

About Valley Ranch Elementary

Valley Ranch Elementary opened in 1996 with an enrollment of 360 students. Since that time, Valley Ranch has grown and now has an enrollment of 650 boys and girls from around the world. The diversity of Valley Ranch offers a wealth of cultural awareness for the entire VRE family.

Academically, Valley Ranch learners have excelled through the years and have consistently received high ratings. For the 2016 school year, Valley Ranch met standard from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on student achievement, student progress, and closing performance gaps. Valley Ranch also received Distinction Designation in Reading/ELA, Top 25% in Closing Performance Gaps, and Top 25% in Student Progress.

The instructional model at Valley Ranch Elementary is guided by the CISD Learning Framework and through the lens of PBL. Instruction has moved from short term knowledge retention to long term retention by integrating 21st Century learning experiences and embedding soft skills such as communication, collaboration, and personal responsibility and setting SMART Goals. These real life experiences will prepare Valley Ranch students for future expectations of our society and work force.

Project-Based Learning in Action



Second graders research on laptops during their economy PBL.



Kindergarten learners collaborate by working together to complete a shape puzzle

Valley Ranch Elementary

A Project-Based Learning School



Thinking Makes Us Shine

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VRE PBL Mission

Valley Ranch Elementary believes in engaging learners in authentic and constructivist learning experiences. We encourage our students to excel through collaboration, communication, and personal responsibility. Using the PBL cycle, learners become critical thinkers, consumers of information, informed researchers, and effective communicators. As group collaborators and informed decision makers, students will create authentic final products.



Fifth graders conduct Critical Friends sessions

Why Use Project-Based Learning?

- Grade level TEKS are integrated
- Fosters active learning
- Develops critical thinking skills
- Connects to real world experiences
- Promotes authentic research driven projects
- Helps learners make meaning



Some first grade students collect dry goods during their Helping Hands project benefiting the CCA.



A group of third grade students observe the environment as part of their PBL project at Sharkarosa Ranch, a North Texas animal refuge.

2016-2017 PBL Projects

Kindergarten

Plant Helper.....	December
Land That I Love.....	January
Have a Great Trip.....	March
Love Our World.....	April/May

First Grade

All About Me.....	September
Where Are We.....	October
Helping Hands.....	December
Influential African Americans.....	February
Surveys and Graphing.....	March
Plants.....	April

Second Grade

Beyond the Stars.....	September
Economy.....	October/November
Air and Weather.....	December
Insects.....	February
Plants.....	April/May

Third Grade

Sharkarosa Ranch Project.....	September/October
Moving On.....	November/December
History's a Mystery.....	January/February
Plan A Playground.....	February
Go, Go Government.....	March
Starnival.....	April/May

Fourth Grade

The Eyes of Texas.....	September
Look at Us Light Up!.....	October
Making a CHANGE.....	December
Piece of P.I.E.....	January
Poetry.....	February
Genres.....	March
Famous Frozen Figures.....	April/May

Fifth Grade

iSafe.....	August
Celebrate Freedom.....	September
New Visions.....	September
How Do you Loose a Colony?.....	October
Building of the Future.....	November
I've Got the Power.....	December
Is the Force With You?.....	January
Manifest Destiny, Louisiana Purchase, Louis & Clark.....	February
Math is a Work of Art.....	March
Frankenstein.....	April