



A Letter from the Head of School

San Francisco Day School is so many things: a place to be challenged, inspired, cared for, heard and understood. It's a place for fun, laughter and friendship; a place for serious conversations and intellectual discovery; a place for sharing your story and embracing the stories of others.

For over 40 years, this school has led the way in K-8, co-educational student-centered education, based on a curriculum that draws from the three pillars established by our visionary founders — our commitment to teaching and learning, to social-emotional wellness and growth, and to a culture of inclusion and community engagement. We know that our students, each of them talented, passionate, and curious individuals, are enriched and stretched by the complexity and nuance these pillars bring to our programs.

In our School Life handbook, you'll find insights into how we bring our mission to life every day on our campus, where students are inspired by dedicated teachers who work productively with parents and guardians. You'll learn how you can participate in the life of the school, and about the programs and initiatives that set SF Day apart.

In our Curriculum Guide, you'll discover the intentional scope and sequence of our curriculum by reading our mission statements and understanding how we approach teaching, learning, and the acquisition and mastery of skills. It's also the place where you see our commitment to the whole child, and where our foundational belief that wellness and inclusion strengthen and deepen learning is lived every day.

I love to think about SF Day as a village, where humans, young and not-so-young, come together to be part of the work of growing, stretching and learning — and through the trust and joy of being a part of the village, feel brave enough to share their stories, advocate for difference, and teach by example.

There is so much to learn — and so much to share. So let's get started!

With gratitude,

Dr. Racheal Adriko Head of School



Dr. Racheal Adriko



OUR Mission

Mission Statement

At SF Day, we ignite curiosity. We cultivate a diverse, nurturing community that encourages learners to expand their perspectives and become their true selves. Students develop as compassionate, creative problem-solvers, prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Every school has a mission — but how does it come to life? SF Day's mission is grounded in three pillars, which always interconnect. The school's enduring commitment to intentional, student-driven teaching and learning practices; the importance of social and emotional wellness in and out of the classroom; and the bedrock belief in respect for identity and the community around us. Every aspect of school life has connections to all three of these central ideas — and each is strengthened by the others.

WEALL Belong



Diversity Equity & Inclusion Comes Alive in Many Ways at SF Day

VISION: We aspire to create a welcoming, diverse, equitable and inclusive environment where each person feels that their whole identity is known and respected.

PURPOSE: We, the members of SF Day — faculty, staff. students, alumni, families, and trustees — believe we have a mutual responsibility to ourselves, each other. and society. We are committed to ensuring that our students emerge with the confidence and skills to interact in a respectful way with people who bring different lived experiences and perspectives in an ever-evolving world.

APPROACH: We are purposeful in building a community that shares this vision. All community members should see their identity reflected in the school (mirrors), to know that people "like me" are full citizens at school. Equally important is that everyone is challenged to look outside themselves (windows) to understand, respect, and appreciate the cultures and identities of others.

COMMITMENT: We are teaching our children to be active participants in a democracy and preparing them to recognize systemic injustice and know how they can advocate for equity for themselves and others.

HONORING Diversity

How do we honor diversity? By constantly evolving.

At SF Day, we recognize that there is no true "finish line" when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion. However, an unwavering commitment to diversity has always been a founding value of the school. As such, we sought to codify our commitment with a formal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statement in 2019.

All members of our community — administration, faculty, staff, parents/guardians, students, alumni, and trustees — collaborated on this statement, helping to shape and articulate this expression of our vision, purpose, approach, and commitment to Inclusion and Community Engagement at SF Day. We are incredibly grateful to our community for its active engagement and drive to pursue diversity, equity, and inclusion, both within and beyond the walls of San Francisco Day School.

And as we head into the school's future, we are not just evolving our definition, but expanding it: to create more space for community engagement connected to our curriculum.



Community, Culture, & Engagement

A dedication to community is knitted into SF Day's DNA: for over 40 years, we have been pioneers in making inclusion a meaningful and authentic part of our curriculum. Our students make tangible contributions to their immediate and greater communities; in turn, these community connections help our students develop a global perspective. By giving back, SF Day students prioritize good citizenship and internalize leadership skills. Our layered approach to community engagement shows how thoughtful, developmentally appropriate programming can inspire children and build responsible, caring young adults.

Community, Culture & Engagement Days

SF Day is dedicated to a holistic education in which students live what they learn and through doing so, give back to the Bay Area. Through providing exciting, creative, and challenging engagement experiences in collaboration with Bay Area partners and community members, students gain a deeper understanding of the world around them and develop a sense of social responsibility.

Connected to the Arc of Development

SF Day dedicates four days solely to hands-on community engagement within the greater SF Day and Bay Area communities. During those days, each grade level will focus on a different theme that draws from their curriculum and will experience learning, meet members of the greater San Francisco community, and make meaningful contributions to the communities around them. These themes are connected to the work our students are doing in the classroom and enrich their academic experience.



Community **Engagement**

KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 8

Our Community Engagement programming starts in kindergarten with an examination of the world immediately around our youngest students — an example of meeting them where they are. As the journey continues, our students venture beyond their classrooms to make connections in their city and the entire Bay Area.



when introduced to a diversity

of representation, which in turn

allows them to express their

individual identities

THE WORLD IS Co-ed

Our school was founded on the principles of co-education, and we continue to champion gender inclusivity and the benefits of a co-educational program. Every day, we provide a highly intentional, inclusive, mixed-gender educational program that thoughtfully serves all learners. We recognize students as individual learners who each have unique personalities, dispositions, interests, and orientations, and we do not label children according to gender stereotypes.

What are the benefits of a co-educational school?

A look around San Francisco will show you one obvious reason: the world around us is co-ed. By educating children in a setting that represents the world around them, they are prepared to be active participants in their communities. In addition, co-education:

- · Promotes our school's value of inclusion
- Demonstrates that leaders can come in all forms
- · Teaches students to notice, examine, and disrupt genderstereotyping of all kinds, including fixed gender roles
- · Models positive and productive relationships across genders

WHAT IS **SPECIAL**ABOUT THE K-8 EXPERIENCE?

A K-8 school is a place where children grow into responsible and insightful young adults on their own terms and at their own pace. The natural peaks and valleys of child development provide opportunities for real-life learning and growth. A K-8 education is also scaled to offer connections between younger and older students, and give children chances to lead early and often. Our approach allows us to meet children where they are and preserve a sense of curiosity and wonder, while also building towards the hallmark of an SF Day graduate: a grounded, caring citizen, confident in their talents, and aware of the world around them.

Lower School: K-5

Building the Foundations

SF Day's foundational pillars build the framework for our approach to early education. Teachers honor and value the importance of conversations around conflict resolution, identity, and social-emotional learning from kindergarten on. SF Day encourages students to embrace and enjoy problem-solving, so that students see challenges as opportunities for learning. By the end of Lower School, children understand how they learn best and proudly advocate for themselves as learners.

Middle School 6-8

Expanding Horizons

While students learn how to advocate for themselves as learners in the Lower School, the Middle School strengthens that muscle to help them advocate for others in the classroom as well. These pre-teens and teenagers are confronted developmentally with the natural shift in personal and interpersonal identities during Middle School. SF Day's program strives to deepen their sense of self, all the while keeping them connected to the community around them. As the natural leaders of the school, our Middle School students have endless opportunities to develop passions and interests and gain insight into the idea that there are many ways to lead, just as there are many ways to identify yourself. Giving students this foundation through coeducation allows these students to be ready to take big risks in high school and beyond.

Signature Programs & Experiences

SF Day's signature programs, which are featured both inside and outside of the classroom, are designed with the intention of sparking excitement and curiosity, encouraging intellectual risk-taking and innovative perspectives, and celebrating the confidence to embrace developmentally appropriate challenge at all grade levels.

Outdoor Education

Our signature Outdoor Education program began in 1985 and remains an integral part of the SF Day educational experience. It begins with overnight stays in 3rd grade, and ends with two 8th grade trips, one in the fall and one in the spring. Outdoor Education provides SF Day students with the quintessential risk-taking opportunity, and gives them an occasion to demonstrate their learning in different ways. An emphasis is placed on group dynamics while students actively build their knowledge of ecology, geology, history, and environmental issues. We teach our students to develop their own ideas about responsible use of the outdoors and how we can help protect our planet's vital resources.

Competitive Programming

Learning at SF Day expands beyond the classroom — our students participate in academic and performance competitions in San Francisco and beyond. Competitions like Math Counts, Speech and Debate, Model UN, and Jazz Fest provide students with the opportunity to stretch themselves as individuals and experience the satisfaction of successful teamwork.



Signature Programs & Experiences

(CONTINUED)

Artist of the Month Program

SF Day's visual arts program is foundational to the school and enriches the academic experience by helping students make connections to the real world and grounding their learning into interdisciplinary thinking. We teach our students how to see and listen actively, give form to their thoughts, and empower their confidence and belief in themselves. An SF Day signature is the Artist of the Month program, a K-8 based curriculum where lessons are planned around the artist's creative expression, aesthetic perception and values. All grade levels study and model the artist's techniques and learn about the artist's sensibility in a developmentally appropriate way. The Visual Arts curriculum culminates with the all-school Imagination Celebration, where all grades display artwork inspired by the artists that they have studied.

Teaching Fellows Program

SF Day's Teaching Fellowship Program guides young teachers as they hone their skills under the mentorship of SF Day's experienced faculty. They are immersed in specific learning and teaching approaches including Universal Design for Learning and Responsive Classroom. As Teaching Fellows gain more skill and understanding of their areas of interest, their responsibilities and experiences expand within the classroom and the school.

Robotics, Engineering, and Innovation, Design & Passion

SF Day's robotics and engineering curriculum makes it a priority to include underrepresented voices in this field. We start early with the idea of innovation and design partnered with digital citizenship and are intentional about screen time with regard to our youngest students. From kindergarten on, we teach computational thinking skills to our youngest learners, including sequencing, pattern recognition, and algorithmic design. We have a competitive robotics team, starting in 5th grade, that competes in the First Lego League Qualifying Tournament each fall. In the Middle School, SF Day's Innovation, Design, and Passion Program, known as IDP, fosters curiosity and individual passions, while honing life skills and learning by doing. This is a student-driven, interdisciplinary approach where students can explore their talents and passions, supported by their teachers.





Signature Programs & Experiences

(CONTINUED)

Community Culture & Engagement

SF Day was, and remains, a pioneer in intentional incorporation of identity into the K-8 curriculum, not just in what we teach but how we teach it. Celebrating identity and community happens every day in the classroom and at special moments throughout the week — affinity groups in the Lower School and Middle School — and throughout the year — like our Community Engagement Days. The school is constantly evolving our programming in and out of the classroom to ensure that we remain relevant and responsible to our students, so they can meet the world that they live in with openness, compassion, and an abiding interest in the stories of other people.

Buddy Program

The Buddy Program links students in different grade levels and provides each student with a younger or older "buddy". Buddy classes meet throughout the year during the weekly afternoon assembly period. On any given Buddy Day, you may see a kindergartner working with an 8th grader on an art project or reading a book together. Other Buddy Day activities include math games, team building games, service projects, and banners for graduation. The buddy system is one way to strengthen ties across grade levels to build a stronger school community and a lasting connection for our children. Our students often remember their buddy fondly, whether younger or older. In 5th grade, students write a letter to their former kindergarten-8th grade buddies to wish them luck in their first year of college.

Performing Arts: Jazz Band & Theater

Just as the visual arts has been a core part of SF Day's programming, every student at SF Day learns to play an instrument, aligned with our belief that musical literacy and appreciation is core to a well balanced graduate. By the time they graduate, they'll have performed as singers, actors, and musicians. Music is an important part of the fabric of SF Day culture. Teachers and students enjoy providing joyful musical experiences that bring the school community together, including all-school concerts which showcase their team work, collaboration, and sense of community.





DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SF DAY STUDENT

Welcome to the Lower School



Good Morning!

Every morning, students and families are greeted at our Golden Gate Avenue entrance by Mr. Washington and his security team. After signing in on SchoolPass, children make their way to their classrooms.



Parents are Welcome

Parents are invited to walk our youngest students to their classrooms and stay until "big hug" time. Parents also have the opportunity to volunteer and help with lunch.



Wellness Every Day

We know how important healthy food is for healthy bodies. We are proud to offer delicious lunch in our cafeteria every day; in addition, bowls of fruit and other good-forvou snacks are available at school.



Spanish

Our Lower Schoolers engage with Spanish through storytelling as a group, reading short texts, playing games and performance.



Art & Music

Fundamental to an SF Day education, our Lower Schoolers perform for their families and peers, and display artworks inspired by the Artist of the Month



Science & Math

Lower School students leave their classrooms to explore the scientific method in our Science Labs and in Math Lab, which allows children opportunities to investigate current math ideas in a deeper or imaginative way.



Library

Students have access to our two-story library both as a specials class and a way to discover books during school hours. Students and teachers work closely with the librarian to meet the emerging needs of our young readers.



Innovation & Technology

From kindergarten on, Lower Schoolers become the creative problem solvers of tomorrow in Innovation & Technology. Our youngest students have many screen-free experiences, including screen free coding and robots.



Physical Education

Our gym is not just a place where Lower Schoolers develop fundamental movement skills, but a place where the spirit of teamwork and sportspersonship bloom.



Outdoor Time

Outdoor time is important for unstructured play. It's a time for them to unwind and relax so they can connect back to learning.



Rooftop Garden

Children spend class time in SF Dav's beautiful rooftop garden learning about nature, or exploring plant lifecycles, and gaining appreciation for our planet's resources.



Learning Specialists & Counselors

At SF Day learning specialists and counselors work together hand-in-hand to support the whole child. This includes learning interventions and accommodations as well as counseling services.



Affinity Circles

Starting in the Lower School, students participate in affinity circles, which can be based on race, gender, sexual orientation, language, nationality, family structure, religion, and more. The goal of affinity circles is to facilitate positive identity exploration and development towards the larger goal of creating an inclusive learning environment.



Assemblies

Lower Schoolers participate in both divisional and all-school assemblies, as participants and/or performers. Assemblies provide a wonderful opportunity to take risks and share and celebrate aspects of student and community identity.

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SF DAY STUDENT

Excelling in the Middle School



Advisories

Middle Schoolers start each school day with Advisory in groups of ten to 15 students. Their advisor is also a member of the grade's teaching team. Advisory is a safe time and place for students to formulate academic and personal goals, discuss issues, and form relationships with their peers.



Electives

The Middle School Elective Program allows students to try something new or build on their skills and knowledge in a particular subject. Classes are multi-grade 6–8, and examples include: ceramics, creative writing, speech and debate, yearbook, and sketch comedy.



Learning Lab

Learning lab is a daily time where students develop their executive functioning. Students work independently, collaboratively, or with teachers to develop study habits, routines, and strategies for academic and personal success.



Student Congress

SF Day's student government adopts the structure of the US government with representatives and committees and affords more opportunities for student leadership and collaboration grounded in real-life concepts. The student congress meets weekly with a faculty advisor.



Latin

Starting in 6th grade, SF Day Middle Schoolers can choose to take Latin. Our program emphasizes the connections between Latin and modern languages, the cultures of the ancient world, and Roman mythology.



Jazz Band & Music

Every SF Day Middle Schooler learns to play a brass or woodwind instrument. Many students also join our legendary Jazz Band, whose members get to play SF Jam, Jazz Fest, and at concerts during the school year.



City-Wide Competitions

SF Day Middle Schoolers compete against other SF Students in a host of programs, including Speech & Debate, Model UN, Math Counts, and robotics competitions.



Athletic Teams

Go 'Phins! Our Middle Schoolers have 11 sports to choose from during the year, including soccer, volleyball, baseball, track and field, and cross country.



Affinity Circles

SF Day is proud to host student affinity circles to support and celebrate our community's diversity and to facilitate identity exploration towards the larger goal of creating an inclusive learning environment. Middle Schoolers participate in affinity circles, which can be based on race, gender, sexual orientation, language, nationality, family structure, religion, and more.



Student Clubs

In the Middle School, students also lead student clubs focused on specific interests or passions. Examples include Gardening, Sports Analytics Club, Yoga and Meditation, and the school literary magazine.





Our SF Day graduates enter high school prepared academically, confident in their opinions, knowing themselves as learners — and they are also reflective and grounded people, who have the skills to meet their community with kindness and respect. They honor and celebrate differences. Most of all, they are hard workers — students who engage joyfully with the productive struggle, and know there is value in the process of learning, not just in the end result.

HS Counseling Process

SF Day's personalized counseling process begins in the spring of 6th grade, when our High School Placement Counselor invites families to start the conversation regarding the next step in students' learning journey. In 7th grade, the High School Placement Counselor invites families and students to meet one-to-one and share their goals for high school. In 8th grade, students attend a high school counseling class to review and prepare for all aspects of the high school admissions process (i.e., school research, visit expectations, application writing, interview practice, and test-taking preparation), and share experiences and reflections. We encourage our students to take ownership of the high school admissions process to find the right learning and social fit.

Over the past five years, SF Day graduates have attended 34 of the top independent, public, parochial and boarding high schools in San Francisco and around the country.

2024-2025 KEY DATES

School Calendar

August 27, 28, and 30	In Person/Zoom "Bridge Meetings" with Teachers (K-8)
August 29	Head of School's Welcome event
August 30	Open House Visit Day for Enrolled Students
September 2	Labor Day, School Closed
September 3	First Day of School
October 14	Indigenous Peoples' Day, School Closed
October 31	Halloween Parade, Half Day
November 1	Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences + Community Engagement School Day for Students
November 8	Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences + Community Engagement School Day for Students
November 22	Half Day
November 25–29	November Break, School Closed
December 2	School Resumes
December 3	Winter Concert
December 20	Half Day
December 23-January 3	December Break, School Closed
January 6	Faculty Professional Development, No School for Students
January 7	School Resumes
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, School Closed
February 14	Grandparents & Special Friends Day, Half Day for Students
February 17–21	February Break, School Closed
February 24	Faculty Professional Development, No School
February 25	School Resumes
April 4	Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences + Community Engagement School Day for Students
April 11	Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences + Community Engagement School Day for Students
April 14–18	Spring Break, School Closed
April 21	Faculty Professional Development, No School for Students
April 22	School Resumes
April 29	Spring Concert
May 26	Memorial Day, School Closed
June 11	Moving Up Ceremony
June 12	Last Day of School, Half Day
June 13	8th Grade Graduation



ANNUAL **School Events**

Head of School's Welcome

This event is a moment for the whole community to get together, celebrate the school, and share the Head of School's vision for the year ahead. This moment of celebration will include special guest speakers who can reflect on the school's history or experts who can share perspectives on the future.

Bridge Meetings

Taking place in the week before children arrive in their classrooms, Bridge Meetings provide a valuable time for teachers and parents/quardians to meet one-on-one to discuss their child's progress, hopes for the year ahead and past successes and challenges.

Family Photo Night

A beloved SF Day tradition where whole families — including pets — can have a portrait taken, that will then be displayed in the school's corridors. It's a wonderful opportunity to say hello at the beginning of the year and celebrates the school's rich diversity of backgrounds and experiences. (These portraits are also how kindergartners learn about bar graphs!)

Winter & Spring Concerts

The two major musical events of the school year, which feature students performing on instruments and singing. Held in our theater, together they are an unforgettable bonding experience for the community.

State of the School

Each January, the Head of School and Board President address the extended school community, unveiling strategic initiatives and celebrating successes by our students and faculty.

SF Jam & Concert for Community

Each year, SF Day students give back to the community by fundraising through music and sharing their talents, giving evening concerts for SF Day students, faculty, and parents/quardians.

SF Day Fest

Our annual celebration of all things SF Day, SF Day Fest is our school's largest fundraiser for Adjusted Tuition, which provides Adjusted Tuition to roughly 1 in 4 students in our community. SF Day Fest offers families a chance to celebrate our school's mission while raising funds to ensure the SF Day experience remains accessible.

Curriculum Nights

Our Curriculum Nights illuminate the learning journey for our students, provide families with intellectual exercises highlighting the developmental arc of K-8 education, and define SF Dav's teaching and learning process, SF Dav hosts two Curriculum Nights a year.





Beyond THE CLASSROOM



Co-Ed Baseball (5th-8th Grade)

Girls Soccer (6th–8th Grade) Girls Basketball (5th Grade)

Co-Ed Track & Field (5th-8th Grade)

Boys Varsity and JV Volleyball (5th–8th Grade)

Athletic Programs

K-8 athletic programs provide a pathway for students to explore their athletic abilities. Lower School's programming is focused on building solid foundations in sportsmanship and teamwork, with some skill acquisition. SF Day sponsors three K-4 sports a year — soccer, basketball, and baseball — through its afterschool Athletics Program. Middle Schoolers build upon the foundations of their Lower School experience and apply it to a team environment.

Afterschool Enrichment Program (AEP)

SF Day's afterschool programming was established at the founding of the school to support families who may need or want child care. It's evolved to include enrichment classes for kids who want to deepen their learning. AEP is the name of our program for Lower School students; The Commons is the name of our program for the Middle School. We also offer 1:1 music lessons after school to both AEP and Commons participants. Our daily after school schedule gives students some structure around afterschool play while allowing them room for choice and autonomy.

Field Trips

Field trips to off-campus sites provide authentic context to learning that is deep, rich, and meaningful. SF Day's field trips are often the culmination celebration of learning for a unit. We take advantage of the many museums and non-profit organizations in the San Francisco Bay area, giving the students an opportunity to practice independent learning. Field trips are a wonderful way for parents/guardians to get involved in school life by volunteering.

Community Engagement Days

Community Engagement days are dedicated school days for students to engage with the wider community outside of SF Day. As educators, we must ensure that we are creating authentic and purposeful opportunities for our children to build upon their agency towards the common good. We will use these days to center the issues of our San Francisco community, and empower our students toward solutions.

Family & Faculty **Partnership**

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Our Commitment to Partnership

We believe in a strong home-school connection that supports the progress of the child in and out of the classroom. In that spirit, we are committed to a long and productive partnership with families that centers the child and navigates the inevitable ups and downs of child development.

Parents/Guardians in the Classroom

SF Day welcomes parents in the classroom at appropriate, pre-approved times, including our Lower School open classroom days when parents can see the learning in action. In kindergarten, parents are welcome to stay until "big hug" time as your child learns to transition from home to school. All parents are also invited to select assemblies and Open Fridays, where they will get to see their child's learning in action.

Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences

SF Day holds Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences twice a year, in the fall and spring. These conferences may include student-led conferences. Our goal is to share updated information since the interim progress report. Though these are the "official" meetings with faculty, parent questions and concerns are always welcome and we are here to listen.



Getting Involved





Meet the PGA

Every parent and guardian at SF Day is a valued member of the Parents and Guardians Association, or PGA. Volunteerism is an essential aspect of our flourishing community. As our children watch parents, guardians, grandparents, and alumni give generously of their time and talent, they learn the importance and value of giving back.

Make an Impact

Volunteering provides many benefits, including the opportunity to explore your child's school life and get to know their classmates. It also provides an opportunity to build relationships with staff, teachers, fellow parents and guardians, and see firsthand how our mission is carried out every day.

Each year, volunteers contribute to a range of projects and events through our PGA. There are many ways to get involved according to your interests, experience, and schedule. You can:

- · Serve as a Room Parent
- Participate in the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity & Equity in Action)
 Parent/Guardian Group
- · Serve as a Class Captain for the Annual Fund
- · Volunteer as an Admission Ambassador
- · Help plan SF Day Fest
- · Volunteer at SF Day

At the start of each school year, current SF Day parents/guardians are invited to complete a Volunteer Form to share their interests.





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