

SDFAS – School-wide program 2013-1017

The SDFAS school-wide program integrates the objectives of the curriculum within a larger plan. This program is put into place thanks to a professional development plan, both locally and within the network of French-American schools.

1. Mastering languages – French and English

Because we are a French-American school, our student population is very diverse with some 30 nationalities represented, so the main emphasis of our teaching is on language acquisition, both French and English, as well as the cultural background for both languages. We also aim to develop in our students a high interest in languages and reading. A third language, Spanish, is introduced in the 5th grade.

- Make sure all students use clear and precise language, when expressing themselves orally or in writing. Reinforce and diversify the students' written productions
- Develop a taste and an interest for both the French and the American cultures
- Place all the tools for reading, communication and research at the heart of all learning processes (library, computer skills...)
- Adapt the FLE/ESL classes to the varied levels/backgrounds of our students

2. Heterogeneity of the student population: tutoring strategies

SDFAS takes into account the wide variety of our students' backgrounds and abilities in order to make them a part of the school community and help them to succeed.

- Develop educational and pedagogical differentiation within classrooms
- Help both underachieving and high-achieving students strive towards greater progress using a variety of tools
- Cater to special needs students and work on their full integration in the school (tutoring, psychologist, outside help, etc.)
- Develop continuity in the learning process from preschool to middle school by optimizing work relationships among teachers of different grade levels

3. Education: autonomy, responsibility, and civic sense

SDFAS allows students to develop, from an early age, a sense of responsibility and autonomy which helps them succeed academically as well as personally, making them the best citizens they can be.

- Develop motivation, self-confidence, and a desire to succeed by putting in sustained efforts (notably through athletic activities)
- Help students become authors and creators of individual or collective school projects
- Encourage students' involvement within the school community
- Develop students' critical thinking when dealing with internet research
- Teach students about our institutions, so that they become responsible citizens

- Develop students' awareness on issues of humanitarian aid and sustainable development
- Encourage respect and tolerance for others

4. Science, technology, and the arts: broadening of knowledge and skills, development of creativity

SDFAS encourages students' inquiries into science and technology. We offer our students the tools to act, choose and decide wisely in their everyday life. We also wish to have our students pursue their own cultural knowledge and develop their artistic sensibility.

- Develop experimental science practices
- Offer opportunities to meet experts in the worlds of science and technology
- Explore and learn to master current information and communication tools
- Broaden the use of computers in all classrooms
- Raise awareness and teach responsible behavior regarding environmental and health issues
- Develop knowledge and respect for other cultures
- Offer a variety of artistic practices
- Organize cultural field trips and meetings with artists

5. Opening up to the community: discovery and exchanges

SDFAS multiplies opportunities for students to discover new places in San Diego, in the state of California, or other places in the USA or Canada, thus offering them a chance to understand and appreciate the diversity and richness of their environment.

- Offer a variety of cultural and artistic experiences to the students
- Develop exchanges and partnerships with the community
- Encourage field trips, travel, athletic events, encounters with artists...
- Bring awareness about the cultures of the region and the world to the students