

Ventura Water Green School Program Report 2018-2019



Ventura Water

Authored by:

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PROGRAM SUMMARY

During the 2018-2019 school year, 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 12th 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.

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

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

During the **2018-2019** school year, Ventura Water reached approximately **5,800** students in over **234** different classrooms. Ventura Water partnered with a local non-profit organization, the MERITO Foundation, to bring more than **500** multicultural youth to Ventura Water's Reclamation Facility for a day of science-based learning. **ATLAS Elementary School** was recognized with the 2018-2019 **Watershed Hero Award** for their efforts to conserve water through a water wise peace garden.

MEET THE PRESENTERS



Haili Matsukawa (Ms. H₂O)
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.

1st 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.

2nd 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.

3rd 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.

4th 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.

5th Grade - The Incredible Journey

(Adopted from Project WET Foundation)

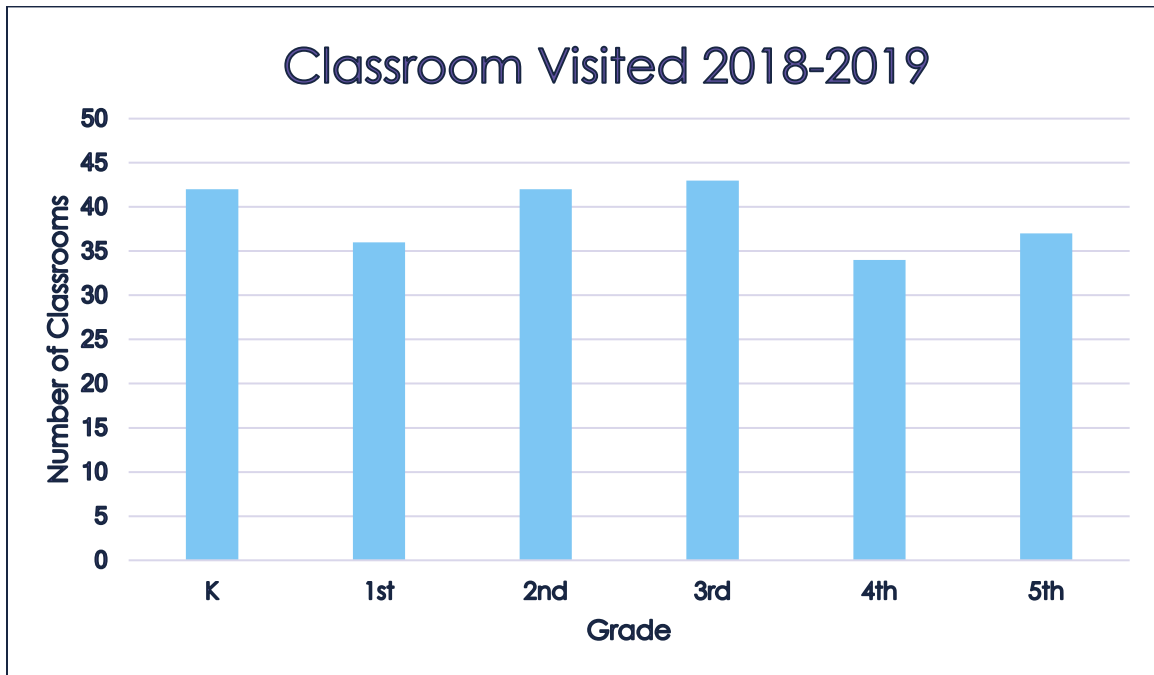
Through an outdoor simulation, students develop an in-depth understanding of the water cycle. They examine distribution of water around the earth and recognize water as a resource that is constantly being recycled. Finally, students discuss solutions and strategies for water resource management.

Middle & High School

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

PROGRAM METRICS

During the 2018-2019 school year, Ventura Water presented in 17 different schools, 234 classrooms, and reached approximately 5,800 students, including bilingual and special education classrooms.



Total # of Schools	Total Classrooms	Total # of Students
17	234	5,800



SURVEY RESULTS

An online survey was administered to participating teachers to gather feedback and measure program effectiveness.

100% of those surveyed **agreed** or **strongly agreed** that:

1. The presentation was engaging and interactive.
2. The presenter delivered material in a clear and structured manner.
3. The lesson plan was aligned with science standards.
4. The material was relevant and age appropriate.
5. The presentation highlighted the value of water as a natural resource.
6. I would participate in Ventura Water's Green School Program again.

"Wonderfully engaging lesson with great hands-on experiences and interaction."

"Perfect, age appropriate. Very engaging."

"The kids enjoyed the presentation very much. I enjoyed the structure and the planning that went into the presentation."

"The presenter had great classroom management."

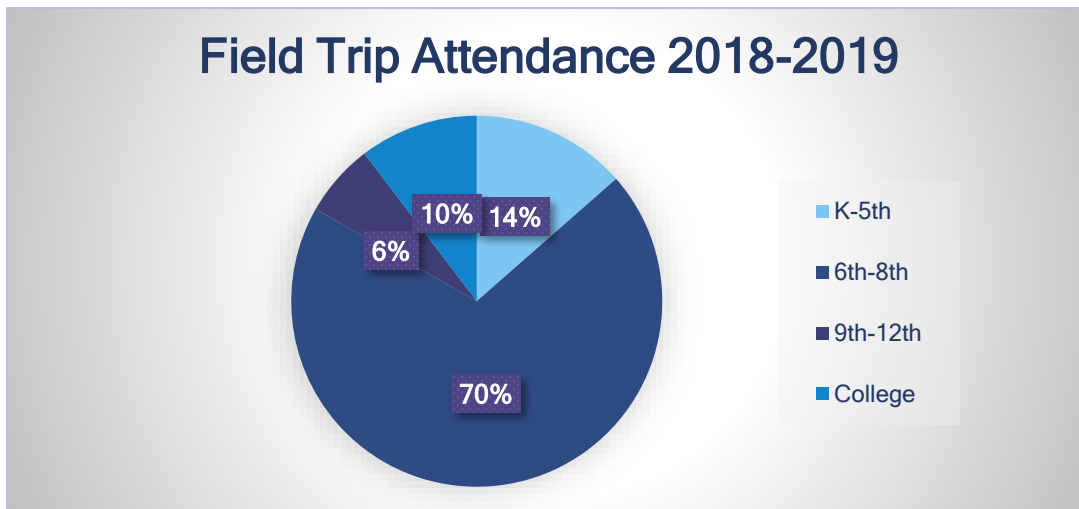
"This was great and tied in perfectly to our unit on plant and animal needs, with a relevant focus on today's issues."

"Great presentation, engaging, and targeted towards science standards."

FIELD TRIPS AND MERITO FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

During the 2018-2019 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 **500** 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** 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 receive an honorary plaque and a \$500 cash award.

ATLAS Elementary School was presented with the 2018-2019 **Watershed Hero Award** for implementing a water wise garden on campus. The garden conserves water, supports pollinators such as birds and bees, and provides a beautiful space for students to engage with nature. This project was a collaboration between students, parents and volunteers from local Cub Scout troops.



CONTACT US

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Additional resources

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