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THINK YOU KNOW MIDDLE SCHOOLS?



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THINK AGAIN!

PUBLIC

SPECIAL MESSAGE

Superintendent Hilario "Larry" Chavez

Santa Fe Public Schools offers middle school students a cornucopia of wonderful opportunities to prepare them for high school and the world beyond. Is your student thinking of a career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics? We've got what you need! How about a medical career? Yep, we've got that, too. And if it's the arts you're after, walk the runway with us!

Did you know that Milagro Middle School is transforming into a Computer Science campus? Or that Ortiz Middle School offers a Junior Biomedical Sciences Career Exploration Program that starts students on an early path to a medical career?

Milagro, located at 1720 Llano Street in the heart of midtown Santa Fe, is near two high schools--Santa Fe High School and Early College Opportunities High School--and Kearny and Nava Elementary Schools, making it a convenient choice. Milagro students come from a variety of schools located in the city's east side and midcity. These include students from Acequia Madre Elementary, Amy Biehl Community School, Atalaya Elementary, Carlos Gilbert Elementary, Chaparral Elementary, E.J. Martinez Elementary, Kearny Elementary, Nava Elementary, Piñon Elementary, Salazar Elementary, Tesuque Elementary and Wood Gormley Elementary.

Ortiz, located at 4164 South Meadows Drive, on the city's south side, is the district's only sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade middle school, and includes students from César Chávez Elementary, Ramirez Thomas Elementary and Sweeney Elementary.

While each middle school is unique in its offerings, a common feature for both is a focus on the sciences and art, both economic drivers in our state.

We welcome you to explore all the wonderful things SFPS middle schools have to offer. If you think you know middle school, think again!



At both Milagro Middle School and Ortiz Middle School, SFPS offers quality teachers, principals and other school staff, safe and well-structured schools and a unique curriculum focused on the things that interest students most, like STEM, art or a future career in medicine.

The student bodies of both middle schools are diverse. Both offer bilingual programs and extracurricular options. And as SFPS' schools are public schools, the education students receive is free!

At both schools, socialization with peers, character and values are always front and center.

Both schools are located in convenient locations, close to parents' work sites, students' home neighborhoods and other schools that siblings might attend.

Both were among the first schools in SFPS to launch innovative standards-based learning and grading, placing both at the forefront of equitable learning not only in Santa Fe but in the state and nation. Through standards-based learning and grading, Milagro and Ortiz embrace SFPS' core beliefs:

- Both want the best for our children
- Both believe that all students can grow and learn
- Both recognize that teacher expertise has a direct impact on student growth and learning
- Both see principals as catalysts of transformational and sustainable change for developing teacher expertise
- Both seek through standards and accountability to shift the culture and raise the equity of education for everyone

Through standards-based learning and grading, Milagro and Ortiz teachers provide timely feedback to students on the next steps needed for them to demonstrate learning. They also make instructional adjustments to better serve students in their learning. And students have the opportunity to offer more evidence on various targets as they continue to learn.

Importantly, because measuring behavior does not reflect what a student knows and can do academically, both schools ensure that behavior is not included in grading.



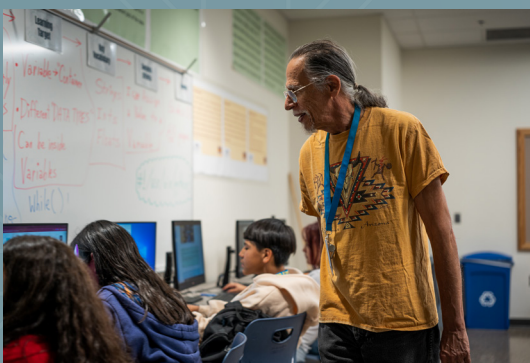
MILAGRO MIDDLE SCHOOL

1720 Llano Street

Milagro is an SFPS community school. In 2022–23, Milagro began its first year of implementing a community school strategy through a New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) grant and the support of Communities in Schools (CiS). Through this strategy, Milagro is working to leverage and coordinate community resources to ensure a thriving school for students, families, school staff and community partners.

Milagro students heading to Santa Fe High School will see a continuation of community school practices as both Milagro and Santa Fe High are community schools with community school coordinators.

Milagro is advancing to become a Computer Science academy. At Milagro, students are offered advanced math classes and there is an emphasis on integrating computer science into the curriculum. A two-semester Computer Science course at the school conforms tightly to PED and SFPS standards-based learning and grading. The first semester uses the Python computer programming language as a vehicle to solve real-world analytical problems. The second semester focuses on C++, a science programming language developed at Bell Labs that helps students learn how to manage large spaces of data and incorporates an understanding of computer engineering.



In the first week of the course in 2023–24, students, including those who had never touched a computer or had a math background, were taught to do simple computer commands like processing texts and telling personalized stories. Following this, they write code to sort extremely long lists of numbers in seconds or plot National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellite data on the Earth's rising sea level.



Students even work with Arduino microprocessors, known to visitors of Meow Wolf for opening and closing doors and turning lights and sounds off and on. In addition, Milagro offers STEAM opportunities in science classes and an Apple Lab has been launched for students to develop apps from both a creative and technological perspective.

With these educational experiences, students head to high school well-grounded to continue their Computer Science interests and learning.

Milagro is proud of its winning art students. Milagro student artists are guided on their art journey by outstanding teachers. Whether it's joining in a book art camp over the summer, entering art in SFPS' Hispanic Heritage Month Art Contest or dazzling art aficionados at the Recycle Santa Fe Art Festival, Milagro art students have a myriad of opportunities to grow creatively and expand their imaginations. And Milagro has an outstanding music department!



One more thing: Milagro offers a Heritage Bilingual Multicultural Language Program, which is designed to support and revitalize a student's heritage language and culture through oral and written communication. And Milagro offers comprehensive case management for gifted students and individualized programming for students with disabilities.



Ortiz is unique in offering the Junior Biomedical Sciences Career Exploration Program. Through Ortiz's Junior Biomedical Sciences Career Exploration Program, students explore Forensic Science, Neuroscience, Public Health, Biomedical Engineering and Healthcare in a three-course pathway beginning in sixth grade. Participating students commit to taking a minimum of two year-long courses over three years.



The first year in the pathway provides an introduction to a Biomedical Sciences career. Then, in seventh grade, students study Biomedical Engineering, Genetics, Anthropology and Forensic Artistry. In the eighth grade, they study patient signs and symptoms, the human body and public health.

Students in the program advance to Capital High School, where the Medical Career Pathway continues with a focus on nursing. Once at Capital, students can pursue a dual credit certificate by taking higher education and secondary courses as part of an elective Biomedical curriculum and students can receive 40 hours of mentorship.

As an indication of the program's success, select Capital students have received the Los Alamos National Laboratory's prestigious Anchorum St. Vincent/Christus St. Vincent Medical Pathways \$6,000 and \$10,000 Scholarships.

Ortiz is aligned with César Chávez Elementary, Ramirez Thomas Elementary and Sweeney Elementary in offering bilingual programming. Ortiz offers a Dual Language Bilingual Program designed for students to develop academic skills in their native language, while building skills in another language. This strand supports proficiency in English and the student's heritage language.



ORTIZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

4164 South Meadows Drive

Ortiz is providing a pipeline to college through AVID. Ortiz offers Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programs that provide a pipeline to the AVID program at Capital High School. AVID classes accelerate language acquisition, develop literacy and place students on the path to high school and college preparatory coursework.



One Capital graduate, engaged in AVID in school, was strongly influenced by AVID. He graduated from medical school at the University of New Mexico in 2020 after graduating from Capital's Biomedical pathway. He said, "More than anything, what it (AVID) did was to create a culture in my community to believe higher education was even possible."

AVID students graduate from high school and enroll in college at significantly higher rates. SFPS' AVID Class of 2022 had a 100 percent graduation rate. Ninety-eight percent went on to a two- or four-year college.

One more thing: Through a partnership with CiS, Ortiz is implementing a community school strategy designed to support the whole child, whole family and whole school. And an Ortiz teacher in 2021 was named the New Mexico Middle School Art Educator of the Year.

AFTERSCHOOL AND CORE CONTENT PROGRAMS

MILAGRO

- Visual and performing arts classes
- Afterschool Art Club, STEAM Club and Mariachi
- Natural Helpers to strengthen students' communication and helping skills
- Student Council
- Santa Fe County Spelling Bee
- Robotics approaching real-world problems in innovative, systematic ways
- WAVE (Wellness Ambassadors to Voice and Empower) promoting resilience
- Yearbook
- Sports: football, girls' & boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, cheer, wrestling, track & field

ORTIZ

- Visual and performing arts classes
- Natural Helpers to strengthen students' communication and helping skills
- Students Working to Advance Technology (SWAT)
- Start-Up Tech, a tech entrepreneurship course
- Sports: football, basketball, volleyball, track & field
- Clubs: chess, theater, art
- 21st Century Community Learning Center that provides academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours

DID YOU KNOW SFPS OFFERS K-8 SCHOOLS, AN ONLINE ACADEMY AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL?

SFPS students attend schools in their zones but can also apply to attend other innovative schools outside their zones. From November 1st, 2023 to January 31st, 2024, SFPS is accepting lottery or transfer applications at <https://www.sfps.info/page/enrollment>. The lottery runs on February 8th, 2024.

This includes transfers to SFPS' five schools that serve grades K-8, SFPS' online Desert Sage Academy, which also provides in-person instruction, and Mandela International Magnet School, located at 1604 Agua Fria Street, which is an International Baccalaureate school.

SFPS' five K-8 schools are:

Aspen Community Magnet School, located at 450 La Madera Street
El Camino Real Academy, located at 2500 So. Meadows Drive
El Dorado Community School, located at 2 Avenida Torreon off Highway 285
Gonzales Community School, located at 851 W Alameda Street
Nina Otero Community School, located at 5901 Herrera Drive

For additional information, contact SFPS at **505-467-2000**.