



Orion (K-5)

Open Alternative Parent Participation School without neighborhood boundaries

Principal: Cathy Okubo
2007-08 Enrollment: 185



Overview

Orion School offers a nurturing, small learning environment where mutually respectful relationships with adults and peers are considered fundamental for early intellectual development and personal growth. A variety of learning processes are emphasized, as well as focus on the aspects of the "whole child", to meet the individual learning needs of students and to provide them with essential skills to become life long learners.

FEATURES

- To create an emotionally and physically safe environment where children are the most important people, the focus is on meeting the needs of the "whole child" -the child's cognitive, social, emotional and physical needs.
- Social responsibility and problem solving skills are developed through conflict resolution training and the class meeting forum.
- Technology skills are integrated into the classroom curriculum. Orion School does not have a traditional computer lab. Each classroom offers multiple computers for students to have daily access.
- Community and the active, cooperative participation of all individual families is the lifeblood of our open alternative school program. At Orion, teachers, administrators, parents and other staff share the responsibility for each child's success. Parents bring rich resources to the program which can't be provided by the professional staff. In addition, family involvement provides quality learning experiences and enrichment activities that encourage our children to experience high levels of self-esteem, cooperative problem solving, and respect for each other.
- Sharing of experiences, ideas and skills, opportunities for cross-age interactions and relationships are valued. Students have common learning experiences such as the multi-cultural studies unit which builds cultural understanding.
- Instruction at Orion offers individualized, large and small group work, interdisciplinary approach, balance of a basic skills and exploration of ideas and thinking skills.
- Through the process of goal setting, self-evaluation, and student facilitated conferences students learn to assume responsibility for their own learning.
- Assessment of students is based on the content of individual portfolios, along with District and state

normative reports. Each student is assessed three times per year with a fall and spring parent teacher conference. Students conduct the second conference.

FIELD TRIPS

Each year student experience a variety of field trips. Each age group looks forward to a special trip just for them. The emphasis of each trip is based on activities that support and expand their grade level education. Examples of a few of the field trips are:

- Kindergarten and first grade students visit local farms
- Second and third grade students travel to Elkus Ranch.
- Fourth grade students learn about California History and take a 3 day field trip to the Gold Country, and
- Fifth grade learns about the environment at outdoor education.

PARENT PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

•Prior to enrollment, families are required to visit and carefully consider whether the program meets their child's needs and whether or not they can meet the parent participation commitment. At Orion significant parent involvement commitments is required for continued enrollment.

- If you have one child enrolled at Orion a total of 8 hours per month or 72 hours for the school year of parent participation is required.
- Two or more children enrolled at Orion requires 12 hours per month or 108 hours per school year of parent participation.
- Parents participate by: •helping in the classroom •driving on field trips • lunch time yard duty • participating on whole school committees • and much more!!

To make a visitation appointment please call the Orion School Office at 650-363-0611.

- Families who have not visited, are not placed in the school lottery for enrollment at Orion.