



INFORMATION SHEET

SCVi is a tuition-free public school of choice with a unique instructional program. It is very important that prospective parents become familiar with our model in order to decide if it meets the needs of their child and family. We encourage you to take every opportunity to learn more about our program prior to submitting an application for enrollment. We invite you to read our charter petition (which can be accessed on our website), and attend an information session. Making an informed decision is the first step to ensuring a great educational experience for your child.

Mission

Santa Clarita Valley International School empowers students to become conscientious, compassionate, and responsible citizens of the world. In this process we inspire them to become creative thinkers and leaders, with a life-long love of learning. We accomplish this through individualized instruction, active learning methods and opportunities for self-directed learning

Educational Philosophy

SCVi will provide an exceptional academic and extracurricular program in grades **Kindergarten through twelfth grade** for approximately 400-500 students in an alternative educational experience that encourages hands-on, inquiry based, self-directed learning, and collaborative learning in a developmentally appropriate school environment. A developmentally appropriate educational program, including both instruction and a purposeful school culture, will promote adaptability, self-confidence, autonomy and creativity for all children. Students will develop social emotional skills, as they learn to communicate and problem-solve to effectively work, learn and live together. The educational program will promote respect, understanding and appreciation of diversity in the school's multicultural environment.

SCVi will provide a rigorous, relevant, and attainable education program based on California content standards through **project based learning** that engages students' interest as they discover underlying concepts and develop deep understanding of subject matter. Students will be active participants in meaningful learning, not passive receptacles, as they engage in hands-on activities and experiences that build on students' prior knowledge. A key instructional approach will be the use of projects, which are conducive to teaching higher order thinking skills and real world skills. Projects more closely resemble real world work, so students will develop skills for successful careers. Students will apply their understanding in projects that gradually introduce more complexity, student autonomy and choice of topics and products, as students are ready for it. These powerful learning experiences will foster self-motivation and self-directedness, as students discover and develop their uniqueness while striving to reach their full potential.

SCVi's program will have an **international focus**, which will give students a sense of belonging in the changing world and prepare students to fit in the global marketplace upon graduation and post college. Exploring the world's cultures will give students a positive attitude toward learning and greater understanding of diverse cultures, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Each year, students, teachers and parents will create **Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs)** to guide instruction. Each student, along with his/her family and teacher, will work together to monitor the ILP and make adjustments as needed. The primary goal of the ILP is to ensure that each child will be treated as an individual and therefore will be working toward attainable goals appropriate to his individual development.

Classroom environments will be **multiage** with two or more grades which allow students the flexibility to progress at their own pace along a continuum of learning. Multi-year relationships between teacher and student provide for deeper knowledge of students' needs to guide instructional decisions and familiarity with the social-emotional health of a student.

Parent Involvement

The success of your child's education is dependent on your involvement in his/her education. Parents will be highly encouraged to volunteer on campus. SCVi suggests that each family contribute at least 3 monthly volunteer hours to the school. These hours can be completed in a variety of ways, including but not limited to; classroom volunteer, group speaker, guest facilitator, SCVi Board of Directors, community consultant, or field trip chaperone. At SCVi, parents will play many important roles in the day-to-day operations of the school, as well as the strategic planning and overall vision of the school community.

Discipline:

SCVi's philosophy on discipline emphasizes a positive approach, in which the student is gradually led towards self-discipline. Students are expected to behave in a respectful way towards their teachers, any adults, their classmates, and towards the property of others. Students will be approached in a respectful manner and asked to comply with the standards of behavior. SCVi is committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment for every child. We are equally committed to helping our students grow into healthy, happy, responsible adults. It is also our goal that every student possesses a clear understanding of how their actions affect others. When a child acts in thoughtless or harmful ways, the entire community suffers. Our goal is to discourage misbehavior and encourage the student to do better in the future. SCVi will work diligently to create a school culture that encourages students to take charge of their lives and manage their own learning. Everyone in the learning community will be equipped with **conflict resolution** techniques and problem-solving skills to help facilitate successful interactions with others. Students will be empowered to establish clear behavioral expectations and appropriate consequences within the community.

Additionally, in grades 7-12, the **advisory program** is a key strategy for developing the whole child, for individualizing the educational program and for creating a supportive school environment. Through advisory, students and teachers develop closer relationships, creating a safe space for activities such as social-emotional, personal skill building, academic skill building, goal setting, monitoring and problem solving. Advisory provides the students and teachers a space to connect and discuss their school community, working collaboratively to address any challenges that individual students, the classroom, or the school community as a whole is facing. Advisories will be used to facilitate every child's participation in the school's **decision-making process**. The meetings will also provide time for teachers to announce upcoming activities and classroom guests. Advisories will be "school families" that foster strong connections between all members of the SCVi community.

Prior to opening in fall 2008, SCVi will develop a complete set of student discipline policies and procedures, which shall be distributed to each student/parent as part of the Student Handbook. Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently amongst all students and accord all students with similar rights to due process.

For more information and to read our charter, please visit us at www.scvcharterschool.org