



**West Contra Costa Unified School District**  
**Pinole Middle School**  
1575 Mann Drive, Pinole, CA 94806  
Phone: (510) 231-1436 | Fax (510) 724-9583



**Matthew Duffy**  
*Superintendent*

**Eric M. Mapes**  
*Principal*

**Ifeoma Obodozie**  
*Vice Principal*

January 27, 2021

Dear Ellerhorst Elementary School 6th Grade Students & families,

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of an exciting new change that will take place at Pinole Middle School in the 2021-2022 academic year. All classes in the core and content areas of English, Social Studies, and Science will be taught with the rigor of our courses that are currently labeled as “Advanced”. Due to this change, students will take English, Social Studies, and Science courses in their respective grade levels together. In order to support this change and ensure the classes maintain, and even increase, the level of rigor which our teachers and students are accustomed to, we will focus a good amount of our professional development on providing opportunities for teachers to plan for and support all learners. Our efforts as a staff will be to increase student engagement in content mastery with instruction for all students at Pinole Middle School that is meaningful, relevant, and teaches our students the 21st Century skills they need to succeed in high school and beyond.

This change is aligned with the goals of Pinole Middle School and of West Contra Costa Unified School District. Pinole Middle School was one of the last two middle schools in the District that offered “Advanced” classes in English, Social Studies, and Science. Advanced classes in core subjects will no longer be offered in any of the middle schools within the District. All of our students deserve to attend classes with the same opportunities and expectations at our school site. Students will now be enrolled in heterogeneous classes that challenge them equally and are based on equity. There will be a focus on differentiation in teaching and learning in our classrooms to properly address the diverse learning needs of our students so we create an environment where our students achieve their full academic potential. We believe our students and staff are ready to tackle this challenge together.

This decision is conducive to creating a positive school environment that allows more students to have access to academic opportunities that they may never have had in the past. Furthermore, educational research has demonstrated that diverse classrooms have a significant benefit on a school’s climate and culture. We believe that all of our students should have the opportunity to learn not only from their teachers, but from each other as well. We believe that we will see improved academic and social-emotional outcomes for all of our students after these changes are made. It is evident that we have the potential and opportunity to really make Pinole Middle School a model school for all of our students, no matter their race, gender, or socio-economic background.

If you have any questions or concerns, we will have a few opportunities for you to meet with members of the Pinole Middle School Administration and staff in the weeks and months to come. I will be working with Principal Whaling to come up with dates and times that we can share everything that is great about Pinole Middle School, and answer any questions or concerns you may have as your student prepares to enter middle school. I will be attending your school’s next PTA meeting on the evening of February 4th. As we begin to approach the 2021-2022 school year please consider attending one of the Virtual School Tours and keeping up on news, events, and information by reading our Weekly School Bulletin. You can also find a lot of information on our school website. Together we win! Go Knights!

Sincerely,

Eric M. Mapes  
Principal of Pinole Middle School



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## PINOLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

1575 Mann Drive, Pinole, CA 94564

510-231-1436 / [Pinole Middle School Website](#)

Contact Info - cell number: 510-725-0169 / home number: 510-778-9116



### Virtual School Tours at Pinole Middle School

#### Dates & Times of Virtual School Tours

January Dates & Times	February Dates & Times	March Dates & Times	April Date & Time
- 14th @ 5:00 pm	- 11th @ 6:00 pm	- 4th @ 5:00 pm	- 15th @ 7:00 pm
- 21st @ 6:00 pm	- 25th @ 5:00 pm	- 25th @ 5:00 pm	- 29th @ 7:00 pm
- 28th @ 6:00 pm			

- The Virtual school tours will consist of a presentation, a time for questions and answers, & virtual tour
- Families do not need to RSVP, but it does help. Here is the [link](#) for families to RSVP
- Here is the zoom link: <https://wccusd.zoom.us/j/96732609349?pwd=MVBIV3Z4OXhjWGVXSU9TSXo1OFpvZz09>

### Pinole Middle School Weekly School Bulletin

Here is the Pinole Middle School Weekly Bulletin for the week of January 25th. Click [HERE](#) to view.

### Interest Survey for 6th Grade Students

6th grade students should complete the Interest Survey on possible electives, extra-curricular activities, and after school programs that may be offered at Pinole Middle School next school year. To complete the survey click on the [survey link](#).

### Coffee & Popcorn w/ the Principal

All elementary parents/guardians are welcome to attend the upcoming Coffees and Popcorns. Below are the remaining dates and times

Coffee w/ the Principal @ 9:15 am

- February 3rd
- March 3rd

Popcorn w/ the Principal @ 6:30 pm

- February 3rd
- March 3rd



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- April 7th
- May 5th
- June 2nd

Zoom link:

<https://wccusd.zoom.us/j/95480775963?pwd=Y2p2TWRKZnlaSUZwVDBlazhNbG5oZz09>

- April 7th
- May 5th
- June 2nd

Zoom link:

<https://wccusd.zoom.us/j/96515488358?pwd=T1lwZ3lOcmdFY1pqVVlsWVlrenYwUT09>