

# WORNICK AT A GLANCE



Peninsula's Best Private Elementary School  
Peninsula's Best Private Middle School

## QUICK FACTS

Project-based interdisciplinary learning (PBL) with professional community trained in PBL  
Average number of students: 210  
Average class size in Lower School: 14  
Average class size in Middle School: 18-20  
16 nationalities represented  
Accreditation: California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)  
School Hours for TK-5: 8:15 am-3:30 pm (M-Th), 8:15 am-3:00 pm (F)  
School Hours for Middle School: 8:15 am-3:30 pm (M-Th), 8:15 am-3:00 pm (F)

Over  
**3,000**  
volunteer hours  
contributed by families  
each year



## PROGRAMS & CURRICULUM

- Project-based interdisciplinary curriculum
- Hebrew language learning TK-8; Spanish elective offered in 6th grade
- Numerous community service opportunities
- Number of differentiated math classes per grade in Middle School: 3
- Integrated technology with iPads and Chromebooks TK-5 and 1:1 laptop program 6-8, as well as digital citizenship curriculum
- 6th Grade Explorative Wheel can include: Spanish, Computer Science, Art, Cooking, Music
- 7th-8th Grade Electives can include: Yearbook, Art, Photography, Coding, Robotics, *Peleh* Lab, Video Making, Cooking, Digital Music, Fiber Arts, Design Challenge
- Over \$275,000 donated to nonprofits as part of the award-winning 7th Grade Tzedakah Project since 2011.

## ATHLETIC TEAMS

Volleyball  
Cross-Country  
Basketball  
Golf  
Tennis  
Soccer



## ALUMNI

Have attended 30 high schools and 60 universities including Caltech, University of California, Harvard, MIT, Yale, and Stanford.

## AND MORE

- Social Emotional Learning
- Learning Support
- Nurturing Community
- Public Speaking
- Art
- Music
- *Peleh* Lab (Maker Space)



CHALLENGING  
ACADEMICS

TIMELESS

JEWISH VALUES

INSPIRING  
COMMUNITY





# CURRICULUM AT WORNICK

## PRIMARY GRADES TK-2

## ELEMENTARY GRADES 3-5

## MIDDLE SCHOOL 6-8

## PRIMARY GRADES TK-2

## ELEMENTARY GRADES 3-5

## MIDDLE SCHOOL 6-8

### MATH

Investigations is a focused, coherent, and rigorous mathematics curriculum that is fully aligned to the content and practice standards of the Common Core State Standards. Deep and careful attention is paid to mathematics content and to student thinking and understanding. With extensive use of manipulative tools, students discover math concepts and apply them to their learning. A focus on collaboration and questioning strategies help student discovery and support individualized exploration. The primary grade topics are numbers and operations, geometry, measurement, fractions, and data collections.

Using the foundation set in the primary grades, students build upon their knowledge and gain proficiency in both content and mathematical practices. Students are expected to ask questions to further their learning, show their thinking through the use of manipulatives and drawings, and learn from one another through collaborative games. The ability to understand a mathematical concept both factually and representationally is key to building the understanding that will be used in higher level mathematics of algebra. Key topics include number and operations, rational numbers, geometry, analyzing patterns and rules, measurement, and data collection.

A full range of courses is offered that prepares students for a successful transition to high school. Students apply their previous knowledge to more complex problems and explore a variety of strategies to broaden their mathematical tool kit. Classes include pre-algebra, algebra, and geometry while also emphasizing the mathematical practices that build conceptual understanding, problem solving, and application to real world problems.

### SCIENCE

Using the Next Generation Science Standards performance expectations and disciplinary core ideas, students investigate physical, life, and earth sciences. Students create science notebooks to record their questions, drawings, and predictions as they learn about the natural world. Primary grade topics include force and motion, states of matter, weather, plants, and animals.

Using the Next Generation Science Standards performance expectations and disciplinary core ideas, students investigate physical, life, and earth sciences. Students hone their observation skills. They use investigative skills with literature and hands-on experiments to notice phenomena and trends. They use their results and data to make models of their understandings, reaching the scientific core ideas. They create arguments or conclusions using the data to support or deny their claims. Elementary grade topics include Earth's structure, waves, chemical reactions, and energy.

Using the Next Generation Science Standards performance expectations and disciplinary core ideas, students investigate physical, life, and earth sciences. With a strong foundation from the lower school, students shift to a lab-based, inquiry science program where students build knowledge through experimentation. An increased focus on data gathering and analysis culminates in a months' long science fair project where students design and execute an experiment independently. Middle school topics include genetics, the human body, chemical reactions, and earth cycles.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

Through Wilson Foundations, students begin to lay the groundwork for lifelong literacy. It is a systematic program that teaches critical foundation skills in phonics, word study, vocabulary, spelling, fluency and comprehension. In addition, core texts are used to add high interest reading for both pleasure and learning. As students master sounds, reading fluency and comprehension builds through guided reading groups at each student's level. Writing in the primary grades focuses on building sentences that uses Writers Workshop writing method, culminating in pieces that showcase multi-paragraph nonfiction and fiction writing.

Students apply their reading skills to fiction and nonfiction texts while focusing on comprehension and analysis. Students explore author's tools that add imagery to a piece and transfer these techniques to their own writing. Core reading includes *Save Me a Seat*, *The City of Ember*, *Walk Two Moons*, and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*. Using Writers Workshop, writing continues to build with research papers, persuasive pieces, and descriptive creative stories.

Students continue to explore various literary elements in both classic and contemporary text selections. During this exploration, students demonstrate their learning in analytical literary papers, slam poetry, journal writing, literature discussions, and structured narrative writing. In their work with nonfiction texts, students learn to gather and synthesize evidence from multiple sources to support claims. Popular projects include debates, Socratic seminars, and the *Tzedakah* Project. Students receive constant practice in the revision process of planning, revising, editing, and rewriting as they work to produce pieces they are proud of.

Social studies in the primary grades investigates communities and the child's place in the community. Students explore the Foster City and San Mateo County community through investigating their environment and creating projects that represent their understanding. Projects include building a physical model of a city, writing letters to community workers, and designing maps.

Following the American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages, our Hebrew classes assure that our youngest students have daily exposure to Hebrew. From the start, children are immersed in simple Hebrew conversation. As their knowledge grows, they begin to learn how to read and write in Hebrew, using the Niflaot program. Students with advanced or native level Hebrew participate in a special separate Hebrew track using the Kesem Ve Chaverim program that focuses on all language skills learned in accordance with the curriculum in Israel.

Students begin their Jewish Studies by learning about Jewish culture and community through symbols and holidays. Many narratives are shared and discussed as they learn the stories of the TaNaKH (Jewish bible) and apply them to the symbols and holidays they learned in Kindergarten. As their knowledge grows, students begin to explore personal connections with the TaNaKH stories as well as identify common themes and traits. Beginning in TK/K and throughout their time at Wornick, students develop a connection with the state of Israel, learning about its history and culture.

The breadth of the child's community grows in the elementary grades from how our land was created, to the history of California, and lastly to the history of the United States. Students begin to learn about the Native people of our local area, which extends to the establishment of California. Students visit many historic places to simulate the era of their studies and bring history alive. Favorite trips include Woodside Store, Sanchez Adobe, Folger's Stables, and Marin Headlands.

Students progress with the Granit program that develops their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This program develops language production by treating Hebrew as a living language. Through age appropriate stories, games, drama, music, and art, the curriculum focuses on students' interests that connect to their daily lives. Assessments for native/advanced students are through Olamot, and non-native students are assessed using internal testing.

Jewish Studies in the elementary grades extends earlier learnings about TaNaKH narratives to personal connections. As the core stories of TaNaKH are closely read at a deeper, more intricate level, students analyze dilemmas, explore alternative outcomes, and build personal connections to the Torah characters. In 5th grade, students grow their knowledge of Tefillah prayers and TaNaKH, allowing them to take the role of leaders in our morning rituals.

With their role in the national and local community solidified, students begin to study world history from the ancient cultures of Egypt and Greece to the Renaissance and ending with the founding of America. Skills in the middle school focus on understanding the perspectives of those who lived in the time period as well as those who wrote about the events, using reliable sources to research about the time periods, and analyzing the events and their impact on us today.

Students strengthen higher level vocabulary and speaking skills through the Bishvil Haivrit program, with non-native students using volumes 1-2 and native/advanced students using volumes 2-4. This program uses articles, poems, and authentic texts to give students a glimpse into Israeli life. For native/advanced students, the curriculum is extended using Israeli resources. Students who have matriculated through the school since elementary grades have a strong foundation in speaking, writing, and listening. For new students who enter Wornick, we have designed a special Ulpan beginners program to introduce basic Hebrew conversation and teach the students how to read and write, using a special program called Besod Haivrit, where the goal is for the students to integrate to the regular class.

Jewish Studies in the middle school builds off of the foundation of the elementary grades. Students study TaNaKH, along with its Rabbinic and medieval commentary, along thematic lines, while deepening interpretive skills. Students delve into Jewish history, from the time of the First Temple to modern times, examining the growth of denominations and innovation in the Jewish community and the implications on their Jewish lives today. Their Jewish learning culminates with a two-week Israel trip, an adventure of a lifetime that compels the students to explore their Jewish identity in a deeply meaningful way.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

### HEBREW

### JEWISH STUDIES