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When I Grow up ...

Cool Schools for Cool Kids

by Kelly Pollard

In this current economic climate, funding for music, arts, and science education is virtually nonexistent. Resourceful parents are dealing with this by turning to alternate educational opportunities that help broaden their children's outlook.

Margaret Grover-Roos, owner of Viva El Español in Lafayette, believes programs such as her Spanish school complement any child's education—fitting these extra classes into an already busy schedule is easier than one might think.

"To me, speaking another language gives children a lifelong ability to communicate with people from other countries and backgrounds," says Grover-Roos. "There have been numerous studies linking knowledge of a second language to higher standardized test scores and academic achievement."

Many of the programs listed below can also fit into your child's schedule. What is your child passionate about? Perhaps the perfect school in which they can develop this passion is just a phone call away.

These listings are by no means comprehensive, as the Bay Area is home to a variety of amazing schools for children. This is only a starting point for your future research.\

If you want your child to grow up to be a **World Traveler**, send them to ...

Viva El Español

3451 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette

(925) 962-9177 | www.vivaelespanol.org

Classes are offered for preschool age through high school. Saturday family classes, and parent and child classes for toddlers are also offered. Emphasis is on a hands-on, multi-sensory approach using music, art, games, and storytelling to learn Spanish. Programs are offered at local elementary schools in Lafayette, Moraga, Walnut Creek, Oakland, Pleasanton, San Leandro, and San Francisco. Check Web site for specific schools.

Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley

1009 Heinz Ave., Berkeley

(510) 549-3867 | www.eb.org

Bonjour! French immersion programs are offered based on the three primary grade cycles of the French education system: Cycle 1 (preschool and K), Cycle 2 (K-1-2), Cycle 3 (3-4-5); middle school constitutes the entrance into Cycle 4.

Mandarin Play and Learn

480 Teresita Blvd., San Francisco

415-469-0195 | www.mandarinplaylearn.com

Saturday morning classes (ages 3 to 7) are available along with after-school classes for elementary age children. Summer camps offered too.

Sakura Gakuen

6850 Regional St., Ste 110, Dublin

(925) 556-9555

www.eastbaysakuragakuen.com

Instruction are available in Japanese for both Japanese and non-Japanese students (ages 3 to adult). Gakuen programs are based on the elite kindergarten and grade school curriculums from Japan, rated one of the highest in the world.

Golestan Kids

1808 5th St., Berkeley

(510) 704-8541 | www.golestankids.com

The only immersion program of its kind in the Bay Area, they teach Farsi and Persian languages to Iranian American kids in the Bay Area (ages 18 months and up).

If you want your child to grow up to be a **Rock Star**, send them to ...

Where Music Begins:

Academy of Music Education

5460 Sunol Blvd., Ste 1, Pleasanton

(925) 249-0661 | www.wheremusicbegins.com

Music for all ages. Lessons in piano, rhythm, vocals, kindermusik and sign language. They also provide adapted music lessons to children with special needs.



Andrea's Musical Adventures

Check Web site for class locations
(925) 280-7364 | www.musicwithandrea.com
Introduction of music concepts (ages infancy to 7). Pre-piano and group piano classes, as well as parent-child classes

Music Together

Check Web site for East Bay locations
(925) 551-7722 | www.musictogether.net
Emphasis is on mixed-age classes with infants attending with older siblings. Classes held at a variety of times and places.

Academy of Language and Music Arts

99 Brookwood Road, Orinda
(925) 254-5056 | www.alma-leap.com
This school offers group and private lessons in all instruments, and you can also sign up your child for a variety of language classes (ages 3 and up).

If you want your child to grow up to be an **Artistic Genius**, send them to ...

SmartsUnlimited

53 Wright Brothers Way, Livermore
(925) 245-0283 | www.smartsunlimited.com
This school has it all for the aspiring artist: classes in musical instruments, theater, opera, film making, drawing, painting, and mixed media art. Check out the Kindersmart class (ages 2 to 6), where they are exposed to various arts over the course of the class.

Lamorinda Academy of Music and Arts

3381 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
(925) 299-1240 | www.musicandart.corg
Locations also in Moraga, Orinda, Walnut Creek and other East Bay locations.
This studio offers art classes (ages 6 and up), with student exhibitions. Music classes in various instruments and on composition. Students are trained for recitals or to compete.

If you want your child to grow up to be a **Rocket Scientist**, send them to ...

Sarah's Science

27525 Knoll Way, Castro Valley
(510) 581-3739 | www.sarahscience.com
Classes in Berkeley, Oakland and San Ramon
This program features hands-on science projects for kids (ages 5 to 15) that teach complex science concepts. The school offers camps over holiday breaks and summer camps, as well as science nights and Saturday classes throughout the year.

Mad Science Mount Diablo

1150 Burnett Ave, Ste A, Concord
(925) 687-1900
www.madscience.org/mtdiablo
Kids learn and get to participate in unique experiments and dazzling demonstrations of science in action. Take classes, workshops, and summer camps. Offered at over one hundred schools and recreation sites in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties; check Web site for locations (preschool age and up). Scouts can also earn badges through specific projects in the program. [BAK](#)

» Open House/Parent Info Session Calendar

Academy at Berkeley

2722 Benvenue Ave.,
Berkeley, (510) 549-0605
www.theacademyk-8.com
Sunday, Oct 25, 1–3pm
Tuesday, Nov 10, 7–8:30pm

Diablo Valley Montessori School

3390 Deer Hill Rd., Lafayette
(925) 283-8036
www.dvms.org
Montessori 101
Oct 21, 6pm: For parents of
PreK/Kindergartners
Montessori in the Home:
Nov 19, 5pm: For parents
of Infants and Toddlers

Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley

1009 Heinz Ave., Berkeley
(510) 549-3867
www.eb.org
Nov 12, 6:30pm

Renaissance School

3668 Dimond Ave., Oakland
(510) 531-8566
Pre-primary/Primary
Oct 6, 2009 – 9:30am
Oct 29, 2009 – 9:30am
Nov 18, 2009 – 9:30am
Dec 2, 2009 – 9:30am
**K/Elementary/Middle
School**
Nov 17, 2009 – 9:30am
Dec 3, 2009 – 9:30am

German International School of Silicon Valley, Berkeley Campus

1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley/
Kensington, (650) 254-0748
www.glssv.org
Oct 10, 10am to 2 pm
Nov 10, 6:30–8pm
Dec 8, 6:30–8pm

Sakura Gakuen

6850 Regional St., Ste 110,
Dublin, (925) 556-9555
www.eastbaysakuragakuen.com
Open house week for
Japanese classes and
abacus (soroban) classes
Oct 19–Oct 24

Growing Light Montessori Schools

www.growinglight.net
4700 Lincoln Ave., Oakland
(510) 336-9897
52 Arlington Ave., Kensington
(510) 527-1278
1450 Moraga Rd., Moraga
(925) 377-0407
Nov 6, 6:30–8pm: For Pre K
/ K & 1st-3rd grades.

Seven Hills School

975 North San Carlos Dr.,
Walnut Creek
925) 933-0666
www.sevenhillsschool.org
Oct 27, 9:15am
Jan. 20, 9:15 am.

PRESCHOOL FAIRS

Lamorinda Moms

Preschool Fair

Nov 12, 6:30–9 PM, Oak-
wood Athletic Club, Lafay-
ette
www.lamorindamoms.org

East Bay Moms

Preschool & Childhood Resource Fair

Jan 23, Scottish Rite Center,
Oakland
www.eastbaymoms.com

Family Matters

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