



Our curiosity gets a workout. ★ Math unleashes our minds' agility. ★ We debate with verve. ★ Our brains are acrobatic. ★ Respect never goes out of style here. ★ ★ Science awes us. ★ Our prospects are limitless. ★ The play's our thing. ★ We take charge of ourselves. ★ We can't wait to get in the game. ★ Our teachers inspire us. ★ We sing solos with gusto. ★ Hard work pays off. ★ We love this place. ★ We outdo ourselves. ★ We go the distance. ★ Courtesy is constant. ★ We extend ourselves. ★ We are vivid. ★ Our merriment is contagious. ★ We're ready for our close-up. ★ We inquire profoundly. ★ We are jubilant. ★ We are catalysts. ★ We chart our own courses. ★ We have fortitude. ★ Our future beckons. ★ We are poetic. ★ We unearth wonders. We improvise. ★ We savor moments. **Oakwood School** ★ We invent. ★ We're jazzed about performing. ★ We are mindful. ★ We celebrate each other. ★



Picture a school where...

New questions energize him.

She sings a solo with gusto.

He celebrates others.

Her future beckons.

Respect never goes out of style.

You're picturing a school
where learning is more intentional.



Here we are.



*The whole community works together to give students
a top education, and to cultivate values like citizenship,
respect, and compassion. Our students graduate
not only ready for college, but to change the world.
—teacher*

★ We are jubilant. ★ We're jazzed about performing. ★ We're serious about

A more intentional education

She's written a play for her classmates to perform—in French. She saved up her money and bought a telescope. She volunteers at the animal shelter.

Your student is multidimensional—curious and kind, thoughtful and improvisational, perceptive and exuberant. And you want a school that celebrates and hones *all* her gifts—not separately, but in concert. A school that knows she's not just one song, but a symphony.

At Oakwood School, our educational philosophy carefully balances structure and openness to help your student grow as a creative, disciplined, joyful learner, fully prepared for college and life beyond.

We ensure every child learns from *passionate experts in each subject*.

We foster a disciplined and jubilant culture of *public self-expression*.

We uphold *high academic expectations*.

We set *grounded personal examples* for moral behavior.

We lead children through a proven curriculum that gives them plenty of space for *exploration*.

Step onto our idyllic Morgan Hill campus and you immediately feel Oakwood's philosophy shining through—in the thoughtfully equipped, sunlit classrooms, in the expansive performing arts venue, in breathtaking mountain vistas, and especially in our students and teachers. You find one student coding a digital model of plate tectonics for her science fair project. Another, in full costume, sings his solo from *Beauty and the Beast* for the preschoolers. And their teachers look on with pride.

They know a **more intentional education** really works—because they see it, and help construct it, every day.



Delving deeper

He's always wanted more than the textbook version of history. At Oakwood, his history teacher gives the class excerpts from Columbus' diaries. Now he's making a video dramatizing the explorer's first contact with the native people of the Americas—thinking through both sides of this world-changing encounter.

At Oakwood, our teachers can lead your student's curiosity as far as it can go—because they're all experts in their chosen fields. They teach what they love, and *only* what they love.

And when students learn from educators who are teaching their passion, they can't help catching the enthusiasm. His math teacher's love of an elegant solution inspires him to have another go at a calculus problem. When she sees her art teacher's original painting hanging on the classroom wall, she wants to work a little harder on her own.

At Oakwood, students find that there's joy in every subject, and in being good—really good—at the passions you choose to pursue.

"When it comes to academics, the students are definitely challenged, and it depends on their level. That's what Oakwood's good at, figuring out where students need to be." —Oakwood parent



Math unleashes our minds' agility. ★ Science awes us. ★ We unearth wonders.



*Performing helps me understand so much more
about other people, how to interact in different situations,
how to communicate. And I know that will help me
in the future, in whatever I do. —student*

★ We're at home in the spotlight. ★ We sing our solos with gusto. ★ Melodies

Performing with gusto

She has a lot to say, and she's learning how to say it. Whether shy or bold, introverted or extroverted, spontaneous or methodical—Oakwood students graduate with the confidence and knowledge to project their voices thoughtfully from any stage.

Here, performing doesn't mean pretending to be someone else. It means becoming *your* best self, and learning how to share that self with others.

That's why we give all our students plenty of opportunities to perform in public—giving presentations in class, playing characters, singing, and dancing.

It doesn't happen all at once, but it does happen: Students begin to speak more clearly, listen more attentively, and challenge their own boundaries. Before you know it, your child is delivering a Shakespearean soliloquy in front of the school or becoming a standout on the debate team.

And, whatever the context, she's communicating intelligently and respectfully—the key to success in any college, any career, any relationship.



Staying grounded

He volunteers at the library, teaching adults how to read—not to check off a box on his college application, but because he loves it. You can see it in his eyes.

At Oakwood, we honor this natural generosity, and we nurture it.

Our community follows a simple, secular moral code, which supports students' natural inclination to do what's right. We fondly call such good behavior "Oakwood Appropriate," affirming that certain values—respect, service, honesty, kindness, and citizenship—are timeless human goals that never go out of style.

Oakwood students take these values to heart and feel proud to honor them. And our older students remain especially mindful that they're setting examples for our younger ones. They know they're helping create a safe, encouraging community where we can all be our best selves.



*I couldn't trust anybody with my kids more than I trust the people at Oakwood.
—parent*

★ We're all rooting for each other, every day. ★ Compassion inspires us. ★ We are



stalwart friends. ★ We extend ourselves. ★ Respect never goes out of style. ★



★ We investigate energetically. ★ We stick with it till we get it. ★ We learn with

Learning for life

When she was little, she followed a butterfly to discover which kinds of flowers it preferred. Ten years later, she's building a flying robot for her physics project. No doubt about it—she's inquisitive, and she's ambitious.

At Oakwood, we want her to stay that way. We want her to be as open to learning at sixty as she is at sixteen.

That's why we expect all our students to master an exacting core curriculum, roam the byways of their creativity, and develop real intellectual stamina. Our expert teachers employ their own inventive methods, get to know your student as an individual, and talk with her—and you—constantly about her passions, her triumphs, and her challenges.

And where will her Oakwood education take her? Wherever she chooses. Starting in ninth grade, our individualized, intentional college counseling process fully supports your student as she defines, pursues, and reaches her higher educational goals.

It's no wonder our students regularly score in the top percentiles on their college entrance exams, go on to attend some of the finest colleges and universities in the nation, and continue to learn and lead for a lifetime.



Oakwood students have the best recommendation letters, because everyone knows us on a personal level. All of the teachers really know me, even if I don't have a class with them. And our college counselor—we're constantly talking and emailing about my applications.
—student

Exploring together

He surprises you every day. As he grows, new interests surface, hidden talents come to the fore, his personality deepens.

Throughout these amazing years, Oakwood encourages students to seek out new experiences—play a pirate in the fall musical, research the quaternion number system, travel to Italy.

And we see that every student has the opportunity to experience the teamwork and invigoration of sports. Students join any team that sparks their interest, even if they've never tried the sport before. And with a range of teams in competitive leagues, we also present opportunities for serious athletic performance.

At Oakwood, every new endeavor offers students the chance to grow and learn, to communicate clearly, listen carefully, and discover new meanings for concepts they've learned in class.



We're very inclusive here. I've made so many good friends on the volleyball team—freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. We don't make distinctions based on grade level.
—student

★ We celebrate each other. ★ Our merriment is contagious. ★ We make every



shot our best shot. ★ We contain multitudes. ★ The future is an adventure. ★

An intentional family of learners—since 1959

We hear it from parents and students.
From teachers who can't wait to come to work every day—and who practically mourn the summers.
From the alumni who come back to visit us, year after year.
Oakwood feels like family.

That's because we *are* a family.
We've been one from the beginning.



Our story began in 1959, when Gwen Riches, an educator and artist, gathered her children and their friends for an afterschool arts program in her Los Altos home. As the children happily played, practiced, created, and performed, word began to spread. Mrs. Riches and her husband welcomed more and more children, eventually expanding the circle to hundreds of students. The Riches' family home became Pinewood School, which still thrives today in Los Altos.

As Pinewood's younger sister, Oakwood School provides more than a safe, loving place to grow. Founded and managed by Gwen Riches' eldest granddaughter and her husband, **Oakwood carries on the educational tradition set forth by our "founding mother"**—shaping our students' growth with intention, intelligence, and unbounded joy.





Here we are.

Delving deeper

Performing with gusto

Learning for life

Staying grounded

Exploring together

We are Morgan Hill's independent, non-sectarian, college-preparatory school for students in preschool through grade 12. Our diverse community, thriving on an expansive campus, provides a home for an extended family of learners. Here, we share our unwavering commitment to a more intentional education.

As your child learns every subject from experts in the field, expresses himself joyously and authentically, rises to clear academic expectations, follows and sets moral examples, and participates in our exuberant culture of exploration, Oakwood School helps him grow into a well-spoken, confident, vibrant individual and citizen.



The best way for your family to meet our family is to tour our scenic Morgan Hill campus, meet our teachers and students, and observe our learning in action.

Visit our website at oakwoodway.org, email us at admissions@oakwoodway.org, or call 408-782-7177 to schedule a tour. Our family looks forward to meeting yours.

Oakwood School

for a more intentional education

Oakwood School

105 John Wilson Way, Morgan Hill CA 95037

