



## TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL TOUR OF LOS ENCINOS SCHOOL (8:29)

(INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC)

**BILL BIRCH (Admissions/Advancement and Narrator):** Los Encinos is an independent, non-profit school that was founded in the heart of Encino in 1980 by the visionary educator, Chris Holabird. Chris believed, "Nothing is bigger than childhood." And that's why LES is deliberately a smaller school than most, with only one class per grade from kindergarten through sixth. We know that childhood is a magical window of time and we're committed to helping our students experience it fully by keeping our school small enough to deliver a vast education. Behind our iconic red gates, nestled amongst the oak trees, you'll find a school that emphasizes a project-based curriculum which is enhanced by a rich and deeply integrated humanities program. LES is a close-knit community where cooperation and friendships span all grades. We eat lunch together and we play together which creates a special bond where every child on campus knows the name of everyone else. Our buddy program which pairs kindergarteners with sixth-graders, and first-graders with fifth-graders, is an exciting rite of passage for our students. These shared experiences build confidence in the younger children and give older students mentoring practice and valuable leadership skills. Our campus has dedicated spaces for art, where children work with a variety of materials. They paint, weave, or fire ceramics into their latest masterpieces.

**VALERIE GORDON (Art Specialist):** Clink, clink, clink, everybody. Good fortune, good luck, and good work.

**BB:** Music. Where the sounds of creativity blend with the discovery of history and cultures. Drama. With both a large, communal hall, and outdoor performance space, we have ample room to share classroom performances as well as host professional artists throughout the year. Our science program utilizes two science labs, where our students perform hands-on experiments so they can learn from both their success and failures. A Technology Lab. Where keyboarding and coding lead to robotics and 3-D printing. Two Outdoor Gardens. One, edible, and the other featuring California native plants. Both supply fertile ground to teach our students the importance of eco-literacy. A Block Room. Where our younger students work together with unit blocks to create imaginary worlds while sharpening their math skills. A MakerSpace. Our all-purpose workshop where students build projects from drawbridges to paper airplanes to de-constructing old dishwashers to reveal the secrets of how they work. And finally, a library, where kids can spend some quiet time away from technology as they read or work on a project.

STUDENT 1: It's like when I open a book, I can go into another world.

BB: A key component of our success are the talented and dedicated teachers at Los Encinos School who guide students along ambitiously creative learning paths. Our fifth and sixth grades are each staffed with an experienced, credentialed teacher and full-time assistant. While our lower grades, kinder through fourth, are staffed with two credentialed teachers and an assistant. With a targeted class size of 26, we're able to take advantage of the power of small and offer an exceptional student-to-teacher ratio. Several times a day, primary classes are broken up into fluid groups where half the students go to a humanities class, and the remaining 13 students are then broken up into three even smaller groups to focus on core curriculum. This provides for even more individualized instruction where students feel safe to accept challenges and take risks. At LES, curriculum is viewed through the lens of an annual school-wide theme that integrates our core subjects with those taught in our extensive humanities program. For example, "Stories All Around Us" was a recent school-wide theme. And during that time, you would've found a fourth-grader who is studying the origins of California in History is also making adobe bricks in Science; singing songs of the gold miners in Music; painting California regional landscapes and making prints with native flowers in Art; while in Drama, creating an original play and acting out the establishment of the California missions from both the perspective of the settlers and the Native Americans.

STUDENT 2: In 1833, Mexico passed a law that officially ended the California missions. It was called, "secularization."

ALL STUDENTS: Secularization.

BB: This integration through all subjects connects ideas and deepens our students' level of understanding. At LES, it's always been a priority to teach our students the importance of equity, inclusion, and justice. Our robust Service Learning program stresses the importance of involvement and teaches our students to be respectful and compassionate individuals that engage our community with purpose. With student projects in every grade level, students work with such organizations as MEND, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Guide Dogs of America, and LA Family Housing which LES has proudly had a rewarding relationship with for over 20 years. Embedded into our curriculum is our Virtues & Values program which plays an important part in teaching our students the core values with which LES was founded on 40 years ago. Where it's "generosity," "empathy," "humility," "joy," or any of the dozens of other values, these words are used as touchpoints in our daily instruction, and even used with great success to work through our own small classroom conflicts.

STUDENT 3: When you're telling the truth, that means "honesty."

BB: Our students' experiences are enhanced even further with numerous field trips into our community and beyond. Overnight trips begin in fourth grade, and journeys to Sacramento, Wolf Camp, or El Capitan are always highlights for our older students. LES offers students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades the opportunity to join our co-ed, all-inclusive sports teams. Our

students learn valuable lessons and have fun with their friends as they compete against other independent schools in the San Fernando Valley. When we recently asked our current parents how they would describe LES, the word "community" was the answer given most. We cherish our parents' eagerness to be involved and know that their engagement makes us the community that we are. Opportunities for involvement are plentiful. From large jobs like chairing a major fund-raising event or organizing a community engagement project, to smaller commitments like helping to spruce up the campus once a year or occasionally serving hot lunch. There are a wide range of volunteer opportunities, all of which are important in helping build our tight-knit community. We know deciding on an elementary school can sometimes be overwhelming. At LES, we have a dedicated admissions team to help you navigate the process. Our head of school, Ilene Reinfeld, has been guiding LES for seventeen years, making her one of the more seasoned independent school heads in Los Angeles. She and her staff are always available to answer questions or offer advice for interested applicants. And while you may not be thinking about the day your child eventually graduates and heads into middle school, be assured our sixth grade students graduate from LES with stellar academic credentials, exceptional social skills, and have the added bonus of Mrs. Reinfeld's strong reputation for placing students in secondary schools where they are successful and personally fulfilled. Please don't hesitate to email with any questions you may have about LES and the application process.

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(ANIMATED LES LOGO)

END.