

Sunnyside Elementary

Academic Rigor | Creativity | Citizenship | Well-Being



A California Distinguished School

California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll School



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School Hours: 8:40 am to 2:40 pm

School Tours

Tuesdays at 9 am, October-January. Reserve at www.sunnysidek5.org.

Group tours are led by parents and end with a Q & A session with our Principal.

Visit our website for the full schedule and to reserve your space.

School Schedule

8:20 - 8:40 Drop off

8:40 School begins

Morning Recess:

K-1 - 9:50-10:10

2-3 - 10:15-10:35

4-5 - 10:40-11:00

Lunch

K-1 - 11:20-12:00

2-3 - 11:55-12:35

4-5 - 12:30-1:05

Afternoon Recess

K-1 - 1:30-1:50

2:40 School ends

Typical Kindergarten Day

8:40 School begins, group reading, circle

9:00 Language arts

10:00 Recess

10:20 Healthy snack

10:40 Centers (small groups)

11:40 Lunch and recess

12:20 English Language Development: Quiet reading individually or in pairs, or class meeting

1:00 Math, science, or social studies

1:45 Recess

2:00 Share time or free choice

2:40 School ends (pickup by parent or after-school staff)

About Sunnyside

Sunnyside Elementary is a small, friendly neighborhood K-5 school with approximately 380 students. Our school is located in the heart of the serene and safe neighborhood of Sunnyside, between Glen Park and City College. We are one of the most diverse elementary schools in the city, attracting families from many surrounding neighborhoods. Three after-school programs and a before-school program accommodate all families who are interested.

The main building at our school was built in 1926 and is known for its sweet, nurturing and clean feel. Every classroom receives bright sunlight and fresh air, thanks to an abundance of large windows. Our new building will be completed this year, and will feature new classrooms and a large, well-stocked library. We also have an auditorium/cafeteria, computers in every classroom, a large playground with a play structure, and an active parent community. Child-painted murals brighten our school grounds and beautiful tile murals grace our main entrance and play areas. We have a small garden now which we will develop into a beautiful green space once our current construction is finished.

What Makes Sunnyside Special?

Small, friendly, down-to-earth school with a close community.

Focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

Ground-breaking, one-of-a-kind math curriculum for all students.

Computer technology integrated into classroom instruction in every grade.

Open to new ideas and participation without pressure.

Dedicated to educating and nurturing the “whole child.”

Strong partnerships with local museums and arts organizations

Strong focus on differentiated instruction and a deep commitment to the success of every single child

Many unique programs: *The Ray* literary magazine, *Sunnyside Sings* CD of K-2 music classes, History Day, and more!



Our Philosophy

We believe every student can be successful and achieve his or her full potential. We provide a stimulating and well-rounded education for our diverse students, addressing academic, social, physical and emotional needs. We prepare our students for the challenges and joys of life.

Our students come from many socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, and we respect and support each other daily. Our students build strong bonds through community circles, school-wide activities, class projects, and field trips. At Sunnyside, every child’s voice is important and everyone has the opportunity to contribute.

Sunnyside is safe, supportive and respectful. The faculty, staff and adults of Sunnyside are role models of self-discipline and respect for children and adults. In turn, the students are models of good behavior for each other and for their school. We start every day together, with all students and teachers in our schoolyard, for morning announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance.

After-School Enrichment Activities

Sunnyside has many after-school clubs open to all students. Most are located on-site at Sunnyside and are fee-based. This year's clubs included Sunshine Art Club, Engineering for Kids, Pre-Engineering Lego Club, Piano, Sol Gym Sports, Gardening, Math Club, Beginning Spanish, Beginning Mandarin, Gingersnaps Cooking, Linda Bulgo's Musical Productions; and TRU Spanish, dance, science, and filmmaking.

After-School Programs

Sunnyside Elementary offers three on-site after-school programs and one before-school program:

ExCEL

2:40-6 pm, Monday-Friday

Free for Eligible Families

ExCEL is a means-tested, free program offered by SFUSD's Student Support Services Department. ExCEL promotes academic development in literacy while improving social skills and emotional and physical health.

Activities include arts and crafts, homework support, creative writing, literacy groups, friendship circles, and organized physical activities.

Contact Cecelia Roman at 415.469.4778, croman@bacr.org

SFUSD ExCel Program:

415.750.4500

www.healthiersf.org/afterschool

Tutors R Us

2:40-6:30 pm, Fee-based Enrichment, Part-time or full-time

This program focuses on academics and special enrichment activities led by credentialed teachers. Beside homework help, activities have included Spanish, dance, chess, sports, science, filmmaking, and art.

Phone TRU at 415.632.1665, email truinbox@gmail.com, or visit www.Tutorsrus.org.

YMCA

7:30-8:40 am and/or 2:40-6 pm, Fee-based with scholarships available, Part-time or full-time

The Mission YMCA operates a program before and after school, on-site at Sunnyside. Families have the option of attending two, three or five days per week. The program focuses on small and large group recreation activities that allow children maximum choice and opportunity for growth. Activities are planned around monthly calendars which include elements such as: cooking projects, multi-cultural activities, sports, homework help, health education, games and arts and crafts.

For more information contact the Mission YMCA at 415.415.240.8397.

Community & Family Involvement

Sunnyside offers many ways to be involved and make a difference. We encourage everyone to participate, according to availability and interest.

Our PTA is one of the most active in San Francisco, with over 190 members. We work closely with the principal and teachers to ensure that they have the resources needed to give our children the best possible education. PTA fundraising and volunteerism support our rich array of arts, math, science and literacy programs. We also support our lunch and recess monitors, school garden, community events, technology initiatives, field trips, and teacher supplies.

The School Site Council (SSC) is made up of elected representatives from the school: teachers, staff, parents, and community members. The SSC is responsible for setting our priorities and determining how the budget will be allocated. The entire Sunnyside community has the opportunity to be involved in this decision-making process.

English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) represents and advocates for the needs of our English Learners.

School Events

Sunnyside organizes many events throughout the school year to foster community and raise money. Some of our most popular events include:

- Welcome and Orientation Events
- Monthly Coffee with the Principal
- Family Craft Nights
- Garden Work Days
- Book Fairs
- Winter Read-a-Thon
- Math & Science Day
- Parents' Night Out Annual Silent Auction
- Books, Pajamas, & Cocoa Night
- 4th & 5th Grade Science Fair
- Walk and Roll Wednesdays
- Run to the Sunnyside
- Costume Carnival on October 31
- International Potluck
- Parents' Softball Game
- Parent vs. Kid Soccer Game
- Parent Happy Hours
- SpringFest



Principal's Message



I'm very pleased to welcome you to Sunnyside Elementary and share with you all the things that make our school and community so special.

Sunnyside prides itself on educating the whole child. For us, that means challenging students with rigorous academics, providing opportunities for them to think and act creatively, fostering good citizenship, and attending to the physical and mental/emotional well-being of our students. At Sunnyside, you'll find a warm and caring environment, dedicated teachers and staff, and a curriculum that is designed to stimulate and inspire learning. Teachers at Sunnyside create learning environments that foster highly engaged and joyful learners and that support every student reaching his or her potential.

We offer cognitively engaging curriculum that teachers modify to address the individual needs of each child. Student strengths and learning styles are discovered and celebrated. Teachers collaborate in ongoing professional learning communities and creatively plan and implement their lessons. Teachers here use both formal and informal assessments to determine student groupings for varied instruction, gauge student understanding, and address any additional work needed to grasp concepts.

Sunnyside offers a broad range of enrichment activities throughout the year across the grades. We believe that visual art, vocal and instrumental music, dance, drama, physical education, and leadership development are important skills and are part of educating a well-rounded child.

Parents and caregivers are welcomed into our school community. At Sunnyside, many of our students' grown-ups volunteer in classrooms, at lunchtime, during recess, or for events or fundraisers. We believe that deeper connections and involvement enrich both our school and students' families as we work together to provide the best opportunities for your children to build skills, find their voices, and discover the world around them.

Welcome to our school!

Renée Marcy, Ed.D., Principal
marcyr@sfusd.edu

Our Staff & Curriculum

Our team of teachers and staff provides a nurturing environment to support both creativity and cognitive engagement. Educators are highly-skilled, creative, and passionate about what they teach. We believe in the potential of each and every student. All of our teachers are fully credentialed.

SFUSD transitioned to Common Core State Standards over the last few years, and at Sunnyside we are embracing the deep, rich standards-based tasks that engage students in meaningful, authentic work in ELA and Mathematics. Teachers at Sunnyside use a variety of resources and differentiate learning based upon student understanding. Teachers match students to books and are working to create active workshops for writing and reading to support students' development as writers, readers, and thinkers. Sunnyside wants all of our students to become fluent, engaged readers.

We provide a reading specialist to work with first grade students who have been identified by their teachers as needing extra support in acquiring critical reading skills. We have been expanding our library of guided reading materials to facilitate small-group reading instruction and support. The SFUSD new mathematics curriculum is the main resource used in math instruction and supplemented with varied resources for engaging in mathematical thinking. Science and History/Social Studies are taught using a variety of projects and investigations matching grade-level goals.

Teachers are frequently assisted in the classroom by student teachers, parents, and volunteers. We are fortunate to have close ties to SF State University's teaching credential program and City College of SF. Our children benefit from the energy and ideas of these educators-in-training.

Sunnyside provides additional and essential services for those children who require special attention. Two of our 18 classrooms specifically serve severely impaired, special-needs children. Multi-lingual services and special education programs are available on site.



Academic Enrichment

Math and Technology

Sunnyside has an innovative math and technology program that helps all students develop a strong foundation in math. Collaborating closely with our teachers, our Math and Technology Enrichment Instructor works with *every* child in the school. She leads creative and challenging math and programming projects.

Technology Program

Sunnyside is committed to integrating computer technology and instruction into the curriculum. As a result, we are one of the few elementary schools in San Francisco to introduce students to computer programming starting in 2nd grade. In addition, we have integrated iPads into our art program in the classroom and in special art events. Students at Sunnyside have access at school and home to two great websites: RazKids and Brain Pop.

Generous donations of time and financial support by the PTA provide computers for every classroom. Depending on grade level, our classrooms utilize:

- iPad cart
- Permanent in-class iPads
- Rotating laptop cart
- In-class mini computer labs
- Document cameras
- LCD projectors



Science

Our K-5 science curriculum utilizes the FOSS Program and includes 6-8 week learning modules focused on the California State Science Standards.

Science and Environmental Education at Sunnyside (SEEDS) is a PTA funded hands-on science enrichment program. Using our school garden as a classroom, our science enrichment instructor works with all classes to explore the California Life Science standards.

Students take science-focused field trips such as a neighborhood tree walk, visits to the Randall Museum, the Exploratorium, the California Academy of Science, and Glen Canyon.

San Francisco State University science students work with our students by doing hands-on experiments in the classroom.

The UCSF Science Education Partnership is a six week program which brings scientists to teach hands-on lessons in our classrooms, introducing high-level subject matter and materials. Graduate students assist teachers in curriculum design and instruction.

As part of the WISE program, our teachers receive Science Training at the California Science Teachers Convention in the summer and throughout the year at three off-site trainings.

History Day

This program is designed to encourage students to think critically about history while developing their research, writing and presentation skills. Fifth graders spend several weeks conducting in-depth research on a historical topic, and then present their research at the San Francisco History Day competition. For the last two years, Sunnyside students have won their divisions and advanced to the California state competition!

Art & Creativity

Sunnyside is committed to providing all of our students with high quality learning experiences in four branches of the arts: visual arts, creative writing, music, and performing arts. All teachers make artistic connections across the curriculum and many also provide their students with more in-depth art experiences through field trips and in classroom sessions with artists and performers.

Visual Arts

Our Artist in Residence program provides weekly art instruction. We partner with LEAP (Learning through an Expanded Arts Program) which uses a variety of hands-on experiences to stimulate curiosity and foster creativity.

Our Art Appreciation instruction and curriculum exposes all students to great works of art. It encourages students to observe, think, and express their thoughts about what they see and experience. Student artwork has been featured in local museums through Sunnyside's participation in art competitions throughout the year, including the DeYoung and the San Francisco Historical Society at the Old Mint.

Teachers utilize the **Art Cart** for monthly projects which expose students to different artistic media as well as to art history. In 2013-14, students participated in a school-wide art partnership with Creativity Explored. This school year, the Art Cart is STEAM-inspired (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) and includes a project using the school's 3-D printer.

Cultural events have also been celebrated at Sunnyside with school-wide displays of artwork. In the past, students have created artwork to recognize Day of the Dead, to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and to celebrate Lunar New Year.

Creative Writing

Sunnyside's **Poet in Residence** works with grades K, 2, and 4. Our first graders work with a storyteller. Sunnyside's Literary Journal, *The Ray*, showcases an array of art, poetry and creativity from every student at Sunnyside, K-5.

Music

The San Francisco Symphony provides our **Adventures in Music (AIM)** program which includes four concerts at our school that are both educational and entertaining. The program's highlight is a school-wide field trip to the SF Symphony.

Our **Classroom Music Teacher** visits the K-2 classrooms every other week and engages our younger students in music, singing, and percussion.

Free Instrumental Music Lessons are provided once per week for grades 3-5. The third grade learns to play the recorder while the 4th and 5th graders can choose to play the violin, flute, clarinet, or trumpet.



Sunnyside participates in the **SF Opera ARIA program**, in which opera artists work with our students as they write and perform their own minioperas.

Performing Arts

Throughout the year, students receive creative movement and dance instruction across all grade levels.

Sunnyside has partnered with FlyAway Productions, LEAP Performing Arts, and SFUSD's Visual and Performing Arts professionals for these experiences.

The San Francisco Ballet provides weekly dance classes for grade 2 and also identifies potential scholarship students. Second graders also attend an SF Ballet Performance at the Opera House.

Citizenship & Well-Being

Physical Education

PE is a priority for Sunnyside! Our PTA recently raised \$30,000 to hire a PE coach 2 days per week. The district provides a PE coach an additional one day per week. Teachers provide the remainder of state required PE minutes.

We currently have parent-coached soccer teams for grades K-4. In addition, one of our after-school programs, Sol Gym Sports, focuses on physical fitness.

Leadership Development

- We provide many opportunities for children to build leadership skills and character as they care for our school and each other.
- Students in grade 5 proudly take “school jobs” such as drop-off zone assistants, playground aides and many other roles. We also have a student government program for grades 4-5.
- All students may have rotating “classroom jobs,” from line leaders to clean-up managers.
- Our third graders serve as “Big Buddies” for incoming kindergartners.
- Students from Kindergarten and first grade who have been identified as benefitting from extra support are matched with mentor/buddies from 5th grade who have been trained by our learning support professional.
- Our PTA Community Service committee works with teachers to build community service into our curriculum and to develop opportunities for our students to serve at the school, local and global levels.



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