

Frequently Asked Questions by Families New to Orange Grove

What is special about Orange Grove?

There are many aspects of Orange Grove that we are very proud of and that make it a special place to be for the students and families alike, including:

- **We focus on preparing the students for the future.** While focusing on the academic curriculum in each class, we also work to develop students who have the ability to think critically, apply knowledge at high levels, and use technology to access, evaluate, and communicate information. Both rigorous academic standards and 21st century skills will serve to make the students good consumers of their own education for all the years to come.
- **Integration of technology helps student engagement and progress.** We use a wide range of forms of technology to supplement and improve the introduction of material, student projects and homework. The tools available include laptops in every pod of classes, complete with software like Power Point, Word, Excel and more; interactive whiteboards in every classroom; iPads available for classroom use, and a full Media Lab.
- **Online information is readily available.** The curriculum is available on the CFSD website (cfsd16.org). Additionally, each teacher maintains a website that includes assignments and other material, and there is an online program available (ParentVUE/StudentVUE) that both parents and students can log on to see a student's current grades, assignments and attendance record.
- **Electives and after-school activities make for a well-rounded experience.** Every student takes an elective (music, art, band, or choir), and the results are truly amazing! Band and choir students put together terrific performances during the year, while music students learn about styles of and the history of music and learn to write their own music, and the art students produce incredible two and three dimensional work and learn a variety of styles and art history. For those students interested in athletics, the P.E./Health program is a fabulous variety of team and individual sports and lifelong exercise skills. There are also competitive sports and other programs like yearbook, chess club, Jazz Band and more available after school through the Community Schools program.
- **We work with Catalina Foothills High School to make the Orange Grove experience meaningful.** The Orange Grove staff works to ensure that our students are prepared for the high school experience, including working with students on goal setting and the use of career exploration software that carries over to the High School.
- **Conferences come in multiple forms.** In the Fall, parents may schedule parent/teacher/student conferences with one or all of the student's teachers, while conferences in the Spring are student-led and students share with a parent their portfolio of work and their progress toward specific goals. This encourages self-direction and ownership of their work ethic and achievement. Parents are also encouraged to contact teachers anytime via email to ask questions and/or get more information.
- **Tutoring and academic assistance are available to all students.** Both peer tutoring and help from adults are available to students during lunchtime in the Panther Den. Additionally, on late-start Wednesday mornings, all teachers are in their rooms from 8:55-9:20 to provide extra help. Finally, we have a program called "Zeroes Aren't Permitted" (ZAP), designed to prevent students from falling behind for failure to turn in homework. If students have failed to turn in a number of assignments, parents will be contacted to ask that the student come in early on Wednesday mornings to complete that work and practice essential academic skills.
- **Parents are encouraged to be at Orange Grove, too.** Orange Grove has an active Family Faculty Organization, which supports our students and staff and provides volunteer opportunities to parents. Monthly meetings provide a great opportunity for families to learn about all that is going on at Orange Grove.

What classes do Orange Grove students take?

Every student at Orange Grove takes Math, English, Science, Social Studies, Spanish and P.E. Assessments are done to place students in the appropriate class for Math, English and Spanish, and they are assigned to the grade level classes of Science, Social Studies and P.E./Health. Finally, students are given a choice of an elective. The choices are Art, Music, Band and Choir.

What are the school hours?

School Hours	7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Late Start Wed.	9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Office Hours	7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Is every Wednesday a “Late Start” Day?

Almost every Wednesday, Orange Grove follows the Late Start schedule, but there are 4-5 Wednesdays each year when we follow the full-day schedule. As a general rule, those exceptions happen when school is closed one or more days during that week. If you ever have any questions about the Late Start schedule, feel free to call the office, or check the school calendar on the OGMS website.

Will my child ride the bus, or am I responsible for getting him/her to and from campus?

Generally speaking, if you live within the school boundary, but more than one mile from Orange Grove, you will be given the option of allowing your child to ride a school bus to and/or from school. Open enrollment families may apply for bus service on an already established route in September of each school year. If you have questions about whether your child would have that option, or you have any questions about that service in general, feel free to call Durham School Services at 615-7635.

What time should I drop off / pick up my child?

If you drop off your child, you should not arrive before 7:10 a.m., when supervision begins. There is a drop-off lane available each morning in the south parking lot, which is the only parking lot that parents should use for drop-off and pick-up, so please follow directions to make sure that lane runs smoothly and safely. If you are picking up your child at school, please do so promptly at dismissal time.

The Community Schools Program provides a variety educational and recreational activities to students before school on Late Start Wednesdays and after school. If you have any questions regarding these opportunities, or may be interested in registering your child(ren) to be involved, please go to <http://communityschools.cfsd16.org/>.

Will my student have a locker?

Yes, every Orange Grove student will be assigned a locker. You may buy your own lock for the locker or the school will provide a lock to your student to use during the school year.

How does the lunch system work?

You have the option of sending a lunch with your child, being mindful of the fact that there are no refrigerators available to the students, or having your child buy lunch. Sodexo Marriott is the company that serves nutritious meals for our students. You will be able to add money to your students ID card using the district InTouch payment system (<https://az-catalinafoothills.intouchreceipting.com/>), or may provide your student with cash (\$3.00 for a hot lunch including milk). Additionally, there is a snack bar available from which students can buy a variety of food and drinks during their lunchtime. The same debit-type card or cash is used for this option.

We also offer free or reduced-price lunch for qualifying students. Please ask for an application in the school office. We require only one application per family.

What is the dress code at Orange Grove?

The purpose of the Orange Grove Drive Dress Code is to have them “dress for success” and to protect the health and safety of children. We rely on parental discretion and good judgment to guide students in making appropriate clothing choices for school. Most student attire is acceptable, within the guidelines of the handbook provided to each student.

What are the guidelines for cell phones and electronics at school?

We understand that your child may carry a cell phone in case of emergencies. We ask that your child keep his or her cell phones turned off during the entire school day. We recommend that your child not bring any electronic devices, expensive jewelry or large sums of money to school.

Is there a nurse on campus to handle injuries and/or medicine that needs to be given during the school day?

There is a school nurse on campus who monitors immunizations, conducts health screenings, maintains medical records, and cares for students who are ill or have emergency medical needs at school. She works with parents and students and advises on preventive health care. She also calls parents to pick up children who are injured or ill. The school nurse may administer medication only if she has a signed parent consent allowing this. You may request this form in the school office.

At the beginning of each school year, we will ask that you fill out a number of forms that ask you to list emergency contact numbers for us to use. Please list at least two persons to contact in the event of student illness or injury; and review or update forms as needed or requested.

How do I volunteer at Orange Grove?

We love our volunteers at Orange Grove! Although the opportunities are different than at the elementary school level, there are lots of opportunities at Orange Grove, ranging from helping during the lunch hours (a great chance to interact with the students!), to various staff appreciation events, to helping in the front office, and more. For more information about all the other many volunteer options at Orange Grove, we invite you to the Family Faculty Organization (like a PTA) meetings that are generally held on the 4th Thursdays of each month during the school year, or go to <https://sites.google.com/site/orangegrovemiddleschoolffo/>.

How do I register my child at Orange Grove?

If you live within the Orange Grove residency boundaries (you can check the Catalina Foothills School District website, www.cfsd16.org, for a map), you'll find it's easy to register your child at Orange Grove. All registrations are done online through our ParentVUE program. To access this program, go to our website www.ogms.cfsd.org and click on the "Register for School" button. Parents of new students should upload the following information into their registration form:

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Emergency telephone numbers
- Proof of residence, including one proof from each section below displaying the name and address of the parent/guardian:
 - Section 1:
 - Property tax bill or property tax evaluation card
 - Real estate deed or mortgage documents
 - Residential lease/rental agreement
 - Section 2
 - Utility bill or bank statement
 - Valid Arizona driver's license, Arizona ID card or motor vehicle registration
 - W-2 wage statement or payroll stub
 - Documentation from a state, tribal or federal government agency or certificate of tribal enrollment that contains an Arizona address

If you are interested in applying for Open Enrollment, this is done online at the Catalina Foothills School District website, www.cfsd16.org. Open Enrollment applications are accepted starting on 11/1 of every year for the following school year. Acceptance letters are mailed in mid March at which time families who are accepted will need to complete registration paperwork on the school's website at the school.

Can I get a tour of Orange Grove?

Absolutely! Our principal gives tours each December-June on Wednesday afternoons at 3:15 p.m. All you need to do is call the office (520-209-8200) and make arrangements. We try to schedule larger groups, so as to minimize the number of disruptions on the campus. Please also understand that you may not get a tour within the classrooms, as we make every effort not to interrupt ongoing lessons and work.

Can I get a tour of Orange Grove?

Absolutely! Our principal gives tours each December-June on Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings. All you need to do is call the office (520-209-8200) and make arrangements. We try to schedule larger groups, so as to minimize the number of disruptions on the campus. Please also understand that you may not get a tour within the classrooms, as we make every effort not to interrupt ongoing lessons and work.

Are there any current Orange Grove parents with whom I can talk?

Definitely, yes. If you call the office (520-209-8200), we will be able to give you contact information for one or more parents who would be happy to talk with you and answer any questions you may have.

We hope this has answered many of your questions about Orange Grove, but we are happy to answer any additional questions you may have. Our goal is to provide a first class education to every Orange Grove student, and we welcome all questions and input toward achieving that goal. Feel free to contact us anytime at 520-209-8200 or by emailing amorgan@cfsd16.org.