



VERITAS



Santa Catalina
Lower and Middle School

VERITAS.

It's our motto and our *modus operandi*. We seek truth and self-knowledge at every turn.

Open. Honest.
Joyful. Genuine.
True.

**That's what learning looks like at
Santa Catalina Lower & Middle School.**

Everything we do is in pursuit of what's real and what's meaningful. This is a welcoming environment. For exploring and making mistakes. For learning about community. And for fostering in every child an infinite capacity for deep understanding.



Truth:
It starts with
character
building.



Catalina is so many things.

A co-ed, PreK-8 day school on a spacious campus overlooking the Monterey Peninsula. An open, inclusive Catholic setting. A rigorous educational environment brimming with neuron-firing learning.

Above all, Catalina is a caring community dedicated to nurturing every aspect of every child – social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual.



Wayfinding for self-discovery.

Compass, a multi-grade-level character education program, promotes leadership opportunities, social connections, and service projects. Students are sorted into houses where eighth-graders serve as leaders, guiding younger students on journeys of self-discovery and spiritual development.



Problem? No problem.

From learning how to code in first grade to tackling plastic pollution in sixth, Santa Catalina students learn to openly embrace problems. And become masterful at finding solutions.



Responsibility for self and others.

As early as PreK, students learn to lead by example and see themselves as effective change makers. Each classroom participates in a Project of Passion and students regularly organize coat and food drives as well as partner with local and international aid organizations.



Our spirituality informs who we are as a school.

In Religion classes, students are taught the values of kindness and compassion and loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. This simple truth is reinforced when we come together as a school community each month to celebrate Mass in our Rosary Chapel.

“Friends are here for you when you don’t understand something. They promote good things. If someone doesn’t understand something, you want to help them.”

- Middle School Student

Makerspace magic. Marble runs and Rube Goldberg contraptions. Catapults and moving mobiles. Animated shorts and 3D-printed face shields. These are just some of the things Catalina students have imagined, planned, and created in one of our two makerspaces.



Truth: Learning is an action verb.

Catalina students are fully, actively engaged in all they do. Whether it's plotting the life cycle of a painted lady butterfly, examining archetypes in contemporary literature, or puzzling out a complex math problem, our students are fearless and adventurous learners.

Of course, our teachers play a part in that as well. They're passionately committed educators with years of experience. Endless reserves of energy. And an inspired approach to unlocking a love of learning.

Programs that tap into potential

The Orton-Gillingham Approach to Literacy.

PreK through first-grade students learn to read, write, and spell through this powerful, multi-sensory teaching tool.

Math that meets students where they are.

Based on placement testing, Leveled Math ensures just the right balance of challenge and success. The Singapore Math method helps students master complicated concepts through an intentional progression of concrete, pictorial, and abstract methods.

Hands-on science learning. Programs like the Full Option Science System and Cambridge Physics Outlet allow for dynamic, inquiry-based study of everything from biology to earth science to engineering.

Spanish starts in fourth. ¿Como se dice "true learning" *en Español*? Just ask our fourth-graders. They engage with the language daily through conversation, games, and cultural literacy.



Finding balance. Middle School advisory meetings, held three times a week, center around intentional discussions to promote time management and emotional well-being.

“Our students are learning to code in first grade. Photoshop is taught in third grade and Adobe Illustrator in fourth. Absolutely everyone uses technology in the classroom.”

- Lower School Teacher



Truth: Exploring leads to understanding.

To learn is to do – and do, and do. Field trips are a fact of life here, from visits to local organizations to hiking historic California Gold Rush sites to overnight trips in grades four through eight. (An always-popular Middle School trip is traveling to D.C. to meet members of Congress.)

Equally important? Creating immersive academic experiences that make the past (and future) feel like the present.

And, of course, real-time problem solving using a host of high-tech, high-touch tools. At Catalina, you'll find our fifth-graders planning a trip to Mars. Sixth-graders building underwater robots. And seventh-graders navigating the political intrigue of ancient Rome.

WHAT DID YOU DO AT SCHOOL TODAY?

- Observed live earthworms
- Designed brochures for local businesses
- Dissected a squid
- Plotted out the solar system on foot
- Incubated beetle eggs
- Mummified a chicken
- Created a “guess the constellation” computer game
- Built a solar oven
- Dropped an egg from a building
- Coded video games
- Acted out lessons from an 1800s California classroom
- Learned fractions by sharing pizza
- Wrote, illustrated, and published a book
- Created 3D models of deep-sea creatures
- Made animations in Adobe Spark



Truth:
Art sparks
breakthroughs.



Three Glee Clubs. Primary, intermediate, and middle – and all are a big hit whenever they make an appearance.



And creativity permeates every corner of this campus.

The arts curriculum at Catalina is organized around three themes: creating art, looking at art, and living with art. Through painting, sculpture, printing, music, performing arts and so much more, students develop the tools for creative expression and for learning to recognize and appreciate beauty in the world.

The arts enhance critical thinking. Encourage a deeper connection to the human experience. And help students build all-important self-confidence – as speakers, creators, and performers.



Middle School Art Electives. In addition to regular art classes, students can choose from electives like pop art and photography.



Performance opportunities. On average there are five on-campus performances throughout the year, as well as invitations to perform in the community. On-campus facilities include the 150-seat Mary L. Johnson Recital Hall and the 500-seat Sister Carlotta Performing Arts Center.

In-house art museum. Our rotating Art Salon features more than 700 pieces of original artwork by Catalina students.

Private music lessons. It's all part of the school day. Private vocal and instrument lessons are available for grades one through eight.

Instruments for all! More than 40 Orff instruments are available for student use.



Truth: Movement builds skills.



Every day at Catalina is a chance to chase a ball or swing a racket or grab a rebound. On the surface it may look like play, but our approach to physical education strengthens muscles and builds crucial motor skills. It also boosts confidence, instills sportsmanship, and promotes self-discipline.

Middle School students also have the opportunity to compete on seven interscholastic sports teams. Practices are built into the school day and games take place after school. Best of all? Everyone gets a chance to play.



Swimming is big at Catalina. Making swimming part of the P.E. curriculum means students have more opportunities to develop specific strokes, build endurance, improve diving techniques, and practice water safety – all in our competition-size pool.



So many ways to move

- Climb*
- Slide*
- Ride*
- Run*
- Jump*
- Dig*
- Skip*
- Gallop*
- Catch*
- Throw*
- Roll*
- Balance*
- Bounce*



It's game time.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Swimming | Dancing |
| Basketball | Flag Football |
| Golf | Gaga Pit |
| Soccer | Kickball |
| Volleyball | Nine Square in the Air |
| Tennis | Pickleball |
| Track and Field | Ultimate Frisbee |

Spaces and places. The athletic complex includes a gymnasium with basketball and volleyball courts, six outdoor tennis courts, an all-weather running track, a playing field, and an aquatic center.



We'd love to
hear from you.
Truly.

Learn

Get started at santacatalina.org.

Connect

Call 831.655.9351 or email us at lmsadmission@santacatalina.org.

Apply

Begin that process at
santacatalina.org/lmsadmission.



Santa Catalina
Lower and Middle School

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APPROVAL FORM

Date: 9.21.20

Client: Santa Catalina School

Project: LMS Signature Print

Job#: 20-SCS-0008



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Date: 9.21.20

Client: Santa Catalina School

Project: LMS Signature Print

Job#: 20-SCS-0008



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