

VALLEY OAK CHARTER SCHOOL

A Model K-12 Homeschool Program



Valley Oak Charter School
907 El Centro Avenue
Ojai, CA 93023

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VOC Open Time Programming – Spring 2018

- March 15th** **K – 12: Brain Dissection Lab, with Nancy & Staff.** On-campus:
AS FREE; 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. No pre-K siblings. Bring Sack Lunch. Sign
up by March 9th.
- March 22nd** **5th, 7th, 9th Grade Only: California Fitness Testing.** On-campus.
AS
- March 29th**** **K – 12: Arroyo Hondo Preserve: Environmental Awareness**
AS **Program.** VOC: FREE; Non-VOC: \$5. 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. Bring Sack
Lunch. Sign up by Mar. 22.
- April 19th** **Grades 3 – 8th;11: Smarter Balanced Test Preparation.** FREE. On
AS Campus: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. Bring Sack Lunch! Sign up by March
29th.
- April 26th*** **K – 12: REEF: UCSB Marine Science Institute Tour.** FREE. Vans
AS depart 8:45 am; return 1:30 pm. Bring Sack Lunch! NPS (No Pre-K
Siblings). Sign up by April 19th.
- May 2, 3, 4th** **Smarter Balance Testing Week. Grades 3 – 8th;11th**
- May 10th** **Grades 5, 8, 11th: State Science Testing.** On Campus.
K – 4, 6, 7, 9, 10: Libbey Park--Free Play! Free. Vans leave 9:30 am;
return at 12:30 pm. Playground for younger, tennis older. Bring sack
lunch.
- May 17th*** **K – 12: Rancho Camulos: Spanish Days in California.** VOC: FREE;
AS non-VOC: \$5. Vans depart: 9:00 am; return 1:30 pm. NPS (No Pre-K
Siblings). Bring sack lunch. Sign up by May 10th.
- May 24th** **K – 12: MOXI: The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation.**
AS FREE. 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Bring a sack lunch! Sign up by May 17th.
- May 31st*** **K – 12: Social Conflict and Resolution.** FREE. 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.
AS Sign up by May 24th.
- June 6th**** **K – 12: End of the Year Party: Ventura Aquatics Center.** VOC:
AS FREE; Others \$6. Vans depart 10:00 am; return 2:00 pm. Potluck lunch.
Sign up by May 31st

NOTE: When allowed at an Open Time activity, siblings must always be under the supervision of a parent.

NYS = “No younger siblings” than student age group.

* = Off-site Activity (Need signed permission) ** = Water-related activity.

A.S. = Academic Support. A Supervising Teacher will be available on campus from 9 am to 12 pm to help students in grades 7 – 12 with their school work. Other students by arrangement.

For off-campus field trips, please arrive 10 – 15 minutes before departure time. All trips leave promptly at the departure time. Unless otherwise noted, Open Time programming ends at 1 pm. When programs end earlier, students may stay on campus until 1 pm for free play and lunch. VOC staff are not able to provide supervision after 1 pm.



VALLEY OAK CHARTER

WINTER Trimester
2017/2018

	Tuesday 9:30 - 10:45 (K-1 9:30-10:30)	Tuesday 11:15 - 12:30 (K-1 11:15-12:15)	Thursday 9:30 - 10:45 (K-1 9:30-10:30)	Thursday 11:15 - 12:30 (K-1 11:15-12:15)
Grades K/1	JUNIOR SCIENTIST Learn all about science through the eyes of a scientist, through fun, hands on experiments and activities. 114 <i>Jenny</i>	EARTH-KEEPER KIDS Each week we will explore Native American teachings and traditions through music, art, history, and play. 114 <i>Ronne</i>	BRAIN BOOSTERS Get your brain buzzing as we practice thinking and logic skills through interesting thinking games and fun activities. <i>UPSTAIRS</i> <i>Kara</i>	STORYBOOK ARTIST We will find ourselves in the middle of wonderful, classic storybooks through reading, art, and fun activities. 114 <i>Laurie</i>
Grades 2/3	MATH MANIA Let's explore numbers, patterning, create board games, geo-mobiles, story graphing, dominoes, dice, uno, Yahtzee, and more! 115 <i>Nancy</i>	MASTERS AND ME Let's learn from the masters, tackling different art styles and mediums. Each week we will discover the artist in you. 117 <i>Kate</i>	MORE PETITS AMIS FRENCH Through hands-on activities, each week we will dive even deeper with interesting & fun projects while learning French words and culture. 114 <i>Leah</i>	OJAI EXPLORER Learn all about what makes our community unique. Travel to Ojai businesses and explore Ojai's special places. <i>OC</i> <i>Kara</i>
Grades 4/5/6	RECYCLED CRAFTS Make new things from recycled items, like turning jelly jars into snow globes. We'll make holiday crafts as well as new recycled crafts! 116 <i>Christine</i>	SPECIAL PLACES ON THE PLANET Through interesting activities, projects, and discovery, each week we will explore oceans, wetlands, forests, rain forests, and deserts! 115 <i>Nancy</i>	TENNIS Learn how to get playing quickly in a fun environment. Learn the rules and the techniques of the pros. Tennis is a sport you can play your whole life. <i>OC</i> <i>Brice</i>	CHESS & BOARD GAMES Play all kinds of board games. Learn the strategies, the rules, and how to be a good chess player. <i>UPSTAIRS</i> <i>Brice</i>
Grades 7/8	THE ARTIST WITHIN Learning from the masters, tackling different art styles and mediums, each week we will discover the artist in you. 117 <i>Kate</i>	BASKETBALL Learn how to play the fun game of Basketball. Learn the rules, positions, techniques and tricks to get you playing fast. Learn how to be a team player. <i>OS</i> <i>Brice</i>	ADV. ANIMATION AND CARTOONING Continue to learn traditional cartooning, animation, character development, and techniques from a professional cartoonist. 116/ <i>CL</i> <i>Colleen</i>	CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH Each week we will dive in the French language and culture through conversation and role-playing. 117 <i>Leah</i>
Grades 9-12	TENNIS Learn how to get playing quickly in a fun environment. Learn the rules and the techniques of the pros. Tennis is a sport you can play your whole life. <i>OC</i> <i>Brice</i>	PRACTICAL COOKING FEED YOUR FACE! Learn how to survive with your own cooking skills! Leave with great set of recipes and tips. <i>Kitchen</i> <i>Kara</i>	INDEPENDENT STUDY Get the support you need in a supportive learning environment. Test preparation, testing, and problem solving. 115 <i>Nancy</i>	PHYSICAL SCIENCE STEM Explorations - activities that incorporate science, technology engineering & math. Examples include - Wind turbine design & designing faster bikes. 115 <i>Nancy</i>
Multi-Grade Grades 4-12	MULTI-CULTURAL COOKING Explore different cultures around the world through the food they eat! Learn generations-old-traditions as well as simple regional "street-food" dishes. <i>Kitchen</i> <i>Kara</i>	INTRODUCTION TO GUITAR Learn to play through the basic guitar chords quickly. Learn fun, simple songs. You'll be playing popular songs before you know it! 116 <i>Laurie</i>	3D ARCHITECTURE It's a 3-dimensional challenge! We will make detailed, paper mache' models of famous or imagined buildings utilizing architectural & structural details. 117 <i>Robin</i>	PRACTICAL & CREATIVE SEWING We will tackle creative and fun projects that teach skills needed for sewing as well as repairing garments. 116 <i>Robin</i>

*Every grade level student will be guaranteed placement in the class that is selected for their group. (*Grade level Tennis will have a 12 person limit and can go to lottery). Out of grade level requests will be considered in light of space, appropriateness, student ability, and instructor/administrative approval. Preference will be given to students whose grade is closest to the students for whom the class was designed. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns. OC = Off Campus, OS = Outside, CL = Computer Lab

Valley Oak Charter 9-12 WORK RECORD

Student Name: _____ Grade Level: _____ VOC Teacher: _____
 Attendance Wk: Monday, _____, 20____ to Friday, _____, 20____ Due: 1st day at VOC following workweek noted.

The signatures below confirm that the student was engaged in the learning activities listed below for 20+ hours this week.
 Diploma Track students are required to complete a minimum of 15 hrs/wk in diploma track course work.

CHSPE Track students are required to complete a minimum of 10 hrs./wk in Language Arts and Math activities and 1-2 hrs. each in Science and Social Study related activities.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Certificated Supervising Teacher _____ Date: _____
 HQT Specialist: _____ ADA: _____
 Page _____ of _____

1. Check the relevant subject columns for each learning activity. Assign hours per week at the bottom of each subject column, then total hours to the right
2. Under "Evaluation" put a. how student was evaluated (quiz, observation, video, project, interview, report, narrative, etc.) and b. who did the evaluation (parent, teacher name if work in a VOC or other class, employer, etc.). Initials are acceptable.
3. Give the lesson a P (for "pass") if the student demonstrated at least 70% comprehension. **NOTE: Student must complete a minimum 20 hrs. per week.**

LEARNING ACTIVITIES: Please state the following for each activities listed: 1. Skills or Concepts observed 2. Resources (videos, books, classes, discussion, etc.) 3. Methods (silent/oral reading, worksheet, experiment, art project, discussion, listening, performance, etc.)	LANG. ARTS Reading Writing Speaking Listening	MATH Relations Logic Measure Geometry, comput- ation	SCIENCE Observation analysis evaluation questioning recording	SOCIAL STUDIES people geog., hist., economics citizenship	PHYS. ED.	ART/ MUSIC/ Tech- nology	Evaluation a. How? b. Who?	P/NP At least 70%	Check if VOC Class or OT activ- ity
							a. b.		
							a. b.		
							a. b.		
							a. b.		
							a. b.		
							a. b.		
							a. b.		
							a. b.		
							a. b.		
							a. b.		
TOTALS (total of hours in each column)								TOTAL HOURS	

Valley Oak Charter Renewal Petition

Submitted February 3, 2015

Valley Oak Charter was established in 2002 as an outgrowth of an Ojai Unified School District program designed to reach out to homeschooling families living in the Ojai Valley. Homeschool parents make the decision to educate their own children for a variety of reasons, ranging from the parents' personal educational philosophy to the student's social or academic difficulties within a traditional school setting. Without a school like VOC, most homeschool families would continue to educate their children at home, only without the oversight, educational support, and socialization opportunities of the public school system.

For many in the VOC community, homeschooling is the educational choice for their child's entire K-12 academic career. For others, Valley Oak serves as a pathway for some homeschool students to successfully transition back into the traditional school system. Parents who have effectively homeschooled their children for several years will often enroll them at VOC for a year or so as a transition into a District school. Others simply prefer the hybrid program offered at VOC, and benefit from the support given by the school and its community of homeschooling families.

VOC takes seriously its responsibility of supporting homeschool parents in delivering a meaningful, standards-based education to their children. VOC provides books, online curriculum, instructional guidance, State-mandated testing, and a variety of optional educational experiences on campus. It is important to realize, however, that each Valley Oak student is completing their core academics at home, with the parent as primary teacher. Every student follows an individual learning plan that emphasizes the student's own unique needs and abilities rather than the traditional emphasis on grade-level expectations. Credentialed Valley Oak staff work closely with each family to support them in educating their own children at home.

What makes Valley Oak Charter Unique and Special?

Valley Oak Charter (VOC) has several unique or special characteristics that must be considered when evaluating the school's performance as an educational institution.

1. VOC is a homeschool support program; thus, parents are the primary teachers for their own children. Guided by the school's staff of credentialed teachers, parents take responsibility for making day-to-day curriculum and instructional choices. In addition, parents document their student's learning in weekly work records, which they submit to the school's credentialed teachers for review. Each student is assigned to an appropriate Supervising Teacher (ST), based on the student's grade-level and academic goals. The ST advises the parents on curriculum options, materials, and instructional methods, and collaborates in the creation of an annual individual learning

- plan based on state standards as well as the individual needs and interests of the student. In helping parents design their student's learning plan, collecting and evaluating work records and work samples, and recommending curriculum and instructional options, VOC teachers provide an invaluable service to families who have decided to homeschool their children. VOC gives homeschool families a structure, process, and support system that promote successful, standards-based homeschool learning.
2. As stated in the school's founding charter, families at VOC may educate their children without rigid adherence to state grade-level expectancies. While still addressing the standards, students are encouraged to work at a level appropriate to their abilities and interests. Students may focus on language standards relevant to one age level and pursue social studies standards relevant to another. Although VOC students use excellent, standards-based materials and instructional methods, their State test scores, based on results that follow more rigid grade-level standards, may not reflect their actual knowledge and educational achievement at any given time. High School students on the VOC Diploma Track, however, are required to follow state-recommended grade-level expectancies closely in order to earn academic credit that is transferable to more traditional programs.
 3. Valley Oak Charter believes that learning occurs on an ongoing basis in a multitude of settings. In addition to supporting the child's home-based learning experiences, VOC teachers provide dynamic, child-centered, group-based learning experiences that supplement the child's homeschool learning. During the on-site portion of VOC's program, students participate in mixed-grade enrichment classes, field trips, and project-based learning activities. Such activities create shared learning experiences and promote acceptance of others. VOC students rarely compare themselves to or compete with each other, and the diverse age groups and ability levels of students facilitate friendships across a wide range of ages and learning abilities. In addition, younger students are welcomed into classes designed for older students as their readiness dictates, while older students often join classes designed for younger students out of an enjoyment of the subject or a willingness to mentor. Three times a year, students at all grade levels participate in public presentations of their work, further fostering appreciation of their fellow students' diverse interests and abilities. In such a culture of shared experiences, students tend to play and work more cooperatively with teachers, parents, and each other.
 4. Enrollment at Valley Oak Charter has been previously capped by the District at 75 students. Because of its limited size, small changes in the makeup of the student population can have a major impact on the school's performance data from one year to the next, with the average testing population in recent years between 44 and 52. Variations in the school's annual API scores are often considerable because, being a homeschool program, a portion of the school's students enroll at VOC while in transition from one school to another or because family and/or personal considerations require a temporary homeschooling arrangement. These factors skew aggregate school-wide

results on standardized tests and Academic Performance Indicators. In 2014, the California Department of Education took action to recognize the special challenges of small, unique charters in providing valid statistical assessment data given their limited numbers. It has now put in place alternative assessment options for schools with fewer than 100 valid test scores. Valley Oak is actively pursuing its own alternative assessment tools, beginning with fully utilizing the Scantron EdPerformance program as directed by its Board of Directors. Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, all students in grades 2-12 will be required to complete the EdPerformance assessments twice each year, with the Scantron system helping to track and identify growth over time. The use of this type of computer-based longitudinal information program is increasing state-wide as educators come to realize that the validity of grouped assessments once per year does not provide the same depth of data as can be provided by multiple opportunities for student's to show specific individualized results.

5. Over the past four years, VOC has seen an increase in its IEP-Special Services population. The flexibility and personalization of learning experiences and the camaraderie and acceptance of diversity among students appeal to families seeking both a Free Alternative Public Education (FAPE) and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for their children, whatever their abilities and needs. Historically, VOC's special services population accounts for 15-17% of its enrollment, a percentage considerably higher than the state average (11% according to EdSource). The school's increased percentage of special needs students, along with its small overall number of students tested, has affected the school's test results, leading to lower average scores in recent years. The school is addressing this by following testing accommodation protocols more closely, and increasing its oversight of the placement of students with special needs into VOC's independent study program to ensure that those placements are appropriate.
6. Because of the school's flexible, individualized, home-based educational program, VOC welcomes many "difficult to serve" segments of the valley's student population. Parents may take their children out of traditional school for any number of reasons. By giving these students and their families the chance to have successful educational experiences during a difficult time, VOC performs a vital service. However, it again introduces a level of unpredictability into the results of standardized tests.
7. Valley Oak Charter has a close and supportive relationship with the Ojai Unified School District and its member schools. Under our services agreement with OUSD (outlined in the current MOU), VOC students are able to take courses at the district's junior and senior high schools if/when requested. As part of the aforementioned MOU, VOC currently contracts with the OUSD to handle its accounting, human resources, financial, and some educational services. Working in partnership with the OUSD, VOC provides students and families the opportunity to make an educational choice that fits, while at the same time contributing a portion of our student's funding back to the district. In these times of declining enrollment and in a community

where private schools are plentiful, VOC provides an important public-school alternative that supports and enhances the public education system here in the Ojai Valley.

8. VOC contracts a number of services from OUSD as detailed in the current MOU. Copies of pertinent documents (audits, budgets, LCAP, SARC, etc.) are on file at DO.

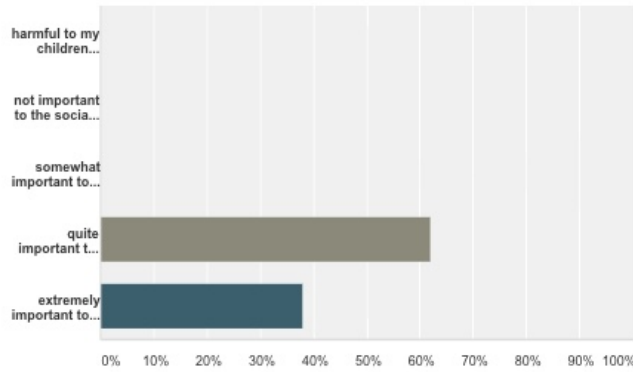


Valley Oak Charter School

Selected Parent Survey Results 2017-18

How important is Valley Oak Charter to the social and emotional growth of your children?

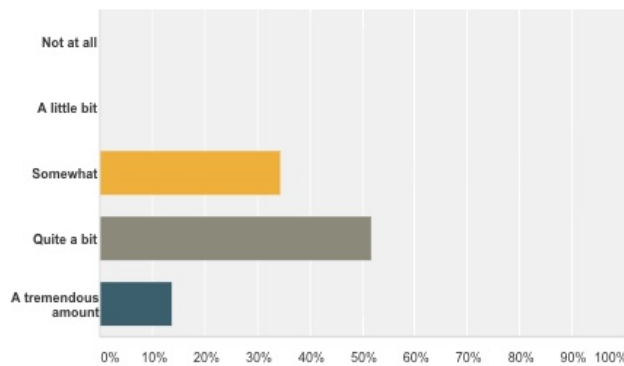
Answered: 29 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
harmful to my children socially and emotionally	0.00% 0
not important to the social and emotional growth of my children	0.00% 0
somewhat important to the social and emotional growth of my children	0.00% 0
quite important to the social and emotional growth of my children	62.07% 18
extremely important to the social and emotional growth of my children	37.93% 11
Total	29

Compared with children at other schools, to what extent do you think your children are learning the standards in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies?

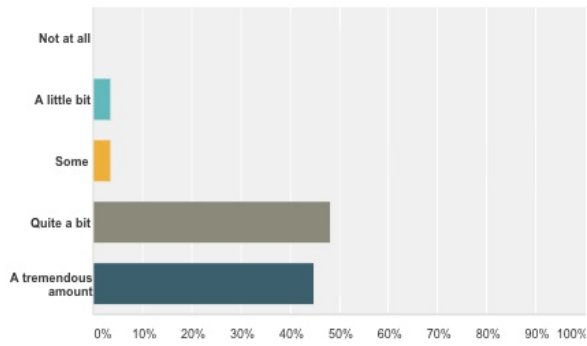
Answered: 29 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
Not at all	0.00% 0
A little bit	0.00% 0
Somewhat	34.48% 10
Quite a bit	51.72% 15
A tremendous amount	13.79% 4

Overall, to what extent does Valley Oak Charter support your efforts as parents to homeschool your children?

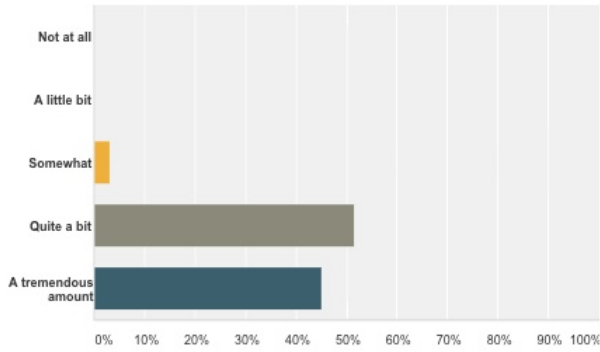
Answered: 29 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
Not at all	0.00% 0
A little bit	3.45% 1
Some	3.45% 1
Quite a bit	48.28% 14
A tremendous amount	44.83% 13

Overall, to what extent do your children enjoy homeschooling using the Valley Oak Charter program?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Not at all	0.00% 0
A little bit	0.00% 0
Somewhat	3.23% 1
Quite a bit	51.61% 16
A tremendous amount	45.16% 14