



# Orange Grove Middle School

Greetings, Panther Families!

We hope you and your family are having a good summer and finding ways to stay healthy and happy in the Tucson heat. We'd like to take this opportunity to share some information that will help you plan for a successful start to the next school year.

## Timeline of Events

(you can always check the Google calendar on our website: [ogms.cfsd16.org](http://ogms.cfsd16.org))

End of July		Community Schools registration opens (anticipated - check <a href="#">CS website</a> )
Tues, July 30	7:30 AM - 3:45 PM	Pick Up and Unpack for New and Returning Students (see below for times) <a href="#">InTouch</a> portal opens
Fri, Aug 2	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	New-Student   New-Parent/Guardian Orientations
	12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	Latecomer Pick-up and Unpack
	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Back to School Night
Mon, Aug 5	7:30 AM - 2:30 PM	First Day of School
Thurs, Aug 22	7:45 AM	6th-Grade Family Breakfast
	8:30 AM	First Family Faculty Organization (FFO) Meeting

### InTouch Portal Opens (July 30)

After July 30, go to our school's website ([www.ogms.cfsd16.org](http://www.ogms.cfsd16.org)) and click the [InTouch Payments](#) button to log into InTouch to pay ahead of time for lunches, band/orchestra/choir uniforms, and more. Your username is your student's ID number (without letters), and your password is your student's last name with the first letter capitalized.



### Pick-Up and Unpack (Tuesday, July 30 & Friday, August 2)

This is a time for students to come to school and **receive their schedule**, have their school picture taken, get their lockers, get their ID cards, walk their schedule on campus, and get ready to start the school year smoothly.

Come to OGMS MPR (west of the front office) at the time scheduled below:

Last name starts with:		A-C	D-H	I-L	M-R	S-Z
Tues, July 30	New Students	7:30	8:30	9:30	10:30	11:00
Tues, July 30	Returning Students	11:30	12:15	1:00	2:00	3:00
Fri, Aug 2	Latecomers	12:15 - 1:00				

### What should we bring?

- Your student, dressed for school photos
- Printed InTouch receipts
- Checkbook for donations/purchases
- Optional but appreciated: donations of school supplies

### Your student will:

- ❖ **PICK UP THEIR CLASS SCHEDULE:** By far the most popular item at PUUP! Includes [a helpful map of campus](#) ([bit.ly/ogcampusmap](http://bit.ly/ogcampusmap)). **Please Note:** Your student may pick up their schedule **only after** all tasks are completed.
- ❖ **TAKE THEIR SCHOOL PICTURE:** ALL students need to have their photograph taken for use in the yearbook and on the school systems for identification purposes. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately and compliant with

the [OGMS dress code](#) (e.g. no bare shoulders, t-shirts with inappropriate imagery, etc.). Order forms will be available if you would like to purchase photos directly through Inter-State Studios.

- ❖ **PICK UP EDUKITS:** Pre-ordered Edukit school supplies will be available for you to collect at PUUP. School supplies belong to you and should either go home and be brought in your student's backpack on the first day of school or be put into your child's locker. They do not go to the teachers' classrooms as they did in elementary school.
- ❖ **CHOOSE A LOCKER AND CHECK OUT A LOCK:** These are optional. If your student would like a locker, they will choose one at PUUP. The school provides combination locks, or you may bring your own lock.
- ❖ **TAKE A CAMPUS TOUR:** Panther Pals - our student ambassadors - will be available to provide campus tours.
- ❖ **PURCHASE AN OGMS PLANNER (optional):** Students will be expected to have a planner - many students opt to purchase [our OGMS planner](#), which contains our Student Handbook, and supports our Student Council.

#### Parents/guardians may also:

- ❖ **ORDER SPIRIT WEAR:** A selection of OGMS spirit wear will be available for your student to try on and purchase. You can also purchase additional types, designs, and sizes of OGMS Spirit Wear for parents and students in the FFO shop ([orangegroveffo.org](http://orangegroveffo.org) | [bit.ly/ogmsffoshop](http://bit.ly/ogmsffoshop)). Please note that PE uniforms are NOT required, but many students prefer athletic or spirit wear for PE classes.
- ❖ **REGISTER FOR BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS with [Community Schools](#):** You may register for Community Schools before- and after-school programs at PUUP: Study Hall, fall sports, yearbook, chess, and more. Some activities fill up quickly so we recommend you register online. ([communityschools.cfsd16.org](http://communityschools.cfsd16.org))
- ❖ **DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Donations of school supplies (Kleenex, printer paper, sunscreen, small bottles of water, etc.) are always appreciated! Please bring them to PUUP. A school supply list is also available on the OGMS website.
- ❖ **DONATE TO PANTHER PRIDE / THE FFO:** Please consider a \$50 donation per student to Panther Pride, the FFO's direct-giving campaign([bit.ly/ogmsffoshop](http://bit.ly/ogmsffoshop)). 100% of donations go directly to OGMS. These funds help pay for classroom supplies, host educational presentations for parents and students, and provide additional teacher support.
- ❖ **SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE FFO NEWSLETTER ([orangegroveffo.org](http://orangegroveffo.org)):** Receive news about the efforts of the FFO, upcoming events, and important decisions
- ❖ **VOLUNTEER WITH THE FFO:** Stop by the FFO table and sign up to volunteer or go to our website at any time. There are lots of committees and we also need help at lunch every day. Your support is very important to us.

#### New-Student Orientation (Friday, Aug 2)

**New-Student Orientation (10:30 AM - 12:00 PM):** From 10:30 - 12:00 on Friday, August 2, 6th-grade students will meet their first-period teacher, their Panther Pal (every 6th-grader has an 8th-grade mentor), get a tour of the campus, and learn what to expect of a typical school day at OGMS. 7th and 8th graders who are new to the school should come, too! They will meet with peer leaders, tour the campus, and learn OGMS routines. Drop off and pick up your child either in the front parking lot (last name M-Z) or in the bus lot (last name A-L). This experience is designed for students only, and does **not** replace the Pick-Up and Unpack. **Your student must bring a copy of their schedule with them - they will meet with their Advisor Base teacher.**

#### New-Parent/Guardian Orientation

**New Parent/Guardian Orientation (10:30 AM - 12:00 PM):** We invite parents and guardians of new students to join us for this two-hour **Parent/Guardian Orientation Session** in the MPR. This will familiarize you with our Orange Grove community and important tools for a successful middle school experience. We would love to see you there!

#### Back-To-School Night (Friday, Aug 2) *This session is for parents/guardians only.*

**Back-to-School Night (5:30 - 7:30 PM)** You will walk through a mini "school day," following your student's schedule, "attending" each of their classes in turn, and meeting their teachers. We encourage every parent to come to learn about the curriculum and preview some of the experiences their child will have this year at OGMS. Attending this evening event will provide you with information crucial to the success of your student this school year.

*There is a 5:00 PM orientation for families new to the gifted program in Mr. Bindschadler's room, 206.*

## First Day of School (Monday, Aug 5)

The learning begins! Parent drop-off is in the *front lot only*. Students may arrive on campus **no earlier than 7:00 AM** and must be in their seats by 7:30 AM, so please have them on campus by 7:25. School gets out at 2:27 PM for 6th graders (for the first week), and 2:30 PM for 7th and 8th graders.

## First FFO Meeting/6th-Grade Family Breakfast (Aug 22)

**6th-Grade Family Breakfast (7:45 AM):** A light breakfast for new families will be held prior to this meeting at 7:45 AM, and the principal and counselors will speak about topics relevant to parents of 6th graders before the FFO meeting starts.

**FFO Meeting (8:30 AM):** We invite you to join us at 8:30 AM in the OGMS library for the first FFO meeting of the year. The OGMS FFO usually meets on the third Thursday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend every FFO meeting. Throughout the year different topics of importance to OGMS parents will be addressed.

We look forward to a great start to the 2024-25 school year! We wish all the best for you and your family as your summer continues.

Sincerely,



Mark Rubin-Toles  
Principal

## **PLAN YOUR TRAVEL TO AVOID SCHOOL DAYS**

Our goal for your student is that they **attend 95% of school** (that's 9 absences or fewer over the course of the year).

Even missing 1-2 school days a month [reduces learning significantly](#).

We know that families choose to travel during the school year - we **STRONGLY** encourage you to schedule your travel during our school breaks. **Fall break is a full week this year!**

Here's our calendar so you can plan now: [OGMS Year-Long Calendar \(bit.ly/ogmscalendar\)](#)

# OGMS Back-to-School Checklist

- Sign up for fall sports and other Community Schools offerings (usually end of July - [check CS website](#)):**  
Fall sports usually fill up within minutes after the sign-up opens - make sure you have registered for a Community Schools account first: [cs.cfsd16.org](http://cs.cfsd16.org); check Community Schools website for updates throughout the summer, in case registration opening time changes.

- Purchase items**

**InTouch (after July 30):** [bit.ly/cfsdintouch](http://bit.ly/cfsdintouch)

- Lunch account deposits (students use their school ID card or cash to pay)
- Band, choir, or orchestra shirt (if needed)
- ID Replacement Card

**OGMS FFO Shop:** [bit.ly/ogmsffoshop](http://bit.ly/ogmsffoshop)

- Student planner
- Panther Pride Donation
- 8th-Grade Promotion donation
- Spirit Wear



- Complete beginning-of-year "paperwork" ([all available at: bit.ly/ogpaperwork](http://bit.ly/ogpaperwork))**

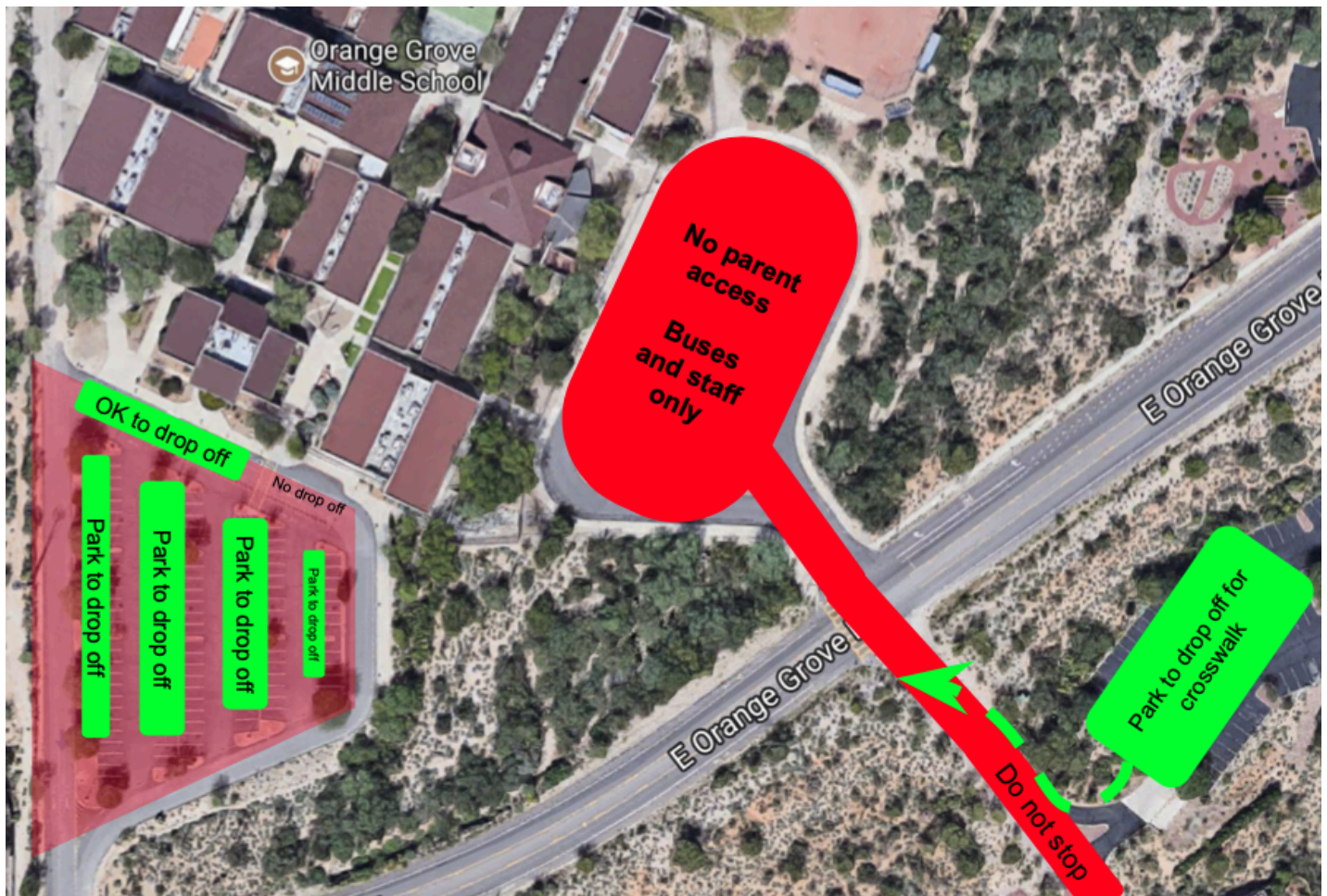
<b>READ with your child:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">CFSD Student Discipline Policy</a></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Student Violence, Harassment, Bullying Policy (JICK)</a></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">OGMS Student Handbook</a> and <a href="#">Dress Code</a></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Suggested School Supplies</a></li> </ul>
<b><a href="#">SIGN ONLINE (HERE):</a></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Human Growth and Development participation agreement for <a href="#">6th</a>, <a href="#">7th</a>, OR <a href="#">8th</a> grade</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CFSD Policy and Procedures Signature Form</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> OGMS Attendance Pledge</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tech Permission Form</li> </ul>

- Download and install the ParentVUE app on your phone - and your Panther's phone!**
- Print a paper copy of your child's schedule they can bring with them**  
You can access their schedule on ParentVUE or StudentVUE on July 30; you will also receive a paper copy during Pick-Up and Unpack. Most students haven't memorized their schedule yet; it helps for the first week to have their schedule at their fingertips as they traverse our campus.
- Make sure your child knows their bus route number**  
This helps your child quickly find their bus and board in a timely manner. You can find this in ParentVUE.
- Sign up to volunteer at lunch!**  
This is a great way to see your Panther in their natural habitat! Once the game room opens, volunteers help us supervise this popular space where kids play games, like ping pong and foosball. Sign up here, on [the SignUpGenius page](#).
- Engage with the FFO:**
  - Sign up for the FFO newsletter ([orangegroveffo.org](http://orangegroveffo.org)):** Sign up to receive news about the efforts of the FFO, upcoming events, and important decisions
  - Donate directly to Panther Pride:** Panther Pride is our direct-giving campaign. The FFO won't ask you to sell anything or call on coworkers or friends for donations. These funds help us reimburse teachers, pay for classroom supplies, and host educational presentations for parents and students. Your donation is tax-deductible!



**If you plan to pick up your child, have them meet you in the parking lot of the Catalina Foothills Church**

Our front lot gets very crowded at 2:30. Save yourself some wait time - have your child meet you in the parking lot of the Catalina Foothills Church - they have graciously allowed us to invite parents to use their lot after school for this purpose. Your child can walk quickly across the crosswalk at La Zorrela, which is staffed by crossing guards. Walking it once with your child so they know where to go is a good idea.



PLEASE DO NOT STOP OR PARK ON LA ZORRELA - IT IS ILLEGAL AND UNSAFE.

**Also:**

- Open enrollment student? **Sign up for bus service** on the district website: [bit.ly/3jaO8eC](http://bit.ly/3jaO8eC)
- Fill out the Athletic Packet** and get a physical for your child, if they plan to play sports (through RegisterMyAthlete - [www.registermyathlete.com](http://www.registermyathlete.com))
- Make an appointment with **school nurse Leslie Nicholson** ([lnicholson@cfsd16.org](mailto:lnicholson@cfsd16.org)) if you have particular health concerns for your child
- Order school pictures** from Interstate Studios at [www.inter-state.com](http://www.inter-state.com)
- Sign up for CogAT Testing** for placement in Gifted English Language Arts, Wed, Aug 14th, 7:30 AM (information on our gifted program is available on our [website](#))