



## OUR MISSION:

- Ladera's STARS Academy is dedicated to providing students with innovative, engaging academic experiences featuring STEAM elements (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math).
- We promote a community of cooperation and compassion that values every student and encourages students to take academic risks. Students grow as confident scholars through rigorous integrated curriculum that builds on their natural curiosity and creativity.
- The Next Generation Science Standards and themes drive the authentic, collaborative practices that create problem solvers and motivate students.
- We believe in every student's ability to succeed and are committed to making STARS Academy a challenging and inspiring place for student learning -- every day!



LADERA  
**STARS**  
ACADEMY  
SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ARTS  
RIGOROUS SCHOLARSHIP



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RIGOROUS SCHOLARSHIP

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A unique STEAM academy where students are inspired to reach for the *STARS* through exploration in Science, Technology, Arts and Rigorous Scholarship



A Conejo Valley Unified School

# STARS ACADEMY – OUR VISION:

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRINCIPAL:

### WHAT MOTIVATES STUDENTS TO LEARN AND SUCCEED?

This was the driving question behind the development of STARS Academy and our resulting decisions about instruction. Our vision is to build on the natural curiosity and creativity of children in order to motivate and engage them as scholars.

There are many articles available about student motivation and every one of them includes variations of the following ideas. These same ideas are at the core of STARS Academy's mission. Motivating learning experiences:

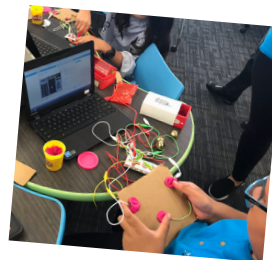
- ▶ Are active, collaborative and promote learning relationships.
- ▶ Are authentic and relevant to students' lives.
- ▶ Challenge students to question, reflect, evaluate and make connections between ideas.
- ▶ Allow students choices about their learning and how they express their knowledge.

As you read about many of the engaging features encapsulated in the STARS program, know also that we are committed to making the most of every individual student's learning experiences, every day! Join our journey to the STARS.

Warmly,  
Mrs. Wall

## SCIENCE

- ▶ Next Generation Science Standards drive our curriculum featuring integrated STEAM elements, thematic instruction and project based learning
- ▶ Discovery Lab: A dedicated, flexible learning space for science and makerspace explorations
- ▶ Outdoor Learning Lab: a unique garden area for science experiences in an authentic environment
- ▶ Teachers are dedicated to the school vision and are specially trained to provide phenomenon-based science and integrated STEAM instruction



## TECHNOLOGY

- ▶ 1:1 Take-Home Chromebook Initiative for 4th & 5th grade students: developing presentation, collaboration and research skills along with global connectivity
- ▶ Makerspace provides engaging green screen, coding, electronics, robotics and other technology explorations
- ▶ Student created and managed digital communication platforms, plus additional computer coding, gaming and robotics opportunities



## ARTS

- ▶ Creation Rotations: innovative school-wide program allowing students to rotate through explorations in visual art, music, drama, makerspace, digital design, and engineering/science fun!
- ▶ STEAM Art program provided by Art Trek, designed exclusively for STARS Academy
- ▶ Class plays and musicals, as well as optional band, strings, and choral programs. Yearly musical production presented by our senior chorus

## RIGOROUS SCHOLARSHIP

- ▶ Relevant, authentic, motivating NGSS theme-driven reading and writing instruction
- ▶ School Uniforms set a scholarly tone: Dress for success. Dress like a Scholar!
- ▶ CA Gold Ribbon School Award winning Target Time: a multi-tiered system of support that targets the academic needs of every student, intervention through acceleration
- ▶ Classrooms feature flexible seating and learning spaces, providing students with choices regarding how and where they learn best