WOODLAND SCHOOL | PORTOLA VALLEY



PRESCHOOL THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE



WELCOME TO WOODLAND!

We are a small school with a big heart. Our mission is to develop collaborative, creative, and confident learners with the strength of voice to follow their hearts and make a difference.



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to Woodland! We are a small school with a big heart where personal relationships between students, faculty, staff, and parents are paramount. From our youngest learners through eighth grade, each child is seen, heard, and valued by our community who knows them well. We pride ourselves on being a school for the whole family and are fortunate that **parents play an integral role in a wide range of community activities**. Families find myriad ways to support one another and the school during their time at Woodland.

Woodland specializes in education that empowers students by nurturing each child's intellect and character. We believe students reach their potential when they are inspired, and accomplish this through rich content and student-driven projects that allow children to be active, engaged learners.

Our spacious and serene campus is situated on 10.5 acres of land that allows children the room to breathe, space to play, and freedom to explore the environment around them. We understand how this benefits their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth and leverage opportunities to hold lessons outside and explore our outdoor setting throughout the curriculum.

I invite you to visit our website to learn more about our educational program, current events, and the community as a whole. We look forward to welcoming you on campus soon.

Warmly,

Jennifer M. Warren

Jennifer Warren Ed.D.
Head of School

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.

CORE VALUES

- RESPECT
- EQUITY
- RESILIENCE
- CURIOSITY
- INTEGRITY
- STEWARDSHIP

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




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PORTOLA VALLEY

WOODLAND AT A GLANCE

GRADES:

Preschool through eighth

DIVISIONS OF THE SCHOOL:

Early Childhood Education
- Preschool, Pre-kindergarten

Lower School
- Kindergarten through 4th grade

Middle School
- 5th through 8th grade

ENROLLMENT: 325

STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO: 9:1

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 15

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES: 30

ATHLETIC TEAMS: 10

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT CLASSES: 40+

EXTENDED DAY: 7:30am-6:00pm

CAMPUS: 10.5 acres




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STATEMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Woodland, learning is joyful. Teachers and students alike take pleasure in the productive struggle of learning in an environment that is inclusive and safe enough for risk-taking, and diverse and varied enough to provide ample challenge for all.

Through authentic experiences and inquiry, Woodland students deepen their understanding of the world and connect to issues facing themselves and others. They are engaged socially and collaboratively in this process, drawing on one another's perspectives to enrich their own and others' growth. Woodland teachers nurture and support students by thoughtfully designing opportunities that develop independent, lifelong learners prepared to be the stewards of tomorrow.






miniOne



DEVELOPING CONFIDENT LEARNERS

At Woodland, emotions matter. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is at the center of everything we do and is embedded in all spaces.

Our students develop strong self and social awareness, relationship skills, and self-management strategies.

Our proactive instruction builds resilience, supports students in being their best selves, and equips them for the many experiences, relationships, and emotions they will encounter in life.


SEL
Math
F G H I J

STRENGTHENING STUDENT VOICES

Woodland is committed to being the school where student voice and agency prosper. Students use their voices to empower them as students today and as leaders for tomorrow.

Having a strong, confident, and supportive voice is a transformational skill in a rapidly changing world. Voice is much more than public speaking. It's the ability to understand oneself, to allow space for others, to speak during a conflict, to deepen a conversation, to be part of civil discourse, and to take action when justice calls for it. It's intrinsically related to Woodland's commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice, to the school's Social Emotional Learning program, and to our inquiry-based approach to learning.




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DEIJ STATEMENT

Woodland strives to be an inclusive, culturally diverse community rooted in kindness.

We believe that students learn best when our school recognizes multiple perspectives and provides a nurturing environment where all are supported and feel a sense of belonging. Our core values guide us to open our hearts and minds to embrace the differences in one another with empathy, humility, and respect. With these principles, Woodland prepares students to be compassionate stewards who care for others, thrive in a complex world, and shape a more equitable future.

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

We believe that all students bring natural gifts to the learning space.

Woodland supports students with a variety of academic, social, and emotional needs. Our children benefit from frequent collaboration between parents, learning specialists, content area teachers, and the students themselves. Our team approach allows for fluid communication and transparency around strengths, areas for growth, and classroom-based accommodations needed to ensure a successful school experience.




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GRADE LEVELS



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

PRESCHOOL AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN

+ Mixed age classrooms, ages 3-5
+ Emergent, project-based approach to learning
+ Emphasis on building independence and self-help skills



LOWER SCHOOL:

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 4TH GRADE

+ Build agency and deep understanding of academic program
+ Development of voice: advocating for oneself, connecting with others, sharing with community
+ Building self-awareness, executive function skills, and increasing independence in diverse learning spaces



MIDDLE SCHOOL:

5TH THROUGH 8TH GRADE

All of the above plus:

+ Outdoor Education for all students
+ Advisory Program focused on building social-emotional competencies
+ Girls Mentorship Program
+ Advanced electives in visual and performing arts, athletics, engineering, science, math, languages, and more
+ Leveled math courses
+ Interscholastic athletics


BIOLOGY
TAHOE



ATHLETICS

Woodland participates in the West Bay Athletic League providing after-school athletic competition with peer independent schools.

Woodland Wildcats have an opportunity to participate in a variety of sports, which take place over four seasons during the academic school year. Any student that wishes to participate on a team is welcome to do so.



HOUSE SYSTEM

Our cross-grade House system fosters deep connections with adults and students alike.

All students in kindergarten through eighth grade join faculty and staff in one of four houses — Cypress, Maple, Oak and Pine. Woodland's House system promotes long lasting relationships and leadership throughout our school community.

The Early Childhood team cultivates age appropriate activities for our youngest learners to participate as Saplings. Early Childhood students join one of the four houses once they enter Kindergarten.





CREATING A BETTER WORLD, TOGETHER



MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTDOOR EDUCATION

We believe Outdoor Education experiences are valuable because of the community they form, the increased connections between students and adults, and the reinforcement of our school culture.

All students in fifth through eighth grade participate in authentic learning experiences connected to nature. During four-day, three-night trips, students are immersed in the outdoors with a critical eye toward environmental science. They are challenged to develop their independence, teamwork, problem solving, and resilience as they engage in a wide range of activities in some of the most beautiful areas of California. The relationships formed with peers and adults are an invaluable part of the Woodland experience.



BEYOND WOODLAND



Woodland has a strong Secondary School Counseling team that partners with families in selecting — and applying to — best-fit high schools for each individual student.

Woodland School graduates attend a variety of public, private, and independent schools across the Bay Area. Approximately 75% of our students choose private or independent schools. After graduating from their respective high schools, our alumni attend a variety of colleges and universities across the United States.

86%

of our students attend their 1st or 2nd choice high school.



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