

**Welcome to the 2024
Tice Creek
Parent Information Night!**



TICE CREEK SCHOOL

- Only **Opt-In** program in the Walnut Creek School District (WCSD)
 - PBL
 - K-8
- Core Curriculum same as at all other WCSD schools
 - **ELA=RWW**
 - **Science=StemScopes/Amplify**
 - **Math=Bridges/Big Ideas**
 - **SS= InquireED/TCI**
- Social Emotional Learning
 - **Morning Meeting and Advisory**

Enrollment and Intra District Transfer

- Submit an Intra-District Transfer Request during the Open Enrollment Window January 1-February 16: Click [here](#)
 - Be enrolled at your homeschool in WCSD for one year (except Kinder)
 - Space availability
 - Administrative placements
 - Current Siblings
 - Special Education students, shall not be approved until Special Services verifies space and authorizes a transfer
- Lottery for 2025-2026 school year held at District Office on February 21.



TICE
CREEK

Design Thinking



ASK

- Understand purpose and audience
- Define boundaries
- Specific criteria
- Describe constraints
- Develop empathy for audience



EXPLORE

- Research information
- Generate questions
- Develop skills



IMAGINE

- Brainstorm ideas
- Design solutions
- Create proposal
- What if? How? Why?



CREATE

- Gather materials
- Build a model/prototype
- Use research

REDESIGN

- Modify design
- Tinker
- Implement feedback

EVALUATE

- Experiment
- Evaluate solutions vs. criteria & constraints

REFLECT

- Review feedback
- Review design & problem
- Consider changes
- Determine success



GO PUBLIC

- Present ideas
- Share problem & solution
- Celebrate!

Deeper Learning, PBL and the 6 C's

- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Citizenship
- Character

Why a K-8 School?

- **Community**
 - Promotes strong relationships
- **Increased Parent Involvement**
- **Opportunities to mentor**
- **Research shows short term academic gains**
- **Leadership Opportunities**
 - Smaller environment
 - “Top Dog” experience



Tice Creek

- Opt-In K-8 School
 - 450 students/164 in grades 6-8
- Same Core Curriculum as at WCI
- Advisory using Second Step Curriculum 4x/week
- Elective Wheel in grades 6-8
- Block Schedule 4X/week
- 1:1 Chromebooks
- Project Based Learning
- Innovation Center/STEM
- Coyote Den (aka Wellness Center)
- Counselors
- Athletics

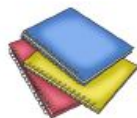
WCI

- 6-8th Grades
 - 950 students
- Same Core Curriculum as Tice Creek
- Advisory using Second Step Curriculum 1x/week
- Academic Prep 1x/week
- Elective Wheel 6th grade
- 2 Periods of Electives (7-8th grades)
- Block Schedule 2x/week
- 1:1 Chromebooks
- Wellness Center
- Counselors
- Athletics

Executive Functioning Skills



Planning is the ability to figure out how to accomplish our goals.



Organization is the ability to develop and maintain a system that keeps materials and plans orderly.

Time Management

is having an accurate understanding of how long tasks will take and using time wisely and effectively to accomplish tasks.



Task Initiation is the ability to independently start tasks when needed. It is the process that allows you to just begin something even when you don't really want to.



Working Memory is the mental processes that allow us to hold information in our minds while working with it.



Metacognition is being aware of what you know and using that information to help you learn.

Self-Control is the ability to regulate yourself, including your thoughts, actions, and emotions.



Attention is being able to focus on a person or task for a period of time and shifting that attention when needed.



Perseverance is the ability to stick with a task and not give up, even when it becomes challenging.



Flexibility is the ability to adapt to new situations and deal with change.

How Do We Help Develop and Practice These Skills?

1) Morning Meeting (K-5) and Advisory Time (6-8)

- Explicitly teach skills
 - Ask lots of questions from multiple perspectives with a chance for reflection

2) Work together to create schedules, homework areas, and organizational systems.

3) Patience is key. Mistakes need to be OKAY



Class Structure

- Two classes in each grade level
- Taps into strengths and passions
- Collaboration across grade levels



Role of Teachers



- Designer
- Facilitator
- Mentor
- Coach

Role of Students



- Designer
- Researcher
- Planner
- Implementer
- Evaluator



Tice Creek Experience

- Positive classroom culture
- Working through adversity
- Authentic challenges, projects and learning experiences
 - Feedback

[Collaboration Rubric](#) K-1

[Collaboration Rubric](#) 6-8

[Audience Feedback](#) 6-8

[Audience Feedback](#) 3-5



Traditional Learning vs. Project-Based

Traditional Learning

Told what we
need to know

Understand or
memorize

Problem assigned
to show how to
use knowledge

Project-Based Learning

Authentic,
open-ended
problem

Identify what
we know and
need to know

Learn & apply
knowledge to
solve problem

Kindergarten Driving Question:

How can we choose a math app, and persuade our school to get it for us?



Students came up with what the app would need to teach them, as well as a rating system—Then presented their findings

Kindergarten Driving Question:

How can we create a product that entertains us indoors?



Design thinking

Using tools for reflection

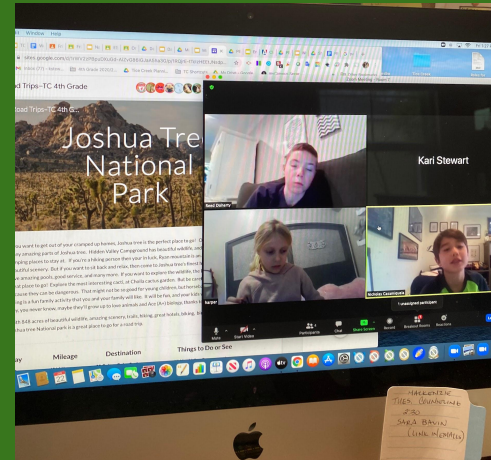
Third Grade Driving Question:

How can we improve the habitats of our native wildlife at Tice Creek?



Fourth Grade Driving Question (In Remote):

How can we create an engaging digital guide for families to explore California's diverse landscapes and historical places of interest?

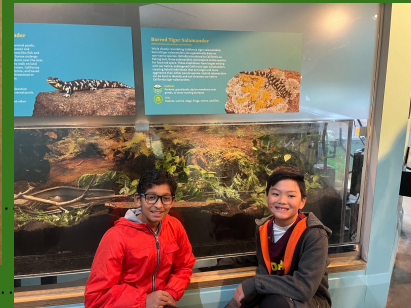
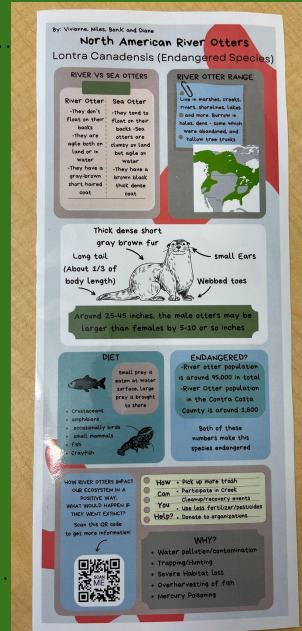
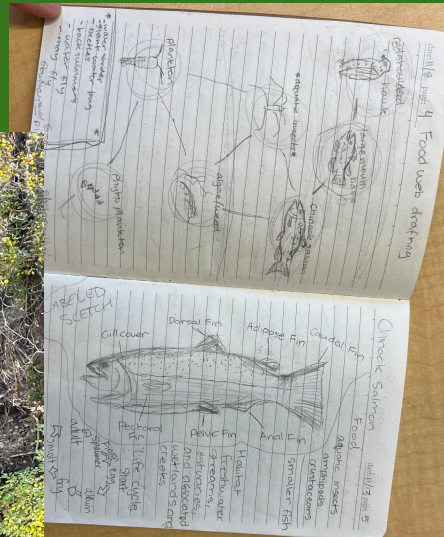


Product

“Revival of the California Road Trip”

Fifth Grade Driving Question:

How might we, as ecologists, support the sustainability of our local creeks' ecosystem?



Grades 6-8 Driving Question



- Keeping in mind a growing world population, how can we encourage people to adopt more sustainable food practices?
- How can we use the legislative process to enact change in our community?
- What have been the effects of systemic racism in America?
- In what ways do our identities intersect to create a rich tapestry of collective identity in our school and society?

