



Thank you for your interest in the Alpine Academy at Mount Elden Middle School! We know choosing the right school and academy for your student can feel overwhelming. Please take a look at our FAQ for some questions that other incoming 6th grade families have inquired about!

Q: What does a typical day look like?

A: A typical day for an Alpine 6th grader is 7:40- 2:20. Alpine students share three Alpine team taught classes with only Alpine students. Those classes are social studies, science and English. All other classes (electives and math) are taught with teachers and students "off-team" (students from different academies at MEMS will be in those classes). Additionally, their math class will be placement based on skill level.

Q: What outdoor expeditions happen?

A: All 6th graders have the opportunity to attend Camp Colton in the fall with other 6th graders. This is one of the TWO overnight expeditions offered for 6th grade Alpine students (the other overnight is on the spring expedition).

Throughout the rest of the year, there will be day expeditions out of the building for service-learning & working with community partners. At other times we have people from the community come into our classrooms.

Example day expedition: Visit/hike to Picture Canyon. Students are trained in an outdoor classroom on the Leave No Trace Principles. Students hike the trail and complete assignments while engaging with nature. For example, students learn about the impact of human activities on the environment by studying how

Picture Canyon came to be. Students enjoy lunch at Picture Canyon and complete their assignments after lunch.

Service- learning example: Students explore the MEMS campus and discover where trash accumulates on the grounds. Students create a plan and clean up our campus.

Spring expedition: A river trip partnered with Grand Canyon Youth where 6th graders are given the opportunity to camp on a one night expedition down the Colorado River.

Q: What are the expectations for Alpine students when they are out of the building on expeditions?

A: Alpine students who are missing class to go on an expedition are expected to complete any work they miss on their own time. On expeditions days students need to come prepared for the expedition (permission slips turned in, properly dressed, lunch/water). Alpine students are expected to follow the rules and be respectful at all times.

Q: Is there a fee to join Alpine?

A: NO!

Q: How do you incorporate academics into the program?

A: Alpine Academy is a place-based program that partakes in outdoor expeditions, service learning projects, and project-based learning, while incorporating experiential learning when possible. Students within the Alpine Academy have the opportunity to experience culture, community, local history, ecology, geology and experiences around the Colorado Plateau, interwoven with Arizona State Standards.

Q: How much homework is typical for a 6th grader?

A: Students are given time in class to work on any work or projects. If students are not on task in class, they may have to finish work at home. Minimal homework is assigned to students. *Math can be the exception.

Q: How many kids are in a typical classroom?

A: On average, 26 students are in each of their core Alpine classes (social students, science, and English).

Q: Can I set up informal meetings before next year to chat with future teachers?

A: YES! Our 6th grade team would love to meet with you and we encourage this!

Q: What is the best part of the Alpine Academy at MEMS?

A: Our Alpine team THRIVES at making kids feel that they are part of a community!

Q: What grade level is the Alpine Academy available?

A: The Alpine Academy is available to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students! Additionally, Alpine is offered at Kinsey Elementary and Flagstaff High School*.

*Limited spots available!

Q: Why Alpine?

A: Choosing to place your student in the Alpine Academy at Mount Elden Middle School is an opportunity like no other for your student. During their time in Alpine, your student will be a part of a community with their teachers and peers, connect with the place around them, engage in experiential learning, participate in community service, have the option to take expeditions along the Colorado Plateau, and make memories that will last a lifetime.