WORNICK AT A GLANCE

BEST OF THE BEST 2025 PARENT | BEST OF THE BEST 2025 PARENT | BEST OF THE BEST HALL OF FAME PARENT

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
- Number of differentiated math classes per grade in Middle School: 3
- Hebrew language learning TK-8
- Numerous community service opportunities
- Integrated technology with iPads and Chromebooks TK-5 and 1:1 laptop program 6-8, as well as digital citizenship curriculum
- Middle School Electives can include: Art, Fiber Arts, Photography, Coding, Robotics, 2D Design, 3D Design, Peleh Lab, Video Making, Improv, Cooking, From Blues to Rock, Music Leadership, Design Challenge
- Over $287,500 donated to nonprofits as part of the award-winning 7th Grade Tzedakah Project since 2011.

ATHLETIC TEAMS

Volleyball
Cross-Country
Basketball
Golf
Tennis
Soccer
Flog Football

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

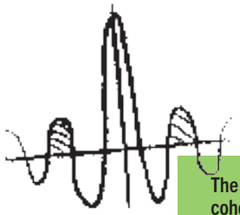
TIMELESS JEWISH VALUES

INSPIRING COMMUNITY

800 Foster City Boulevard, Foster City, CA 94404
(650) 378-2611 :: wornickjds.org

וורניק WORNICK RONALD C. WORNICK JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM AT WORNICK



MATH

PRIMARY GRADES TK-2	ELEMENTARY GRADES 3-5	MIDDLE SCHOOL 6-8
The core of our program 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 helps student discovery and supports 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, choose efficient strategies, 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 such as 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 in small class settings 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 proejct where students design and execute an experiment independently. Middle school topics include genetics, the human body, cell theory and mitosis, and waves.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Through Wilson Fundations, 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 *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus.* 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.

MUSIC

Music classes convene weekly in TK/K-5 and are integrated with the General Studies, Jewish Studies and Hebrew curriculum. Wornick has introduced a sequenced system designed to introduce and build on basic musical skills while sparking passion, curiosity and creativity. TK/Kindergartners are introduced to foundational concepts such as beat, rhythm, pitch, instrumentation and dance. In 1st-3rd Grades, students learn to differentiate between musical style and period and are introduced to notation through scales and rhythm patterns and play a range of percussion instruments including the handbells. Fourth and Fifth Grade students put their musical skills into practice by picking up an instrument and applying what they have learned about notes, rhythm, style, and expression. In middle school, a variety of music electives are taught throughout the year that explore music beyond instruments and provide an introduction to musical leadership and forming various bands and ensembles.

SOCIAL STUDIES

PRIMARY GRADES TK-2	ELEMENTARY GRADES 3-5	MIDDLE SCHOOL 6-8
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.	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.	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.

HEBREW

Following the American Council on teaching foreign languages, our Hebrew classes ensure that our youngest students have daily exposure to Hebrew. From the start, children are immersed in Hebrew. Students acquired the Hebrew language through a variety of engaging approaches that integrate games, movement, music, and art. 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 Haverim program that focuses on all language skills learned in accordance with the curriculum in Israel.	This program develops students' Hebrew language skills by treating Hebrew as a living language. Through age-appropriate stories, games, drama, music, and art, students engage with topics and themes that connect to their daily lives and personal interests. Students with advanced or native level Hebrew participate in a special track, using the Olamot curriculum, which is aligned with the standards and learning objectives taught in Israel for developing all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.	In middle school, students expand their Hebrew vocabulary and deepen their mastery of all four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students follow the Beshvil Halvrit program using Volumes 1–2, while advanced or native students use Volumes 3–4. Learning takes place through a variety of articles, authentic texts, and dialogues, giving students a real glimpse into life in Israel. Students who have been at Wornick since the elementary grades have developed a strong foundation in all four skills. For new students joining Wornick, we offer a special beginner program called Ulpan-Or, which introduces basic Hebrew conversation and literacy skills. The goal of this program is to help students transition smoothly into the regular Hebrew classes.

JEWISH STUDIES

Students begin their exploration of Judaism by learning about Jewish symbols and holidays. The next layer is to begin learning about the different figures of the TaNaKH (Hebrew Bible) and the lives of those figures. As their knowledge grows, students begin to explore their own personal connections to the figures in the texts. Beginning in TK/K, students also begin to develop a connection with the land of Israel, learning about places from the TaNaKH and what they look like today.	The core texts and figures of the TaNaKH are examined more closely through the original Biblical Hebrew as students begin to analyze dilemmas and alternative outcomes, and deepen their personal connections to the text. They continue exploring their connections to Israel through the study of history and culture. In 5th grade, students take on the challenge of ritual leadership by learning how to chant from the Torah scroll and lead Tefillah.	In middle school Jewish Studies, students explore TaNaKH along with Rabbinic and medieval commentary, as they deepen their interpretive and meaning-making skills. Students delve in Jewish history, from the time of the First Temple to modern times, exploring growth of denominations and other innovations in the Jewish community. Their Jewish learning culminates with a two-week Israel trip, a journey of a lifetime that brings together all the learning of their time here in order to explore their Jewish identity in a deeply meaningful way.

ART & PELEH

Art in the lower grades emphasizes art appreciation and technique through weekly work with an art specialist, as well integration with other subjects. Arts electives are available in middle school and vary year to year, but can include: Art, Fiber Arts, Photography, Improv, and Yearbook. Wornick students are exposed to a history, color theory, and elements of art, in conjunction with the time and studio space for personal exploration and discovery. The goal is to open up the entire umbrella topic of Art as a playground and platform for greater communication and expression, and hopefully introduce language and tools that can help provide joy and even improved health throughout their lives. Areas of focus include: confidence, mark making, upcycled materials, partnership, history, cultural significance, vocabulary, deep examination, and hidden perspectives.

Wornick's Makerspace is called the Peleh Lab (peleh means wonder or miracle in Hebrew). This is a dynamic and creative space where design, creation, building, and technology come alive. Skills include arts production, programming and coding, digital citizenship, and integrated design thinking with topical projects. Students have access to ipads, chromebooks, 3-D printers, cricut machine, robots, VR technology, as well as traditional tools appropriate for their learning project. Middle School students take electives that can include digital citizenship, coding, design challenge, robotics, video making, and more.