



# Blair IB (Middle School) Fact Sheet

Blair is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School authorized to offer both the Middle Years and IB Diploma Programmes. All students in grades (6-10) are part of the [Middle Years Programme](#); at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade, students may choose whether to pursue the full IB Diploma.

**Address:** 1201 S. Marengo Ave, Pasadena, CA 91106  
 Middle school is "C" building, at SE corner of Marengo and Wallis St., just south of Allendale Library/Park.

**Phone:** 626-396-5820

**Website:** [blair.pusd.us](http://blair.pusd.us)

**Middle School hours:** 8:30 am - 3:28 pm  
 Monday Late Start: 9:20 am

**School Grade levels:** 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

**Regular school tours:** Check [penfamilies.org/calendar](http://penfamilies.org/calendar) for updates

**Parent Ambassadors:** Lorena Hernandez (DLIP); Delphine Vasko; Maro Yacoubian (Armenian Academy)

## Principal

**Amy McGinnis** - Ms. McGinnis was appointed as principal of Blair IB Secondary School in 2022, having previously served as Assistant Principal since 2019. Ms. Christine McLaughlin serves as Assistant Principal for the middle school, and Ms. Stephanie Fonseca serves as Assistant Principal for the high school. Ms. Karen Law serves as IB Diploma Coordinator.

## Teachers/Staff

Classroom teachers are all credentialed. Several Blair teachers have been recognized as Rotary Teachers of Excellence. Teaching staff follow state curriculum standards, but are trained to add the IB focus on inquiry, action and reflection in instruction, aiming to engage the whole student.

**Students (2022-23)** Total Enrollment: **1,117** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> = 501; 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> = 616)

Demographic information based on school-wide 2022-23 enrollment:

Hispanic (Any race)	Non-Hispanic					2 or more ethnicities	Other / No ethnicity given
	African-American	Asian	Filipino	White			
62.5%	7.2%	3.0%	2.0%	22.5%	2.1%	0.9%	
<b>English Language Learners (ELLs):</b> 22.6%* As English Learners progress they are first designated <b>Initial Fluent English Proficient</b> (9.5%) and eventually <b>Reclassified as Fluent English-Proficient</b> (18.1%)						<b>Socioeconomically Disadvantaged:</b> 69.6% <b>Students with Disabilities:</b> 11.4%	

\* Blair has a significantly higher concentration of English Learners compared to other PUSD middle and high schools because it is home to the International Academy, which serves about 160 students newly arrived in the country who do not (yet) speak English.

## Open Enrollment (for 2022-23 School Year)

# of applicants who listed Blair as 1 <sup>st</sup> choice (general program)	132
% of applicants who listed Blair as 1 <sup>st</sup> choice and got in	93%
% of applicants who listed Armenian Academy and got in	100%

PUSD will post the range of open enrollment seats projected to be available for the 2024-25 school year in January 2024. Families are encouraged to rank all schools they would prefer to their assigned school of residence in order of preference, regardless of OE seat projections, and to opt in to the 2<sup>nd</sup> lottery if they do not get their preferred school in the 1<sup>st</sup> lottery.

**What has changed recently that may have an impact on academic performance?** *Blair's International Academy (newcomers) grown substantially over the past few years. These scores are incorporated into all of Blair's test scores. The proportion of students feeding from the dual-language Spanish-English immersion program has increased in recent years. A new principal and two new assistant principals were appointed in 2022. Blair added the Armenian Academy in 2020, now offering language and other courses for grades 6-12.*

## School Environment

As an IB school, Blair requires all students to complete community service requirements. Middle school students elect class officers, including representatives to the schoolwide Student Senate. More than 80% of Blair students come from outside the Blair attendance zone, choosing Blair for the programs it offers. Blair has a strong tradition of acceptance and celebration of individual and cultural identities, promoted by the IB program and Student Clubs.

## Middle School Schedule, Electives & Enrichment

**Schedule:** 6-period day with 59-minute periods; weekly Advisory period.

**Class size:** Classes typically are about 34 students.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Configuration:** 6<sup>th</sup> graders have single-subject credentialed teachers for all classes. They change classes each period. 6<sup>th</sup> graders stay on the middle school campus except for PE and band.

**Electives:** Robotics, Orchestra, Band, Chorus, Visual Art; intro Spanish and Spanish 1 (for non-DLIP students). Other electives include Government Fundamentals (ASB, or student government). As of this year, students in the Spanish Dual Language Immersion Track have: Spanish and Social Studies, Modern Band, Music Tech, Drama.

**International Baccalaureate:** All middle school students are part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme, which continues through 10<sup>th</sup> grade. (High school students may choose to pursue the IB Diploma Programme, Health Careers Academy, or may follow a mainstream program with options to take honors, Advanced Placement and IB certificate courses.)

**Opportunities for Advanced Students:** IB Middle Years Programme classes for all core subjects. GATE-identified students receive differentiated instruction at Blair in middle school. Honors, AP and IB

diploma courses are offered in high school. (Students do not need to be working towards the full IB diploma in order to take and earn a certificate for IB diploma courses.)

**Academic Intervention:** Benchmark Tutoring program, individual tutoring with most teachers.

**Clubs and Activities:** Associated Student Body (ASB / student government); Armenian Dance & Choir; Peer Mediation; Drumline, Jazz Band, Cheer, Blair IB Singers. Students also have the opportunity to participate in high school clubs and activities, such as Ovations, offered through LEARNS, and National Junior Honors Society.

**Athletic Program:** Through the LEARNS after-school program – flag football, tennis, volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming and softball.

#### Other Programs:

- **Spanish-English Dual Language Program:** PUSD’s Spanish-English DLIP elementary program began feeding to Blair IB Middle School in Fall 2014, and makes up an increasing proportion of student enrollment.
- **Armenian Academy:** Serves 6-12th grade students at varying Armenian language proficiency levels, from learning the alphabet to reading stories and writing essays.
- **International Academy:** This specialized PUSD program is designed for students in grades 6-12 whose primary language is not English and have been in the United States twelve months or less. Students get the support and instruction needed to reach English proficiency while getting grade-level content in all core subjects.
- **Health Careers Academy:** 4-year program enables high school students to explore careers in the health professions and develop career skills that could translate to many different fields.

## Facilities

Blair’s High School “A” building reopened in early 2019 after an extensive renovation. Includes school’s main offices, counseling, library, cafeteria, music rooms, and family resource center.

Library hours: **7:30 am -4:00 pm**

Credentialed Librarian: **1**

Computer labs: **3 labs**

Science lab: **6**

Gym: **Yes** (MS students use HS campus)

Showers/Locker Room: **Yes**

## After-School Programs

**After-school Programs:** Pasadena LEARNS. Tutoring Tuesdays, various club activities

## Parent involvement

**PTSA contact:** Sarah Marcotte ([president@blairptsa.com](mailto:president@blairptsa.com))

2023-24 PTA membership: **500**

**Parent involvement opportunities:** A community liaison provides support for parents. Blair parents meet each First Thursday as a learning community before breaking off for individual group meetings: PTSA, SSC, ELAC, AAPC, athletics, and arts booster groups. Middle School Advisory is a parent group formed to promote Middle School enrichment and activities.