



VIEWPOINT SCHOOL

PRIMARY AND LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE 2020-21



MISSION STATEMENT

Viewpoint School is a welcoming, vibrant, and collaborative community that offers a challenging and enriched college preparatory education in a nurturing environment for students in Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade. The School embraces students and families from diverse cultures of the world and teaches the history and wisdom of these traditions.

Viewpoint inspires a love of learning and develops those qualities which provide strength and direction for a lifetime. The School promotes among its student's respect, integrity, responsibility, and optimism.

The School celebrates its love of country by commemorating our nation's holidays and honoring its finest traditions. Viewpoint affirms in its assemblies and programs the ethical principles inherent in all religions.

Viewpoint's students learn the importance of service to others and to the greater community with the expectation that this introduction becomes a lifelong commitment.

Viewpoint recognizes the uniqueness of each child and is committed to the preservation and development of that individuality.

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

- Viewpoint's graduates are literate in the humanities, mathematics, science, technology, the arts, and a second language.
- Viewpoint's graduates demonstrate useful physical skills, cooperative teamwork, sportsmanship, and a lifelong interest in fitness and health.
- Viewpoint's graduates demonstrate creative and critical thinking.
- Viewpoint's graduates embody integrity, compassion, tolerance, responsibility, discernment, and optimism.
- Viewpoint's graduates develop excellent intellectual and communication skills.
- The achievement of these expectations enables Viewpoint's graduates to be lifelong learners and productive, active citizens who serve their communities.

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THE PRIMARY AND LOWER SCHOOLS

School Philosophy

Founded in 1961, Viewpoint School is a nondenominational, nonprofit day school. Young people grow intellectually, socially, and emotionally in the School's nurturing environment. Viewpoint offers a challenging academic program and enriching arts and athletic programs, emphasizing excellence and achievement, while providing individualized attention.

The School provides its students with the proper balance of knowledge and skills in critical thinking, while helping them to attain a healthy sense of self-esteem. This blend allows our children to become successful students in college and responsible adults capable of wise decision making.

We believe in actively promoting ethical values among our students. We teach a respect for the rights and feelings of others and instill a spirit of community service in our students. Within this environment, students learn to value individual differences and to appreciate the unique contributions each person adds to Viewpoint's diverse community.

At Viewpoint, we find that a sound education is a joint enterprise involving the School and its faculty, our students, and their parents. Together we generate an eagerness to learn, a willingness to work diligently, and a desire to be active in the community. Students develop fundamental skills, an understanding of subject matter, high standards for their work, and a sense of pride in their accomplishments.

PRIMARY AND LOWER SCHOOLS

Viewpoint's Primary and Lower Schools provide a nurturing environment to promote the positive social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth of young children. Our whole-child approach creates a secure foundation that encourages children to develop important 21st Century skills:

Critical thinking ~ Communication ~ Collaboration ~ Creativity ~ Innovation

The overall goal of the program for Kindergarten through Fifth Grade is to provide each child with a variety of learning experiences guided by enthusiastic teachers who recognize that children grow in unique and varying ways. The School's culture encourages each student to strive for a high level of academic achievement while gaining self-confidence. Our experience has shown that initial appropriate placement is the key to educational success; therefore, great care is taken to ascertain the developmental readiness of each child.

Specialized classroom environments and trained teachers in art, world languages, music, library, technology, innovation, physical education, and science complement the core curriculum.

CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Viewpoint's character education plants seeds of enthusiasm for building positive relationships, understanding the value of our presence in the world, and seeing ourselves as active, responsible participants in our families, school, and community. The program offers a variety of opportunities to teach and reinforce virtues. Each month, a different character trait is presented in the classroom and at assembly to encourage students to realize the benefit and value of an ethical and moral life. In addition to the monthly character traits, we focus on kindness, empathy, and trustworthiness.

In Primary School, the character education program includes class discussions, books, and projects that help children to identify those values that best define a moral society. Inspired by the book *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud, students in Primary School learn the importance of making good choices that support others' wellbeing, as well as their own.

In Lower School, stories and skits demonstrate thought processes and actions that promote specified values. Discussions, literature, and projects reinforce acts of kindness and character.

MONTHLY CHARACTER TRAITS

September—Friendship
October—Responsibility
November—Respect
December—Compassion
January—Empathy
February—Honesty
March—Courage
April—Respect for Environment
May—Loyalty

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Social and emotional learning is naturally integrated into the curriculum at Viewpoint School. Primary and Lower School faculty are trained in a specific approach to teaching called Responsive Classroom. The Responsive Classroom approach consists of a set of practices that build academic, social and emotional competencies. The program is developed around specific guiding principles:

- The social and emotional curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.
- How children learn is as important as what they learn.
- Great cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
- Knowing the children we teach – individually, culturally, and developmentally – is as important as knowing the content we teach.
- How the faculty works together is as important as how they teach.

GLOBAL STUDIES: MAKING CONNECTIONS

Global Studies is an interdisciplinary educational program woven from Kindergarten through Grade Twelve. It is designed to prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives essential to thrive in the interconnected world which is their future. The mission of Global Studies is to:

- Create awareness of students' places in the wider, diverse world.
- Cultivate students' curiosities about the world and other cultures.
- Develop an age-appropriate understanding of world geography.

- Promote a sense of students' worth and the worth of others.
- Introduce an understanding of social justice and moral responsibility.
- Lead to an appreciation of cultural similarities and differences.

SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

At Viewpoint, we are dedicated to the education of our students' hearts as well as their minds. We strive to develop both intelligence and conscience. Community service helps students to explore their particular talents and skills and to learn from others with experiences different from their own. Goals of the program include:

- To teach the value of compassion and caring.
- To learn how to put ideas into action.
- To become more aware of society's needs and of an individual's responsibility.
- To learn how one individual can be important to others.
- To gain personal experience and skills.
- To build self-esteem and self-reliance.

For our youngest children in Primary and Lower Schools, we seek to instill a spirit of community service through age appropriate activities on campus. Students sponsor and participate in activities that support such organizations as the West Valley Food Pantry, UNICEF, Milk + Bookies, Baby 2 Baby, and School on Wheels, as well as natural disaster relief. The discussions and lessons that correspond with these activities enable our youngest students to understand the needs of others while learning to contribute to their community. The Pennies for a Purpose program in the Primary School, encourages our community to collect pennies for the purpose of helping children in need. Our annual donations demonstrate that even the smallest denomination in our currency, much like the smallest students, can make a significant difference in our community as well as the world. Additionally, Primary School students actively participate and contribute to service activities that are sponsored in the other three divisions in our School.

In Lower School, the Student Action Committee provides students with the opportunity to practice leadership skills while performing service activities on Viewpoint's campus. Students in Third and Fourth Grades serve as Lower School Student Action Committee representatives.

Some of their responsibilities include: participating in projects that help beautify the Primary and Lower School grounds, raising funds for charities, collecting food and toys for the West Valley Food Pantry, and collecting gently used books for schools in need.

Fifth Graders complete a mathematics unit where they create their own businesses, conduct a campus sale over several days, and then collect their business proceeds to make a charitable contribution. As a whole, the class nominates and then votes on which charity should receive their businesses' collective profits. Fifth Grade classes annually present contributions of several thousand dollars to organizations that have included the American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Association, Make a Wish Foundation, the Heart Fund, and City of Hope.



Baby2Baby - Hour of Giving



Fifth Grade Sales



Primary School Pennies for a Purpose

CURRICULUM SEQUENCE AND INTEGRATION

Within each grade level in Primary and Lower Schools, teachers collaborate to reinforce academic concepts in an interdisciplinary way to ensure connections between the tangible and abstract. For example, art teachers reinforce geometric concepts, while music and world language teachers attune the children's ears to variations in pitch, sound, and pronunciation. By reinforcing aspects of ideas in several different ways, students comprehend information as a whole concept.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW BY GRADE

Primary School (K-2) Lower School (3-5)

KINDERGARTEN

- Introduces and develops academic skills in reading, language arts, printing, writing, and arithmetic.
- Presents new concepts sequentially and encourages critical thinking skills.
- Integrates technology such as iPads and interactive white boards to provide enriched learning and individualized application.
- Provides hands-on activities to help students grasp and apply basic concepts.
- Enriches and reinforces skills and provides differentiated instruction through the use of learning centers, or small group teaching.

FIRST GRADE

- Promotes fluency and confidence in reading.
- Introduces a variety of writing techniques.
- Uses math manipulatives to reinforce basic skills, with an emphasis on number relationships, computation through 20, and problem solving.
- Integrates technology such as iPads, MacBooks, and interactive white boards to provide enriched learning and individualized application.
- Encourages independent work through the use of differentiated instruction, small group teaching, and learning centers.

SECOND GRADE

- Introduces and reinforces concepts while preparing students for the independence required for success in Lower School.
- Encourages more sophisticated independent work, following a directed whole class or small group lesson.
- Expects students to know addition and subtraction facts to 18 and multiplication and division facts through the five tables.
- Uses the D’Nealian method as a precursor to cursive writing.

- Introduces students to paragraph structure through expository and creative writing.
- Integrates technology such as iPads, Macbooks, and interactive white boards to provide enriched learning and individualized application.
- Promotes organization by having students begin to use a daily log to practice new concepts, record information, and keep track of homework.
- The students also conduct group work assignments across various subject areas building a continent report.
- Culminates with the Primary School Final Assembly, Rainbow of Character.

THIRD GRADE

- Focuses on growing independence, responsibility, organizational skills, study skills, and work habits.
- Promotes mastery of the basic facts of multiplication and division.
- Develops language arts skills, with the continued study of the formal paragraph.
- Presents a more sophisticated and sequential social studies program that teaches reference and research skills; utilizes a variety of resources, including historical information and the writing process.
- Integrates technology to cultivate innovation and creativity.

FOURTH GRADE

- Provides more in depth studies, with a focus on acquiring knowledge with an enriched math, social studies, and language arts curriculum, and specialized math, reading, and language arts teachers.
- Emphasizes the development of responsibility, self reliance, and organization.
- Encourages students to think critically and work independently on academic projects as well as projects that highlight imagination and inventiveness.
- Introduces a variety of writing strategies.
- Uses math manipulative's, puzzles, games, collaboration with peers, and direct instruction to reinforce higher level math skills, with an emphasis on problem solving and math diagramming and modeling.

- Integrates technology such as iPads, MacBooks, and interactive white boards, providing enriched, interactive, and individualized learning that promotes creativity and innovation.

FIFTH GRADE

- Supports and encourages students to become more independent in the preparation and completion of their assignments.
- Provides more challenging and comprehensive work, including long term assignments to foster time management skills.
- Encourages in depth mathematical concepts and writing techniques.
- Develops and implements study habits so students become more efficient and successful in their academics.
- Integrates technology to cultivate innovation and creativity.
- Culminates with a three-day trip to Astrocamp and presentation of Lower School Final Assembly.
- Prepares students for Middle School while providing guidance and security that young adolescents need.

READING AND LITERATURE

KINDERGARTEN

- Focuses on phonetic and decoding skills.
- Promotes vocabulary development and comprehension using a wide variety of resources, strategies, and activities to develop students' reading skills.
- Incorporates reading materials that challenge students based on individual reading ability.

FIRST GRADE

- Emphasizes fluency, oral expression, choral reading, and vocabulary development through the use of leveled books specifically designed for each student's instructional reading abilities.
- Focuses on comprehension, response to factual and interpretive questions, sequencing, predicting, and main idea. All at the student's independent level.
- Incorporates core literature selections through read aloud to further develop comprehension, vocabulary, and a love of reading.

SECOND GRADE

- Expands word attack skills for greater fluency and expression.
- Continues to build literacy skills at students' independent level.
- Emphasizes comprehension, inference, cause and effect, and critical thinking in discussions and written assignments.
- Incorporates integrated cross-curricular language units through children's literature.

THIRD GRADE

- Emphasizes the interaction between readers and text in Reader's Workshop.
- Concentrates on development of vocabulary and comprehension.
- Teaches students to make comparisons and write descriptions.
- Practices both silent and oral reading fluency.
- Strengthens comprehension skills and further develops critical thinking, sequencing, main idea, inference, and content through discussion and written work.

- Stresses vocabulary development, plot, and character analysis through class discussion, dramatization, written assignments, and peer and teacher conferences.
- Promotes a love of reading through independent reading.
- Focuses on the theme of friendship.
- Includes *Charlotte's Web*, *The BFG*, *The Hundred Dresses*, and *Love That Dog*; a variety of fables, and nonfiction texts.

FOURTH GRADE

- Emphasizes vocabulary development, comprehension skills, and critical thinking skills.
- Enhances student understanding of plot, setting, characters, theme, author's purpose, and a variety of literary forms and styles.
- Utilizes various reading strategies to help make reading fiction and nonfiction more meaningful.
- Promotes a love of reading through independent reading.
- Focuses on theme of courage.
- Texts include *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, nonfiction texts, selections about Civil Rights, poetry selections, and a Newbery Award-winning book of the students' choice.

FIFTH GRADE

- Develops vocabulary while students focus on literal, inferential, and critical comprehension skills.
- Improves reference, study, and content reading skills, as well as literary proficiency.
- Develops critical reading skills while focusing on theme, point of view, characterization, types of conflict, and use of literary devices.
- Promotes a love of reading through independent reading.
- Focuses on the theme of tolerance.
- Includes short stories and poetry, as well as books like *The Cay*, *Maniac Magee*, *The Giver*, *Stargirl*, and books of students' choice.
- Connects students reading through reading journals, character analyses, poetry inspired by novels, and text exploration.
- Utilizes collaborative work groups to explore author's crafts: characterization, theme, plot, conflict/resolution, and mood.

LANGUAGE ARTS AND WRITING

KINDERGARTEN

- Students explore spelling in an introductory word study program.
- Teaches beginning writing skills including, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Through the use of prompts, students dictate, write, and illustrate age-appropriate stories.

FIRST GRADE

- Teaches letter combinations that constitute consonant blends, digraphs, and diphthongs through the use of individualized weekly word study.
- Explains and promotes correct grammar skills through teaching parts of speech and correct usage.
- Teaches paragraph development, which focuses on ideas, organization, word choice, voice, conventions, and sentence fluency.
- Provides many opportunities to write stories with beginning, middle, and end.
- Promotes pre-writing activities, composing a draft, editing, revising, and publishing a final project in a variety of ways, including the use of digital tools.

SECOND GRADE

- Strengthen spelling proficiency through in class word study.
- Teaches parts of speech and proper use of punctuation and capitalization.
- Promotes answering questions and paraphrasing in complete sentences.
- Refines writing skills, including a topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion.
- Provides writing prompts for poetry, narratives, expository writing, and research reports.
- Integrates technology for creative use during the writing process.

THIRD GRADE

- Utilizes Writers' Workshop to develop independent writing confidence.
- Emphasizes homophones, contractions, syllabification, prefixes and suffixes, and singular and plural possessive nouns.
- Teaches varied syntax: parts of a paragraph, topic and concluding sentences, examples, details, main idea, and sentence patterns.
- Defines and identifies the parts of a sentence and parts of speech.
- Focuses on past and present verb tenses, and practices composition skills through fables, poetry, descriptive writing, letter writing, expository writing, journal writing, and short stories.
- Guides student use of a dictionary and thesaurus.

FOURTH GRADE

- Highlights the writing process while incorporating pre writing, first draft, rewriting, editing, and publication.
- Teaches personal essays, persuasive essays, realistic fiction stories, literary essays, and poetry.
- Focuses on parts of speech and their usage, parts of a sentence, including subject, predicate, and prepositional phrases, as well as correct capitalization and punctuation.
- Emphasizes spelling across the curriculum and integrates it into writing through use of a spelling workbook.

FIFTH GRADE

- Continues to concentrate on the writing process.
- Reviews parts of speech, sentence types and structures, and writing mechanics, and reinforces these concepts through application.
- Hones student writing skills while focusing on topic sentences, supporting details, transitions, proofreading, revision, and typing final drafts using word processing programs.
- Breaks down methods used by authors and then applies these techniques to a variety of creative and critical writing assignments.
- Develops students' unique voices in a variety of written activities.
- Includes various types of writing styles: narrative, opinion, persuasive, expository, and poetry.
- Emphasizes spelling across the curriculum and continues to teach structure through the use of a spelling workbook.

MATHEMATICS

In the Primary and Lower Grades, Viewpoint utilizes the highly successful Singapore Math program. Singapore Math centers on in depth understanding with a strong emphasis on model drawing and problem solving. Concepts presented in the program move from the concrete to pictorial to the abstract. Many other resources are used to extend and enrich lessons and activities.

The program is designed systemically and sequentially to help students reason logically, think critically, develop a strong understanding of number relationships, and use mathematical techniques and strategies effectively.

KINDERGARTEN

- Demonstrates mathematical connections with hands on activities that provide experiences from the concrete to the pictorial, and then to the abstract.
- Emphasizes mental math exercises, problem solving skills, and number relationships.
- Integrates technology for students to apply and review concepts, and to create opportunities to work at individual ability levels.
- Teaches the concepts: classification and patterns, addition and subtraction to 10, counting, and number recognition to 100.
- Introduces place value, identification of basic shapes, simple measurement, calendar skills, telling time, and identifying coins.



iPad integration with Kindergarten

FIRST GRADE

- Teaches place value and number order from 1 to 100, addition and subtraction, telling time, graphing, fractions, and counting money.
- Introduces multiplication and division.
- Focuses on number sense, problem solving, and critical thinking skills.
- Uses blended learning by integrating technology across the curriculum, giving students the opportunity to apply and review skills, and work at individual ability levels.

SECOND GRADE

- Directs lessons employing hands on activities and games for students to strengthen skills.
- Demonstrates and provides opportunities to use skills in solving word problems.
- Masters addition and subtraction facts to 18.
- Focuses on place value in teaching multi digit addition and subtraction, including regrouping.
- Emphasizes multiplication and division facts through the 5 tables.
- Reviews fractions, graphs, time, and money.
- Utilizes mental math exercises and problem solving skills using multiple strategies as an integral part of the curriculum.
- Uses blended learning by integrating technology across the curriculum, giving students the opportunity to apply and review skills, and work at individual ability levels.

THIRD GRADE

- Focuses on place value and order to one hundred thousand, and teaches multi-digit addition and subtraction.
- Develops mastery of multiplication and division tables one to 12, and long division with single digit divisors.
- Focuses on application of word problems (four operations) using model drawing techniques, time, and fractions.
- Provides experience in geometry, measurement, mental math, four digit by one digit multiplication, area and perimeter, and probability.
- Emphasizes problem solving and development of critical thinking skills.

FOURTH GRADE

- Focuses on place value and order to one hundred million, rounding and estimation, and three-place multiplication and division using one digit divisors and multiple dividends.
- Teaches averaging, factors and multiples, equal fractions and comparison, addition and subtraction of fractions, the four operations with decimals, and geometry.
- Develops algebra readiness, adding, subtracting, and converting measurement, graphing, simple application of ratio, and probability and statistics.
- Integrates mental math exercises and word problems with multiple steps.
- Emphasizes problem solving techniques using model drawing strategies.

FIFTH GRADE

- Reviews all whole number operations and word problems.
- Introduces order of operations, whole number properties, greatest common factor and least common multiple, and prime factorization.
- Incorporates the use of four operations with fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, ratios, and application word problems.
- Teaches metric and standard measurement and conversion, angles and protractor use, perimeter and area of polygons, angle measurement of polygons, application of geometry, volume of prisms, and construction of graphs.
- Highlights mental math exercises and problem solving skills through the use of model drawing techniques.
- Provides opportunities to write mathematical explanations that connect to real-world experiences.

SOCIAL STUDIES

KINDERGARTEN

- Focuses on families, holidays, community helpers, seasons, and beginning map skills.
- Highlights the richness and diversity of different cultures through our global education program.
- Students engage in a variety of subjects through the use of Scholastic Digital Magazines.

FIRST GRADE

- Holidays, including history and traditions.
- Focuses on the cultures of a variety of countries while interpreting various types of maps.
- Provides interactive opportunities for students to engage in current topics through the use of Scholastic Digital Magazines.

SECOND GRADE

- Highlights the concepts of city, state, country, and world, with emphasis on the seven continents of the globe.
- Continues instruction and learning of map skills.
- Focuses on the richness and diversity of different cultures through our global education studies program.
- Uses blended learning opportunities by integrating innovation and technology.
- Develops research skills through the study of the continents, in collaborative partnerships.

THIRD GRADE

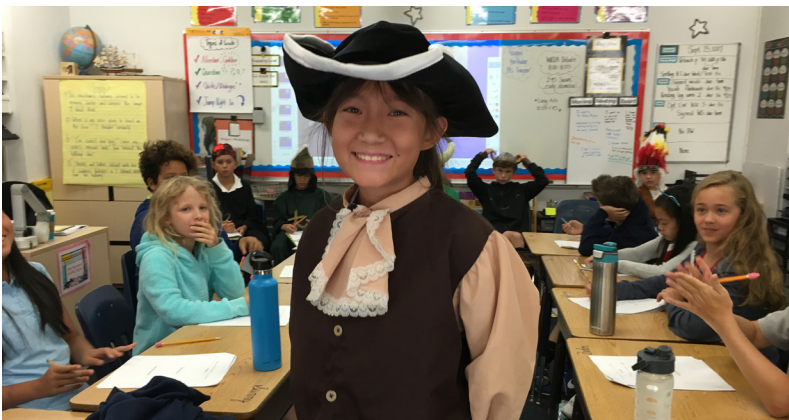
- Practices research skills through the study of Native Americans and the fifty states; utilizes technology to create electronic publications.
- Highlights Native American cultures by region and U.S. geography, including states and capitals.
- Teaches more challenging map skills, continents and oceans, and topography.

FOURTH GRADE

- Presents California geography, explorers, pioneers, and Spanish settlers. Includes the study of Mission and Rancho Periods and the Gold Rush.
- Focuses on California map skills and introduces the transcontinental railroad, California's diverse cultures, and current events.
- Studies the California missions.
- Integrates a simulation of a sailor journeying around Cape Horn with the reading of *Two Years Before the Mast* and the field trip to Dana Point, where students board a working replica of the Brig Pilgrim.
- Utilizes the following books: *Patty Reed's Doll*, *Two Years Before the Mast* and *By the Great Horn Spoon*.

FIFTH GRADE

- Continues to hone students' map skills.
- Presents geography and political units of the United States.
- Focuses on American history, from the early explorers to the Civil War era.
- Emphasizes historical figures, events, and trends.
- Incorporates skills such as note taking, outlining, debating, re-enactments, simulations, interpretation of primary documents, and collaboration.



Fifth Grade History Simulations

REFERENCE AND STUDY SKILLS

- Third Grade students begin regular use of the dictionary and thesaurus. In addition, students are introduced to note taking skills, highlighting research from reference books, and skimming for information. Students utilize technology to create various projects and presentations.
- In Fourth Grade, students continue to gather information from reference books and multimedia sources. In addition, students practice note taking, outlining, making inferences, and using context clues, and regularly utilize the dictionary and thesaurus. Technology also plays an integral part of creativity and innovation.
- Fifth Graders continue their use of varied reference books, including the dictionary and thesaurus. They work on reading with a purpose, note taking, outlining, multimedia sources, and community databases, while utilizing technology in various ways.

ART

Art instruction takes place in studio style classrooms specifically designed and equipped for our youngest children under the guidance of teachers who themselves are specialists in fine arts.



Examples of Primary School Art

KINDERGARTEN

- Develops fine motor skills through drawing, painting, cutting, pasting, and sculpture.
- Explores color, line, shape, pattern, collage, and three-dimensional construction while creating projects.
- Uses materials such as watercolors, crayons, acrylic paints, construction paper, and clay.
- Introduces and encourages the use of new vocabulary during art appreciation discussions about artistic form and content in master prints of art.

FIRST GRADE

- Continues to hone fine motor skills through drawing, cutting, sculpture, and painting.
- Enhances and reinforces learning through integrated enrichment projects.
- Explores media including chalk pastels, colored pencils, acrylic paints, ink, and clay.
- Uses master prints to stimulate discussion about artistic style, form, and content.

SECOND GRADE

- Teaches a basic understanding of the color wheel, contour drawing, line, form, and texture.
- Explores media, including oil pastels, crayon, bleeding art tissue, fabric dye, watercolor, and clay.
- Identifies and explores terms “abstract,” “realistic,” and “non-objective.”
- Uses master prints to stimulate discussion about artistic style, form, and content.

THIRD GRADE

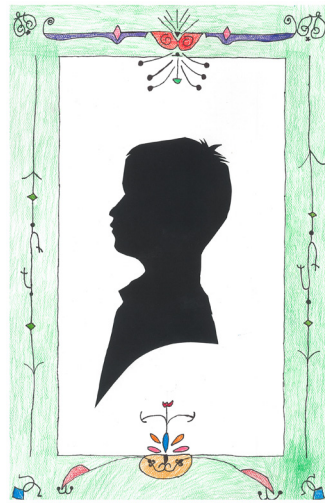
- Reinforces understanding of line, form, value, shape, space, texture, and color.
- Discusses various artists and styles.
- Explores various media such as pastels, tempera, acrylic, watercolor, and clay.
- Enhances and reinforces learning through integrated enrichment projects, using literature connections with most units.
- Continues to explore the seven elements of art within student compositions.
- Uses a variety of media and styles to connect art to global experiences.
- Integrates a drawing project with a writing assignment to enhance the learning experience.

FOURTH GRADE

- Continues to explore the seven elements of art within student compositions.
- Uses a variety of media to connect art to global experiences.
- Integrates a drawing project with a writing assignment to enhance the connection between words and art.
- Discusses various artists and styles.

FIFTH GRADE

- Identifies and describes characteristics of representational, abstract, and non representational works of art.
- Explores and describes the principles of design in visual compositions, emphasizing unity and harmony.
- Concentrates on drawing with a variety of media: pastels, acrylics, tempera, clay, prisma-color pencils, and found objects.
- Focuses on art appreciation in each unit.
- Utilizes literature and videos, and discusses master prints of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- Uses the vocabulary of the visual arts to express observations.



Examples of Lower School Art

LIBRARY

The Primary and Lower School Library offers regularly scheduled classes in Kindergarten through Fifth Grades. Additionally, Fifth Grade is invited to use the library at any time. The classes are designed to foster a love of literacy. Students develop independent library and critical thinking skills while utilizing a curriculum that integrates with classroom units. Librarians support research projects through carefully selected online databases and outstanding non-fiction. Browsing and independent reading are encouraged, and students may visit the library during breaks and at lunchtime.

Our collection of more than 10,000 books is diverse, current, and carefully curated to enhance our children's reading enjoyment. The library is designed to maximize each student's reading and research experience, with casual seating areas and workspaces in a technologically rich environment.



Kindergarten through Fifth Grade Innovation Space

INNOVATION SPACE

The Innovation Space provides Primary and Lower School students with countless opportunities for collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and innovation. In this playful and empowering environment, students explore their ideas, interests, and passions through the use of various materials, tools, and the latest technology.

This enriching program promotes design thinking, learning by doing, and both Do-It-Yourself and Do-It-Together projects. As students imagine, create, and collaborate, they build a wide range of skills that will prepare them for the challenges of the future. Discoveries and possibilities are endless through making and creating in the Innovation Space.

TECHNOLOGY

The Primary and Lower Schools thoughtfully incorporate the use of technology in all grades to support, extend, and enrich learning. Teachers seamlessly integrate developmentally appropriate programs and applications on iPads and MacBook Airs. Students gain proficiency in various operating systems, including Apple and Windows, and they are exposed to Linux through robotics and embedded computing. These skills give students the ability to innovate using the latest technology.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Introduces specific terminology, as well as the importance of digital citizenship and the correct use and care of digital devices.
- Introduces coding and robotics through block programming.
- Provides age appropriate and sequential lessons using iPads and laptops.
- Introduces digital design using photography, video and platforms for 2D and 3D design.
- Uses applications and programs relevant to grade level subject areas.
- Promotes research on safe search sites.
- Differentiates learning for all students in processes and projects.
- Provides opportunities to collaborate and create, so students can share what they have learned.

LOWER SCHOOL

- Reinforces digital terminology and expands the focus on digital citizenship by emphasizing responsible use of digital media and online behavior.
- Teaches reference and research skills for use in student centered and classroom projects.
- Initiates formal instruction of touch typing and expands the teaching of coding (programming).
- Develops media awareness and emphasizes internet safety in the course of ongoing learning. Provides expanded opportunities for students to create and innovate.
- Explores emerging technologies such as augmented and virtual realities and 3D design.
- Teaches digital movie making from the ground up.

MUSIC

Talented instructors teach in music studios equipped with age appropriate materials and instruments utilize two methodologies to bring musical meaning to each child: the *Kodály and Orff Methods*. The *Kodály Method*, founded by Hungarian composer and educator Zoltán Kodály, utilizes folk songs and the *solfège (solfeggio)* system of hand signs and music syllables to teach singing skills. The *Orff Method*, developed by German composer Carl Orff, concentrates on the playing of pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments, as the students use song, improvisation, and movement to explore the many facets of music. Students also learn an appreciation of musicians and composers who exhibit a wide variety of musical styles. Music and instruments from many different cultures are introduced.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Introduces musical concepts such as steady beat and rhythm, using songs, chants, and rhythm games.
- Integrates movement with music, and improvisation on pitched and non pitched percussion instruments.
- Introduces various fundamentals of music, vocalization, and sight reading.
- Integrates unison and two-part songs and chants, folk dances, and singing games.
- Focuses on beginning rhythmic dictation and expanded use of pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments as accompaniment to songs.



Music Time in the Primary School

LOWER SCHOOL

- Reinforces proper singing techniques.
- Teaches partner songs and sequential music rhythms.
- Integrates music with movement and focuses on pitched and non-pitched instruments.
- Introduces the soprano recorder and music on the treble clef staff.
- Continues choral music instruction and emphasizes the great composers.
- Prepares students for formal instruction on a musical instrument.



Lower School Chorus performing at the Homecoming Game

FIFTH GRADE - GENERAL MUSIC

- Continues study of accurately reading and writing music notation.
- Focuses on the understanding of music concepts.
- Teaches music history and various composers from around the world.
- Emphasizes singing with proper vocal technique and correct intonation.
- Performs as a choral group at the Holiday Program and Final Assembly.

FIFTH GRADE - INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

- Offers Beginning Band, Beginning Strings, or Advanced Strings for students with prior string experience.
- Gives students the choice of violin, viola, cello, or bass, as part of the Strings Program.
- Gives students the choice of brass, woodwind, or percussion instruments, as part of the Beginning Band Program.
- Instrumental classes study and perform beginning- level literature, with an emphasis on proper playing technique, tone, intonation, balance, blend, and musicality.
- Fifth Graders perform several times throughout the year.

MUSIC - EXTENDED CURRICULUM STRINGS STUDY

- In First through Fourth Grades, Viewpoint offers an optional program for students to receive Suzuki-method instruction on violin, viola, or cello for an additional fee. This instruction takes place either before or after school and requires parent participation. Arrangements for Suzuki-method instruction are made separately with the Music Department Chair. Students who achieve a certain level of proficiency will be invited to join the Primo Orchestra.
- Traditional Strings study is also offered to Third and Fourth Grade students for violin, viola, cello, or bass after school and does not require parental participation. After one year, students may be invited to join the Primo Orchestra. A fee is required for this program.



Primo Orchestra and Suzuki Strings



PRIMARY AND LOWER SCHOOL CHORUS

- Performs at several events and assemblies throughout the year.
- Primary School Chorus includes First and Second Graders.
- Lower School Chorus includes Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

At Viewpoint School, we believe that daily physical activity plays a meaningful role in our students' lives. The School's physical education program enables students to discover their unique talents and to develop their levels of fitness, self-assurance, and teamwork at all grade levels. Our experienced and dedicated coaches teach fundamental skills and always encourage good sportsmanship.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Focuses on fundamental locomotor skills: running, skipping, jumping, coordination, body-spatial awareness activities, rhythmic movements, tumbling, and identification of large muscle groups.
- Introduces aquatics skills, rope and hoop activities, and lead up games in team sports.
- Emphasizes refinement of basic physical skills, and reinforces fundamental concepts in team sports, recreational activities, and essential aquatics skills.



Lower School Flag Football

LOWER SCHOOL

- Cultivates skills and strategies in team sports, strengthens aquatics skills, and works on rhythmic movement.
- Focuses on strategies and position responsibilities in team sports in intramural tournament activities.
- Encourages participation in Viewpoint's vast interscholastic athletic program, including flag football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, swimming, baseball, and softball (beginning in Fourth Grade).
- Highlights continued development in individual sports, team sports, and, recreational activities.

SCIENCE

Viewpoint's science laboratories showcase hands on activities and experiments, all of which provide a stimulating exposure to the physical, earth, and life sciences. In the Primary and Lower School science labs, tables and equipment are specifically designed to accommodate the appropriate size and age of our students. Primary and Lower Schoolers look forward to their lab time with dedicated science teachers. Class time is spent both indoors and outdoors with special visits to our ECOLET, an outdoor classroom. Each year students participate in two science outreach workshops or interactive assemblies, as well as relevant field trips to further enhance the curriculum.

KINDERGARTEN

- Teaches physical, earth, and life sciences.
- Introduces laboratory safety and equipment.
- Uses hands on experimentation to introduce states and changes of matter, simple layers of the earth, magnetism, the solar system, human anatomy, the five senses, and health and hygiene.
- Includes labs on states of matter, environmental science, and insect study with a focus on butterflies.

FIRST GRADE

- Reinforces basic laboratory safety, scientific procedures, and proper use of equipment.
- Uses hands on experimentation to introduce sinking and floating, simple machines, and fossils and prehistoric animals.
- Includes labs on ocean life, tide pools, the kelp forest and sandy shore, nutrition, dental health, plants, seeds, nocturnal animals, and environmental science.



Cabrillo Science Visit to Primary and Lower School

SECOND GRADE

- Continues the study of general, physical, earth, and life sciences, including units on laboratory volcanoes, color, and applied science.
- Uses hands on experimentation to introduce weather, water cycle, geology, habitats, animal classification, microscopes, and deep sea biology.
- Includes a culminating project of an animal research report, using the iPad and PebbleGo application.

THIRD GRADE

- Introduces physical science and the scientific method through a study of electricity and magnetism, with an emphasis on electrical circuits.
- Develops earth science understanding by focusing on earthquake awareness, ecology, and ecosystems, with an emphasis on rain forest and wetland environments.
- Teaches life science with a study of the human body's skeletal, muscular, circulatory, and respiratory systems.
- Introduces scientific classification by focusing on spiders and other arthropods.
- Begins formal integration of scientific topics in literature study of *Charlotte's Web*, *The BFG*, and *James and the Giant Peach*.
- Introduces dissections as an aid to study the form and function of organisms.



Lower School Science

FOURTH GRADE

- Studies the ocean, encompassing physical, earth, and life science topics.
- Integrates scientific concepts with the Fourth Grade literature study of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.
- Includes a field trip to the Ocean Institute in Dana Point, where students study marine ecosystems on board an oceanographic vessel.
- Implements a unit on inventing, designing, and engineering to prepare students to create their own project for the Science and Engineering Expo.
- Enriches the chemistry unit as students conduct tap water testing, study the water cycle, and learn about the Metropolitan Water District water education and conservation program.
- Constructs and programs Lego NXT Mindstorm robots with an ornithology focus.

FIFTH GRADE

- Provides a more sophisticated study and experimentation of static and current electricity, magnetism, atomic structure, and introduces the periodic table of elements.
- Enhances knowledge of the scientific method, the use of dichotomous keys, metric measurement, and scientific tools when designing experiments.
- Provides a study of the human body's nervous and digestive systems as part of the nutrition unit, and introduces human growth and development.
- Highlights an astronomy unit which encompasses building and programming VEX IQ robots with an in-depth focus on Mars Landers and Rovers.
- Enriches real-life experience as students participate in a three-day field trip to Astrocamp as a culmination of the Astronomy unit.

WORLD LANGUAGE: FRENCH AND SPANISH

Primary and Lower School students enjoy becoming familiar with a world language taught by articulate and proficient teachers in dedicated language classrooms. Through the use of colorful props, games, toys, technology, videos, music, pictures, and costumes to visually illustrate the language, teachers instruct the students while incorporating many strategies that support various learning styles. In an environment in which the children will predominantly hear French or Spanish spoken during class time, students develop skills and learn about different cultures, giving them an expanded vision of the world.

At Viewpoint, the study of French and Spanish begins in Kindergarten and may continue through Twelfth Grade. In First Grade, students will elect to study French or Spanish. At the start of Middle School, they may also choose to learn Latin and Mandarin Chinese.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Teaches language through play, songs, rhymes, coloring, technology, movement, stories, and fairy tales.
- Builds vocabulary in areas such as colors, numbers, shapes, days of the week, months, animals, food, clothing, family, sports, and activities.
- Works on following oral directions and commands.
- Promotes listening and speaking skills through songs, poems, stories, games, and role playing; builds everyday vocabulary for conversation; introduces written language.



French in Primary School

LOWER SCHOOL

- Focuses on the development of the four linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Emphasizes integrated curriculum, including cultural studies, children's literature, arithmetic, science, technology, art, and music, supplemented with age appropriate videos and games.
- Integrates geography, technology, history, art, music, math, and science in creative lessons; incorporates many different strategies within a lesson to appeal to various learning styles.
- Enhances reading comprehension through the use of authentic texts.
- Enriches listening and speaking exercises with technology.



Lower School Spanish Performing in the World Language Assembly

STUDENT LEARNING CENTER

Every child is unique in the way he or she develops and learns. To meet the diverse needs of Viewpoint students, the Learning Center provides additional support and enrichment in Reading, Writing, and Math. The Learning Specialist:

- Collaborates with administrators and classroom teachers to identify students' individual needs.
- Evaluates students' strengths and weaknesses.
- Co-teaches with teachers in the classroom.
- Works with children in small groups or individually.
- Provides personalized instruction, using research-based programs.
- Employs a variety of resources, including manipulative's, technology, graphic organizers, and other.

ASSEMBLIES AND PERFORMANCES

Assemblies are a tradition at Viewpoint and represent an integral part of the program in Primary and Lower Schools. This time of coming together and sharing reinforces our community spirit and offers opportunities for students to develop and practice their public speaking and performing skills.

The Primary and Lower Schools conduct separate assemblies, with a different class responsible for hosting and performing at each event. The presenting classes share their contributions at both the Primary and Lower School Assemblies, where traditions include the Pledge of Allegiance, a patriotic song, the school's alma mater, and nondenominational school prayer, as well as remarks from the Divisional Head and Head of School.

In addition, classes responsible for hosting and contributing prepare with their teachers to share skits, songs, dances, poetry, or inspirational readings, all incorporated within the theme of each particular assembly. The youngest children quickly become comfortable speaking and making presentations to an audience of their peers, teachers, and parents. This presence on stage builds confidence in even our youngest students. In addition, students learn the protocol and value of being an engaged audience and show appreciation for the performers' hard work and preparation. As a sign of respect for these important community events, students wear assembly-dress uniforms.



First Grade hosting an Assembly

ANNUAL PERFORMANCES INCLUDE

Kindergarten

The Little Engine

First Grade

The Little Fir Tree

The Tale of Peter Rabbit

Second Grade

The Wizard of Oz

A Rainbow of Character Final Assembly

Third Grade

Once Upon a Time, a journey through fairy tales.

Fourth Grade

California Fiesta, highlighting the Fourth Grade social studies curriculum.

Fifth Grade

Final Assembly, a presentation drawing from all academic and enrichment subjects throughout students' experiences at Viewpoint.

Both Primary and Lower School

Great Pumpkin Day and *The Holiday Program*



Third Grade - *Once Upon a Time*



Kindergarten through Fifth Grade - *Great Pumpkin Day*



Second Grade - *Wizard of Oz*

AFTER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

AFTER SCHOOL CHORUS

Primary and Lower School Choruses are offered to all First through Fifth Grade students. Detailed information about After School Chorus is sent home shortly after the start of the school year. A variety of musical pieces are taught and students have opportunities to perform at multiple events.

AFTER SCHOOL DANCE PROGRAM

The After School Dance Program is offered to students enrolled in First through Fifth Grades. Participants have the opportunity to learn basic ballet technique and terminology. The program emphasizes proper body placement, taught with barre and floor exercises appropriate to the dancer's skill level. In addition, the class uses music written by composers currently being studied in the Music Program. Participants have opportunities to perform at multiple events.

AFTER SCHOOL GENERAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Viewpoint School offers a program of after school activities to all students in Primary and Lower Schools beginning the first full week of school. The classes may include karate, science, chess, music, and sports. Classes vary and will be available provided there is sufficient enrollment. There is an additional fee for these activities. For additional information on specific programs offered, go to campscui.active.com/orgs/ViewpointEducationalFoundation

STRINGS STUDY

Refer to page 28.

SUMMER READING CLUB KINDERGARTEN THROUGH FOURTH GRADE

We encourage all students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade to participate in Mr. McKee's Summer Reading Club. This is a wonderful way to strengthen reading skills during the summer. Summer reading packets are provided at each grade level to guide summer reading selections. Completed cards should be sent to the Divisional Offices prior to the beginning of school. In September, those students who participated in the Summer Reading Club will be recognized.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM - FIFTH GRADE

Students entering Fifth Grade must read a minimum of two books from the list below. At the start of school, students should be prepared to write or speak about their reading selections. For students who choose to read a total of three books or more, the School will recognize their efforts in September as participants in the Summer Reading Club.

Required Book:

Out of my Mind, by Sharon Draper

Students must select one book from the following list:

The Bridge to Terabithia, by Katherine Paterson

Wonder, by R. J. Palacio

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH, by Robert C. O'Brien

Fish in a Tree, by Linda Mullaly Hunt

Bigger Than a Bread Box, by Laurel Snyder

The Egypt Game, by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Esperanza Rising, by Pam Munoz Ryan

The One and Only Ivan, by Katherine Applegate

The Iron Trial, by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare

ACCREDITATION

Viewpoint is fully accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Viewpoint holds memberships in the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), Cum Laude Society, A Better Chance, National Association for College Admission Counseling, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls, Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education, Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, College Board, Educational Records Bureau, International Reading Association, and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Viewpoint School admits students of any race, color, gender, religion, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School.

The School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, or national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission and tuition assistance policies, and athletic and other School-administered programs.