Our Mission:
To provide a dynamic, nurturing and personalized education that inspires a passion for learning, self-discovery and connection to the community.

Our Curriculum
The Sycamore School integrates academic development, social emotional development and civic engagement. Our curriculum encompasses elements of the following evidence-based educational models:

- Common Core State Standards
- Framework for 21st Century Learning
- Universal Design for Learning
- Mindful Schools

Teachers create a dynamic learning process by building relationships with students to personalize instruction.

- Students make choices based on interests and influence how content is learned and mastery is demonstrated.
- Students learn in a living classroom, making use of local resources through field studies and service learning opportunities.
- Our community embraces tolerance for diverse viewpoints and acceptance of differences; we encourage each student to find and use his or her unique voice.
WHY THE SYCAMORE SCHOOL?

- The middle school years are a pivotal, predictive, and possibly life-altering stage of development.
- Conventional education is focused on standardized tests, rigid standards and acceleration that diminishes curiosity and the desire to learn.
- Conventional education often creates excessive stress and can undermine individual development of character, connection to the community and compassion.
- Traditional practices force students into one way of learning and thinking, producing a system of winners and losers. Our world needs strong leaders, thinkers, and feelers, not just survivors.

HELPING STUDENTS FIND THEIR PLACE...

in the classroom, in the community, in the world.

WE BELIEVE

- Young people are curious, resilient, and capable of creating innovative solutions to real-world problems.
- Learning should be meaningful, challenging and engaging.
- Intelligence and ability are not fixed, but can be developed.
- Learning is messy, not linear. It’s a process of trying, making changes, and moving forward.
- Learning requires a partnership between students, staff and parents.
We can provide the tools and opportunities to reignite your child’s desire to learn.

Education is more than good grades!

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

- Display curiosity
- Want to succeed
- Seek inspiration and engagement
- Feel un-inspired or disengaged at school
- Do not want to be defined by standardized test scores
- Have dreams beyond college

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

- Focus on student growth versus grades
- Are willing to partner with staff to support a healthy learning community
- Want their child to succeed in life, not just school
- Are tired of struggling with child over attendance and homework
- Would welcome decreased homework and increased family and leisure time

Conventional Schools

Students can get lost, feel invisible and vulnerable in a large school setting
Large classes with teachers as focus
Standardized test-based curriculum
Common instruction for entire class
All teaching happens in the classroom

The Sycamore School

Students feel safe in a nurturing, inclusive learning community
Small classes focusing on student-teacher collaboration
Dynamic curriculum with real-world application
Students help shape individualized instruction
Learning happens everywhere—in the classroom and the community

Enrolling for Fall 2017

Our inaugural class will include students in grades 6-8 and expand as students advance through grade 12. For more information, please visit thesycamoreschoolva.org.