



### Our Mission:

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



OUR 3 ROOTS	APPROACHES	OUTCOMES
<p><b>1.</b></p> <p><b>Academic Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experiential &amp; Project-Based Learning</li> <li>• Self-Paced</li> <li>• Personalized Instruction</li> <li>• Student Choice</li> <li>• Specialized Reading, Writing &amp; Math Instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased Academic Engagement</li> <li>• Critical Thinking &amp; Problem Solving Skills</li> <li>• Content Knowledge Mastery</li> <li>• 21st Century Literacies</li> <li>• Increased Initiative &amp; Independence</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.</b></p> <p><b>Social &amp; Emotional Growth</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Mindfulness Practice</li> <li>• Improv &amp; Theater Experiences</li> <li>• Advisory &amp; Mentoring Groups</li> <li>• Cooperative Learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self &amp; Social Awareness</li> <li>• Creativity</li> <li>• Communication &amp; Collaboration Skills</li> <li>• Responsible Decision Making</li> <li>• Resiliency</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.</b></p> <p><b>Civic Engagement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living Classroom</li> <li>• Field Studies</li> <li>• Exploring Community Resources</li> <li>• Service Learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meaningful Learning Experiences</li> <li>• Career Exploration</li> <li>• Civic Literacy</li> <li>• Community Involvement</li> <li>• Global Awareness</li> </ul>

### The Sycamore School Personalized experiential learning.

#### OUR CURRICULUM

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

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

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.

Students & teachers **are partners** in learning.



# THE SYCAMORE SCHOOL

## Learning Rediscovered

**Opening July 1, 2017**

The Arlington Center  
4600 North Fairfax Drive, 3rd floor  
Arlington, Virginia 22203  
703-350-8197

[www.thesycamoreschoolva.org](http://www.thesycamoreschoolva.org)

# Helping students find their place... in the classroom, in the community, in the world.

## 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.

## 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 provide the tools and opportunities to reignite your child's desire to learn.

Education is **more** than good grades!

# Is The Sycamore School right for you?



## PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

- Display curiosity
- Want to succeed
- Seek inspiration and engagement
- Feel uninspired 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](http://thesycamoreschoolva.org) or call Founder Karyn Ewart at 703-350-8197 to schedule an informational meeting.