Chadwick-style Outdoor Education in Nature

Find your own way, enjoying challenges and adventures

What kind of life do you want your child to live in this complex and challenging world?
One solution to this fundamental question is Chadwick International School's Outdoor Education program, which enables children to experience nature, become more independent, and grow into stronger, more tolerant children step by step.
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Children Learn from Nature

Outdoor Education (hereinafter referred to as OE) allows children to think about themselves from a different perspective and provides significant growth opportunities through facing and overcoming new challenges. OE is an essential field of experiential learning. Unfortunately, schools often put it on the back burner. The reality is that students experience the bare minimum of outdoor field trips, typically not far from home. And it is only in the upper grades that students in too few schools are able to experience boot camp-like outdoor education. OE requires the full support of schools, parents and a systematic program to decide what kind of experiences students will have, when and how. In this context, the OE program at Chadwick International School is worth noting.

The Outdoor Education Program Originated From Chadwick School in the USA

Chadwick International School's OE program originates from Chadwick's main campus located in Palos Verdes, outside Los Angeles, USA. Chadwick School is a private, non-profit school that provides curriculums from Kindergarten to Upper School based on the educational philosophy of a well-rounded education, emphasized by its founder, Margaret Lee Chadwick. Based on her educational philosophy of experience-based learning, the OE program has been provided since 1935 and is now a major component of Chadwick's curriculums. While OE programs run secondary in most schools, at Chadwick it is designated core curriculum. The OE program at Chadwick facilitates students' growth into global citizens

1. Chadwick's OE program is designed for students to take on challenges and adventures in nature. The program awakens students to valuable life skills that cannot be learned in the classroom, such as self-reliance, self-esteem and leadership.
2. Under the leadership of the Director of OE, many experts and experienced instructors, Chadwick has annually provided optimized OE programs for students in each grade level.

and the development of leadership skills. The program is fully supported to maximize the effectiveness of education by establishing systematic processes for each grade and developmental stage. Ryan Lofgren, the Director of the OE program, says, "People often think that academic performance in the classroom is completely separate from Outdoor Education, but I have seen many cases where students gain confidence through outdoor education and return to school able to better focus on their studies. I have even seen a student who seemed ordinary in the classroom take on a leadership role with stride and facilitate his classmates in engaging with nature. OE is necessary education that brings about real growth in students! This is why we are committed to Outdoor Education."

Tailored to Childrens' Level and Development Stage
Continuity is the most important feature of Chadwick International School's OE program. We aim to broaden student experience and growth by providing more challenging programs year by year. In the Village School, students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 spend a day in nature off campus with their OE teachers. In Grade 4, they take a two-day trip in nature for the first time, enjoying mountain climbing, cycling and camping. The time students spend in nature gradually increases as they go up in grade level. It's not just about spending more time in nature. From Grade 8, the programs allow students to take the lead in exploring nature independently. Students are divided into groups, dropped off at different locations and move to their destinations and camp alone. In nature, they are given more and more autonomy. Through this process, they naturally discover their way of collaboration. The core educational philosophy emphasized by the final course of the OE program is independence. Students stay in nature for an extended period of time, finding their way and eating meals on their own. Students expand their comfort zone every year, giving them the confidence needed to overcome problems they will face as adults. In other words, in such a curriculum, they develop the ability to handle crises and leadership necessary in life. Students are required to write their thoughts and feelings down in a journal throughout the OE program every year. When students complete the OE course, they then have that diary containing the highlights of their growth. As such, Chadwick International School's OE program produces continuous, organic and systematic educational achievements.