



Kindergarten through 6th grade

250 California Street • Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 427-2641 • sylvie@springhillschool.org
www.springhillschool.org

An education as unique as your child



The Advanced Elementary School of Santa Cruz
Dream ★ Believe ★ Learn ★ Achieve

Welcome to Spring Hill

Spring Hill is a small, independent school where the unique talents of each child are recognized, nurtured and allowed to grow. We encourage children to act with confidence and consideration and equip them with the academic skills to succeed.

Our campus is conveniently located close to downtown Santa Cruz and provides excellent facilities for children to work and play.

School hours are: Kindergarten and 1st grade: 8:45 a.m.–2 p.m. 2nd through 6th grade: 8:45 p.m.–3 p.m.

Before and after-school care is available from 7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.–5:30 p.m. The after-school program includes sports, activities, snacks and quiet time for homework.

A brochure can only serve as a brief introduction to school life. For a real flavor of what Spring Hill has to offer please pay us a visit and experience the happy and industrious atmosphere for yourself. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Philosophy

- To offer an accelerated and balanced curriculum to ensure that all students reach their maximum potential.
- To create an environment where children can feel free to be themselves
- To enable students to see learning as a continuing process throughout life
- To support development through an individually-paced curriculum and avoid a one-size fits all approach
- To involve students in the decision-making process so they can take an increasing amount of responsibility for their own progress and development.
- To welcome and embrace diversity
- To provide a safe, secure and caring environment built on honesty and respect for one another.
- To encourage the involvement of parents, business and the community as partners in the work of the school
- To promote community and global awareness
- To acknowledge the needs and abilities of each child and encourage them to be proud of their achievements

The best education is about developing individual potential and that is central to our ethos. It is this foundation that makes our school different; by recognizing that every child is unique we are able to provide the opportunities that allow each child to reach their maximum potential.

The environment we provide is cheerful, energetic and secure where students are helped and encouraged by a committed and experienced teaching staff.

We believe that given the right encouragement and support, every child has the ability to succeed.

Academic Aims

Our aim is for every student to leave our school as a broad minded, well rounded individual equipped with the array of skills necessary to compete in our diverse culture. To achieve this we offer a balanced curriculum that is carefully planned and delivered with the aim of encouraging all students to do their very best.

We believe all students leaving Spring Hill take with them the necessary skills to thrive in the educational environment that awaits them in junior high, high school and eventually, in higher education and their future careers.



Typical comments from parents include:

"My daughter has been at Spring Hill a month and a half now. Not only does she wake up excited to go to school but excited to learn. What a great feeling for a parent!"

"Spring Hill is a great investment in your child's future. For motivated kids, there is no better school in the Santa Cruz area."

"Spring Hill has allowed my daughter to grow in ways I would never have anticipated, both academically and socially. She looks forward to school everyday!"

Curriculum Overview

Spring Hill's core program places a strong emphasis on Language Arts, Math and Science. In addition we teach Spanish from kindergarten through 6th grade as we feel modern languages are indispensable in our multicultural world. We also incorporate ancient history, American history, world culture, Latin, geography and algebra.

Class work is supplemented by relevant field trips, which may range from a simple nature walk on campus to a visit to a specialist activity away from the school. Students in grades five and six are encouraged to attend a one-week residential science and environmental studies camp in the spring. A foreign travel trip is organized each year for upper grade students and their parents.

As well as the academic disciplines there is ample opportunity for students to develop their creative skills. Studio art, drama, music and physical education are integrated into our curriculum and all children are given the chance to participate.

Advanced?

What sets Spring Hill apart is the individually paced program of learning we offer to all our students. Those students who show a natural aptitude or display a particular interest in a subject area are given the opportunity to stretch beyond the boundaries set by their grade level. This accelerated approach allows students to advance above the level usually expected for their age but is not limited to the realms of academia. We challenge our students to fulfill their potential whether it be academic or creative.

Our small class size, set at a maximum of sixteen students, allows each student to benefit from the individual attention of their teacher. The class size enables the teacher and student to work together and set goals that can realistically be achieved. It also encourages students to forge strong classroom relationships and develop a sense of security while teachers gain an accurate insight into each child's abilities and interests.



Core Subjects

Language Arts

Language Arts forms an integral part of our curriculum. All students are quickly made familiar with the elements of grammar and spelling and are encouraged to advance their literacy skills through reading a variety of genres. We promote an imaginative approach to language arts study in the form of story telling, creative writing and drama through which students widen their appreciation of great works of literature.

Mathematics

Mathematics is central to our learning program and from kindergarten on all students are taught basic mathematical concepts. We believe in teaching a mathematics syllabus that is relevant and applicable to every day situations so our students understand how the skills they acquire can be transferred into later life.

Mathematics is one of the subjects that has benefited most from our accelerated program. It is a subject that manifests a vast range of ability and our personalized approach gives students the chance to develop at their own pace. By 6th grade most Spring Hill students are ready for high school level math and algebra and have acquired extensive problem solving and critical thinking abilities.

Science

In the modern climate science forms a crucial part of every child's education. Our hands-on science program begins in kindergarten and incorporates life and earth sciences, biology, chemistry and physics. Our students develop a genuine passion for scientific discovery by a first hand experience of scientific investigation. They quickly learn to express the concepts and reasoning behind scientific explanations and challenge non-scientific ideas. Curiosity, respect for evidence, perseverance and flexibility are encouraged.

The Arts

Developing the Whole Child

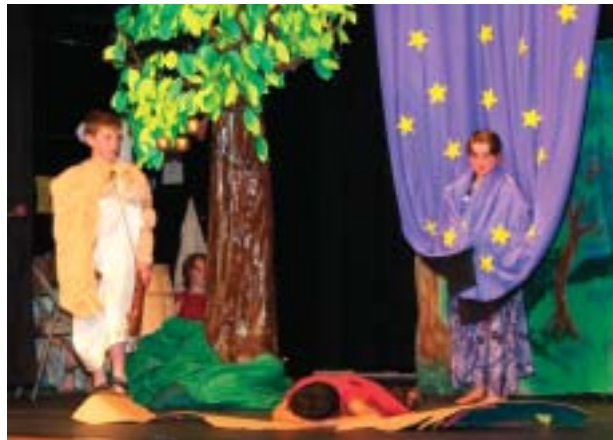
As part of our commitment to providing students with a broad and varied curriculum we believe that all students should be exposed to the more creative disciplines.

We believe that participation in a creative program encourages children to grow in confidence and self-expression, as well as expand their knowledge and academic horizons.

Drama

Drama forms an integral part of our curriculum and brings an extra dimension to other subjects such as History and Language Arts.

We endeavor to awaken theatrical interests within our students through participation in annual school productions and theater visits. It is not only those with acting ability that benefit from drama, all children are encouraged to participate as a means to building self-confidence and communication skills.



Studio Art

Students are encouraged to express their creativity through weekly art classes taught by a professional Spectra artist. The creative displays of students' work on show in all the classrooms lead them to experience a sense of pride in their artistic achievements.

Music

Music brings vibrancy to the curriculum and we consider participation to be a vital outlet for a student's creative expression. To achieve this every grade has weekly music instruction from a professional music teacher. They learn to play the recorder in 2nd grade and students in grades 4-6 have the opportunity to join the school band. Musical assemblies are performed for parents throughout the year.

Physical Education

Participation in sport is highly valued at the school and all grades receive regular physical education classes. We believe that participation provides our students with the opportunity to understand the notion of fair play, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Throughout the year we encourage children to take part in a range of events, contests and committees. Participation enables students to grow academically as well as gain a sense of responsibility and belonging. Some activities are organized by the school, others are organized by the county, state or country. They vary somewhat from year to year but typically include:

- The Invention Convention (school)
- The Science Fair (school and county)
- The Student Authors' Fair (school and county)
- Spelling Contests (school, county and state)
- Math Contests (county, state, and national)
- The National Geography contest (state and national)
- Poetry Contest
- John Hopkins Search for Talent
- Dramatic productions and musical performances (three per year)
- Student Council
- Talent Show
- Renaissance Faire
- Halloween Carnival



After School and Vacation Activities

We thoroughly promote the idea that school life should extend beyond the classroom. The number of activities we offer illustrates this belief:

- Studio Art and Sculpture
- Judo
- Tumbling
- Chess
- Computer and Typing Skills
- Sound System Class
- Chorus
- Morris Dancing
- Motors and Generators
- Sculpture
- Spring Hill Summer Camp
- Outdoor Science Exploration Camp (OSE) is offered during school breaks and vacation days. Note. This camp is offered in conjunction with OSE and is not a Spring Hill camp.



Parent Participation

Spring Hill is a family orientated school which thrives on the active participation of parents and the community. With this in mind we ask that all parents work a minimum of 25 service hours per school year. Volunteer activities range from helping in the school library or classrooms to cleaning and maintenance of the school campus. The school office maintains a list of activities that qualify for service hour credit. We also encourage all parents to join the school's active parent club which raises money for educational supplies and school events.

In Conclusion

If you are interested in enrolling your child as a member of our community it is advisable to make an appointment to visit the school as soon as possible. It is the atmosphere of the school that speaks volumes about the quality of education we provide.

We hope this brochure has given you some insight into Spring Hill, and that you will visit us to see at first hand our commitment to excellence, our campus, our teachers and, most of all, our students; it is toward their success that we channel our energy and expertise. They are, after all, our finest ambassadors.