

**OGA Middle School Orientation FAQ
2020-2021**

1. Are there any after school programs available?

Central Florida YMCA will be offering an after-school program on campus. For additional information, you can contact YMCA at <https://ymcacentralflorida.com/school-programs/elementary/contact-us/>

The City of Orlando also offers an after-school program at their Colonialtown Neighborhood Center across the street from OGA. For additional information, please contact the City of Orlando Families, Parks, and Recreation Department. Their phone number is 407-246-4300.

In addition, OGA will be offering a variety of after-school clubs.

2. Are there any new requirements (such as masks) for children due to COVID?

At this time, OCPS has not provided information as to what will be required.

3. Who are the middle school teachers, especially 6th grade (core subjects and electives)?

This information has not been finalized.

4. How are core middle school classes at OGA different from core middle school classes at traditional OCPS middle schools or traditional OCPS K-8 schools?

All core OGA middle school courses are advanced. OGA teachers incorporate Project-Based Learning into instruction and help students realize their full potential by using hands-on and creative methods. They assign tasks that are authentic and for a real audience. Students have the opportunity to explore their passions through Advanced Academics.

5. How is differentiation implemented in the core classes, especially differentiating for high achieving students?

Florida State Standards guide all instruction. Every teacher at OGA differentiates instruction by providing more challenging and rigorous content for learners. Our teachers use their expertise in creating ongoing assessments to proactively plan to match the instruction to learner needs. They also use flexible grouping and specialized learning centers to encourage independent and creative thinking.

6. What kind of character development, leadership development, and/or emotional intelligence (EQ) development is offered?

OGA uses Sanford Harmony, a district-approved resource, to teach students understanding, tolerance, and respect for all.

7. What specifically is the curriculum of the required Advanced Studies class? Could you give some examples of what the students will be doing?

The Florida State Standards for Advanced Academics is followed. The teacher facilitates the course, while students take an in-depth learning journey to explore their passions and interests.

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8. Will middle school students participate in enrichment clusters? If so, what will that look like?

No, OGA middle school students do not participate in enrichment clusters.

9. Are all of the middle school teachers gifted certified? Have they all trained with Renzulli?

As required by the Florida Department of Education and OCPS, OGA middle school teachers are highly certified in their subject area. While our middle school teachers are not required to be gifted endorsed, all have either completed or are in the process of completing coursework toward gifted endorsement. Each student's Advanced Academics teacher will be gifted endorsed.

No. There are several teachers who have attended Confratute; however, this conference is not a requirement to be employed by OGA. Renzulli's three-ring conception of giftedness is incorporated throughout the gifted endorsement courses, as are many theoretical frameworks for giftedness.

10. How many 6th grade students will there be at OGA?

This year's total maximum number of 6th graders will be 66 students.

11. We're not familiar with the systems (Skyward, the laptops that will be issued, etc.) and the processes (coursework, tests, grading, communicating with the school now that there are so many teachers our child has, etc.). How will we get oriented to those things, and who is our go-to person for questions and help?

OGA is working on a plan for a Digital Orientation (for laptop distribution, Skyward, & Canvas) to coincide with the Meet Your Teachers event in the August (this may change based on guidelines set forth by OCPS). For information regarding coursework, tests, and grading, the teacher for that course will be the contact.