Ahwahnee Middle School

This is one of the several district schools of secondary level, named for points of historic, geographic, or natural importance in the Fresno or Sierra Nevada Mountain area.

The term Ahwahnee was used by Yosemite area Native Americans to designate a village in Yosemite Valley which they called "Awani." In fact, the early resident Native Americans called the entire Yosemite Valley by that name. There is also a community in Madera County just north of Oakhurst on State Highway 49 which bears the same name. Ahwahnee School is named for the Yosemite Valley area described above.

According to past Board President Margaret Robinson, the Board of Education approved the policy of naming secondary (middle schools) after historic or geographic regions in California. This policy was approved in the late 1950's for future 7th, 8th, and 9th grade level school sites (this policy has changed since that time).

The school site now serves children in grades 7 and 8, and is located at 1127 East Escalon. The school first appeared in the Fresno Unified School District directory in 1968-69.