



Theme



Day in the Life of the Condors & Ospreys

During class time, Condors and Ospreys will engage with materials and topics in a variety of ways including short research projects, group work and individual work, as well as hands-on activities such as simulations, science lab, and engineering projects.

Students will create mini-products throughout the semester and then create a larger and more in depth project to highlight their learning over the course of the semester for Celebration of Learning. These projects could include an engineering project, a scientific experiment lab report, a mock trial, or a booth at the Sunnyvale farmers market.

Another integral part of our curriculum is the integration of meaningful fieldwork to help deepen and provide context to our themes. Field work trips include Angel Island, the Exploratorium, local historic sites and museums.



Themes & Content: Science

Throughout the duration of the two years in the Condors/Ospreys grade band, students will cover the following science topics:

- Physics of motion and natural laws highlighted in our **In Motion theme**
- Ecosystems, systems thinking & scientific modeling highlighted in our **National Parks theme**
- Physics of sound waves and electromagnetism highlighted in our **Making Waves theme**
- California geology and geography highlighted in our **California Studies theme**

Additionally, students will engage in the following throughout their time with the Condors and Ospreys:

- Scientific practices including experimental design and research
- Engineering and design practices



Themes & Content: Humanities

Throughout the duration of the two years in the Condors/Ospreys grade band, students will cover the following humanities topics:

- Movement of people including the “push” & “pull” factors highlighted in our **In Motion theme**
- Understanding of historical events and their far reaching effects highlighted in our **National Parks theme**
- Media literacy and the importance of free press highlighted in our **Making Waves theme**
- History of the land and people and the changes over time highlighted in our **California Studies theme**

Additionally, students will engage in the following throughout their time with the Condors and Ospreys

- Narrative, informational, and persuasive writing
- Analysis of primary and secondary sources

Essential Skills

Students entering the 5/6 grade band should have the following skills:

For science -

- General understanding of the scientific and engineering processes
- The ability to understand the importance of evidence based science and data collection
- The ability to work with scientific tools

For humanities -

- Basic paragraphing skills
- Keyboarding skills including knowing the home keys
- An understanding of the difference between narrative, informational, and persuasive writing

General -

- Ability to use google suite of apps, such as classroom, doc, and slides

How We Prepare Students

As students prepare to enter the 7/8 gradeband,

- Students are preparing for their transition through gaining a deeper sense of independent work and ownership of their work products.
- Students have engaged deeply with both scientific and engineering design processes from beginning to end, including formulating their own testable questions, determining variables, and data collection, as well as conducting needs assessments and fair tests.
- Students have worked to hone in their writing skills through a focus on craft and understanding the audience. They have gained the skills necessary for close reading and gathering historical evidence.



Navigation

