grading period, progress reports are available on the Parent Portal for students receiving grades of C, D, or F. This is a signal that more attention needs to be paid by the student to his/her work at school. Our teachers post grades regularly online on Canvas so that all students can track their progress.

Homework

Homework is assigned to reinforce and extend classroom learning. This is often the area in which students struggle when they first come to middle school. It is important that students are in the habit of completing homework accurately and submitting it on time before they reach 6th grade. Homework may be assigned daily and students are given ample time to check with teachers to be sure that they understand each assignment. A typical sixth grader averages about seventy minutes of homework per night. Of course, there are some students who spend less or more time on homework than this average. We are very aware that sixth graders have many outside demands on their time after school and that kids need "family time" too. If your child spends an unusually long time on homework on a regular basis, alert the teacher.

Chromebooks, Lockers, and Backpacks

Each sixth grader has a CUSD Chromebook and is assigned a book locker. Students store all library and textbooks in this locker. We try to place your child's locker in an area where only sixth graders have lockers. Your child's teacher will instruct him/her how to use the book locker effectively.

Students will also have an opportunity to have a PE locker. This locker is used to store clothes during PE classes. All students are required to wear a PE uniform during PE. Uniforms are available for purchase at **Orientation on August 12, 2026.**

Your child's teacher will provide information and guidance about what should be carried in backpacks. We do not wish to overburden your child with a heavy backpack.

Lockers are used to store books. One binder is all that is required to store papers and assignments. Even with these guidelines, teachers and parents should monitor the weight of backpacks. Some sixth graders need help realizing that they do not have to carry all school supplies in their backpacks at all times. If you feel that your child's backpack is too heavy, call the teacher to work on solutions.

Lunch

Sixth grade students can select from a menu of items at the cafeteria window. *Many students bring a brown bag lunch. This is a very good idea during the first week of school when lunch lines are longer than usual as students ponder over our menu selections. We make sure that all children get enough time to eat during that first week!* No fast food should be brought to school. Children eat outdoors in a designated area by grade level at the lunch tables and must be seated when eating. On rainy days, they eat in various indoor areas. Students may play ball games at lunch on the courts and fields.

Seventh and Eighth Graders

Many parents of students new to the sixth grade are anxious about their child's interactions with older students in grades seven and eight. Our staff is aware of this concern and we spend a lot of time making sure that our sixth graders feel comfortable at school. Most sixth graders interact solely with other sixth graders. In truth, the older students leave the sixth graders alone and interact with children in their own grade level.

School Safety

We are committed to student safety. A committee of staff and parents maintains an up-to-date plan that addresses all areas of student safety, from earthquake preparedness to fire drills. We practice fire, earthquake, and lock-down procedures in regularly scheduled drills. All visitors to school are required to check in at the front office and are given a pass if they go out on campus.

Several campus supervisors patrol the campus during class periods and supervise students during break and lunch. All administrators supervise lunches and passing periods. We also offer "Say Something" 1 (844) 5-Saynow. This is a reporting tool to help keep our campus safe. As a PBIS school, a school-wide discipline plan is explained to all students during the first week of school. These expectations are reinforced and reiterated throughout the year. High expectations and standards are set for student behavior. Students follow a school dress

code. This dress code is posted on Parent Portal and is printed in the student agenda. At Ladera Ranch Middle School, we are building a positive school climate where students are respectful, tolerant, and well-behaved.

Curriculum

Ladera Ranch Middle School presents a rigorous curriculum to students based on Common Core State Standards. Our instruction is child-centered in that we focus on strategies that help individual children to learn to their best potential. Our teachers work together in grade-level teams to plan the best possible curriculum and learning activities for your child. Teachers meet regularly to discuss and implement effective learning strategies. Your child's teacher will present important information about curriculum and learning at Back-to-School Night in the Fall of 2026. For information regarding Common Core, please visit the CUSD or OCDE website.

Support Staff

Our support staff works closely with our Principal and our Assistant Principals. They have many administrative duties but their main job is to work with students to make sure that they feel safe at school. The Assistant Principals also handle discipline issues and make sure students get to class on time. Our administrators are committed to working with parents to help students display good behavior at school.

Our counselors and a school psychologist help students with academic, social and emotional issues. They work with teachers, parents, and students to monitor student progress. Counselors monitor grades, work on class schedules, and notify administrators of potential concerns. They also meet with all students who struggle with grades to provide advice, support and motivation.

A school librarian is on campus every day to help students with reference questions and computer access in the library. Three custodians keep the campus clean for our students at Ladera Ranch Middle School.

Small School Feeling

Our teachers and staff work hard to create a "small school" feeling for our students by staying in close contact with parents about student progress. Our teachers also make every effort to connect with their students so that each child has an adult advocate on campus, somebody they can trust. The student government class, Associated Student Body (ASB), hosts many activities to help students mix and get to know each other. The Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) class also hosts special luncheons to help new students make new friends.

Parent Involvement

We invite all of you to join our Parent Teacher Association. The PTA is a wonderful way to get involved at your child's school. This is a great opportunity for parents to set the tone for how PTA can promote parent involvement. Our school will depend upon parent volunteers for a multitude of programs: Red Ribbon Week, Reflections, dances, field trips, the Copy Parent program, Lunch-time Lions, Library Support, etc. We hope to create an atmosphere where parents are welcome to help at school.

Quick Facts about Ladera Ranch Middle School

- 3 feeder elementary schools (Ladera Ranch, Chaparral, and Oso Grande)
- 1079 students (2025-26)
- 43 teachers
- 2-1/2 administrators
- 7 part-time campus supervisors
- 2-1/2 counselors
- 1 librarian, 1 LVN, and 5-1/2 office staff
- 52 classrooms
- Public Library on campus

Library

In a first for Orange County, we house a public library on our school campus. Our students have access to a combined CUSD and OC Public Library collection of over 30,000 books. We also have an Orange County librarian assist our students in our library during the school day. This unique arrangement has attracted the very best teachers to our school, teachers who are committed to our goals in literacy and reading.

The large two-story building on campus houses our school administration and two libraries. There is a public library upstairs and a children's library downstairs. This downstairs library is for the exclusive use of Ladera Ranch School students during the school day. When the school day ends, children from the other schools in our community can use this downstairs library, assisted by Orange County Public Library staff, (949) 234-5940.

Orientation

We invite you to an Orientation for 6th grade students on **August 12, 2026**. At this event, you will be asked to submit various forms. Your child will get his/her class schedule, take a yearbook picture, receive locker information, purchase PE clothes, pick up textbooks and can tour the campus. **Please pick up the packet of forms and information in advance of this event on July 21, July 22 or July 23, 2026 in the school parking lot.**

Key Dates for 6th Graders

February 23, 2026:

Incoming 6th Grade Parent Night
6:00 p.m. in the MPR

August: Parents are invited to pick up Orientation packets in the school parking lot. This packet contains information you will need to fill out before your child gets a class schedule at Orientation on **August 12, 2026**.

July 21, 2026: 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 p.m.

July 22, 2026: 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 p.m.

July 23, 2026: 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 p.m.

August 12, 2026: Sixth grade Orientation

August 18, 2026: First day of the new school year - Minimum Day 12:15 p.m. dismissal

Please note that the Constitution of the State of California requires that we provide a public education to you free of charge. Your right to a free education is for all school/educational activities, whether curricular or extracurricular, and whether you get a grade for the activity or class. Subject to certain exceptions, your right to a free public education means that we cannot require you or your family to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms for any school activity, nor can we require you or your family to pay security deposits for access, participation, materials, or equipment. Therefore, while this list suggests that students purchase individual texts, purchase is considered voluntary. No student will be restricted from participation, and individual copies of texts will be provided for student use.