Grade 12 visits Primal Pastures, a model of regenerative farming

On Wednesday, January, 24, Grade 12 along with WSOC science teacher Ms. Eijpen visited 40-acre animal farm Primal Pastures in Temecula.

"As a class we've been looking at Environmental Sciences & Ecology, discussing sustainability and in the latter part of the course we've been examining agriculture and food production - how it's changed over time from hunter gatherer to the sophisticated monoculture farms we have today. And of course the environmental problems that result from these large scale food productions facilities.

Primal Pastures goes beyond sustainable and is actually a regenerative farm raising chickens, sheep, cows and pigs. We had a wonderful tour yesterday where they explained in details their farming practices. Chickens share a field with pigs and are moved to fresh pasture daily - this allows the chicken to peck and scratch at new pasture daily, seeking out worms and grubs that they love to eat! It also allows their waste time to percolate into the soil and act as a fertilizer. The same is true of the pigs and the sheep - which share a pasture with Mabel the jersey cow, she's not used for milk; she merely keeps the sheep company and they follow her around like, well sheep!

The farm uses no antibiotics, vaccines or medicines on their animals - we were very curious to find out what they do when an animal is sick. It is apparently a rare occurrence - but when it happens the animals are intuitive and seek out the grass they need to eat to make them feel better! The farm boasts 75 species of grass and this keeps the animals healthy and provides variety in their diet. Each pasture has two or three giant Pyrynees-Anatolian shepherd dogs which guard the animals. Since the farm has had these dogs, they have lost zero farm animals to predators.
The tour was fabulous, and inspiring. It was a culmination of how we can be stewards of the environment and still produce food for ourselves in an ethical and sustainable fashion!"

Ms. Eijpen
WSOC science teacher