iLEAD Agua Dulce’s charter was approved on June 21st, 2018, with a staff of 8 and opened in just 8 weeks from charter approval with 110 learners. This year, we have grown to a staff of 20 with 238 learners!
2019 kept getting better when iLEAD Agua Dulce found out that the PCSG public charter schools grant application that was submitted to the California Department of Education was approved for $475,000. This enabled the school to purchase a SMART Lab Exploratorium, Promethean ActivPanels for every classroom, big blue blocks for engineering and design, and items to enhance the outstanding Outdoor Classroom, where all learners from TK-7th grade have the opportunity to learn about and connect with nature. In 2020, there will be a Makery, an Art Studio, and more technology on the way. And if that wasn’t enough, iLEAD Agua Dulce was awarded $50,000 more to add toward programs for our learners who need extra support!

iLEAD Agua Dulce went through the very difficult process of becoming a WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) Accredited school, which was ambitious for a first-year school. However, they took on the challenge and were elated to receive the accreditation. After adding on 7th grade, iLEAD Agua Dulce went through the process again where they are now accredited through 7th grade.
In September, the learners and parents worked together after school to create a one-of-a-kind float for the Agua Dulce parade route. They were proud to win 6 trophies, including Best Overall. They created another one of a kind float and brought home all first place trophies again this year and helped to sponsor the Agua Dulce Country Fair.

iLEAD Agua Dulce has had many other events, including:
◊ Harvest Festival
◊ Winter Production
◊ ’50s Ice Cream Socials
◊ Outdoor drive-in movie nights
◊ Binghetti
◊ Pancake and Cereal Buffet Breakfasts
◊ Dress for a Mess Day
Outdoor Classroom

Our TK-1st grade Outdoor Classroom is a huge focal point of our school as we believe so strongly in providing opportunities for our learners to PLAY. Valuing the endless amounts of research that has been conducted on play for healthy brain development, we have created outdoor spaces providing engaging child-led areas such as loose parts, tinkering, art, mud kitchens, Storybook Theater, science, music, and connecting with nature. The outdoor classroom is set up with intentionality to support education throughout the domains and meets learning objectives and goals. Through documentation, reflection and observing children’s play, we see that it does more than stimulate physical, social-emotional, and creative development.

Play Maker’s Institute

Play is THE primary means by which children explore the world, investigate its properties, and build an understanding of the world around them. This year, we opened our Play Maker’s Institute to further educate teachers, families and community members on the importance of play and how to incorporate into their programs. School Director, Lisa Latimer is deeply involved in advocating for play and is now leading the United States Representative Committee for the International Play Association.
Real World Connections

Connecting our learners with experts in a variety of fields, helps them to think globally and understand the workforce on a broader scale. Each project, facilitators connect the learners with people who specialize in areas that pertain to their projects, to make that connection with the real world. In just 14 months they have met with over 35 experts in the fields of:

◊ Government: Acton Agua Dulce Town Council
◊ Assemblywoman Christie Smith
◊ Urban Forestry Manager
◊ Justice Deputy in Charge Public Safety Legislation and Policy
◊ Two-time Cupcake Wars winner and Food Network Champion
◊ Fire Department
◊ Permaculture
◊ Engineers
◊ General contractors
◊ NASA
◊ Vasquez Rocks rangers and birds of prey
◊ Mars Science Laboratory/NASA JPL Scientist
◊ Paleontologist
◊ Musician/Author
◊ Artists/Designers
◊ Architecture
◊ And more...

DreamUp To Space and Genes In Space

Our learners had to research and design a specific experiment to be conducted in microgravity. This was a very high level project with very specific guidelines. All of our teams worked incredibly hard. Out of over 150 teams, 2 of our teams finished in the top 6, which then had to be judged by a team of NASA scientists. We are proud to say our team who researched the Effects of Aloe Vera will be among the final teams going to Florida to watch their experiment be flown to the International Space Station, where their experiment will be conducted by the astronauts.
Jamboree

The iLEAD Agua Dulce Jamboree is an exciting event where we celebrate the end of a spectacular school year. We have a live band, silent auction, food trucks and games. More importantly, our learners showcase their talents through performance, show their entrepreneurial skills with learner-made items to sell, and take the lead with helping to plan the event.

Gardens/Chicken Coop

As part of our very first project on building a positive and inclusive school environment, the learners built a chicken coop and created 12 garden beds for the entire campus to work on together each year. Once our chickens lay eggs and vegetables have grown, the learners will have an annual Farmers Market to promote healthy eating and the entrepreneurial spirit!

Our Critters!

iLEAD Agua Dulce currently has 1 gecko, 1 snake, 6 guinea pigs, 8 rabbits and some chickens to arrive in Spring. There are also miniature horses and donkeys that frequently visit the campus. The animals not only create a sense of responsibility, but they help to foster empathy and serve as a comforting support for learners when needed.

Multi-Cultural Feast

The iLEAD Agua Dulce Multi-Cultural Feast is a yearly event where the entire community comes together to celebrate the wide range of cultures that make up our family! A potluck style event, the Multi-Cultural Feast allows families, learners, and friends to explore the SCVi campus while sampling foods and gaining understanding for a variety of amazing cultures.
After School Clubs

Our after-school clubs are led by our facilitators to help the learners tap into their passions. Clubs change every 6 weeks to offer a wide variety of hands-on experiences. Learners have fun participating in a plethora of activities including ballroom dancing, spirit squad, environmental art, mindfulness, Home EC, improvisation, reading and math club, crafting, life skills, and outdoor explorers. We also have competitive sports teams including soccer, basketball, and flag football.

Project-Based Learning

iLEAD Agua Dulce’s curriculum and instruction are based on authentic Gold Standard Project-Based Learning (PBL). Not only do facilitators work with a variety of curriculum to support personalized learning, SCVi learners have opportunities to follow their passions and set their own unique goals for their education. SCVi follows Common Core state standards. All iLEAD Agua Dulce staff goes through extensive training every August before the school year starts and throughout the year. Authentic Project-based learning is the ideal way to prepare our learners for higher learning in college and the 21st century workplace.

Family Communications

iLEAD Agua Dulce’s weekly online publication sent to all families and the community. The Monday Message provides a wealth of information on school events, PBL, ways for families to get involved, and technology opportunities/ideas. This is the main source of school information. Facilitators also send out grade level Weekly Update emails that highlight the specifics of weekly school life including academics, upcoming events, and projects. In addition, Table Talks are emailed home 2-3 times a week. Table Talks are specific questions that families can ask their child to spark meaningful conversations about the learning taking place in the classroom.
iSUPPORT

Each month, families meet with administration and the director to talk about school updates, upcoming events, ways to be involved and form committees for specific events.

◊ Attend annual conferences: CCSA, A Plus, College Board, CCIS, Student Support Symposium, School Pathways

◊ Maker Team: supports and gives ongoing training on current topics in EL, PBL, conflict resolution, leadership, and 7 Habits as well as conducting twice annual “Camp Make” intensive staff development multi-day workshops

◊ ED Specialist, Counselor, Multiple service providers to provide OT, adaptive PE, DHH

◊ Third year of hosting a Student Support Symposium that offers training to everyone on staff about special education related support. This is open up to staff, parents, and outside school communities in the area to help train them on special education supports.

◊ SST process with multiple tiered interventions has been developed and implemented over the past couple years, promoting growth and support for general education learners so they can be successful.