

# Ventura Water Green School Program Report 2017-2018



## Ventura Water

Authored by:

Haili Matsukawa, Environmental Sustainability Specialist

Nick Shoemate, Environmental Sustainability Assistant



# PROGRAM SUMMARY

For the 2017-2018 school year, in partnership with Environmental Sustainability, Ventura Water offered free educational classroom presentations and field trip opportunities to schools in the Ventura Unified School District. Lesson plans were grade-specific and aligned with Next Generation Science Standards. All lesson plans included hands-on activities eliciting participation from all students. The program was offered to grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, with the majority of presentations taking place in Elementary schools. This program aims to bring awareness to the importance of local water resource management and water conservation as a way of life.

*The mission of Ventura Water's Green School Program is to educate and inspire youth to be good stewards of local water resources.*

 <b>FREE CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS</b>						
	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
Lesson Topics	<b>Go with the Flow</b> Water sources and water conservation	<b>Don't Doubt the Drought</b> Water conservation	<b>Rivers and Streams of Our Watershed</b> Water cycle demonstration	<b>A Drop in the Bucket</b> Water conservation	<b>Mountains to Mouth</b> Hands-on water treatment experiment	<b>The Incredible Journey</b> Water cycle simulation through interactive game
NGSS	<b>K-ESS3-3</b>	<b>1-LS1-1</b>	<b>2-ESS2-2</b>	<b>3-5-ETS1-2</b>	<b>3-5-ETS1-1</b>	<b>5-ESS2-2</b>
Requirement	Indoor or outdoor	Indoor or outdoor Groups of 4-6 students	Indoor or outdoor Groups of 4-6 students	Desk or table space Groups of 4-6 students	Desk or table space Groups of 4-6 students	Outdoor

For more information on field trips and education opportunities visit [www.venturawater.net](http://www.venturawater.net)

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

During the **2017-2018** school year, Ventura Water reached approximately **6,210** students in over **240** different classrooms. Ventura Water partnered with a local non-profit organization, the MERITO Foundation, to bring more than **600** multicultural youth to Ventura Water's Reclamation Facility for a day of science-based learning. This partnership earned Ventura Water the state level title of **Community Engagement and Outreach Project of the Year** from the California Water Environment Association (CWEA). Ventura High School's **Greener World Action Team** was recognized with the 2017-2018 **Watershed Hero Award** for their efforts to conserve water and prevent stormwater pollution through an on-campus Ocean Friendly Garden.

## MEET THE PRESENTERS



Haili Matsukawa (Ms. H<sub>2</sub>O)  
*Ventura Water*  
*Environmental Services Specialist*  
**Program Administrator**



Nick Shoemate (Mr. S)  
*Ventura Water*  
*Environmental Services Assistant*  
**Lead Educator**

# OUTREACH

To maximize program participation, Ventura Water advertises the Green School Program throughout the school year. Teachers are notified of the program via email and brochure mailers. Ventura Water staff coordinates with Principals, Teachers and Office Managers to schedule classroom presentations. Additionally, the program is advertised in the following:

- Ventura Unified School District's All Principal's Meeting (Annually)
- City of Ventura Website
- Ventura Water's Pipeline E-Newsletter
- Social Media
- Public Outreach Events
- Partner publications

# LESSON PLANS

Ventura Water’s curriculum focuses on topics such as water conservation, local water resources, the water cycle, and water treatment. All lesson plans are grade specific and aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

## **Kindergarten - Go with the Flow**

Students are introduced to water as a limited natural resource. Through an interactive story telling experience, students explore the journey water takes as it travels from the mountain to the faucet. Students discuss the importance of protecting and conserving water on earth.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Grade - Don’t Doubt the Drought**

Students review different ways living things rely on water as a natural resource. They are introduced to the term “drought” and investigate different responses (adaptations) from animals and plants. Students explore ways humans can mimic plants and animals to conserve water.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Rivers and Streams of Our Watershed**

Students simulate the water cycle moving through a self-designed watershed model. They review the different states of water (solid, liquid, and gas) as they relate to the water cycle. Students receive an introduction to vocabulary terms such as erosion, runoff, and groundwater aquifer. Ultimately, students explore ways to prevent stormwater pollution and protect their local watersheds.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - A Drop in the Bucket**

*(Adopted from Project WET Foundation)*

Students examine the distribution of fresh water on earth. They address the question “What is a drought?” They examine how water shortage affects the City of Ventura and investigate ways to save water.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Mountains to Mouth**

Students learn about Ventura’s local water sources, the City’s distribution system, and water infrastructure. In teams, students design their own water filter and discuss the importance of clean and safe drinking water.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Grade - The Incredible Journey**

*(Adopted from Project WET Foundation)*

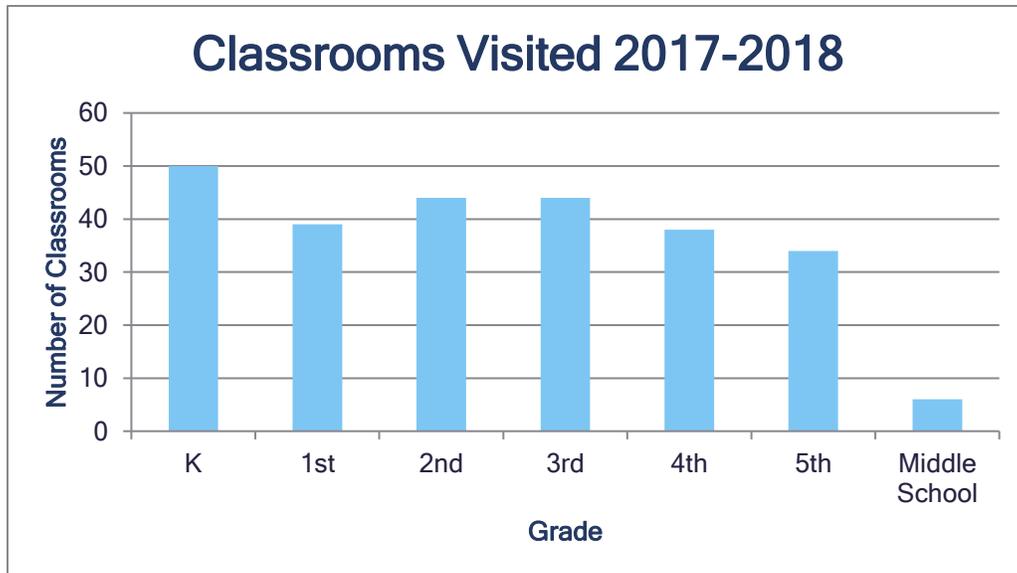
Through an outdoor simulation, students develop an in-depth understanding of the water cycle. They examine distribution of water around the earth and recognize water as a resource that is constantly being recycled. Finally, students discuss solutions and strategies for water resource management.

## **Middle/High School**

Students receive an age appropriate presentation on local water resources, water efficiency and future water supply projects.

# PROGRAM METRICS

During the 2017-2018 school year, Ventura Water presented in 21 different schools, 240 classrooms, and reached approximately 6,210 students, including bilingual and special education classrooms.



Total # of Schools	Total Classrooms	Total # of Students
21	240	6,210



# FIELD TRIPS AND MERITO FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

During the 2017-2018 school year, Ventura Water partnered with the MERITO Foundation, a local-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing meaningful watershed experiences to multicultural youth and their community. Approximately 600 students, parents, and educators visited the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility for a day of hands-on science-based learning. Students toured Ventura Water's wastewater treatment plant, conducted water quality testing out of Ventura Water's on-site wildlife ponds, and assessed ecosystem health through bird species identification. Through this field experience, students were exposed to careers in water science and the many roles and responsibilities necessary to sustain a safe and healthy environment.

Ventura Water offers free field trips to the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility to the public throughout the school year. Teachers and educators can schedule a field trip on Ventura Water's website. Tours are booked based on staff availability.



# GREEN SCHOOLS AWARD

In honor of Earth Day, Ventura Water sponsors the annual **Watershed Hero Award**, designed for schools who demonstrate extraordinary leadership in water conservation and water watershed protection. All public and private schools in the City of Ventura are eligible to apply for the award through a rolling online application. Applications are reviewed and selected by a panel. Winners are recognized in front of City Council and receive a monetary award to support project proposals.

Ventura High School's Greener World Action Team (GWAT) was awarded the **2017-2018 Watershed Hero Award** for replacing approximately 1,100 square feet of turf with a water wise landscape at the corner of Main Street and Catalina Street. This student led initiative saves water, prevents stormwater pollution and acts as a demonstration garden for the public.



# CONTACT US

Haili Matsukawa  
Program Administrator  
[hmatsukawa@venturawater.net](mailto:hmatsukawa@venturawater.net)  
(805) 652-4501

Nick Shoemate  
Lead Educator  
[nshoemate@venturawater.net](mailto:nshoemate@venturawater.net)

Ventura Water  
336 Sanjon Rd.  
P.O. Box 99  
Ventura, CA 93002

## Additional resources

- Ventura Water's Green Schools Program: [www.venturawater.net](http://www.venturawater.net)
- Green School Award: [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1234/Green-School-Award](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1234/Green-School-Award)
- MERITO Foundation: [www.meritofoundation.org](http://www.meritofoundation.org)