

SBCA

Santa Barbara Community Academy

OVERVIEW OF SBCA

We support students in developing the skills, mindsets, and the desire to learn and acquire knowledge in all parts of life and with diverse people. Through integrated learning experiences that incorporate science, technology, engineering, the arts and math (STEAM), balanced approach to literacy, a focus on structured collaborative conversations and social-emotional learning (SEL), students develop the skills that allow them to be independent and life-long learners.



Our vision is to cultivate curiosity, empathy, and develop skilled learners through connected & meaningful learning experiences that empower students to solve problems and make a difference in the world.

HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT?

We capitalize on time, a valuable commodity, by making every minute of the school day purposeful and intentional.

Core (6 Weeks)	Design Week	Core (6 Weeks)	Design Week	Core (6 Weeks)	Design Week	Core (6 Weeks)	Design Week	Core (6 Weeks)	Core + Project (5 Weeks)
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August

June

By integrating subject matter during our “Core Weeks”, we are able to create more opportunities for students to learn how to read, write, and develop into strong mathematicians, scientists, and historians. The 4 “Design Weeks” provide students with an opportunity to engage in purposeful activities in the arts and engineering disciplines, while also participating in a community connected experience.

By extending the day in K and 4th-6th grade, students are provided with large blocks of time to think deeply and immerse themselves into the creative process. Teamwork, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving are used as students engage in projects that encourage curiosity and develop student agency.

Focusing on both academics and social-emotional competencies allows us to cultivate adaptable, motivated, and skilled learners.



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UPDATE ON OUR JOURNEY

ENROLLMENT

As of May 22, we have 56 new K or 1st grade students enrolled, with an additional 4 students who have picked up enrollment forms and are planning on attending, which would bring our total to 60 with a break down of 42 kindergarteners and 18 first graders. This is due to our parent and staff outreach, pre-school visits/communication, and social-media.

OUR WORK THIS YEAR

Our focus for this year has been on developing a strong root system that will help to anchor and support our vision. This includes understanding our core beliefs, developing systems to know our students and engage in purposeful data chats to create intentional learning experiences, engaging in professional learning around Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS), Design Thinking, creating integrated units, designing learning spaces, using new instructional routines and understanding content in ELA, math, and science.

We have also been focused on developing our support system by building on the strengths of our stakeholders: creating channels for communication with families, connecting with community partners, and enhancing the skills and capacities of our staff.

Lastly, we have prototyped and implemented so that we can learn from and refine our design. We implemented a Design Week with our first graders, mindfulness routines, afternoon meetings, math labs, 6 week cycle targeted instruction informed by data, while continuing to implement the district reading and writing workshop, and focusing on our school focus of structured collaborative conversations.

NEXT STEPS

We will continue to develop our root and support systems as our programs blossom. Currently, we are focused on identifying content areas with points of natural integration, agreeing on the dispositions, skills, and mindsets we want students to leave SBCA with, and mapping out the year.

June will bring learning around universal themes which will support us in providing deep and connected learning for our students, and we will be developing the first integrated unit for the year.

July is time to rest and recharge. This is vital for our teachers and it will be their first “real” summer.

August will be focused on finalizing (for now) school-wide agreements around PBIS and SEL, learning about Illustrative Mathematics, and designing learning spaces that reflect the needs of our students.

As we embrace our school ideals of contribute, show respect, solve problems, and improve, we are living our mission of growing learners and the reason why we do this work.

WE GROW LEARNERS.