



# Sycamore Canyon School



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## Special Programs and Activities

### Counseling Program

The Elementary Counseling Program aims to foster the emotional, social, and academic growth of the students within the Conejo Valley Unified School district. Through classroom presentations, group and individual counseling sessions, as well as parent/teacher consultations, the program helps to teach students essential life skills such as conflict resolution, making and developing friendships, problem solving, and building positive self-esteem. The counselors also help to support parents by producing a monthly newsletter and presenting a semi-monthly parenting series. This series assists parents in dealing with issues such as power struggles and tantrums, homework hassles, and guiding children to develop and maintain positive peer relationships. These programs are regularly aired on Channel 21.

### Speech & Language Services

Speech & Language Services are provided through the Special Education Department by a licensed and credentialed Speech-Language Pathologist. Students who meet eligibility requirements are seen for delays or disorders of articulation, receptive and expressive language skills, fluency, and voice. Services are typically provided in small groups for students who need more individualized instruction in communication skills. The Speech and Language specialist also serves as a member of the Student Study Team in order to provide an additional resource for teachers to help students achieve academic success.

- Awards Programs
  - Character Education Keys
  - Coyote Candidats/Renaissance
  - Sycamore Shining Stars
- Band & Strings (K-5); Band (MS)
- Cafeteria Services
- Childcare
- Computer Lab
- Counseling Program
- English Language Development Program
- Families
- GATE Program
- The Learning Center
- Library
- K-5 P.E. Program
- Speech & Language Services
- Student Council/ASB

### English Language Development Program

Sycamore Canyon School provides an English Language Development program that focuses on instruction in English language and ensures that all students have access to the core curriculum. Our major goals for English learners are to develop fluency in English and proficiency in the District's core curriculum as rapidly and effectively as possible. Sycamore Canyon School

uses the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) to assess the level of language development and also school skills for English learners. English learners may participate in mainstream classrooms, where the teacher will provide extra support for the students learning English. Specially Designated Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) strategies are used in every classroom where an English learner is enrolled.

The instruction is in English, but the teacher uses a multitude of strategies to make the English comprehensible to the students. Teachers are trained through county and district in-services as well as receive support from District Pupil Services Department and specialists. There is a Sycamore Canyon School Bilingual Facilitator who helps keep the records for every English learner, collaborates with the regular classroom teacher and supports students with the core curriculum. Sycamore Canyon School values all students as individuals emphasizing hands-on learning strategies, creating appreciation for differences and cultures and pursuing the development of life-long learners.



## The Learning Center Program

The Learning Center program serves all identified special education students, K-8th grade, to meet their individual learning needs and ensure they have access to core curriculum. The program consists of a credentialed special education teacher and teaching assistants. Students identified as having a learning disability are taught

according to their assessed needs in one or more of the following areas: reading, writing and/or math. For students requiring more specialized instruction (SDC), the Learning Center may serve as their homeroom and instruction is provided in any/all of the curriculum areas. The Learning Center offers a variety of teaching

methods and specialized curriculum programs, as well as providing modification of core curriculum to ensure that all students are successful. The Learning Center teachers collaborate regularly with the regular education teachers to provide additional resources for the students and to ensure excellence in their education.

## Sycamore Canyon School Library

The Sycamore Canyon School Libraries are always busy! The main Library at Sycamore Canyon School is used primarily by Kindergarten through fifth grade students but shares its collection of nearly 6,000 books and resources with Middle School students. Elementary students visit the library weekly to begin forming life-long research and recreational reading skills. Each visit to the Library adds to their knowledge of

books, the experience of finding them! Organized like most public libraries, these experiences and skills will prove to be invaluable throughout a student's life.

A separate wing of the Library, located in the new Middle School Administrative building, will provide a convenient location with grade appropriate materials for the Middle School students. The Middle School Library is available for students to do computer research, hone book searching skills and enhance recreational reading.

Both Libraries share the goal of building a collection to meet the nationally recognized standard of 15-25 books per student. You can find out more about special book giving programs by visiting either of the libraries or administrative offices.



## Childcare

- **Did you know?** Sycamore Canyon Childcare offers 4 Kindergarten Enrichment programs & 2 after-school programs.
- **What is Kindergarten Enrichment?** A safe loving & nurturing environment that focuses on the whole child. Children grow & learn through fun & interesting weekly activities. These activities include science, art, cooking, dramatic play, group games & more. These programs work to enhance your child's Kindergarten experience.
- **What is the After School Program?** Sycamore Canyon offers after school programs to parents who need childcare after school hours & also before school. These programs create the safe, nurturing & fun experiences that children need, while experiencing success at their own rate. Students can choose to participate in a variety of activities, ranging from crafts & the arts to science & computers. Other activities focus on physical development through games & outside movement & play. These programs encourage & help children develop healthy friendships & social interactions. There is a time set aside for children to work on homework, while childcare staff offers each child encouragement & some assistance. These programs are designed to offer each child a personal sense of competence through interpersonal skills, conflict management & group cooperation.
- **Need more information?** Call Sycamore & ask to speak to one of our childcare providers at Ext. 200 or 230.
- **Enrollment Questions?** Call the District Office Childcare at 497-9511, Ext 390.

## **COMPUTER LAB**

Our Elementary Computer Lab boasts 39 computers. We use Windows and the Office Suite of products, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Students also use Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing, Kid Pix Deluxe and Word Munchers.

The Computer Lab provides an environment that promotes:

1. proper keyboarding skills
2. math skills
3. writing and vocabulary skills
4. development of problem solving skills
5. classroom curriculum reinforcement
6. a team approach to brainstorming
7. proper and safe internet usage and research skills



## **Physical Education Program K-5**

The K-5 Physical education classes introduce & review many various & important skills throughout the year. These skills involve motor, behavior, confidence & knowledge. During the year, every child is allowed to lead off the exercise (warm up) portion at the beginning of class. This helps build confidence & is enjoyed by all. We also discuss what muscles & bones we are moving & then introduce the activity & motor skills required for the day. With respect to behavior, we review positive competitive spirit at the individual & group level.

The competence & confidence of every child develops throughout the year & this naturally brings physical activity into their daily lives.



## **ASB & Student Council**

Walk the halls of Sycamore Canyon School and find students working on projects, teachers and children putting up bulletin boards, & daycare children finishing homework. These are merely a few of the distinctive facets that make Sycamore the Shining Star it truly is. Also unique to SCS are the ASB (Middle School) and the Student Council (4th/5th) that join together to make our school a fun, united place to be each day. These groups of students have an exceptional talent of finding enjoyable activities that benefit the entire student body. They also engage in a variety of fund-raising activities while working at keeping the school a safe, clean place to be!

The purpose of the ASB/Leadership class is to instruct students in areas of personal values and responsibility, leadership qualities and skills, meeting skills, and activity planning. To put it simply, the students enrolled in this class will be in charge of providing the Sycamore Canyon Middle School students with the following:

- Raising School Spirit with Spirit Days, Rallies, Newsletters, Class competitions, documenting all events with pictures and videos, socials, and much more.
- Providing Lunch Time Activities to students in order to make their only free time more enjoyable. These activities include games and contests, music, and intramural sports just to name a few.
- School and community projects such as Manna, recycling, peer tutoring, etc. (Funds will be raised for Recycling Bins, Portable P/A system, School Marquee, etc.)

## **Sycamore Canyon Strings** (3rd—6th grades)

The Arts Council of the Conejo Valley offers beginning and intermediate string orchestra instruction to 3rd—6th graders. The goal of the strings program is to teach the musical skills and discipline necessary to play as a member of the orchestra. Note reading and orchestral playing are introduced. The orchestras play in concerts at school and at the All-District Strings Festival. Students may study the violin, viola, cello, or bass.



## **Sycamore Canyon Band** (4th—5th grades)

The band program is offered by the Arts Council to benefit 4th—5th grade students. Students may learn flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, baritone or trombone. Students may also learn percussion instruments starting with bells and then moving to drums if desired. Music fundamentals and practice habits are developed to provide a strong foundation for further study. Students participate in the annual All District Band Festival and concerts at school.

## **Sycamore Canyon Coyote Band**

(6th - 8th grades)

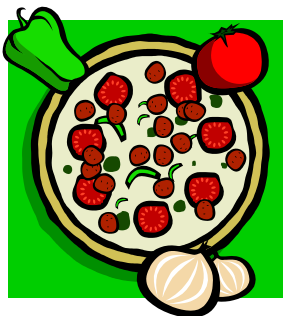
Band in the middle school is offered as an elective in two sections. The beginning band is for students who have never played a band instrument or are resuming instrument study after some time off. Intermediate/Advanced is for students who are continuing on a band instrument with one or more years of experience. Both programs are based on California Teaching Standards for Instrumental Music, National Music Education Standards, and those standards adopted by the CVUSD. The program goals are to build on fundamental music skills, encourage creativity and prepare students for a lifetime of enjoyment on their chosen instrument by positively affecting study beyond the classroom.



## **Coyote Café**

Exciting things will be happening in the fall, as we become a cooking kitchen!

For our elementary students, one of the most exciting changes will be the addition of a salad bar. Also, the daily hot lunch choice will be prepared onsite. Yum!



For our middle school students we will be adding lots of exciting items to the menu such as: baked potatoes with broccoli & cheese, pasta salad, soft hot pretzels with cheese, popcorn chicken, a variety of wrap sandwiches, fruit & yogurt parfaits, stir fry dishes, homemade soup and fresh baked cookies.

## Character Education- "A key to a better me!"

At Sycamore Canyon School, we believe that the formation of intellect and character go hand-in-hand. As a school, we focus upon the following traits as prescribed by the CVUSD curriculum: RESPECT, KINDNESS, RESPONSIBILITY, PERSERVERANCE and INTEGRITY. We integrate character education in all that we do and use the teachable moment to instruct, demonstrate and acknowledge good character traits. Every other month a new "KEY" (character education theme) will be introduced within the classroom and incorporated into daily lessons. When children verbalize the good character it helps them to internalize it as well. At the end of the focus upon the KEY students will be recognized at the awards assemblies for their outstanding character.

### Shining Star Awards

To further encourage positive citizenship and self-esteem, Sycamore Canyon School has a program which gives our K-5 students recognition and honor. Each month, children from each classroom are selected as "Sycamore Shining Stars" and recognized at awards assemblies.



### Coyote Candid Awards

The Coyote Candid Awards Program is a Sycamore Canyon Middle School recognition program that will highlight students monthly. Students are individually selected by one of their teachers for positive behavior, academic achievement, classroom and school-wide leadership and/or overall improvement.

The first Friday morning of each month a breakfast will be held in the multipurpose room in honor of the students selected for the Coyote Candid Awards. Parents and/or guardians of the Coyote Candid Award recipient will be notified in advance and are strongly encouraged to come. Each teacher will give a small presentation for his/her student that has been selected for that month's Coyote Candid Award.

## Renaissance - (Middle School)

What is Renaissance? Renaissance Education Foundation is an international, non-profit foundation that has been developed to collaborate and build a partnership between schools and local communities.

Addressing the first and second goal of the Renaissance Program, we have created a student achievement incentive program. Its concept is to recognize students with short-term, tangible incentives as well as recognition at monthly awards assemblies and school-wide events and activities. The incentives are earned at the end of the trimester grading periods and if they qualify, the student is issued one of the following cards:

**GOLD CARD** - All A's on grades AND all E's in citizenship

**SILVER CARD** - All A's and B's on grades AND all E's and S's in citizenship

**BRONZE CARD** - Grade Point Average (GPA) improvement of 0.5 trimester-to-trimester or all A's, B's, C's on grades and all E's and S's in citizenship.

The third goal is to recognize staff members (teachers, administrators and/or support personnel) who contribute to the quality of education and social development or interaction of the students. This may take place in or outside of the classroom and should be aimed at helping students enjoy school and increase their overall academic performance and development of future goals.



## **GATE**

Strategies for teaching Gifted and Talented students are integrated into the curriculum through differentiated instruction. Identified students are clustered in classes where supplementation through differentiation can be more effectively delivered. GATE students are challenged and encouraged through the expansion of the curriculum. The goals of the program are to provide advanced and more complex differentiated experiences to students; Accelerated learning option, as appropriate, for the learner; The development of critical thinking, research and creative problem solving skills; and alternative interventions for students who are underachieving. Faculty GATE facilitators coordinate staff development, implement programs and curriculum, and mentor other teachers in the implementation of the GATE plan.

## **Families**

Families” was established as a way to create a warm & supportive community that stays with a child throughout his or her enrollment at Sycamore Canyon School. A Family is composed of 20-25 students in grades K-8, with an adult staff member, who meet together several times during the school year to develop relationships, participate in activities and conversations and sometimes eat fun food! By establishing these stable long-term groups within the SCS environment, we hope to create one more place where a child can belong, in a setting where each student can experience acceptance, commitment and caring from people who model appropriate social skills that have been developed from our character education keys. It is our goal to have students & adults recognize and relate to one another in an atmosphere of positive & friendly camaraderie across gender, class & grade level distinctions, which, in turn, benefits the common good.



## SYCAMORE CANYON SCHOOL VISION

Sycamore Canyon School shall establish itself as a premier provider of a quality education that meets the needs of the whole child at ALL ability levels. In partnership with families and the community, Sycamore Canyon School will provide a safe and engaging environment that cultivates the fundamental skills of thinking, learning, problem-solving and communicating while instilling good character and positive attitudes in order to develop lifelong learners with unlimited potential.

We Care! We Share! We Dare!