



**THE
SAN FRANCISCO
SCHOOL**

**PRESCHOOL
PROFILE**

DAILY SCHEDULE

The following is a blended sample of the day of the SFS Preschool 3/4 classes!

8:00 – 9:00 am	MORNING EXTENDED CARE. Children arrive eager to dive into play, books, art, yoga, and fun teacher-guided activities.
8:45 – 10:00 am	MORNING CIRCLE & ACTIVITY TIME. Parenting adults drop children off between 8:45 – 9:00 am. The busy morning period includes a community meeting time with songs, the daily schedule, stories, and a presentation of a curricular activity. Students engage in self- or teacher-selected activities including Montessori materials, reading from a large selection of books, beginning sound or math concept games, painting, or science activities while teachers work with individual children and small groups. Children are also given time to creatively and imaginatively explore their choice of classroom toys and activities and/or outside activities.
10:00 – 10:25 am	SNACK TIME. After washing their hands and using the bathroom, children eat a healthy snack while chatting quietly. Afterward, all students set their own tables for lunch, one of many sequential activities that allow children to develop concentration, coordination, memory, and grace in the Montessori curriculum.
10:25 am – 12:00 pm	PLAY AND SPECIALIST CLASS. Children choose from a wide array of independent or teacher-led activities either in the calm of the classroom or the North Yard--art projects, gross-motor activities, the sandbox, building with crates and boards, basketball, trikes, swings, or the climbing wall. Our specialist teachers lead classes in Music, Spanish, Health & Wellness, Gardening, and Library during this time.
11:50 am – 12:30 pm	LUNCH. Students eat lunch at their tables. While the meal is being served, one of the teachers leads a language or math game, shares a new song, or presents a lesson in social-emotional skills. During lunch, children listen to a story. When they have finished eating, cleared their own dishes, and cleaned up, children may read and/or go outside.
12:30 – 2:30 pm	AFTERNOON PERIOD. Preschool 3 12:30 – 12:50 pm. AFTERNOON CIRCLE. Children learn and practice social-emotional skills (e.g. how to ask to play, how to use kind words, how to say "Stop!", how to ask for personal space, etc.) 12:50 – 2:15 pm. NAPTIME. All children in the three-year-old group take naps or rest at this time, supervised by a teacher from their class Preschool 4 12:30 – 1:00 pm. YARD TIME 1:00 – 1:20 pm. AFTERNOON CIRCLE. <i>See above.</i> 1:30 – 2:15 pm. SPECIALIST CLASS. <i>See above.</i>
2:15 – 3:00 pm	SNACK, SINGING TIME, FREE CHOICE, AND CLOSING TIME. Students enjoy afternoon snacks, and individual and group activities, either indoors or outdoors. At the end of the school day, children clean up the classroom together, gather their personal belongings, reflect on the day, and contribute positive thoughts.
3:00 – 3:15 pm	DISMISSAL. Children listen to stories in the South Yard while waiting to be picked up. If they are headed to Extended Day, children have a snack and listen to a story with teachers in the classrooms.
3:15 – 6:00 pm	EXTENDED DAY. Children are nurtured in the afternoon program with a familiar group of teachers in activities including yard play, art projects or other indoor activities, circle time and optional enrichment classes (see our website for more details).



ABOUT PRESCHOOL

Our preschool consists of mixed-age classrooms of three and four year olds. Each has a head teacher and three teaching assistants working with 20-24 children. There is direct access to the preschool yard from both classrooms.

Specialists in Music, Spanish, and Health and Wellness meet with each of the classes in half groups throughout the week. The Preschoolers have Health & Wellness classes as they develop greater body awareness and problem-solving abilities. The size of the class gives students a small but diverse social group as they learn and play together.

OUR BELIEFS

In the SFS Preschool, we believe

- children are capable, competent, and creative
- play is a key part of learning and introduces children to social skills as well as learning about their peers in forms of language, customs, and culture
- children should be engaged in skill building and responsibility around real-life skills
- children should investigate and explore, not just sit and listen
- children learn and show what they know in various ways
- teachers actively learn alongside the children
- children develop executive functioning skills during play

SNACK & LUNCH

Our school chefs prepare organic, homemade, and kid-friendly meals each day. The meals always include an entree, along with vegetables, fruit, and bread. Our youngest students learn to use cutlery, real dishes, and glasses. Mid-morning and afternoon snacks are also provided by the kitchen.



WHAT IS “MONTESSORI”? WHAT DOES “MONTESSORI-INSPIRED” MEAN?

The Montessori method of education, developed by Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori (1870-1952), is an experiential, hands-on approach to learning. Montessori classrooms involve a high level of student choice within thoughtfully prepared, developmentally appropriate activities, and place an emphasis on independence, initiative, exploration, self-regulation, and care for self and others.

We are “Montessori-inspired,” which means that we combine these methodologies with the best of other early childhood approaches that are based in play, projects, and inquiry. This creates a unique, child-centered program that is rich with play, academic content, social-emotional learning, and outdoor adventure.



FAMILY-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Each classroom sends updates with curriculum highlights via ParentSquare, a school-home communications platform. The School also produces the Tuesday Note Home, a weekly newsletter with school-wide information. We offer intake conferences for new families, annual parent-teacher conferences, and a written report in the spring. Email is the best way to contact the teachers to check in, ask a question, or to arrange a meeting. We also encourage you to sign up for a part-day visit to see your child’s experience firsthand!





HOW ARE FAMILIES INVOLVED IN SCHOOL LIFE?

Parenting adult participation is an important part of life at SFS, and there are many opportunities to get involved in ways that work for your schedule, including:

- Family-Teacher Intake Conferences
- Back-to-School Curriculum Night
- Parenting adult Class Visits
- Parenting adult volunteers for leading cultural celebrations and teaching unique arts, crafts, music, yoga, etc. to students
- Family Association and Affinity Groups
- Board of Trustees
- Committee on Equity and Belonging, Public Purpose, Site, Risk/Audit, and Finance
- Annual Fund
- All-School Meetings & Potlucks
- Room Representative or Buddy Family for a new family
- Grade or Class-Specific Gatherings
- Field Trips

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE TOILET TRAINED?

Yes. Please note that every child must be fully toilet trained and able to use the toilet independently by their start date.



BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

Preschool 3 students have staggered start dates throughout the first few weeks of the school year. This allows each child to experience the first day of school in a more personal, individualized way. On a child's first day of school, one of the teachers introduces them to classmates, guides them through the classroom routines, and shadows them throughout the day to help the child feel comfortable in their new surroundings. Careful thought is put into each child's start date. We understand that this can present a short-term childcare challenge for some families and appreciate your flexibility.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD IS SICK?



When you notice your child is coming down with something, please keep them home. If a child is sick or injured at school, the school nurse will call you to pick up your child. The School complies with the California and San Francisco Departments of Public Health guidelines for the health and safety of its students, staff, and families.

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