

PETRA

A Schoolhouse on the Rock

1st– 9th Grades
2018-19

A ministry serving homeschooling mothers
attending Women's Bible Study at Valley Church

Parent Meeting (1st– 9th Grades)
September 13, 2018
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Campus Center

Valley Church
10885 N. Stelling Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
(408)739-4642
www.valleychurch.org

Table of Contents

Welcome to PETRA!	3
Our Mission	3
Our Background	4
Your Commitment	4
On-Campus Policy & Registration	5
Fees	6
Our Staff	7
Important Dates	8
Classrooms	8
Class Schedules	9
Dropping Off & Picking Up Your Children	10
Wellness Policy	11
Physical Education	11
Oral Presentations	12
Student Behavior & Supervision	13
Discipline Policy & Dress Code	14
Progress Reports	14
Parent Participation	15
Closing Thoughts	16

*Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
Luke 18:16*

Welcome to PETRA!



We are looking forward to a Christ-centered adventure with your children this year!

This year we will be studying the time period from 700BC - 700AD with a focus on the Roman Empire, Asia, and the Americas.

Our wonderful team of teachers will be covering the topics of religion from a Christian and early church perspective, history/art/culture, architecture/math, and science. Each week students will participate in PE and have a time of Bible application, discussion and public speaking practice within their classroom.

*He makes nations great, and destroys them;
He enlarges nations, and guides them.
Job 12:23*

While PETRA offers classes for children in 1st – 9th grades, Valley Church also provides programs in Thursday School, for children ages 3 months through 5 years old (Kindergarten) as of 9/1/18. These classes are similar to Sunday school and include Bible stories, memorizing Scripture and participating in lots of hands-on activities. While there is no fee for these classes, parents are required to volunteer in the classroom several times each year. For more information, please contact Lisa Chen.

Our Mission

To enable homeschooling moms to attend the Women's Bible Study by providing their children with a Christ-centered academic program focusing on World

History from a Biblical perspective. We strive to provide a creative learning environment using group projects, public speaking, physical education and many other unique learning opportunities throughout the year.

Meanwhile, homeschooling mothers receive solid Bible teaching and are able to enjoy lively and challenging discussions with women of all ages.

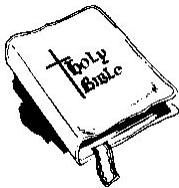
This year's Bible Study will be focused on the book of John, "Who do YOU say that I am?"

Our Background

PETRA started in the 1980's by two homeschooling moms who wanted to attend the Thursday morning Women's Bible Study.

Over the years, PETRA has grown dramatically. Today we offer 1st – 9th grade classes.

Your Commitment



Mothers are asked to commit to faithful Bible Study attendance or full time Thursday morning ministry. Mothers must be onsite during PETRA; this is not a drop-off program. As a courtesy, please inform us immediately if you become unable to attend regularly.

As a co-op, parents are required to help in the classrooms a few times a year, and also during some of the Spring extended days.

On-Campus Policy

The parent of a PETRA student in grades 1 through 9 brings her own children to class and remains on campus throughout the entire morning. An exception to this policy may be made in a few and limited circumstances such as maternity leave or chronic illness. A written request for an exception should be made to the PETRA Administrator and the Children's Director. This written request should include the name and contact information of an adult who will remain on campus and assume responsibility for the child. The proxy parent will carry with her a letter from the parent giving her permission to authorize any necessary medical care in the event of an emergency.

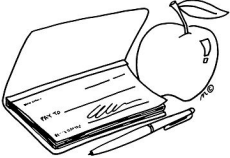
Registration

We have a limited number of openings for the coming year. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please have her contact Jen Vawter (petra@valleychurch.org).

Your registration also covers registration for Women's Bible Study. For more information about Women's Bible Study, please contact Lisa Chen.

Fees

Fees for 1st – 9th grade classes may be paid in full or trimonthly (every three months), due **on or before Thursday, September 6, December 6, and March 7:**



	<u>Trimonthly</u>	<u>Annually</u>
1 st child	\$120	\$360
2 nd child	\$105	\$315
3 rd child	\$90	\$270
4 th +	\$60	\$180

Please make checks payable to PETRA.

Fees are collected for a total of nine months.

Please note: Total annual fees are due for each student; credit will not be given for missed classes.

If these fees create a financial hardship for your family, or if you would like to work in the classroom (Nursery-9th) each week in exchange for the PETRA fees for your children, please contact Jen Vawter (petra@valleychurch.org) to learn more about our scholarship options.

Our Staff



PETRA is under the supervision of Children's Ministries at Valley Church, directed by Louise Winsor.

PETRA Director – Jennie Gilrein,

PETRA Administrator – Jen Vawter

PE Teachers - Gabe Tseng, Rachel Chioreanu

Classroom Teachers

1st – 3rd Grade Class: Anita Brewer

4th – 5th Grade Class: Faith Tio

6th – 9th Grade Class: Carleen Sparrow

Core Lesson Teachers

Architecture/Mathematics: Aida Rivera, Lily Yapp

History: Arike VanDerWater

Science/Technology: Schurie Harrison, Terry Yu

Drama: Ann Sumner, Jenny Lee

Our teachers are veteran home and classroom teachers who love the Lord and are eager to share Christ with your children through the adventure of Ancient History. Please feel free to contact your child's Classroom Teacher with any questions or concerns.

Important Dates – Please mark your calendar!



September 6	Class Begins
September 13	Parent Meeting 11:30–12:00*
November 22	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 20 & 27, Jan 3	Christmas Break
February 21	Presidents' Week Break
April 18	Spring Break
Friday, May 3	Closing Program: 6:30 pm
May 9	Last Day of Class

We will meet for a total of 30 weeks from September to May. **Be sure to mark your calendars for our Closing Program – this year it will be on Friday, May 3rd at 6:30pm.**

***Please plan to join us for our Parent Meeting, September 13th from 11:30 am – 12:00 pm, where we will review important information about your children's classes.**

Classrooms

Bible Study	Campus Center
Nursery	202
2's & 3's	205
3's & 4's	3140
Pre-K – Kindergarten	3180
1 st – 3 rd grade	3280
4 th – 5 th grade	3260
6 th – 9 th grade	3240

Class Schedules

Class will be held from 9:00 – 11:30 am each week, except on one Thursday of these months: Oct-Dec, Feb-May, when it will end at 12:00 noon. On these “extended” days, classes have time for extra activities, and the Women’s Bible Study can enjoy a missions speaker and potluck.

Daily Class Schedule

	6th - 9th	4th-5th	1st - 3rd
9 - 9:15	Intro activity Rm. 3240	Intro activity Rm. 3260	Intro activity Rm. 3280
9:15-10	PE Activity Center/Lawn	Lesson Rm. 3240	Presentation / Biblical Application Rm. 3280
10-10:45	Presentation / Biblical Application Rm. 3280	PE Activity Center/Lawn	Lesson Rm. 3240
10:45-11:30	Lesson Rm. 3240	Presentation / Biblical Application Rm. 3260	PE Activity Center/Lawn

Snack time is at the discretion of the classroom teacher. **Parents need to provide snacks for their own children during class time (please, no nuts)**

Dropping Off Your Children

You are encouraged to drop off your child(ren) at 9:00 for a transition time: a read aloud book from the time period being studied or other activity. **Please do not leave your children until the teacher is present.**

If you have children in Thursday school (nursery-kindergarten), please drop off your child(ren) in the PETRA classes before dropping off your child(ren) in the Thursday School classes.

The class lesson and Women's Bible Study begin promptly at 9:15 am.

Picking Up Your Children

Please also pick up your Thursday school child(ren) before picking up your PETRA child(ren). Please be prompt in picking up your child(ren).

PETRA children in the 1st-3rd grade class are to be picked up by their parent at the door of the activity center. PETRA students in the other classes (4th-5th grade and 6th-9th grade) will be released from class and are to report directly to their parent. After class, all students are to be under the direct and active supervision of their parent.

PETRA/Thursday School families are reminded that other business is being conducted on campus, and are requested to leave the Valley Church campus within one hour after the classes end.

Wellness Policy

PETRA strives to maintain healthy classrooms at all times. For the protection of all families, parents are requested not to bring a child who is ill.

Physical Education



Physical Education is part of our school day.

Please remember to send your students in ***appropriate clothing, athletic shoes, and a water bottle.***

As parents we believe God has a purpose for each of our children's lives. In PE we will be learning how to be good stewards of our bodies in order to fulfill that purpose. Through games, agility work, sport skill drills, stretching, and discussions on fuel intake we will address how to view what we do with our bodies and how we care of it as worship to the Creator.

We would love to avoid common pitfalls. If you know your child(ren) have concerns or fears please share those. Also remember to alert the PE teachers of any known conditions that they need to be aware of.

We expect each student to participate in the PE activities unless the lead teacher receives a note from the parent.

Oral Presentations

We encourage all students to do oral presentations (please see the Class Syllabus and Presentation Schedule). **Please, no pets.** We ask that **at least three presentations be on a topic relevant to the time period being studied.** Also, students in the older classes may be asked to prepare and present their testimony at one of the assigned times.

Oral Presentations will not receive a letter grade but will be assessed with a given rubric; we will provide comments/suggestions for improvement.

Due to room changes, 6th-9th grade students need to drop off their presentation materials in Room 3280 or with their teacher before the start of class.

Homework

Students will also be asked to memorize lines for the Drama production at the end of the year. The older the student, the more lines there will be. Students may also be asked to assist with stage props.

Student Behavior & Supervision

Students are to behave respectfully toward their teachers, classmates, and also toward the Valley Church staff. Please make sure your children know to walk quietly in and around the buildings and to respect the planted areas around the grass.

While it is tempting, please instruct your children not to “raid the kitchen” during or after PETRA – especially on potluck days.

A PETRA parent is to be actively and directly supervising her own children while on campus before and after class time. After class, all children are welcome to play in the main grass quad, on the large playground, or quietly in the Campus Center. Children are expected to give careful and respectful consideration to all persons and facilities. The Activities Center and the kitchen are not open to children outside the usual PETRA class time hours. All other areas of the campus are closed to students.

A no-weapons policy will be strictly enforced. No child is to possess a weapon of any kind, including pocket knives, while on campus.

No Wheels or Electronic Devices: For safety reasons, we ask that you please leave all wheeled toys (scooters, skateboards, wave boards, etc.) at home.

Students may not have cell phones, electronic games, or devices with ear buds during class time. Toys or games of any kind are not allowed during PETRA unless used for a presentation.

Discipline Policy

In the event a student has difficulty behaving in class, the teacher will take appropriate actions e.g. redirection and separation for a time to regroup, and notify the student's parents and the PETRA Director. If the behavior continues, the teacher will have a meeting with the mother. If behavior continues the student, mother, and teacher will meet with the PETRA Director. The student may be asked to stay home a week of PETRA. In the event the behavior continues, it will need to be discussed whether PETRA is the right place for the student.

Dress Code

As a courtesy to others, we ask that all students dress modestly. Please be sure children wear comfortable clothing following these guidelines: undergarments (including sports bras and boxers) must not be visible. Please no tank tops or shirts with shoulder straps less than 3 inches wide. No low-cut shirts or bare midriffs. Shorts should be below fingertips in length (below mid-thigh).

Progress Reports (1st – 9th Grade)

Students' progress will be evaluated once each year. The progress reports will be issued after the Closing Program in May. If your PSP requires a special form or has a different due date, please let us know.

As always, if you have questions about your child's work or classroom behavior, please contact his/her Classroom Teacher.

Parent Participation

Petra depends on parent participation. **Parents need to provide snacks for their own children during class time (please, no nuts).** In addition, you will be asked to help with some of the following:

Closing Program Snacks: Bring cookies/snacks for Closing Program.

Classroom Helper: Class assistant to help with classroom duties and activities during bible application and presentation time for all three classes.

Cooking Day Helper: Guide a group of students in preparing one or two recipes on Cooking Day, or prepare/supervise a craft or other activity while children are not cooking

Cultural Fair / Craft Helpers: Prepare a planned craft / snack/ activity. Supervise and encourage students as they participate in Cultural Fair or craft. Assist as needed with direction from the teachers.

Staff children's Supervisor: Monthly (after PETRA) – provide supervision to PETRA staff children while teachers are in the staff meeting.

Closing Thoughts

Please remember the PETRA staff in your prayers through the upcoming year. It is our desire to serve you and your children by providing a rich, challenging and loving learning environment centered in Christ. Meanwhile, we hope that this year will be rewarding for you, as you study God's word and enjoy sweet fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

See you on September 6th!

