

RANCHO VISTA SCHOOL

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS 2017-18

Practice/Program	Description
Integrated, Thematic Units Aligned with Common Core State Standards	Rancho Vista teachers have worked collaboratively to create thematic instructional units aligned to the new Common Core State Standards. These units are cross-curricular, include fiction, non-fiction, and media, and require students to think critically and cite evidence to support their thinking.
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)	Rancho Vista's STEM focus includes a science lab, an engineering/robotics program (Project Lead the Way), inquiry-based FOSS science kits, the edible learning garden, extended outdoor science experiences in 4 th and 5 th grade, partnerships with local nature conservatories, and a robust science annual fair. Technology is used in every classroom to enhance teaching and learning and there is a 1:1 iPad program in 4 th and 5 th grade.
"Daily 5" Approach to Balanced Literacy Learning	The Daily 5 is a framework for structuring literacy time so students develop lifelong habits of reading, writing, and working independently. Students select from five authentic reading and writing choices while the teacher meets individual needs through small group instruction and one-on-one conferring. The Daily 5 are: Read to Self, Work on Writing, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, and Word Work (Vocabulary).
Cognitively Guided Math Instruction (CGI)	CGI teachers experience intensive professional development in how children develop mathematical understandings. Through rigorous exercises and problem solving, CGI students are empowered to explain their reasoning, justify their solution strategies, and build deep mathematical thinking.
Musical, Visual, and Performing Arts	Music classes are provided to all students at Rancho Vista through funding from PEF. A partnership with the Palos Verdes Arts Center provides a visual arts program (Art At Your Fingertips). Similarly, a partnership with the Norris theater provides a performing arts program that culminates with musical theater performances.
Reading Counts! (RC), RAZ Kids, Reflex Math, Typing.com	RC is a web-based reading incentive program. After reading books, students can take quizzes on RC to earn points and rewards at school assemblies. RAZ Kids is a web-based reading program that offers students leveled fiction and non-fiction books and comprehension quizzes. Reflex Math is a web-based math program that helps students master math facts using a highly engaging, game-based format. Typing.com is a web-based typing program that teaches students form and fluency.
Roadrunner Reading Clinic	Rancho Vista provides differentiated reading instruction during the instructional day for all students. The Roadrunner Reading Clinic provides small group, research-based, guided reading instruction to struggling readers in order to get them back on track towards reading and comprehending independently.
Special Education	Rancho Vista hosts three exceptional special day classes for students with moderate and severe needs. An on-site SLP, OT, APE, and behavior team support both students with IEPs and those demonstrating needs in specific areas. The focus of the program is on inclusion and maximizing student potential.
Roadrunner Racer's Club (RRC)	The RRC is a running club that meets before school to encourage fitness and build community. Student mileage is tracked electronically using a barcode scanner. Awards are given when students reach important milestones such as 10K, Half Marathon, and Marathon.