

# K-8 GRADE OTAY RANCH COURSE CATALOG

2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

#SPRINGS DreamTeam

# LEARNING CENTER MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

We offer homeschool families a variety of unique, year-long classes to enrich their educational experience. Our classes incorporate academics and the arts to inspire individual interests and passions. Our nurturing staff partners with parents to support educational progress in a safe environment that encourages positive social development.

## CURRICULUM KEY

After each of our class descriptions, you will see a KEY like this: **s, m, e**

All of our classes have elective content, and many include core content.

See the explanation below to help you choose classes for your child.

E - Covers **ELA CORE** Requirements

e - Supplements **ELA AT HOME** Curriculum

M - Covers **MATH CORE** Requirements

m - Supplements **MATH AT HOME** Curriculum

S - Covers **SCIENCE CORE** Requirements

s - Supplements **SCIENCE AT HOME** Curriculum

SS - Covers **SOCIAL STUDIES CORE** Requirements

ss - Supplements **SOCIAL STUDIES AT HOME** Curriculum

# LEARNING CENTER POLICIES



When you enroll your child in a Learning Center class you will be asked to agree to the following:

[Learning Center Parent Agreement](#)

Please read thoroughly before signing up for any classes.

Please see the [Student & Parent Handbook](#) for information about:

Cell Phone Use- Page 42

Dress Code Policy- Pages 42 & 43

Internet Use Policy- Page 44

Student Behavior Expectations and Discipline- Page 46

Student Support (Counseling & Special Education)- Pages 48-51

Parent Involvement and Volunteering- Pages 112-113

Additional Helpful Links:

[Photo Release](#)

Otay Ranch [One Page Class Schedule & Descriptions](#)

[I CAN Math! Roles & Responsibilities](#)

[2025-26 Learning Center Calendar](#)





# OTAY RANCH LEARNING CENTER STAFF



**ERIN SPROSS**  
**TEACHER**



**JENNIFER GRAHAM**  
**TEACHER**



**KELSEY COLLINS**  
**TEACHER**



**TIFFANY HARPER**  
**TEACHER**



**BRYNNE DUKES**  
**PRINCIPAL**



**LORI LOUCKS**  
**HOMESCHOOL LC DIRECTOR**



**RENEE HANSON**  
**HOMESCHOOL DIRECTOR**



**JESSICA BATTLE**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**



**TERRI MAY**  
**LEARNING CENTER CLERK**



# OTAY RANCH LEARNING CENTER INFORMATION

Our Otay Ranch Learning Center provides enrichment and core academic classes for K-8 Homeschool, Montessori Voyage, and Venture students. The Learning Center helps families connect with other independent learning students to create a strong support system. Families enjoy the non-traditional choice of independent study while benefiting from time-honored school activities. Our Otay Ranch location participates in activities such as school pictures, open houses, kindergarten and 8th-grade promotions, as well as other fun school events. Through events, outreach, activities, and guest speakers, learning center students use the community as the classroom throughout the year.

The Learning Center schedule is full of classes that offer hands-on, engaging activities that make learning fun! Students can choose classes that cater to their passions and interests, and/or choose classes that meet specific academic goals.

Please continue through the pages of this book to see the class offerings and descriptions for the 2025-26 school year.

**\*Venture and Montessori Voyage students are limited to one block per week.**

Classes are offered for K-8th grades on Monday.

Morning Classes ~ 9:30 AM - 12:05 PM

Lunch ~ 12:05 PM - 12:35 PM

Afternoon classes ~ 12:35 PM - 3:10 PM

**For more information or to register for classes,  
go to [Springs Marketplace](#) on your MySprings Apps page.**



Located at:  
2371 Fenton Street,  
Chula Vista, CA 91914  
(951) 225-7690

The Otay Ranch Learning Center is run by Principal Brynne Dukes, who is responsible for safety, discipline, and the day-to-day operations at the student center. If you have specific questions about the school site, don't hesitate to contact the student center.

Learning Center offerings and class schedules are created by our Homeschool Leadership team. For specific questions, you may contact:  
Jessica Battle, Learning Center  
Administrative Assistant-  
[jessica.battle@springscs.org](mailto:jessica.battle@springscs.org)  
Lori Loucks, K-8 Homeschool Director-  
[lori.loucks@springscs.org](mailto:lori.loucks@springscs.org)

# KINDERGARTEN & 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADES CLASS CHOICES



**MONDAY 9:30 AM - 12:05 PM**

**The STEAM Team  
AND  
Math MVPs  
(Most Valuable Problem Solvers!)**

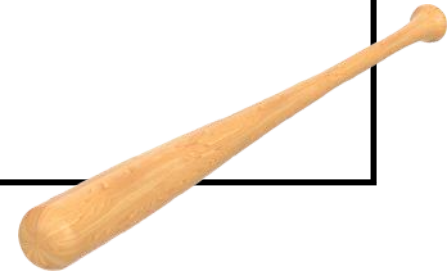
**MONDAY 12:35 PM - 3:10 PM**

**Big League News  
AND  
All-Star Artists**

**REGISTER IN  
SPRINGS MARKETPLACE**

**ONE OPTION PER BLOCK, STUDENTS MAY SIGN UP FOR ONE OR BOTH BLOCKS.  
1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS: YOUR TOR WILL HELP YOU DETERMINE WHICH CLASS TO JOIN.**

**ONE PAGE SCHEDULE**



# KINDERGARTEN & 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## THE STEAM TEAM AND MATH MVPS (MOST VALUABLE PROBLEM SOLVERS!)

Get ready for hands-on, interactive, and maybe even messy learning! In The STEAM Team, students will dive into the exciting world of science, engineering, math, and creativity through engaging experiments, building projects, and exploration. Each month will bring a new STEM challenge that sparks curiosity and creativity. This class is designed to ignite a love for learning while meeting grade-level science standards in a fun cross-curricular way.

In Math MVPs, students will develop essential math skills through hands-on activities, games, and creative projects that bring math concepts to life. They will explore foundational math concepts like counting, addition, subtraction, number recognition, shapes, and patterns through engaging problem-solving tasks and math-based games. Students will also practice math in real-world contexts, such as measuring, sorting, and organizing objects. By tackling math challenges with their peers, they'll build confidence and develop a solid foundation that meets kindergarten and 1st-grade math standards, preparing them for more complex concepts in the future.

### Major Projects:

- STEAM Showcase – Design and build a simple machine, musical instrument, or bridge/tower using STEAM principles.
- STEAM Storybook Challenge – Solve a problem from a favorite story, like building a sturdy house for "The Three Little Pigs".
- Math Board Game Creation – Design a math game using the skills learned in class.
- Math Adventure Storybook – Write and illustrate a math-themed story, solving problems along the way.

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## BIG LEAGUE NEWS AND ALL-STAR ARTISTS

Get ready to explore the world with Scholastic News Magazines! In this fun and interactive class, young learners will dive into exciting real-world topics, from animals and weather to community helpers and seasonal events. Using colorful magazines, we will read, discuss, and discover new facts together. Students will build reading confidence while learning how to find key details, explore text features (like pictures and captions), and make connections to the world around them.

In All-Star Artists, students will experiment with colors, shapes, and materials, creating imaginative pieces inspired by the stories they read. They'll explore basic art concepts like color mixing, shape recognition, and texture while developing fine motor skills. These activities combine to help students score big in both literacy and art, developing their skills like all-star athletes in a game of creativity!

### Major Projects:

- Newsroom Show & Tell – Students will become little reporters and work together to share a fun fact or story from an article, using pictures, props, or simple sentences to present their "news."
- Class News Wall – Students will help create a big class display or book, adding drawings and simple sentences to share what they've learned about a topic, like animals, weather, or holidays.
- Hall of Fame Artist Portfolio – Students will research a famous artist, create a report, and make art inspired by their style.
- My Favorite Things Collage – Students will create a collage with pictures and materials that represent favorite things, like colors and activities.

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# 1<sup>ST</sup>-2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE CLASS CHOICES



*MONDAY 9:30 AM - 12:05 PM*

**Big League News  
AND  
All-Star Artists**

*MONDAY 12:35 PM - 3:10 PM*

**The STEAM Team  
AND  
Math MVPs  
(Most Valuable Problem Solvers!)**

*ONE OPTION PER BLOCK, STUDENTS MAY SIGN UP FOR ONE OR BOTH BLOCKS.  
1<sup>ST</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS: YOUR TOR WILL HELP YOU DETERMINE WHICH CLASS TO JOIN.*

[REGISTER IN  
SPRINGS MARKETPLACE](#)

[ONE PAGE SCHEDULE](#)



# 1<sup>ST</sup>-2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## BIG LEAGUE NEWS AND ALL-STAR ARTISTS

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## THE STEAM TEAM AND MATH MVPS (MOST VALUABLE PROBLEM SOLVERS!)

Get ready for exciting, hands-on, and interactive learning in The STEAM Team! Students will explore the world of science, engineering, math, and creativity through fun experiments, building projects, and problem-solving challenges. Each month brings a new STEAM challenge that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and teamwork. This class will integrate grade-level science and engineering concepts in a fun, cross-curricular way.

In Math MVPs, students will strengthen their math skills through games, hands-on activities, and real-world problem-solving. They'll explore key concepts like addition, subtraction, place value, measurement, shapes, and patterns in engaging ways. Whether they're designing their own math board game or solving puzzles, students will build confidence and a strong mathematical foundation for future learning.

### Major Projects:

- STEAM Showcase -- Design and build a simple machine, musical instrument, or bridge/tower using STEAM principles.
- STEAM Storybook Challenge -- Solve a problem from a favorite story, like building a sturdy house for "The Three Little Pigs".
- Math Board Game Creation – Design a math game using the skills learned in class.
- Math Adventure Storybook – Write and illustrate a math-themed story, solving problems along the way.

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# 3<sup>RD</sup>-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CLASS CHOICES



*MONDAY 9:30 AM - 12:05 PM*

**Literacy Lineup  
AND  
All-Star Artists**

*MONDAY 12:35 PM - 3:10 PM*

**The STEAM Team  
AND  
Full Court Press Writing**

[REGISTER IN  
SPRINGS MARKETPLACE](#)

*ONE OPTION PER BLOCK, STUDENTS MAY SIGN UP FOR ONE OR BOTH BLOCKS.  
1<sup>ST</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS: YOUR TOR WILL HELP YOU DETERMINE WHICH CLASS TO JOIN.*

[ONE PAGE SCHEDULE](#)

# 3<sup>RD</sup>-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MONDAY AM CLASS DESCRIPTION

## LITERACY LINEUP AND ALL-STAR ARTISTS

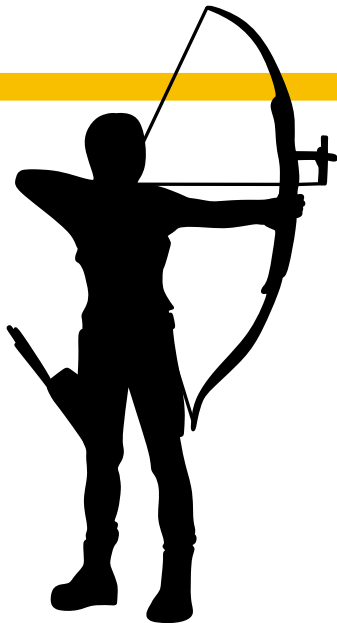
In Literacy Lineup, students will explore a variety of genres through engaging texts from sources such as Scholastic Magazines and Epic Books. From nonfiction articles to fiction stories, they will build reading comprehension, critical thinking, and discussion skills. Through activities, vocabulary exercises, and writing reflections, students will deepen their understanding of the world and enhance their literacy abilities.

In All-Star Artists, students will unleash their creativity in an art class designed to develop their skills through experimentation with different techniques, styles, and materials. They'll explore different artists and various forms of art, such as painting, sculpture, and collage, allowing them to express their ideas and reflections. Students will not only refine their artistic abilities but also learn how to convey their personal interpretations and creativity through their artwork.

### Major Projects:

- Artistic Time Capsule – Create a mixed-media self-portrait and artwork representing who they are now, including favorite colors, interests, and emotions.
- Hall of Fame Artist Report & Portfolio – Research a famous artist and create artwork inspired by their techniques.
- Genre Exploration Presentation – Students will choose a genre (e.g., mystery, biography, science fiction) and create a multimedia presentation showcasing key elements, examples, and their favorite texts from that genre.
- Literacy Journal – Students will keep a journal where they respond to readings, track new vocabulary, and reflect on themes, characters, and lessons learned throughout the class.

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# 3<sup>RD</sup>-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MONDAY PM CLASS DESCRIPTION

## THE STEAM TEAM AND FULL COURT PRESS WRITING

Get ready for hands-on, interactive, and maybe even messy learning! In the STEAM Team, students will dive into the exciting world of science, engineering, math, and creativity through engaging experiments, building projects, and exploration. Each month will bring a new STEM challenge that sparks curiosity and creativity. Throughout the course, students will meet grade-level science and engineering standards, exploring topics such as forces and motion, material properties, and ecosystems. By combining creativity with critical thinking, students will strengthen their understanding of both scientific and engineering concepts while building valuable problem-solving skills. As growing writers, students will practice writing longer sentences, detailed stories, and personal narratives, building skills in organizing their ideas and expressing them clearly. They'll engage in creative writing prompts and use illustrations to enhance their stories. Students will focus on improving their writing structure, including proper paragraphing, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar. The class will emphasize the joy of writing as students gain confidence in their writing abilities and develop their skills as independent writers.

### Major Projects:

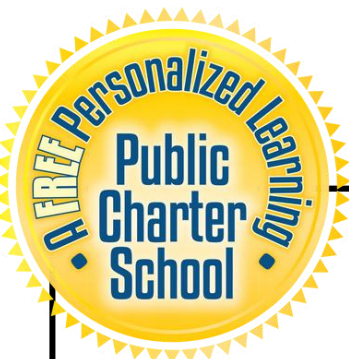
- STEAM Challenge Fair – Work in teams to create a project that blends at least two STEAM fields and present it at a fun fair-like event.
- Innovation Showcase – Design and build a simple machine, musical instrument, or robot, using STEAM principles and present it to the class.
- Personal Narrative Collection – Students will write and refine a series of personal narrative pieces, showcasing their growth as storytellers.
- Opinion Editorial – Students will choose a topic they care about, write an editorial defending their point of view, and present their arguments with well-organized evidence.
- Informative Research Presentation – Students will research a topic of interest, write an informative essay, and present their findings to the class, incorporating visual aids to support their research.

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# 6<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CLASS CHOICES



*MONDAY 9:30 AM - 12:05 PM*

**Grand Slam Science  
AND  
Game-Changer Writing Lab**

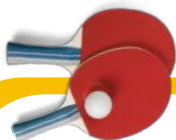
*MONDAY 12:35 PM - 3:10 PM*

**Lliteracy Lineup  
AND  
All-Star Artists**

*6<sup>TH</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS HAVE ONE OPTION IN EACH BLOCK.  
YOU MAY SIGN UP FOR ONE OR BOTH BLOCKS.*

**REGISTER IN  
SPRINGS MARKETPLACE**

**ONE PAGE SCHEDULE**



# 6<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

## GRAND SLAM SCIENCE AND GAME-CHANGER WRITING LAB

In Grand Slam Science, students will explore a range of exciting scientific topics, including Earth and life sciences, oceanography, and space, through engaging lessons, interactive activities, and BBC Channel videos. They'll study complex topics like the solar system, plant and animal life cycles, and the forces of nature, connecting these concepts to real-world applications. Students will deepen their understanding through Kahoot challenges, teamwork, and hands-on experiments. Critical thinking activities will encourage them to ask questions, make predictions, and test hypotheses, while fostering their scientific curiosity and problem-solving skills.

In Game Changer Writing Lab, students will explore a variety of topics and sharpen their writing skills through research-based projects. They will learn how to gather information from reliable sources, organize their ideas, and craft well-structured essays, reports, and creative pieces. Through engaging prompts, guided discussions, and peer feedback, students will develop clear, confident writing while deepening their curiosity about the world. Whether investigating historical events, scientific discoveries, or personal interests, this class will help students become strong, thoughtful writers!

### Major Projects:

- Science Exploration Journal – Document discoveries, experiments, and reflections.
- Group Science Challenge – Research and present a scientific topic with a hands-on project and Kahoot quiz.
- Expert Research Paper – Students will choose a topic of interest, conduct in-depth research, and write a well-organized paper with proper citations.
- Multimedia Magazine – As a class, students will collaborate to create a digital or print magazine featuring their research articles, interviews, opinion pieces, and creative writing.

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## LITERACY LINEUP AND ALL-STAR ARTISTS

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