

Sausalito Marin City Guiding Principles for Design

Guiding principles prove invaluable as projects unfold, help leaders focus their work, and clarify important decisions when individual interests come in conflict with overall goals. Our guiding principles will help provide ongoing design direction as SMCS D makes important educational, and architectural decisions.

Community Schools

Much more than a building, our schools foster a dazzling array of partnerships with other community resources – including local and regional agencies, business, higher education and a variety of philanthropies – to expand opportunities for our students. An integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and civic engagement, lead to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. We will cultivate mutually beneficial relationships to share space with partners and will design for a variety of uses.

Zones of Opportunity and Positivity

Seeing educational facilities as hubs of activity, our schools bring together partners to offer a rich range of opportunities to support children, youth, families and our community. Attractive and inviting learning environments are safe, nurturing, and positive. Safely navigable, environmentally-designed campuses welcome students, parents, seniors and community. Our schools are equitable, inclusive and culturally representative. They communicate *high expectations for all* via visual cues, strong relationships, rich interconnections, and collective team follow-through. We think of our entire community as one campus to offer a range of choices to our students.

Authentic and Culturally Relevant

A diverse group of staff, parents and community members foster a love for life-long learning. Celebrating the cultural characteristics of students from different ethnic backgrounds, we adjust curriculum, teaching methods, training and learning environments to honor and support the diversity of the student body. Our high-interest curriculum actively engages students. Employing natural learning processes, we recognize that good nutrition, social-emotional health, movement, fluid indoor-outdoor connections, and hands-on learning will help all students thrive. Students will show what they know in an environment that supports performance assessment and project-based learning.

Vibrant Learning

Learning is alive! Interaction with nature helps students make rich discoveries and learn to embrace and cultivate the beauty that surrounds us. World connections are made on a daily basis, technology is used as a tool, and artistic creation is fostered. Enrichment activities and core learning are integrated in program and place. Intellectually rich environments are culturally-focused, approachable and fun. With courage and respect, we pursue learning fearlessly.

Flexibility, Adaptability and Collaborative Team-Building

Varied and flexible spaces allow for the accommodation of a variety of teaching and learning styles. Collaboration is fostered and innovative technologies serve as robust learning resources. Attention is paid to colors, shapes, textures, and furniture such that integration and differentiation in learning styles are supported. A friendly, transparent and inclusive environment allows for facilities that can convert, adapt, and evolve to changing needs. Multi-use designs allow everyone to work together as a team. Integrity is prized.