Is The Sycamore School right for you?

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS
- Display curiosity
- Ready to be challenged
- Seek inspiration and engagement
- May feel disengaged at current school
- Do not want to be defined by standardized test scores
- Have aspirations beyond college

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS
- Seeking a safe, nurturing, and inclusive school environment
- Tired of struggling with your child over attendance and homework
- Value after-school time that is dedicated to enriching the interests of your child, versus time spent completing homework
- Welcome a focus on evaluating student growth rather than letter grades
- Support a competency-based model of learning that cultivates transferable life skills

CONVENTIONAL SCHOOLS
- Large, teacher-centered classes
- Teachers impart knowledge to students
- Standardized test-based curriculum
- Common instruction for entire class
- All teaching happens in the classroom

SYCAMORE SCHOOL
- Small student-centered classes with a 1:10 teacher/student ratio
- Student and teacher collaboration
- Dynamic, mastery-based curriculum with real-world application
- Students help shape individualized instruction
- Learning happens everywhere—in the classroom and the community

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

OUR VISION
To cultivate engaged, independent lifelong learners who can think critically and apply their knowledge to real-world experiences to achieve personal success and contribute positively to their community.

4600 Fairfax Drive, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203
703-717-5360
thesycamoreschoolva.org

The Sycamore School
Personalized experiential learning.

WE BELIEVE:
- Young people are curious, resilient, and capable of creating innovative solutions to real-world problems.
- Learning should be meaningful, challenging and engaging.
- Students reach their individual potential when they are allowed to master a skill at their own pace versus a fixed time frame.
- 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.
- Authentic assessment captures student learning in real-time rather than relying on standardized tests, which are rigid and may not accurately reflect students’ cumulative growth and performance.

The Sycamore School is a godsend. It has helped my child enjoy school again and find her curiosity.”
- Sycamore Parent
### Our Curriculum: 3 Roots

The Sycamore School's mastery-based learning approach integrates **academic development**, **social-emotional growth** and **civic engagement**.

1. **Academic Development**
   - Helping students master the content knowledge, specific skills, and literacies needed to succeed in work and life.
   - We develop critical thinkers who can make connections, solve problems, and communicate clearly.
   - We achieve this through:

2. **Social and Emotional Growth**
   - Helping students develop mindfulness by increasing self, social, and cultural awareness.
   - We produce productive, responsible leaders and collaborators.
   - We achieve this through:

3. **Civic Engagement**
   - Helping students explore environmental, economic, and political systems, developing strengths and aptitudes to improve the quality of life in our community.
   - We achieve this through:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROACHES</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experiential &amp; Problem Based Learning</td>
<td>Critical thinking and problem-solving</td>
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<td>Personalized Instruction with Student Choice</td>
<td>Self-sufficiency and confidence</td>
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<td>Integrated Curriculum and Transdisciplinary Approach</td>
<td>Increased retention of skills and depth of understanding</td>
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<td>Focus on student-readiness</td>
<td>Strong Executive Functioning Skills</td>
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<td>Regular Mindfulness Practice</td>
<td>Self-management</td>
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<td>Social Problem Solving in Real Time</td>
<td>Self &amp; Social Awareness</td>
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<td>Advisory &amp; Mentoring Groups</td>
<td>Responsible Decision Making</td>
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<td>Effective Communication</td>
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### The Sycamore School's mastery-based learning approach integrates academic development, social-emotional growth and civic engagement.

- Students make choices based on interests and influence how they learn content and demonstrate mastery.
- Teachers build relationships with students and personalize instruction.
- Teachers create a dynamic learning environment to support every student’s development as a whole person.
- Students learn in a living classroom, making use of local resources through field studies and community service.
- Our community embraces tolerance for diverse viewpoints and acceptance of differences; we encourage each student to find and use their unique voice.

### Our curriculum is grounded in evidence-based models.

Before completion of middle school and high school, students are expected to master a set of developmentally appropriate learning strands that include cognitive, social-emotional, and civic skills.

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**Serving 5th-12th grades**

thesycamoreschoolva.org

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"The small size of TSS allows all students to feel like they are part of a warm and accepting community."

- Sycamore Parent

"The school offers student choice and self-paced learning that allows my child to thrive. They have field trips connected to student learning that bring the real world into the classroom."

- Sycamore Parent