



WOODLAND SCHOOL

PORTOLA VALLEY, CA



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MISSION

Woodland School develops collaborative, creative, and confident learners with the strength of voice to follow their hearts and make a difference.

VISION

Innovative, compassionate stewards creating a joyful world.

LEARNER PROFILE

Well Rounded and Grounded

Woodland Students are...

Insatiably curious and **unrelenting**.

Resilient from testing knowledge and recognizing the value of making mistakes.

Joyously creative.

Appreciative of the interconnectedness of all living things, cultures, communities, disciplines, and phenomena.

Whole brain thinkers who balance logic and imagination and cultivate grace, fitness, poise, and agility of body and mind.

Courageous and embrace ambiguity, uncertainty, and the unknown as a means to discovery.

Collaborative and recognize the power of working as a team.

Engaged with nature and the outdoors authentically in our setting and through our programs.

Guided by a **strong moral compass**.





WOODLAND
SCHOOL

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ABOUT WOODLAND SCHOOL

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Located just west of 280 at Alpine Road, Woodland is an independent day school that offers a balanced approach to learning in a diverse and inclusive environment for approximately 275 students in Preschool through Eighth Grade.

Woodland's Preschool-Eighth Grade environment embraces a whole-student approach to teaching and learning; empowering students to create, connect, and contribute with confidence while developing a strong sense of self and purpose in the world.

CHILDREN ARE BORN TO ASK QUESTIONS

Children are born curious about their world. At Woodland, we strive not only to nurture that curiosity but also to help children develop the skills necessary to articulate their questions and seek possible answers. Through inquiry-based curriculum, Woodland students develop critical-thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills. With individualized

instruction and small class sizes, we are able to meet our students where they are in their own learning and help them grow to the next level and beyond.

BUILDING CHARACTER

Woodland School provides a challenging academic environment that builds character and develops a sense of responsibility. Here are some of the deliberate ways we integrate character building and responsibility into our school culture:

- School House System
- Cross-grade Buddy Program
- Student-led Morning Assembly
- Campus Care Program
- After School Athletics in 4th-8th Grade
- Middle School Advisory Program
- 5-6th Grade Girls Mentor Program
- Core Virtues Program

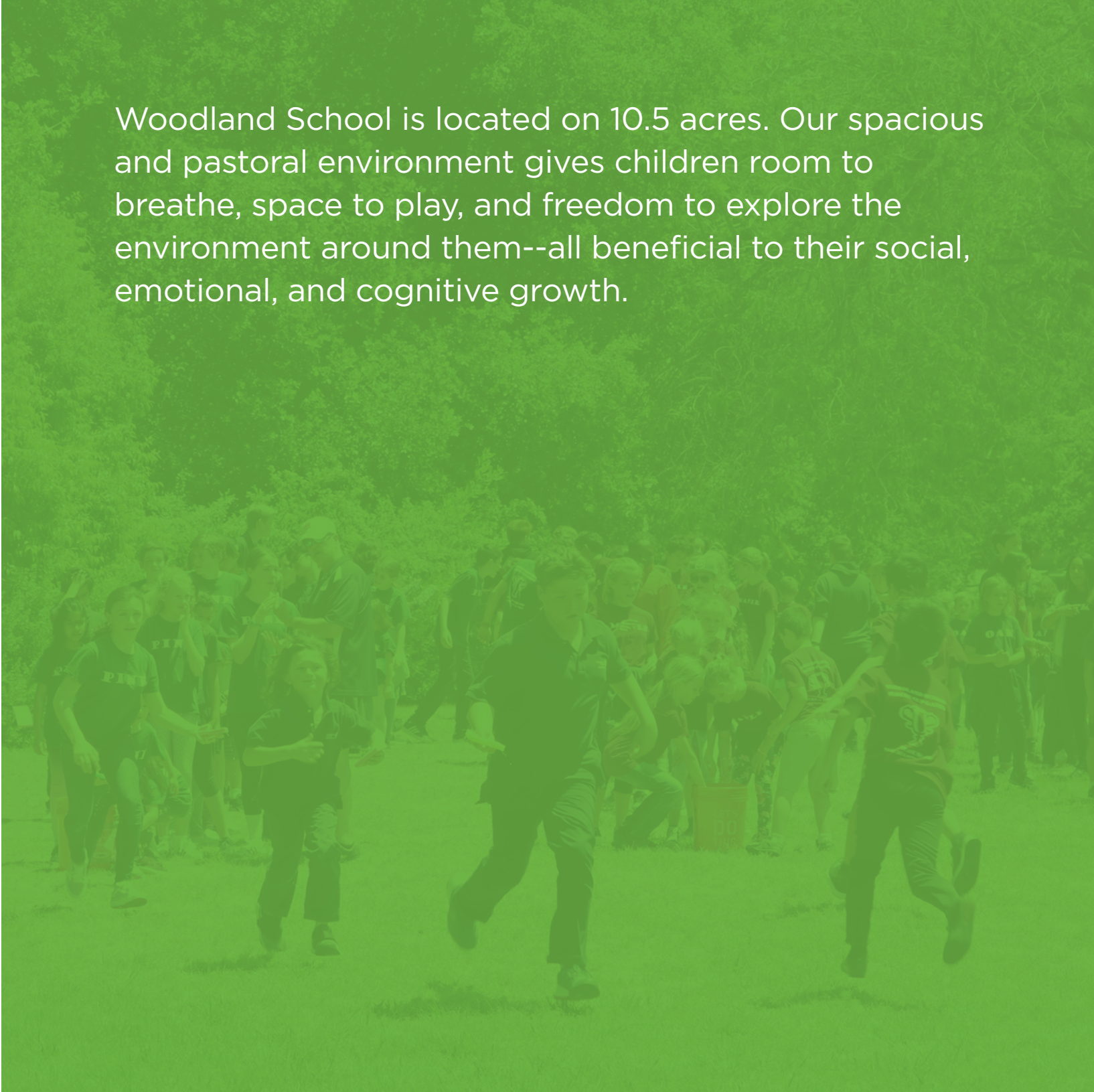
OUR GRADUATES


Woodland School graduates are compassionate, creative, and prepared to succeed in the high school of their choice. Together with our Next Schools team, students and families are guided through the process to determine their best-fit next school.



Watch our video 'We Call Ourselves Woodland':
woodland-school.org/about

Woodland School is located on 10.5 acres. Our spacious and pastoral environment gives children room to breathe, space to play, and freedom to explore the environment around them--all beneficial to their social, emotional, and cognitive growth.





Children ages 3-5 learn and grow together in our mixed-age environment. Older children display leadership skills, showing respect and compassion for younger children. Younger children learn from and emulate their older mentors. We deeply value the social, emotional, and cognitive learning that children experience when they are grouped in a mixed aged, family-like setting.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION - PRESCHOOL AND PREKINDERGARTEN

BUILDING CREATIVE, COMPASSIONATE, CRITICAL THINKERS

Young children are naturally curious about the world around them, and everything we do within the Early Childhood Center helps foster each child's innate inquisitiveness. Project based learning, grounded by a deep appreciation for child centered emergent curriculum, guides our philosophical approach to instruction. Our talented educators deepen each child's sense of wonder, as students engage in rich, meaningful, and relevant units of study. Over the course of 6 to 8 weeks, students become experts in topics through the use of authentic materials, intentional read alouds, and contextualized learning experiences. Our robust curriculum supports kinesthetic, auditory, visual, and tactile learners, built upon a developmentally appropriate framework. Through these learning experiences, we hope to prepare a generation of children to become creative, compassionate, critical thinkers in today's ever changing world.

VALUING OUR FAMILIES

We understand that, for many children, their time in the Early Childhood Center is their first opportunity to join a school family, and we strive to make the experience both joyful and memorable. We strongly believe in the importance of positive relationships and partner closely with our families to support the needs of each child.

THE BEST EDUCATION, SUPPORTED BY THE BEST TECHNOLOGY

Throughout the day, our students participate in a variety of thoughtfully curated experiences, each constructed to support their social emotional, physical, literacy, language, cognitive, and mathematical development. Our educators leverage Teaching Strategies GOLD®, an early childhood digital portfolio system, to collect observations of student work and intentionally scaffold learning opportunities. Daily small group instruction allows teachers and children to connect through purposefully differentiated activities. As children work in Interest Areas, they engage in hands on intentional play, constructed to prepare every learner for Kindergarten.

WORLD CLASS LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Our beautiful preschool classrooms are structured to offer children spaces where they can work independently, in small groups, and in larger groups of peers. Art, Blocks, Toys and Games, Sand and Water, Dramatic Play, Library, and Discovery learning areas are available daily and are intentionally prepared with provocations to invoke a sense of wonder. The learning continues outdoors, with the availability of tricycles, scooters, painting materials, blocks, and sand and water play.



More information:

woodland-school.org/academics/early-childhood

K-4 LEARNING

A Whole-Student Approach

FINDING THEIR VOICES

Every child is unique. Our teachers team with parents to nurture and guide students to take ownership of their learning. Through this process, our students discover their strengths, face their challenges, and find their voice.

Beginning in Kindergarten, students experience personal growth by learning to take risks in a safe environment. With teacher guidance, students lead and present in morning assemblies to an audience of their peers.

STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Our students build a strong foundation of reading, writing, and mathematics and master key skills across disciplines to become adept learners. Instruction at Woodland School uses multi-sensory learning that is hands-on, rigorous, engaging, playful, and accessible to all learners.

Lower School Humanities builds fundamental skills in phonics, grammar, writing, reading, and social studies through an integrated and thematic approach.

The Lower School Mathematics program inspires and enables students to become whole brain

thinkers as they discover and develop their mathematical confidence and ability.

Classroom teachers work to design and integrate meaningful work with specialist teachers in the following subject areas to ensure a balanced and engaging curriculum.

- Science
- Innovation Lab
- Math
- Spanish
- Art
- Physical Education
- Music

INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

Woodland teachers are passionate about their commitment to deliver a learning experience that honors our students' individual strengths and abilities.

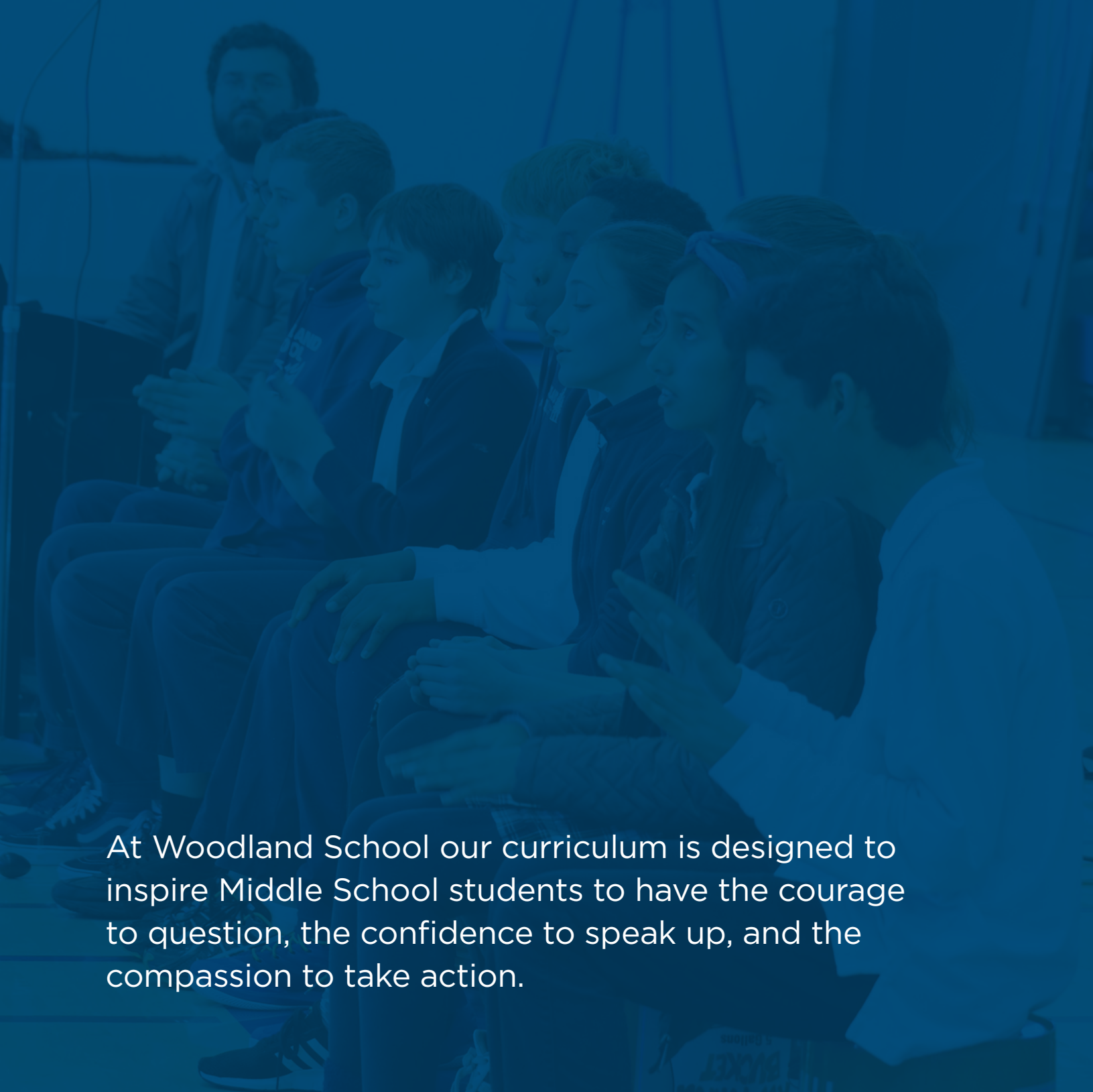
Ongoing assessment of student reading and math competencies begins in Kindergarten, allowing teachers to design lessons, projects, and small group instruction according to ability, interest, and skill.



More information:
woodland-school.org/academics/lower-school



At Woodland School, we cultivate compassion and inclusivity as the pillars of our community to engage students and connect them to their place in the world.

A group of students sitting in bleachers, clapping, with a blue overlay. The students are of various ethnicities and are looking towards the left side of the frame. The background is a plain wall with some vertical lines, possibly from a window or door. The overall tone is positive and celebratory.

At Woodland School our curriculum is designed to inspire Middle School students to have the courage to question, the confidence to speak up, and the compassion to take action.

LEARNING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

In addition to strong academics, the middle school curriculum is designed to provide the skills students will need to make their way in our interconnected world: the ability to adapt to unfamiliar situations, find answers when not readily apparent, and become independent learners and flexible problem solvers who can think critically, collaborate effectively, manage their time, and live ethically.

ADVISORY PROGRAM: BUILDING RESILIENCE

The Advisory Program is designed to equip students with the self-knowledge necessary to develop their strengths, focus on goals, and be responsible decision-makers. Concepts of metacognition, decision-making, executive function, self-management, and personal advocacy are explored in a small group environment that is rooted in compassion, empathy, and awareness.

HUMANITIES AND CAPSTONE PROJECT

Through a combined discipline of Social Studies and English Language Arts, Humanities courses allow students to explore topics deeply and engage in investigations and projects.

At the start of Eighth Grade, students identify an issue of global or local significance that they are curious about and create an interdisciplinary project to raise awareness and make a difference in the world around them. These Capstone projects mark the culmination of middle school and prepare students for more in-depth research in high school and beyond.

SCI-CON

Sci-Con is an annual, all-community event and celebration of the science research, collaborations, labs, and projects that students learn throughout the year. Interactive presentations by students and experts from the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math take the form of lab experiments, discussions, displays, and models. Recent Sci-Con topics include: Alternative Energy Sources, California Ecosystems, Photosynthesis and Respiration Labs, and DIY Acoustic Instruments.

INNOVATION LAB

The principles of design thinking and computer science are woven into the technology program at Woodland School. Students go through the iterative process of identifying a problem, designing, executing, and refining a solution. Students expand their aptitude to include robotics, programming, 3-D CAD modeling, and fabrication.

MATH AND ABSTRACT THINKING

Emphasizing problem-solving skills at each grade level, the middle school math program supports students' individual development as they grow into abstract thinkers. Our math program offers two levels per grade, allowing students to follow their own developmental timetable based on their readiness for abstract mathematical concepts.



More information:
woodland-school.org/academics/middle-school

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Many Cultures, One Family

Woodland's vibrant community reflects Silicon Valley's diversity of thought and culture. Our students, teachers, staff, families, and trustees represent a wide variety of racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds and family configurations.

We celebrate our diverse community and are committed to building an environment that is inclusive and empowers all our students.

HOUSE SYSTEM

Woodland's House System offers students an ongoing opportunity to learn and demonstrate exceptional character and build warm meaningful relationships across grade levels. Students get to know and care for one another inside and outside the classroom. A long-time cherished tradition, Woodland's House System is designed to foster camaraderie, provide leadership opportunities, and teach students the value of teamwork. Students enjoy cross-grade collaboration activities such as Buddy Lunches, Service Learning events, and quarterly intramural House Cup Games. Our House System fosters a family-like sense of belonging throughout our community.

ATHLETICS

Woodland's athletic program provides students the opportunity to participate in competitive after school sports leagues to bring out individual achievement and develop team-building skills and camaraderie. Our inclusive, 'no-cut' program is designed to increase the growth of each individual's character while fostering school spirit. Students in Fourth through Eighth Grades have an opportunity to participate in our after school athletics program on the following teams:

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Flag Football
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Track and Field
- Volleyball
- Baseball

EXTENDED CARE

Woodland School is a vibrant and active place before and after the academic day. Students in our Extended Care program are engaged in a wide variety of activities and have an opportunity to participate in additional optional enrichment classes. With more than half of our student population on campus after school, parents rely on our Extended Care teachers as partners in the continuation of their child's education at Woodland.



More information:
woodland-school.org/student-life



Woodland School is fully accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and a proud member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).

LOCATION

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Portola Valley, CA 94028
650-854-9065

Visit our website at woodland-school.org
Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/woodlandpk8
Follow us on Twitter twitter.com/woodlandpk8
Follow us on Vimeo: vimeo.com/woodland

