

**Motion:** To submit a letter to the Los Angeles Unified School district in opposition to the North Valley Military Institute Charter school sharing space on Mt. Gleason's campus whereby students from the Charter School and Students from Mt. Gleason Middle School would interact daily – severely limiting Mt. Gleason's ability to conduct regular business, serve the community, and grow its enrollment.

- Mt. Gleason is the community's only middle school and serves the Sunland – Tujunga's youth in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, ages approximately 11 years to 13 years old – some of the most impressionable years of a child's life
- The curriculum at North Valley Military Institute differs widely from Mt. Gleason and is heavily routed in its military foundation. It's common to see students (referred to as cadets) practicing military style drills while on campus which puts Mt. Gleason students at a great risk emotional distress and furthermore may increase the incidence of violence at the school and home.
- Mt. Gleason is preparing to receive it's first class of dual Language Armenian / English students from Mountain View elementary which will require at least 2 additional classrooms over the current runrate. This will utilize some of the space needed by the charter school and students in this as well as the Magnet and STEAM programs should take precedent.
- In addition to these programs being put at risk, Mt Gleason students would have limited or not access to the following resources currently available at the school:
  - Sycamore behavioral health counseling
  - Parent center
  - STEAM training classrooms – 2
  - Auditorium and Lunch rooms – shared with logistics still to be determined
  - Leadership room where students develop life skills and student government is located
  - IEP Room for Parent / Administrator conferences
  - Computer Labs – 2
  - Dedicated musical instruments with ability to take home and practice
  - Restorative justice / student voice room
- Today, three separate schools already operate on the Mt. Gleason campus; the resident school, Magnet Program, and Gifted Program. Adding additional schools creates a situation where split bell schedules are used which can add confusion and disruption.
- Many of the logistics are still to be worked out including lunch and recess schedules, dealing with disruption and discipline, as well as maintaining the school resources.
- The current location of the charter school is and has been suitable for their use since moving to that location. It is unlikely that enrollment at that location will reach the numbers requiring the charter school to move, especially since much of the growth in the VOCES program (located at the Institute's current location) has been seeing enrollment move to online classes rather than in person. This is likely to continue as LAUSD institutes vaccine mandates.
- Parents and teachers at both schools have expressed opposition to relocation including educators that would need to travel between the two campuses in order to meet their teaching obligations. Co-locating at Mt. Gleason will require existing students at the institute to travel at the busiest time of day to get to campus, adding stress to parents and students.
- Leadership at the North Valley Military Institute have made it clear that moving is not their decision and that they are being forced to do so by leadership within LAUSD.

- Each school serves the community in a unique way, yet each has its own method of service and mixing the two could lead to failure of both schools as represented by the engagement and ultimately academic preparedness of the student body.
- The decision to co-locate impacts not only Mt. Gleason, but also surrounding Mountain View elementary where the first Armenian Dual Language program has been introduced with much success. Parents of those students were promised matriculation with the program into the middle school. Taking this away now puts enrollment at Mountain view at risk as some parents may choose to move their children to private or other schools.
- In summary, neither school wants this shared campus, the numbers do not seem to add up as to why (based on enrollment) the institute needs to move to Mt. Gleason, and the curriculum / schedule of the two schools are in conflict with each other. There is no logical reason to force this co-location

February 9, 2022

Los Angeles Unified School District  
Proposition 39 Office  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

To whom it may concern,

In regard to the recent suggestion to co-locate the North Valley Military Institute onto the Mt Gleason Middle School campus, let it be known that the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council which represents the local families and educators is **NOT** in support.

Co-locating on this campus severely limits the ability of Mt. Gleason Middle School to serve the community in the manner for which it was developed.

Mt. Gleason is the community's only middle school and serves the Sunland – Tujunga's youth in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, ages approximately 11 years to 13 years old – some of the most impressionable years of a child's life

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The decision to co-locate impacts not only Mt. Gleason, but also surrounding Mt.ain View elementary where the first Armenian Dual Language program has been introduced with much success. Parents of those students were promised matriculation with the program into the middle school. This program alone will require at least one classroom per grade level and as it expands, may require even more space. Taking this away now puts enrollment at Mt.ain view at risk as some parents may choose to move their children to private or other schools. We believe this program as well as the Magnet and STEAM programs are vital to our community. Any available space on the campus should go to these are other much needed programs to benefit the community and its next generation of citizens.

In addition to these programs being put at risk, Mt. Gleason students would have limited or no access to the following resources currently available at the school:

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Each school serves the community in a unique way, yet each has its own method of service and mixing the two could lead to failure of both schools as represented by the engagement and ultimately academic preparedness of the student body.

In summary, neither school wants this shared campus, the numbers do not seem to add up as to why (based on enrollment) the institute needs to move to Mt. Gleason, and the curriculum / schedule of the two schools are in conflict with each other. There is no logical reason to force this co-location. Instead of forcing the schools to co-locate and damage the reputations of each, we suggest working together in a small group to develop a mutually beneficial solution.

Sincerely,

Sunland – Tujunga Neighborhood Council