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Easy Reader

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Peninsula Heritage

Peninsula Heritage School's mission is to foster "each child's intellectual, social and ethical growth." This shines through in a number of programs Heritage offers. Heritage focuses on "six character quality" programs, "caring, respect, attitude, gratitude, self-control, and perseverance," and focuses on one quality each year during an all-school assembly featuring song, dance and writing. The school focuses on developing each student's existing skills, whether in math or English, to give kids the opportunity to move up a grade. "We have a unique and differentiated learning program," said Joan E. Behrens, director of advancement. "Students are allowed to progress in their own development and can move up... reaching their highest potential through the 'enrichment program.'" Heritage is tech savvy but has also kept a focus on teaching handwriting skills, a lost art in many school systems. "We have 'Handwriting without tears' which is a program that involves tactile learning where students learn to form letters in an engaging form, like performance art," Behrens said. Many of Heritage's successes stem from head of school Patricia Cailler. "She leads the school, and is truly a child activist. She knows the name of every child, is very positive, and caring. It's a real pleasure to be involved in [Heritage] school," Behrens said. - J.R.

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peninsulaheritage.org

>> **Runner-up:** Chadwick School, 26800 S. Academy Dr, Palos Verdes Peninsula. (310) 377-1543. chadwickschool.org

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