



## **INFORMATION SHEET**

SCVi is a tuition-free public school of choice with a unique instructional program. It is very important that prospective families become familiar with our model in order to decide if it meets the needs of their children and families. We encourage you to take every opportunity to learn more about our program prior to submitting an application for enrollment. We invite you to peruse 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 lifelong love of learning. We accomplish this through individualized instruction, active learning methods and opportunities for self-directed learning

### **Educational Philosophy**

SCVi provides an exceptional academic and extracurricular program in grades **Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade** in an alternative educational experience that encourages hands-on, inquiry-based, self-directed, and collaborative learning in a developmentally appropriate school environment. A developmentally appropriate educational program, including both instruction and a purposeful school culture, promotes adaptability, self-confidence, autonomy, and creativity for all children. Students develop social-emotional skills as they learn to communicate and problem-solve to effectively work, learn, and live together. The educational program promotes respect, understanding, and appreciation of diversity in the school's multicultural environment.

SCVi provides 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 are active participants in meaningful learning, not passive receptacles, as they engage in hands-on activities and experiences that build on their prior knowledge. A key instructional approach is 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 develop skills for successful careers. Students apply their understanding in projects that gradually introduce more complexity, autonomy, and choice of topics and products as students are ready. These powerful learning experiences foster self-motivation and self-directedness as students discover and develop their uniqueness while striving to reach their full potential.

SCVi's program has an **international focus**, which gives students a sense of belonging in our changing world and prepares them to fit into the global marketplace upon graduation and post-college. Exploring the world's cultures gives students a positive attitude toward learning and a greater understanding of diverse cultures, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Each year, students, teachers and parents create **Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs)** to guide instruction. Each student, along with his/her family and teacher, works together to monitor the ILP and make adjustments as needed. The primary goal of the ILP is to ensure that each child is treated as an

individual and therefore is working toward attainable goals appropriate to one's individual development.

Classroom environments are **multiage** with two or more grades, which allows students the flexibility to progress at their own pace along a continuum of learning. Multiyear 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.

### **Family Involvement**

The success of your child's education is dependent on your involvement in their education. Caregivers are highly encouraged to volunteer on campus. SCVi suggests that each family contribute at least three monthly volunteer hours to the school. These hours can be completed in a variety of ways, including but not limited to the following: classroom volunteer, group speaker, guest facilitator, SCVi Board of Directors, community consultant, or field trip chaperone. At SCVi, families 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 toward self-discipline. Students are expected to behave in a respectful way toward their teachers, adults, their classmates, and the property of others. Students are 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 works 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 is equipped with **conflict resolution** techniques and problem-solving skills to help facilitate successful interactions with others. Students are 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 and personal skill-building, academic skill-building, goal-setting and 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 presented to individual students, the classroom, or the school community. Advisories will be used to facilitate every child's participation in the school's **decision-making process**. The meetings also provide time for teachers to announce upcoming activities and classroom guests. Advisories are "school families" that foster strong connections among all members of the SCVi community.

Student discipline policies and procedures are distributed to each family as part of the Family Guidebook. Staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all students and accord all students similar rights to due process.

For more information, please visit [www.ileadsantaclarita.org](http://www.ileadsantaclarita.org).