

Overview of Programs at Hidden Hills 2008-09

I. ACADEMIC SUPPORT / ENRICHMENT

Readers and Writers Workshop

All students take part in "Readers and Writers Workshop" in their classrooms. The workshop approach to reading and writing is based on the highly successful "New York Writing Project" from Teachers College. Students receive individualized instruction as they read and write at their level and have regular one-on-one conferences on what they are reading and writing.

Science Lab

All students in grades 1-5 have science lab with a science specialist. They learn science concepts through engaging hands-on experiments. The science lab helps our students gain deep knowledge of science standards taught in the classroom.

Technology

All students learn about technology in the computer lab, which we call "The Nest." They are exposed to various software programs and websites that enhance learning in the academic subjects. They also use word processing and multimedia presentation software to publish their writing and classroom projects. Students in grades 1-5 have regularly scheduled lessons with our technology specialists.

Physical Education

All students K-5 have weekly physical education with a PE specialist. They learn about improving physical fitness and participate in organized sports and games.

Music (whole class)

All students K-5 have regularly scheduled music times. Students in grades K-2 learn elementary music theories as well as vocal and instrumental music. Students in grade 3 learn to play recorders, and learn folk music and dancing in grades 4-5.

Instrumental Music (elective)

Students in grades 4-5 are invited to participate in an instrumental music program. They may select one of the following instruments: violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, or trombone.

Chorus

Students in grades 3-5 may participate in chorus, which meets weekly before school. They learn proper singing techniques and prepare for performances throughout the year at our school and at community events.

Drama Club

Fifth-grade students are invited to join drama club, which meets on weekly after school. Students play drama games, create and rehearse skits for performances and generally learn to be confident in front of an audience.

After School Enrichment

The City of San Ramon offers various after school classes at Hidden Hills throughout the school year. To learn more or see the schedule of classes, go to: www.ci.sanramon.ca.us/parks

II. CATEGORICAL /SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

English Language Development (ELD)

Students identified as English Learner (EL) receive ELD instruction through their classroom teacher. Through GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design) units, students learn English and other content areas in highly engaging and easily comprehensible ways. Students who need additional support also receive individualized or small group instruction with their teacher and/or paraeducator.

Special Education

For students with an IEP (Individualized Education Plan), services such as Resource support, speech and language, occupational therapy, and adaptive physical education are provided.

GATE (Gifted and Talented Education)

Students in grades 3-5 identified as GATE are placed in GATE cluster classes. In the classroom, they do differentiated work and are invited to take part in before and after school GATE enrichment classes.

Intervention

The before and after school intervention program is designed to provide additional support for students who need extra practice in reading/language arts and/or math. We also use Orton-Gillingham based Barton Spelling and Reading for one-on-one tutoring with our younger students.

Rainbow Room

The Rainbow Room is designed to benefit students develop self-esteem, build stronger social skills, and encourage a positive school attitude. Students may meet as a small group or individually with a trained paraeducator.

Counseling

A trained School Psychologist Intern is available for students who would benefit from individual or small group counseling.

Second Step

All classes learn qualities of good character and life skills through the "Second Step" program. Students participate in specific lessons to develop empathy and problem-solving strategies when social/emotional challenges arise.

Character Counts!

A police officer from San Ramon Police Department comes to our school to teach lessons about character development. Character Counts! focuses on the

following six pillars of good character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

II. STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Council

Student Council is composed of students elected by their peers to run a student government program. They select and coordinate school spirit days as well as community service projects. They also provide input to school plans. Our meetings are from 3:00 – 4:00 on the following days this year:

1/5 and 1/12
2/2 and 2/23
3/2 and 3/23 and 3/30
4/20
5/4 and 5/11
6/1 and 6/8

Student Safety Valets

A select group of 4th and 5th grade students are trained to assist other students to get in and out of cars safely during arrival and dismissal times by the drop-off/pick-up area and bike rack areas. Their help makes the process flow smoothly and quickly.

O Ambassador's Club

Hidden Hills has been given an unprecedented opportunity to take part in the world's most innovative global change program for youth. O Ambassador's is a joint project of Oprah's Angel Network and Kids Can Free The Children. The O Ambassadors program inspires young people to become active and compassionate global citizens by connecting youth in N. America with disadvantaged children in the developing world, thus building bridges of understanding and encouraging lifelong community service.

Throughout the year, our Student Council members will be developing projects that focus on tackling poverty as well as providing education, health care, and sustainable development - the four themes of the O Ambassadors program, which are well aligned with the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. Our O Ambassadors club's role is to raise awareness and funds for development projects in Eastern Asia.

In our first activity, students in grades 1-5 participated in creating our "Chain of Hope" by completing the sentence, "I can help others in need by_____". Student Council members linked the 700+ paper strips together and draped the chain along the walls in the MPR. Every 3rd chain is black symbolizing the fact that 1 in 3 children live on less than \$2 a day.

To learn more about the O Ambassadors Program please go to their website at: <http://www.oambassadors.org/>, or contact Anne Laird at lairdsmd@yahoo.com