

Incoming 6th Grade Families

School Counselor Connect
Colina Middle School



About the Colina PTSA

Colina PTSA is made up of parents, teachers, staff, and students who pool their talents to provide practical support for our school.

The PTSA raises funds to support educational programs, teacher-requested tools, and social-based activities, with the goal of making Colina a top-notch learning environment that is also a fun, inclusive place to be.

The way we raise funds is via a Direct Donation. Each Direct Donation goes to the Colina Middle School PTSA, a registered 501(C)(3) nonprofit Organization.

Donations Matter

Like elementary school, donations are critical to give our kids access to the educational, enrichment, and social activities they deserve. Here's how we spend donations at Colina:

- School events & socials (Back-to-School, Halloween, Spring Luau, PE races/runs)
- Lunchtime events run by students & end of semester celebrations
- Software & computer subscriptions used by students in class
- Supplies for our Tech Program (3D printing, laser printers & more)
- Prizes for outstanding academic achievement and citizenship
- Scholarships for the outdoor education program
- Student leadership programs (ASB & WEB Program)
- Improvements to classrooms & the campus overall
- Inter-school sports (volleyball, soccer, basketball)
- Teacher/staff appreciation activities
- AND SO MUCH MORE

Donations Are Imperative for Learning, Safety, and Social Growth Opportunities

- Without donations, Colina students won't have access to unique learning opportunities, like our tech program's laser and 3D printing, or online learning tools.
- Donations also fund important friendship-building and inclusivity-focused activities that make school FUN. These include lunchtime games, all-school socials, intra-middle school sports, and the annual end of year Field Day.
- Each year we make our fundraising goals – *barely*.
- We hope to get to a point where donations are more plentiful and we can do more for our kids, such as enhance our campus security initiatives, dedicate more funds to campus beautification, and increase budget for teachers to purchase equipment, supplies, and other classroom needs.

Let's Connect

Have questions about life at Colina? Want to get involved with the PTSA? Reach out!
We'd love to answer any questions.

→ Email: ColinaMiddleSchoolPTSA@gmail.com

→ Instagram: [Colina_MS_PTSA](https://www.instagram.com/Colina_MS_PTSA)



6th Grade Course of Study

- 6th grade students will take:
 - English 6
 - Social Science 6
 - Math 6 or Honors
 - Science 6
 - CORE
 - PE 6
 - Elective
- 2 main academic teachers
- School within a school environment
- CORE time
- PE by grade level
- Honors pathways
- Math options
- Elective class options



- Students in 6th grade will take English 6, Social Science 6, Math 6 or Honors, Science 6, CORE, PE 6, and an Elective class.
- Students will have two main academic teachers – one teacher for English and Social Science and one teacher for Math and Science.
- Most 6th grade classes are in the 6th grade corridor – English/Social Science classrooms are on one side of the hallway and Math/Science classes are on the other side. Sixth grade lockers, restrooms, and lunch tables are also in the 6th grade corridor, which helps to create a school within a school environment for our 6th grade students.
- Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 have CORE for 22 minutes after lunch each day to get started on homework, ask teachers questions, and participate in additional enrichment or support programs. Students also have access to Chromebooks throughout the day and during CORE to work on assignments and check their grades and progress on Q and Canvas. Q and Canvas are the online programs/apps

- in which students and parents can check grades, homework, assignments, attendance, and more. Information about how to log in will be sent home when enrolling from out-of-district.
- Each year, students will have PE class that meets daily. PE at Colina is offered by grade level. So, 6th graders are only with 6th graders in the locker room and at PE. Students have a PE uniform and a PE locker and change out daily for PE. There are private changing stalls and restrooms available, if preferred, to change into PE clothes. PE clothes and locks will be available for sale during orientation the week prior to school beginning and are available throughout the year for purchase in the Student Store. There are also PE clothes available to loan if cost is a concern. More information about PE clothes and purchasing options will be included in the summer mailer.
- Honors pathways, math and elective class options will be discussed in more detail on the upcoming slides.

Schedule Options

Periods A-5 7:55am-2:19pm

- A: Elective
- 1: English
- 2: Social Science
- Nutrition*
- 3: Math
- 4: Science
- Lunch*
- CORE*
- 5: PE

*Buses for 9:00am start time only
*Elective class considerations
*Tuesday Common Planning Time

Periods 1-6 9:00-3:10pm

- 1: English
- 2: Social Science
- Nutrition*
- 3: Math
- 4: Science
- Lunch*
- CORE*
- 5: Elective or PE
- 6: PE or Elective



- There are two main schedules at Colina – periods A-5 from 7:55am-2:19pm and the traditional schedule of periods 1-6 from 9:00am-3:10pm. Families indicate on their class preference form which schedule is preferred. The A period start time is based on space availability. There may be a third option for a periods A-6 schedule from 7:55am-3:10pm with two elective classes, as well.
- All 6th grade academic classes are taught before lunch during periods 1-4 and PE is taught after lunch. Elective classes are scheduled periods A, 5, or 6.
- The Career Wheel elective is available during A period for a periods A-5 schedule and during 5th period for a periods 1-6 schedule. Other elective class options for 6th grade can include Beginning and Intermediate Band, Beginning and Advanced Strings, Chorus, and Drama. Times are still to be determined for these classes (A, 5th, or 6th periods), so you will select your schedule and elective classes in order of preference on the class selection form.
- If students will be riding the bus to and/or from school, the bus arrives for the

- 9:00am start time and leaves at the 3:10pm exit time.
- Tuesdays are Common Planning Time days. School starts at 10:00am for all students (there is no A period class on Tuesdays). Students leave school at approximately their typical scheduled times, either 2:25pm or 3:10pm. The full bell schedule can be found here:

<https://colina.conejousd.org/our-school/bell-schedule> Students can be dropped off on Tuesdays during their typical time if needed, however, as there is supervision in the MPR before school starts.

Honors Pathways

- All 6th grade classes are offered at the College Prep (CP) level.
- Honors Math for 6th grade is also available.
- Students who earn A-'s or above both semesters in English 6 CP and/or Social Science 6 CP will automatically be placed in English 7 Honors and/or Social Science 7 Honors.
- Students interested in the honors level who do not qualify automatically will need to petition.
- Honors Science becomes available in 8th grade.



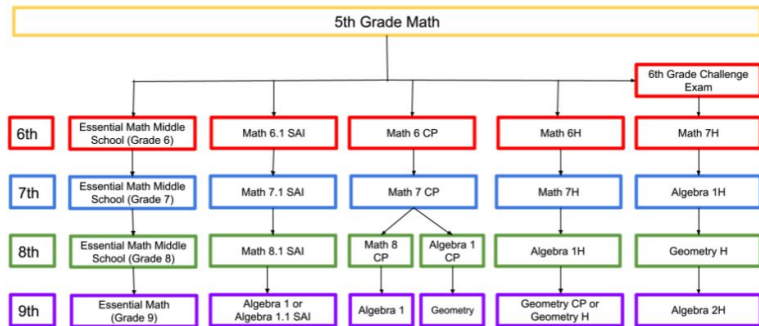
Math Placement

- Math 6 CP (College Prep) or Math 6 H (Honors)
 - Math 6 H: A's/B's all trimesters of 5th grade Math + 83% or above on end-of-course exam
- 5th grade math end-of-course exam administered by 5th grade teacher in class
- Students interested in Math 6 H not currently in CVUSD or at MATES, will need to submit copies of transcripts + take 5th grade end-of-course exam at Colina in early June
- Math 6 Honors goes more in-depth and covers some additional material
- If interested, students who do not automatically qualify for Math 6 H may submit a petition form for further review by the Math Department
- Students may also take a test to challenge Math 6 Honors and start in Math 7 Honors in 6th grade

- Students who earn A's and B's or the equivalent all three trimesters of Math in 5th grade and score an 83% or above on the 5th grade end-of-course exam will automatically be placed in Math 6 Honors.
- The 5th grade math end-of-course exam will be administered by the student's 5th grade teacher in class near the end of the school year for students currently in CVUSD schools and at MATES.
- For all other students interested in Math 6 Honors, copies of transcripts will need to be submitted with final grades for 5th grade and the 5th grade end-of-course exam will need to be completed at Colina Middle School in early June. If interested and currently at a non-CVUSD school or MATES, please email Jessica Gehle in our Counseling Office at jgehle@conejousd.org to register for an exam date.
- If needed, petition forms will be available on the website in mid-August.
- For students interested in taking the Math 6 Honors Challenge test, this test will be administered through the District Office in the summer. More information,

- including the exam registration process, will be posted on the District Office website and the www.colinacounseling.org website.

Math Pathways & Options



- Students can move between the Math CP and Honors pathways based on grades/assessment scores

- Students in Math 6 CP move to Math 7 CP, then Math 8 CP, and Algebra 1 CP or Honors in their 9th grade year of high school.
- Students who earn A's and B's in Math 6 Honors move to Math 7 Honors, then to Algebra 1 Honors or CP in 8th grade, and Geometry Honors or CP in their 9th grade year of high school.
- Students who take Math 7 Honors in 6th grade move to Algebra 1 Honors in 7th grade, and Geometry Honors in 8th grade.
- In high school, students take Algebra 2 after Geometry, then Math Analysis, then Calculus or Statistics.
- Students who started in the Math CP pathway will have the opportunity to move to the honors level based on grades/assessment scores.

Elective Classes

6th Grade

- Elective Wheel (periods A & 5)
- Chorus
- Drama
- Band
- Strings

7th & 8th Grade

- 6th grade electives +
- Computer Animation
- Principles of Computer Science
- Debate/Public Speaking
- ASB Leadership/Yearbook
- Special Friends/TA
- Advanced Art
- Spanish 1 CP

- Students will indicate their schedule and elective choices in order of preference on their class selection form.
- Descriptions of elective classes can be found here:
<https://www.colinacounseling.org/elective-classes.html>

Class Preference Forms

6th Grade Class Preference Form
Colina Middle School
2026-2027 School Year

Colina Middle School 6th Grade Class Preference Form: 2026-2027 School Year

* Indicates required question

Email *

Your email _____

Student Last Name: *

Your answer _____

Student First Name: *

Your answer _____

- Students will receive this class preference form following the 5th grade visit to Colina Middle School on March 10th. Parents will receive an email with a link to complete this form from their elementary schools. It will also be open and available on the Colina Middle School Counseling website: www.colinacounseling.org
- Families not zoned for Colina and families zoned for Colina but not currently in a CVUSD school, will receive this form during the enrollment/registration process.
- As long as forms are received prior to the end of the school year, start times and electives are not granted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- For students with an IEP, there will be transition meetings between elementary school and Colina staff members to ensure classes are programmed according to the student's individual plan.
- Students in the English Language Development program will be programmed in support classes, if applicable, based on their English Learner level.

Activities & Athletics

Activities

- 6th grade socials
- COTY competitions
- Renaissance
- Lunchtime activities
- Fall carnival
- Spring luau
- + More

Athletics

- Boys & Girls teams:
 - Basketball
 - Soccer
 - Volleyball
- Games are played against other middle schools at the Teen Center
- Practices are held at Colina
- Lunchtime sports

- Joining the PTSA is a great way to be informed and involved in social events at school.
- There are several 6th grade socials throughout the year. There is a DJ and a dance floor, plus activities such as inflatables, rock climbing walls, etc.
- Class of the Year (COTY) competitions are held throughout the year.
- Students who earn A's, B's, C's and E's, S's in grades, citizenship, and work habits participate in Renaissance program activities and rewards.
- There are many different lunchtime activities throughout the year for students. There are also several clubs that meet at lunch or after school that students can participate in.
- The fall carnival and spring luau are fun events for students to attend after school. Many parent volunteers are needed for these events. They're a great way to get involved.
- The GATE program and activities are offered at Colina as well throughout the

- school year.
- Competitive athletics and lunchtime sports are also offered at Colina. Tryout information will be shared through announcements and weekly emails sent home to families.

Resources

- The **Boys and Girls Club** is a great resource on our campus for families needing extended care before and/or after school
 - Students can also spend time there during lunch
 - They have homework help and enrichment programs, as well
 - Please visit their website and feel free to reach out to them if you would like additional information
- All students are issued **Chromebooks** to use during class, CORE, and at home to work on assignments and check their grades and completed assignments on the Q Student Connect portal and Canvas.
- **Q Connect and Canvas**
- **Colina Counseling website**

- The following is a link to the Boys & Girls Club on our campus:
<https://www.bgcconejo.org/join-the-club/find-a-club/cal-marje-johnston-boys-girls-club/>
- The following is a link to information about Q Connect:
<https://www.colinacounseling.org/q-connect.html>
- The following is a link to information about Canvas:
<https://www.colinacounseling.org/canvas.html>

Enrollment Process

In CVUSD elementary school, zoned for Colina

- Enrollment information will automatically transfer
- No additional steps needed to enroll

In CVUSD elementary school, not zoned for Colina

- Must complete a school choice application online
- Enrollment steps will be included in the school choice notification email

Not in CVUSD school, zoned for Colina

- Must enroll at the following site:
<https://www.conejousd.org/enrollcvusd>
- Early enrollment is encouraged to help guarantee space in classes

Not in CVUSD school, not zoned for Colina

- Must complete a school choice application online
- Enrollment steps will be included in the school choice notification email

Out of District area

- Must complete an interdistrict transfer request at
<https://www.conejousd.org/enrollcvusd>

- More enrollment information can be found at the following site:

<https://www.conejousd.org/enrollcvusd>

Upcoming Events



- 5th Grade Visit: March 10th 9:00-11:30am
- Cougar Camp: August 11th 8:30am-12:00pm
- Orientation: August 12th 8:30am-12:00pm
- First Day of School: August 19th

- During Cougar Camp, students will participate in activities to get to know each other, practice opening their lockers, and meet with 8th grade WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leaders to help orient them to middle school.
- During Orientation, students will receive their full schedules and can purchase PE clothes, PE locks, spirit wear, and more. Families can also join the PTSA and turn in required forms from the summer mailer. The summer mailer will include information about these events and more.