



PreK



Santa Catalina
Lower and Middle School

Here's what we know to be **TRUE.**

Play-Doh and popsicle sticks have everything to do with learning. The PreKindergarten program at Santa Catalina finds that crucial balance between guided instruction and active play, support and self-reliance, exploration and comprehension.

Our littlest Cougars begin to grasp big concepts while gaining mastery and understanding of their own emotions.

Full and half-day options available. All PreK students join us for the first half of the day; for an additional cost, families can choose to extend to the full-day program which offers additional opportunities for group projects and learning adventures.



Building from the ground up.

A solid foundation is everything. Whether doing a dance to name new planets or using magnetic letters to work through a challenging word, PreK students are motivated by curiosity and supported by the intentionally small class settings. It feels like a home – where goodness, kindness, and mindfulness all come in to play.



We use a multi-sensory approach to literacy, based on the **Orton-Gillingham** method, as well as other proven literacy strategies. Students are introduced to math through **Dimensions Math, a Singapore Math program**, that includes counting, sorting and classifying, patterning, and graphing.

Handwriting Without Tears.

Simple, effective, and ideal for all learning styles, this research-based approach to handwriting uses multi-sensory, play-based instruction to teach letter formation and line placement.

Weekly themes. From penguins and leprechauns to the Gingerbread Man and the Lorax, each week introduces a theme that connects concepts across the curriculum.

Coming together as a community. Once a week PreK students visit the Rosary Chapel to explore sharing, gratitude, empathy, friendship, and feelings.

Focusing on every child's unique gifts.

A cardboard box becomes a spaceship. A play kitchen becomes a bustling restaurant. And a teddy bear, a patient. Embracing make-believe allows children to recognize their unique gifts and interests. Add in a sense of responsibility and personal choice, and you have a uniquely child-centered approach.



Leadership learning is built in. In addition to having assigned classroom jobs (from feeding the pet frogs to reporting on the weather), students also participate in small, guided reading groups, with a different child acting as leader each day.

I choose this! Students select their own activity for one period a day, which creates a sense of ownership and excitement around learning.

Art and more art. New masterpieces are created daily - with paint, stampers, scissors, paper, and glue.





Getting physical. All that energy has to go somewhere! PreK students work with a P.E. specialist to skip, catch, throw, run, and spin, all the while building motor skills and developing a sense of teamwork.

Weekly dance lessons in the Mary Johnson Dance Studio are included in the full-day program.

Moving, doing, performing.

There are endless ways for our preschoolers to be active. From field trips to performance opportunities to P.E., you'll find our students out and about – exploring the world and figuring out their place in it.



Enthusiastic performances. PreK students put on an annual Christmas play, host school-wide assemblies, and perform special songs at two beloved parent events.



A few of our favorite places to go...

The Pumpkin Patch in fall
The Monterey Bay Aquarium
Christmas caroling at local assisted living facilities
SPCA Monterey County

This is just the beginning.

There's so much to look forward to beyond PreK: swimming, technology classes, health and wellness learning, multi-grade friendships, and getting even more hands-on with inquiry-based science study.

Does Catalina feel like a fit for your family?

If so, we would love to meet you. We're also always here to answer any questions.

Don't hesitate to reach out:

lmsadmission@santacatalina.org

831.655.9351

Learn more and apply online:

santacatalina.org

If you're wondering about affordability, don't hesitate to reach out to our Director of Tuition Assistance at 831.655.9382.

We're committed to enrolling excellent, deserving students from a wide range of socioeconomic, religious, geographic, and cultural backgrounds.



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