

Our students are inundated by an awareness of our impact on the environment in which we live. Recycling is a campus-wide effort and discussions about reduced-trash lunches and snacks are had regularly as our students eat in their classrooms with their teachers each day. Our school gardens include compost areas and vermi-culture in which students understand first-hand the relationship between the products they use and its relationship with the earth. Student art materials are made from natural resources such as beeswax crayons and natural dye watercolor paint. Each classroom has a nature table which displays items from the environment that change with the seasons. We have two organic gardens on campus. The kindergarten tends a vegetable garden near their play yard while the grades plant and maintain crops in planter boxes in the garden adjacent to our organic fruit tree orchard.

Mariposa has founded a partnership with the Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) and was originally funded by a grant from the City of Calabasas. This year, the program is funded by our parents. Naturalists from the MRCA come to our classrooms once each month to teach hands-on lessons about nature and the environment. The lesson is followed up on a different day with a full-day hike and outdoor activities in the Santa Monica Mountains. Other outdoor education field trips and assemblies also take place throughout the year.