

WESTRIDGE SCHOOL



*Catalogue of Courses*²⁰¹⁸⁻²⁰¹⁹

Lower School GRADES FOUR, FIVE, AND SIX

Comprised of approximately 100 girls in grades four through six, the Westridge Lower School offers a curriculum that encourages independence, self-discipline and an enthusiasm for learning within a classroom environment. All grades emphasize the development of fundamental skills in the academic subjects and the application of these skills in creative activities and group projects. In addition to immersion in academics, girls receive formal instruction in health and wellness and may continue their studies during the After-School program.

An integrated language arts program focuses on a variety of literary forms. It is organized thematically, often connecting the literature units with the social studies or science units. There is significant emphasis on the development of expository and creative writing, in addition to instruction in spelling, grammar, and vocabulary.

Mathematics instruction involves a variety of learning experiences designed to balance the acquisition of basic concepts, reasoning and thinking skills, and problem-solving strategies with computational skills, calculator usage, and estimation. In science, there is an emphasis on cooperative group work and hands-on activities in the areas of physical science, life science, and earth science. In social studies, girls study California history in 4th Grade, the Western Hemisphere in 5th Grade, and ancient civilizations in 6th Grade. Formal computer instruction is offered in 4th Grade. Computer instruction continues in 5th and 6th Grades as technology is integrated throughout the curriculum.

The performing arts program emphasizes choral music in all three grades, adding string instruments and participation in Lower School Strings in 5th and 6th Grades. Beginning in 5th Grade, Lower School students study Spanish. The students are immersed in a language-rich environment that encourages speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Art classes in drawing, painting, and mixed media are featured in all three grades and a semester of ceramics is added in 6th Grade. The physical education program is designed to develop basic tracking skills, motor skills, hand-eye and foot-eye coordination, as well as to introduce students to the fundamentals of traditional sports, cooperative games and activities while emphasizing the importance of health and cardiorespiratory fitness.