

MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERVIEW

OCTOBER 11, 2023

A PRESENTATION OF THE
PASADENA EDUCATION NETWORK



PASADENA EDUCATION NETWORK

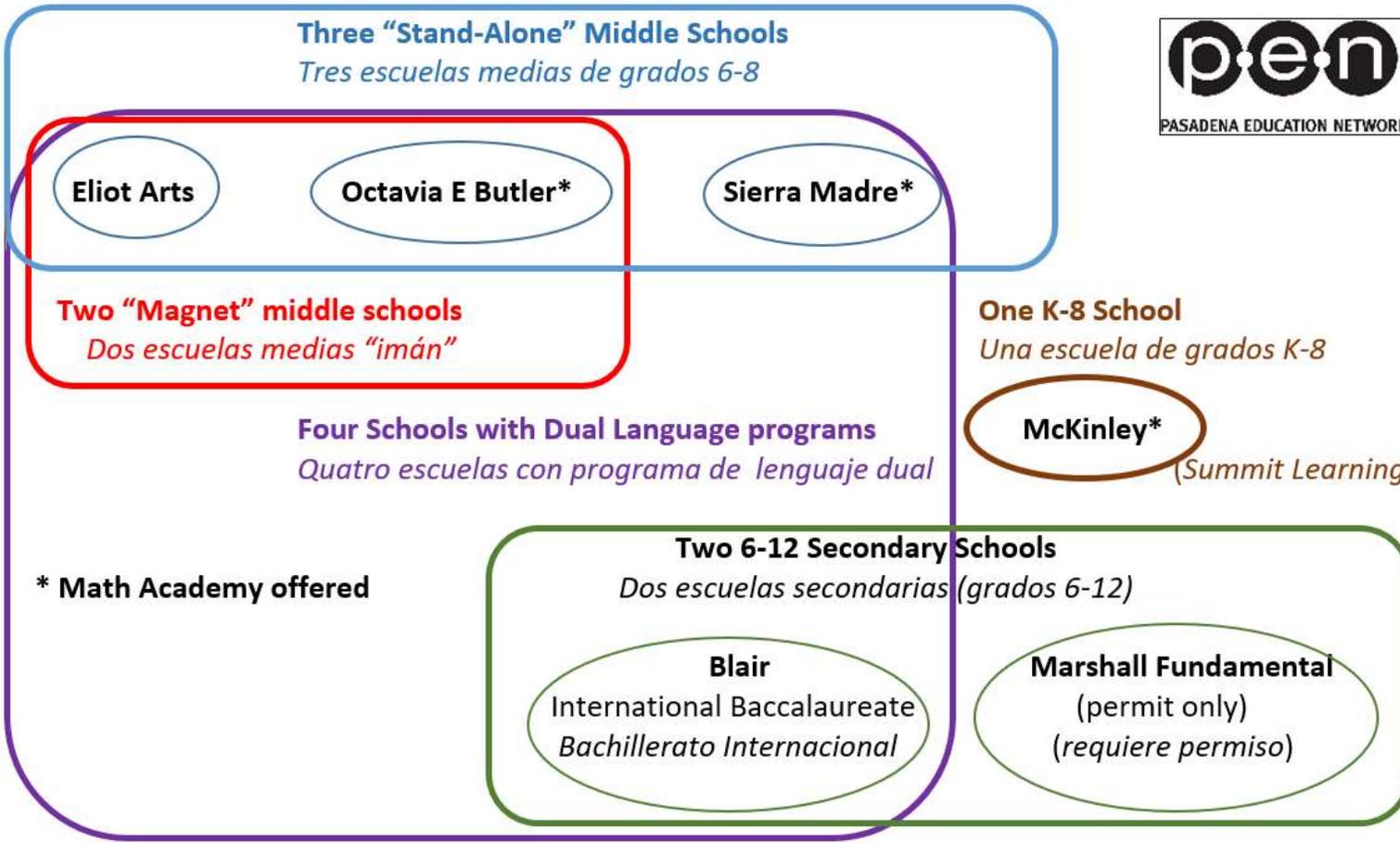
OUR PURPOSE

Big Picture – what every school offers and what is unique about different schools

Which questions to ask when you tour – What's most important to you (and your student)? *Ask your school-specific questions during school tours.*

Get some perspectives – not everyone's experience is the same, but it helps to hear from someone who's been there

OVERVIEW OF THE OPTIONS



EVERY PUSD MIDDLE SCHOOL...

Prepares Students for High School – The same core academic subjects (English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies) and Physical Education are taught at all schools. In addition to an academic counselor, middle schoolers have access to College Access Plan’s nine-week course focused on exploration of college, career, academic, and personal interests.

Has performing arts opportunities – Specific offerings vary, but all schools offer instrumental and choral music and stage productions as well as visual art electives

Offers coding/computer studies, including use of 3D printers

Has after-school sports (via LEARNS program) as well as clubs and other extra-curricular activities

EVERY PUSD MIDDLE SCHOOL...

Has access to:

Second Step Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) – curriculum and lesson sequence for all grades

PUSD's Student Wellness & Support Services

Workshops and PD for teachers and administrators on how to respond to behavioral issues

Special Education – Resource Specialist Program (RSP) & Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI). Elementary students and families get a transition IEP meeting (usually in April or May) where these services are discussed in greater detail. Check with your school's case carrier about your child's likely options.

SITE-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

Dual Language – Students coming from an elementary DLIP can continue bilingual learning at secondary: Mandarin (SMMS); Spanish (Blair or Butler); French (Eliot); Armenian world language & culture (Blair)

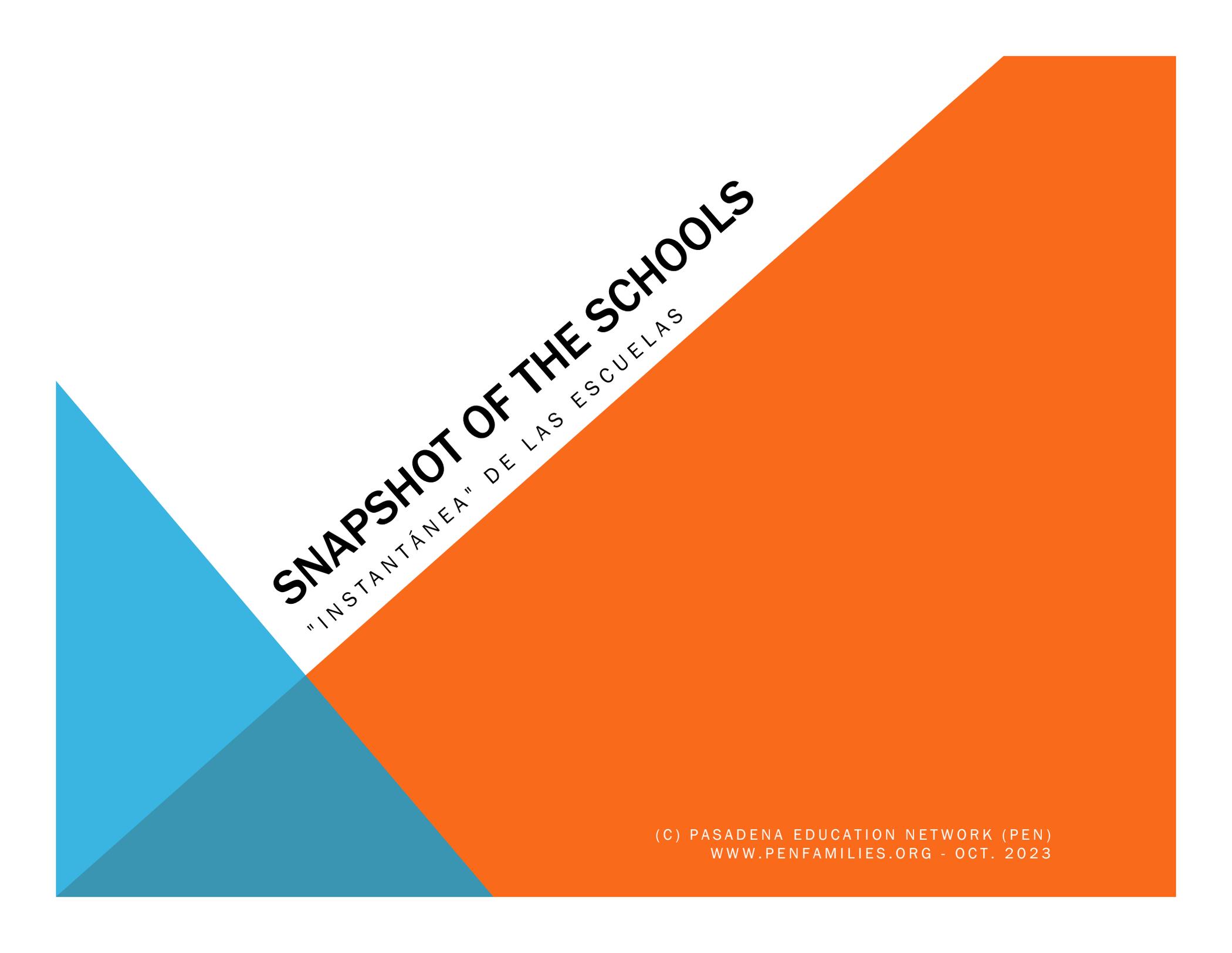
International Baccalaureate (IB) – All 6-10th grade students at Blair are part of the IB Middle Years Programme. Students from Willard have priority for registration.

Magnets – PUSD's 2 magnet programs integrate Visual & Performing Arts (Eliot) or STEAM (Butler) across the core curriculum.

Math Academy – All 5th graders receive a math assessment in the spring. Math Academy is a radically accelerated program in which students complete the AB & BC Calculus sequence in middle school. Offered at McKinley, Sierra Madre, and Butler.

Summit Learning – This online platform allows students to work at own pace, collaborating on projects and mentored by teachers (McKinley).

Special Education – 5th graders get a Transitional IEP; placement depends on needs



SNAPSHOT OF THE SCHOOLS
"INSTANTÁNEA" DE LAS ESCUELAS

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MCKINLEY

Enrollment = total of 648 students in grades K-8, including 300 middle school students

All McKinley middle school students use the **Summit Learning** program, which allows students to work at their own pace, with teachers mentoring them.

McKinley was the first of 3 middle schools to host **Math Academy**.



ELIOT ARTS

Enrollment = 423 students

Stand-alone middle school (grades 6-8)

Arts Magnet: Visual & Performing Arts

Partner organizations and artists in residence support teachers in integrating the arts across the core curriculum. After-school arts conservatory offers additional electives

French Dual Language students began matriculating from Altadena Arts in 2022-2023



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OCTAVIA E BUTLER STEAM MULTILINGUAL ACADEMY

Enrollment = 513 students

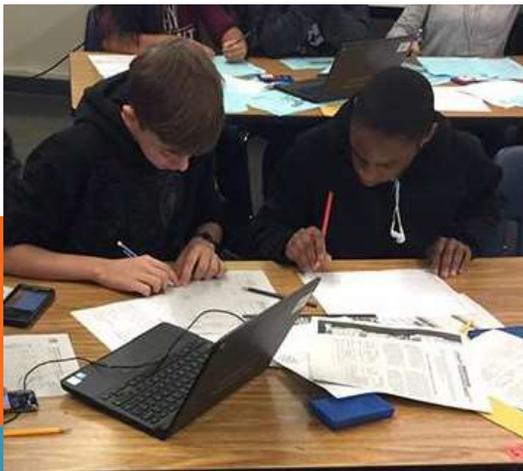
Stand-alone middle school (grades 6-8)

STEAM Magnet: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics are integrated across the core curriculum.

Spanish Dual Language Immersion

Math Academy

Schoolwide AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination



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SIERRA MADRE

Enrollment = 574 students
Stand-alone middle school (grades 6-8)

Mandarin Dual Language Immersion
continues from Field Elementary

Math Academy



BLAIR

Enrollment = total of 1,117 students in grades 6-12, including 501 middle school students

All Blair middle school students are part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme.

Spanish Dual Language Immersion & Armenian Academy (middle & high school)



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MARSHALL FUNDAMENTAL SCHOOL

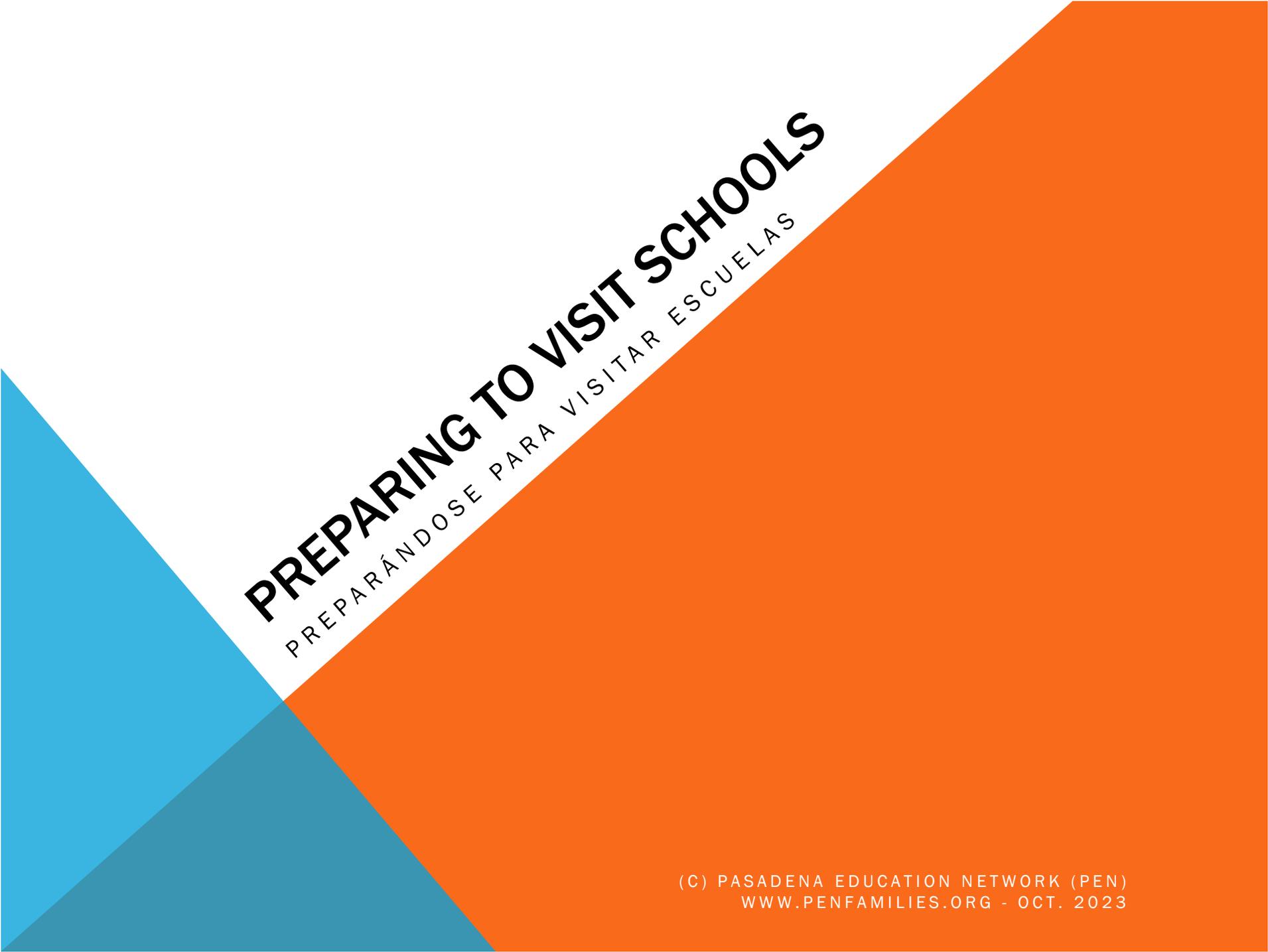
Enrollment = total of 1,849 students in grades 6-12, including 801 middle school students

Marshall is a lottery-only school. (Preference to students living within a half-mile radius of campus.)

Academy of Creative Industries (high school)



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PREPARING TO VISIT SCHOOLS

PREPARÁNDOSE PARA VISITAR ESCUELAS

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GET THE MOST OUT OF TOURS

There is no substitute for visiting schools!

See <https://www.penfamilies.org/calendar> or check PEN News for dates.

Prepare for your visit:

1. Discuss your student's interests – academic, athletics, activities, social – what opportunities are they hoping to get?
2. Check the school's website and **PEN's Fact Sheets** for info like school size, specialized programs offered, enrichment opportunities, etc.
3. Make a list of questions – what do you hope to learn from your “visit”?

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOLS

Academics and Academic Supports

- How do you support children who are struggling with one or more subject or have regressed during the pandemic?
- What do teachers do to help students learn and practice organizational skills?
- How much do class sizes vary?
- What electives can middle schoolers choose and how/when are they offered?

Details on special programs, such as IB or Math Academy.

- What advanced or extracurricular opportunities are there in [*name the subject or area(s) of interest: computers/coding, visual or performing arts, community services, student leadership*]?
- What clubs, interest groups, sports or other activities? [*If your student has a particular interest, ask about that*]

School culture

- Beyond teaching a social-emotional learning curriculum, how are these skills integrated into classroom practices and school-wide culture?
- How are safety issues addressed? [*Try to be specific about what you mean by “safety issues”*]
- Will my child be accepted for who s/he is (they are)?

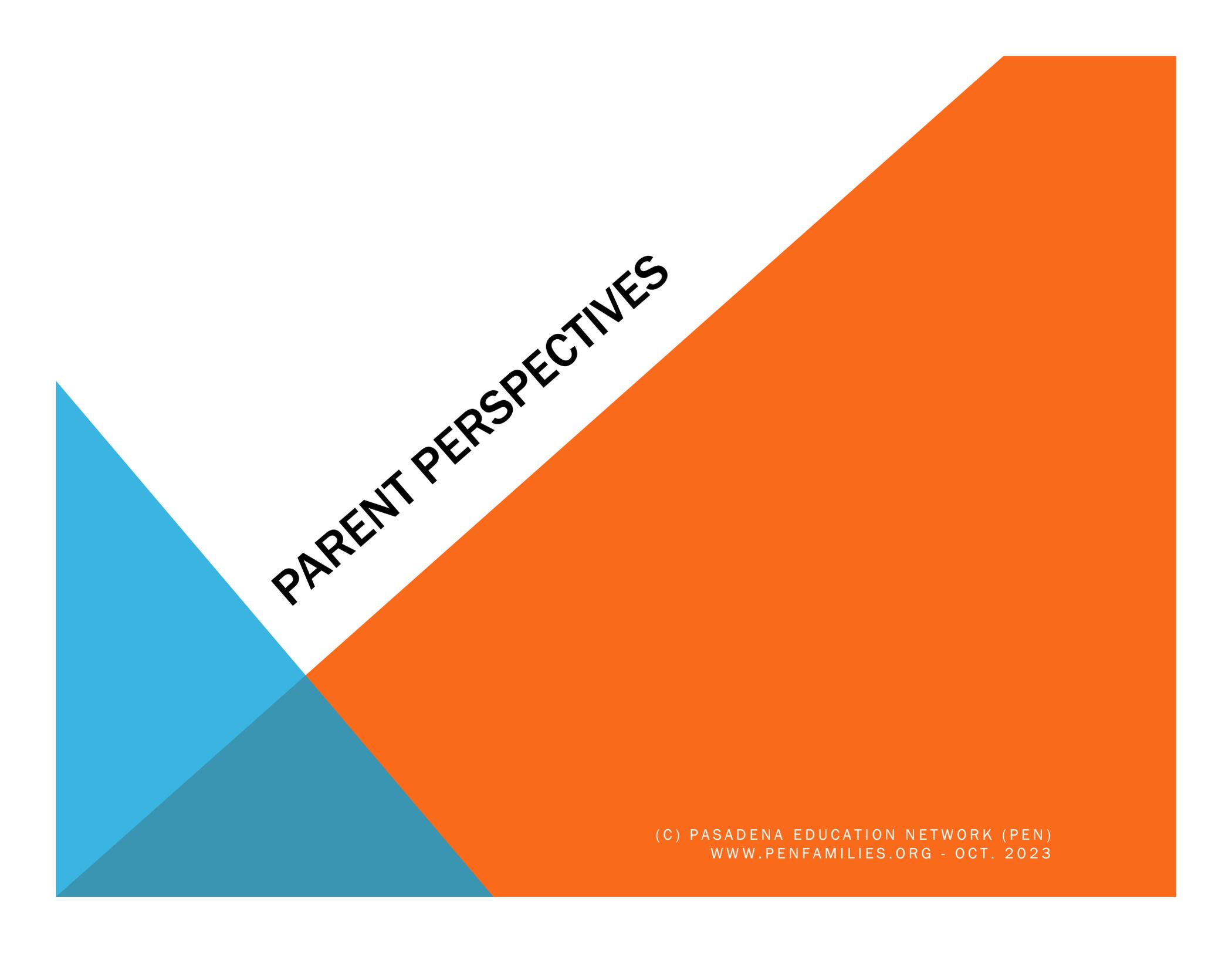
UPCOMING ENROLLMENT DATES

Sibling and Program Priority Enrollment:
From Oct. 24 at 9 am until Nov. 13 at 4 pm
pusd.schoolmint.com

Neighborhood School Registration:
Begins Dec. 4 at pusd.us/register



The Open Enrollment Lottery application period is
Jan. 9-26, 2024. Get your questions answered at
PEN's Navigating Open Enrollment program Dec. 5
<https://tinyurl.com/NavOE2023>

The background features a large orange trapezoidal shape on the right side, and a blue triangle on the left side. The blue triangle is divided into two shades: a lighter blue on top and a darker blue on the bottom. The text 'PARENT PERSPECTIVES' is written in bold, black, uppercase letters, slanted diagonally across the white space between the blue and orange shapes.

PARENT PERSPECTIVES

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