



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

Walden West and NatureBridge 2020-21 Program Options

December 2020





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Alignment to Strategic Plan

Alignment to SP2021

Goal 2: Achievement gaps will be eliminated for all student groups in all areas

Action: Provide high quality extended learning opportunities for students



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Typical Programming

Typical Programming

Walden West Science Camp

- All 5th grade students have the opportunity to attend a 4 day, 3 night session at one of the Walden West camps - Saratoga or Cupertino
 - Students learn in an outdoor classroom with experienced naturalists
- MVWSD funds the program less parent donations including student fees, transportation, and staff stipends
- Estimated District Costs: \$120,632 per year

Typical Programming

Naturebridge

- All 8th grade students have the opportunity to attend a 4 night, 5 day session in Yosemite National Park
 - Students explore the valleys, meadows and forests in small groups lead by experienced naturalists
- MVWSD funds the program less parent donations including student fees, transportation, and staff stipends
- Estimated District Costs: \$202,000 per year

Additional Information - Programming

2019-20:

- All 5th grade students except those at Bubb got to attend Science Camp (scheduled after shelter in place due to COVID-19)
- All 8th grade students were able to attend NatureBridge in Yosemite

2020-21:

- Students not attending either program due to pandemic



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2020-21 Possibilities

2020-21 Possibilities

- Both the 5th grade trip to Walden West and the 8th grade trip to Yosemite are highlights for students during their school years in MVWSD
 - If MVWSD was to offer a replacement program we would want all students to be able to participate
- Walden West is offering some alternative in-person programming although COVID-19 restrictions make sending all of our 5th graders not possible
 - Groups of 12 or less
 - Students can't be enrolled in another childcare or recreation program (i.e a support pod)
 - Transportation challenges
 - Many parents would opt students out
- Both Walden West and NatureBridge are offering virtual options for students

2020-21 Possibilities

Walden West - Virtual Science Camp

- 5-day program
- 1-hour daily synchronous lessons aligned to NGSS
- Daily asynchronous lessons provided to teacher including science journals
- Virtual campfire experience
- End of program closing ceremony
- Programs offered January - May
 - Scheduled either in morning, mid-morning or afternoon
- Costs: \$500.00 per classroom
 - MVWSD has 23 5th grade classrooms - \$11,500

2020-21 Possibilities

NatureBridge - Yosemite Sense of Place

- 3-40 to 60 minute interactive online sessions to explore the life zones and ecosystems of Yosemite National Park
 - **Session 1** - Community Building and introduction to Yosemite including the geography, ecosystems and human history
 - **Session 2** - Introduction to the life zones and ecosystems in Yosemite National Park, including a virtual tour using Google Earth
 - **Session 3** - Exploration of the life zones across the 11,000 foot elevation range of Yosemite National Park
- Programs offered February through May 2021
- Costs: \$375 per class
 - MVWSD has 19, 8th grade classes - \$7,125

Things to Consider

- All 5th grade and 8th grade students would have access to a program during the regular school day
- A virtual program does not replace an in-person experience
- We won't make everyone happy with these options
- NatureBridge is short staffed. They are willing to work with us, although they are not guaranteeing that they can accommodate us this spring. We will connect on January 11th, when furloughed staff returns, to confirm programming options



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Next Steps

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- Move forward with scheduling programs for all 5th and 8th grade students through Walden West and NatureBridge
- Continue to look for alternate solutions in case NatureBridge cannot accommodate our middle schools
- Communicate with stakeholders

Questions