

OJAI VALLEY SCHOOL
a place of awakenings



U P P E R S C H O O L



A Place of
AWAKENINGS

On a hilltop high above the Ojai Valley is a special place where young men and women like you come to live and learn. It is a place where you will make lifelong friends and discover the challenges and joys that come with learning. It is a place where you will learn inside and outside the classroom, whether you are testing a theorem in the chemistry lab or testing your confidence on the climbing wall. It is a place where you will develop the character and critical thinking to excel in college and beyond.

At Ojai Valley School, you will meet experienced teachers with a deep understanding of and commitment to the subjects they teach. The small size of our community will give you the opportunity to develop close relationships with these talented men and women, who will also be your coaches, your dorm parents, and your friends. Our academic program offers an array of college preparatory and Advanced Placement courses, as well as specialized classes in art, music, science, and humanities. Our graduates attend some of the finest colleges and universities in the country. But they also leave with qualities that don't show up on a high school transcript: a strong work ethic, as well as a sense of integrity and responsibility.

OVS will encourage you to make connections between all facets of learning and gain not only a better understanding of the world, but also of yourself. It is for this reason that we call Ojai Valley School a place of awakenings.



"Our senior class was full of many unique individuals from many different cultures. Although we were different, OVS gave us many things to appreciate about each other. The friendships we established were remarkable, and unforgettable."

*Michelle Kalb,
California State
University, Sacramento
OVS Class of 2006*



Headmaster's

INTRODUCTION

My education at Ojai Valley School began at age five and has given me almost a lifetime to live the school philosophy. Back then, as now, many of the most important lessons were taught outside the classroom, and learning was reinforced by the examples my teachers set and the experiences I had.

Today, OVS continues its commitment to educate the whole child. Our students learn to participate, to be respectful, to work independently, to love challenges, to reach beyond limits, to strive for excellence, to try again if they fail, and, ultimately, to value themselves. They graduate with character and a sense of responsibility, but even more so, they leave us with the confidence that they can make a positive difference in our world.

There have been many changes since I was a student at our upper campus, including new classrooms, athletic facilities, a broadened curriculum and, most recently, construction of our state-of-the-art Science and Technology Center. But the sense of family that has always pervaded our campus remains unchanged, as does our belief that every student who attends OVS has potential that, in our environment, can be realized.

I hope that after reading this brochure you will want to visit our campus and see for yourself the energy, spirit, and love of learning that thrives in our community on the hill.

Carl S. Cooper

Headmaster

Member, Class of 1968



Awakening a Sense of

HISTORY & TRADITION

In the early part of the 20th century, a distinguished Eastern couple settled in the beautiful Ojai Valley and opened a small private school. Little did they know it would be flourishing almost 100 years later.

Edward Yeomans, a Chicagoan educated at Phillips Academy and Princeton University, had written a series of articles in the Atlantic Monthly on the need for educational reform. The articles caught the eye of a wealthy businessman, Frank Frost, who persuaded Yeomans to move to Ojai and create a school that would embody his very modern ideas. At the core of Yeomans' beliefs was the concept that children learn best through experience. Yeomans considered his own education to have been dull and stifling, and wanted to establish a school that would emphasize experiential learning and a love for the outdoors. He envisioned a place where music, art, and woodshop would be taught alongside math, history, and languages. Yeomans declared that "Integer Vitae" – meaning the wholeness of life, symmetry of life, soundness of life, and, therefore poise and strength of life – would become the school's motto and philosophy.

Today, the breadth of learning experiences offered at OVS is Yeomans' legacy. The school has grown from a one-room classroom serving 12 pupils to a two-campus boarding and day school for nearly 400 students in pre-kindergarten to 12th grades. But its values and spirit remain the same.



"The truth of every subject taught is the Emotion and the Music at the center of it; and the fact of life is that we miss it all if we miss the joy."

*Edward Yeomans
Founder of
Ojai Valley School*





“As a teacher and parent, I have a unique perspective on the programs at Ojai Valley School. I will not compromise on academics with my children, and I knew that the upper campus would provide a very strong course of study for my son. He chose OVS and is thriving there. I knew the school would be able to provide him the balance and perspective it provides all our students.”

*David Edwards,
Assistant Headmaster
& math Teacher*

Awakening a Love of SCHOLARSHIP

At Ojai Valley School, you will find an academic program that is both challenging and engaging. We know that a competitive world waits for you beyond high school. An OVS education will give you the academic edge, individual attention, and critical thinking skills you need to succeed.

During your freshman and sophomore years, you will develop study skills and a solid academic foundation in English, history, math, science, and language classes. As a junior and senior, you will choose from a variety of advanced placement courses as well as elective classes that include studio art, photography, ceramics, and music theory.

Your classes will be taught by experienced teachers whose knowledge and passion for learning is contagious. They will encourage you to engage in class discussions, and push you to reach your academic potential. Because our classes are small, averaging about 12 students, your teachers will come to know where you might need help and where you might be ready to take on a bigger challenge.

Beyond the classroom, you will be assigned a faculty advisor who will oversee your academic progress. Your advisor will meet with you regularly and be a point of contact for your parents while you are enrolled at OVS. Our college counselor also will work with you and your family to help navigate the university admission process.





Awakening a Respect for
**YOURSELF
& OTHERS**

When Ed Yeomans declared that “Interger Vitae” would be the school’s motto, he set in motion a tradition that continues to this day. Integrity, self-respect, respect for others, honesty, and independence are not just words at OVS – they are a way of life.

High school is the time when the building blocks of your adult life start to be put into place. “What kind of a person will I be? Will others respect me? Will I be independent and self-confident?” At OVS, you will have many opportunities to answer those questions and discover your own potential, whether it is guiding your peers down a mountain trail or taking a leadership role in Student Council activities. Our teachers, counselors, and coaches will guide you on this journey and create an environment that encourages personal growth and self-discovery.

At OVS, we set high expectations for our students but link them with firm guidance, support, and encouragement. We insist that every person be treated with dignity and respect. We hope you graduate carrying those lessons with you throughout your life, and that they will form the foundation of what the world will come to call your integrity.



“At OVS, I enjoy having the ability to adjust my curriculum to meet the needs of my classes. I love the subjects I teach, and I am constantly thinking of new ways to motivate my students. I am always grateful to hear that a student who did not really understand history has learned to appreciate it after taking my class.”

*Laurel Colborn
History & government
Teacher*







Awakening a Love for

THE ARTS

Ojai Valley School's founding father Ed Yeomans once observed that some people believe you can get by without the arts. He also observed that you could get by being color blind, but you would miss much of the richness and beauty of nature. It is that belief – that a life without the arts misses much of life's richness and beauty – that drives the arts program at Ojai Valley School.

Ojai is known throughout the world as a Mecca for artists and musicians. Visitors are drawn to Ojai for its many art galleries and the annual Ojai Music Festival that brings world-renowned musicians to the community every spring. At OVS, our curriculum offers classes for beginning to advanced artists and musicians. Courses include drawing, AP studio art, music theory and composition, music history, voice, ceramics and photography. If you choose to familiarize yourself with a discipline, you may take one or two courses. However, if you are serious about pursuing your talents, OVS offers a pathway that can lead to some of the finest art and music schools in the country. Past graduates have attended Rhode Island School of Design, Oberlin College, California Institute of the Arts, and the Parsons School of Design.

OVS students also have the opportunity to participate in art exhibits. Musical performances and dramatic productions are presented each year in our beautiful outdoor amphitheater and in our recently completed performing arts center at our lower campus.



"As parents, we chose OVS for Andrew because of the incredible learning environment provided by the dynamic teaching staff and the beautiful campus. Through the guidance and mentoring of the teachers, Andrew has blossomed into a teenager who is motivated and eager to learn. He loves the whole learning and living experience at OVS."

*Trudie Town
Parent*



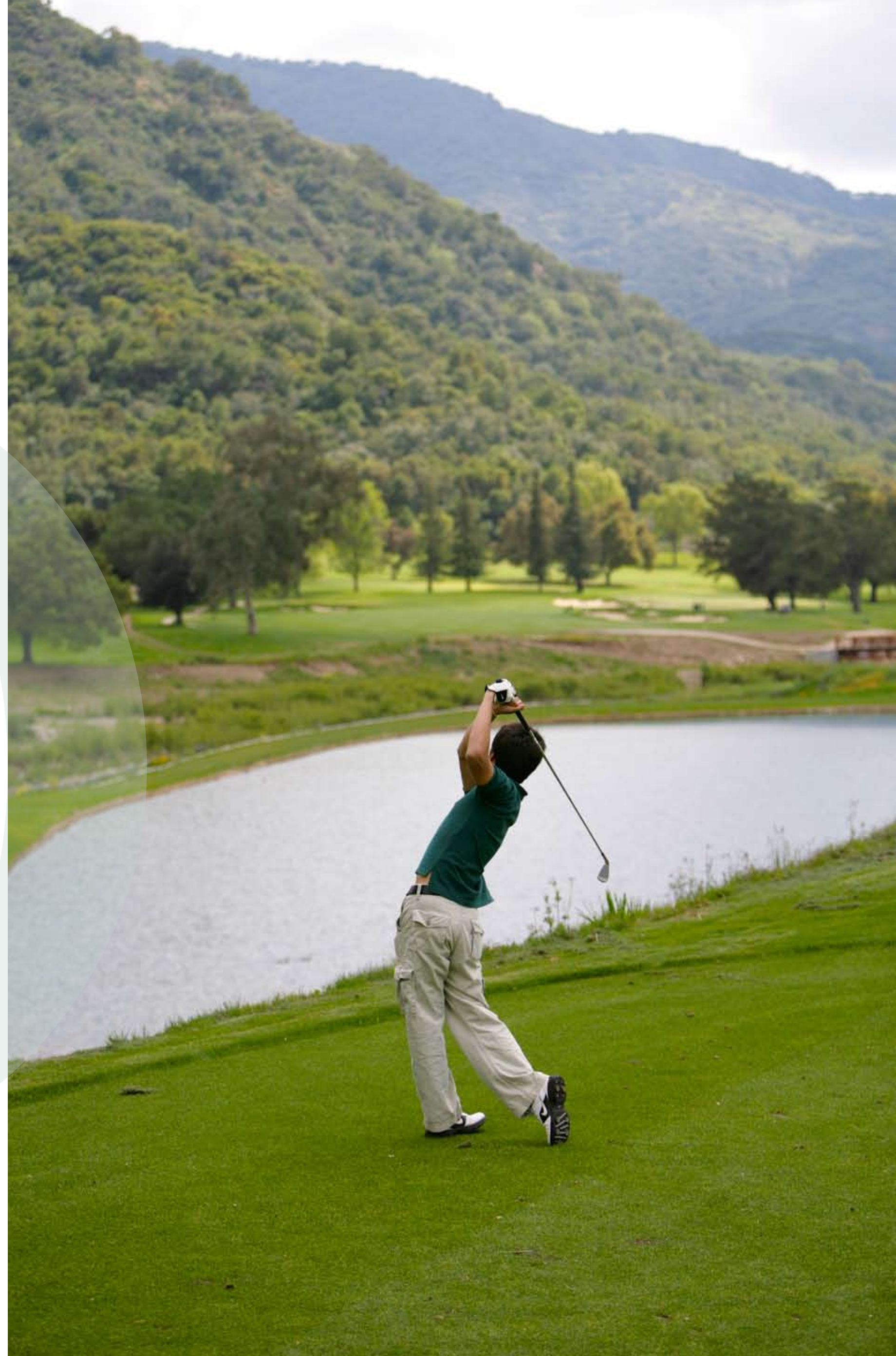


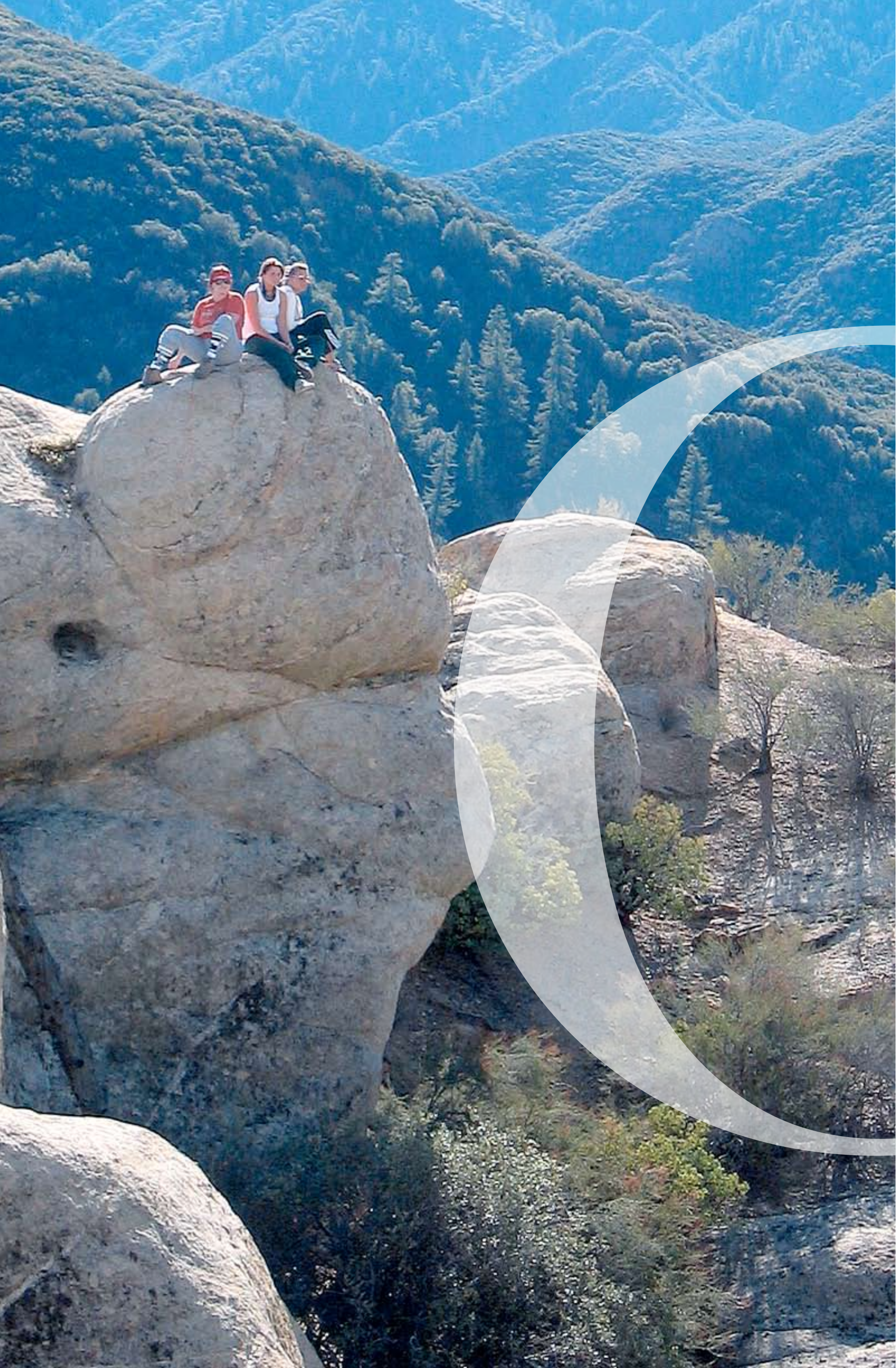
Awakening a Love of ATHLETICISM

Grab your cleats and pack your tennis racket. At Ojai Valley School, your well-rounded educational experience will include participation in our athletic program. Here, sports give you an opportunity to learn how to push yourself, stay healthy, and work as a member of a team.

You will have the opportunity to compete interscholastically in basketball, baseball, tennis, golf, volleyball, track, cross country, lacrosse, and soccer. OVS is a member of the Condor League, which competes with local independent schools including Thacher, Cate, and Dunn. OVS athletic facilities include tennis courts, soccer and lacrosse fields, and a heated pool available for recreational swimming or intramural water sports. OVS also has access to stunning canyon trails for hiking, running, and mountain biking, and the surf club meets regularly on the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

While at OVS, you will participate in some way in the athletic program, whether as a player or a team manager. Although you may have never swung a golf club or a lacrosse stick, you will have an opportunity to give it a try. By the time you graduate, you will have participated in a variety of sports and physical activities and gained a lifelong respect for teamwork and the benefits of exercise.





Awakening a Love for

THE OUTDOORS

In today's fast-paced, high-tech society, it is easy to believe exploration takes place online – not outdoors. At OVS, you will learn to navigate trails as well as websites, and to discover that beyond the search engines, there are journeys.

The outdoor program is a core part of the educational experience at Ojai Valley School. It will introduce you to some of the most breathtaking mountains, canyons, deserts, forests and coastlines in the Western United States, and teach you how to respect and care for our fragile environment. It will also teach you about yourself.

During the school year, you will spend four or five days at a time base camping or backpacking in the wilderness. You and your fellow hikers will form a team, and like all teams you will depend upon each other for success. As your adventure unfolds, each of you will find ways to contribute. In doing so, you will bond in a way you never imagined. OVS alumni often say it was the lessons learned on these trips that they remember most.

You will also get to test your mettle on our climbing wall and fully-equipped ropes course. And you will experience the wonder of such places as Death Valley, Joshua Tree National Monument, the Los Padres National Forest, the California Lost Coast, and the Eastern Sierra mountains.

“ ... we want you to learn to navigate trails as well as websites, and to discover that beyond the search engines, there are journeys”





Awakening a Love of EQUESTRIAN SPORTS

“In the equestrian program, you learn not only how to ride, but how to work with a horse. You’re a team. It teaches you patience, listening, focus, resilience, and self-confidence. And caring for an animal like that gives you a sense of responsibility.”

*Katie Clifford
University of California,
Santa Barbara
OVS Class of 2003*

Ojai Valley School is known throughout the region for its riding program, which is designed for both advanced equestrians and beginners.

Working with horses requires patience, sensitivity, persistence and good judgment – qualities OVS strives to instill in all its students. At OVS, our professionally trained instructors know how to ease beginners into the saddle, and they are equally skilled at teaching advanced equestrians how to maneuver a dressage test or a cross-country jumping course.

Every day after their academic classes, OVS equestrians walk to the stable on our upper campus to ride as their sport activity. Each rider is assigned a horse and is responsible for its daily care, grooming, and exercise. The school owns more than 60 horses and students are encouraged to ride different ones throughout the year, as each horse teaches something new. Students also can arrange to board their own horses at OVS during the school year.



The goal of the OVS Equestrian Program is to teach self-confidence, responsibility, maturity, and an interest in horse sports. Students ride English and Western styles and may participate in horse camping trips and trail rides. Many students achieve basic skills and ride only for recreation, while others choose to participate in horse shows and clinics with guest instructors.





Awakening a love of

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Living away from home for the first time can be exciting and, maybe, a bit scary. Fortunately, you will quickly come to consider OVS your second home, a place where you will forge lasting friendships. It will start with your roommate. Some of the strongest friendships form when roommates are from different parts of the country or even from different countries. These friendships form when you discover that no matter how different your backgrounds, you have much in common.

During the week, you will eat breakfast, lunch and dinner in our hilltop dining hall. The dress code is casual, except for Tuesday nights when we have dress dinner, which is typically followed by a student art exhibit or guest lecture. On most nights, you will have study hall and the opportunity for additional tutoring.

On weekends, there are planned activities to add a little fun and relaxation to the school week. You might stroll around downtown Ojai or Santa Barbara, or visit the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. You might go to a concert at the Hollywood Bowl or see a play. There may be an organized surf trip or a pizza party in your dorm parents' apartment. There also are school dances and karaoke parties. And there is down time to watch a movie and eat popcorn in the common room with friends. One thing is certain: as a resident at OVS, you will make deep, enduring friendships that will last long after you have graduated from Ojai Valley School.

"We are given the opportunity to really know our students through our interactions outside of the classroom – in the dorm, on a weekend event, on the sports field, as their advisors. This deeper knowledge allows us to better care for the whole child. These relationships can be long lasting, and, for me, the greatest reward is when students come back, years after graduating, and tell me how valuable their time was at OVS."

*Lisa Boyd
biology & music teacher*





OJAI VALLEY SCHOOL

WWW.OVS.ORG

To make an appointment or to get additional information, please contact us by one of the following methods:

Phone: 805.646.1423
Ask for the Admission Office
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Email: admission@ovs.org

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