



Sequoia Healthy Start

east bay agency for children

Sequoia Healthy Start After-School Program - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Who can attend the program?

A: All students who attend Sequoia Elementary and are in grades 1-5 are eligible to enroll in the SHS program. Kindergarteners are not eligible to participate.

Q: Does the program cost anything?

A: The SHS program is charging a fee this year. These fees allow us to continue our services preserve the quality of our programming despite significant reductions in the grants that have traditionally supported our program. Families are not being charged the full cost of the program. Program fees are based on a sliding scale according to families' GROSS (before taxes) monthly household income. Please ask the program director for a copy of the fee scale. No family will be turned around for the inability to contribute.

Q: What kinds of activities will my child participate in?

A: Most students participate in two components - academic support (writing projects, tutoring) and enrichment activities (music, gardening, leadership, recreation, art, etc.) Students may choose their enrichment activities but are divided by grade level for academic support.

Q: Will my child get help with his/her homework?

A: There is at least 30 minutes designated at the end of the academic program for students to work on their homework. Academic instructors are assigned to a grade level to answer questions and assist students. We do not guarantee homework completion in our program.

Q: What if my child does not need academic support/homework assistance?

A: 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students have the option of enrolling in our Enrichment Only program. These students receive snack, participate in enrichment activities and then are dismissed from the program at 4:30 p.m.

Q: Are the 1st and 2nd graders mixed in with the upper grade students?

A: No. Our 1st and 2nd graders are in a self-contained program. They have some shared time with the other grades, but will spend most of their time with students in their grade level and a primary Instructor.

Q: How does my child join the program?

A: All students (even returning ones and those on the waiting list) must fill out an application. Enrollment is determined by a first come, first serve basis for students in grades 1st-5th, giving current and waitlisted families first priority. There are limited spots in each of the grades. Families who do not get into the program are placed on our waiting list. Wait-listed students will be moved into the program when space becomes available.

“Every student’s spark will be kindled, nurtured and encouraged to radiate.”

Q: Where does the program take place?

A: All classes and activities take place at Sequoia Elementary (school yard, cafeteria, classrooms, auditorium, and school garden). The SHS office is located on the Sequoia Elementary campus between the school garden and the cafeteria.

Q: Does my child have to attend every day?

A: Yes. Students enrolled must attend program 5 days a week. If your child attended school during the day, but was absent from the after-school program, this is considered an unexcused absence. Please call the Healthy Start office or send a note if your child will be absent. Three unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the program.

Q: Can my child leave early from the program?

A: Because funding for this program is reliant on student attendance for the full three hours, students in the academic and enrichment program cannot be picked up early (before 5:45 on Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri and before 4:30 on Wed.).

Q: What if I must pick up my child early?

A: Early release waivers may be signed for appointments and other emergencies. Three unexcused early pick-ups may result in dismissal from the program.

Q: Will my child be fed during the program?

A: Yes, all students who attend the program will get juice and a snack. Students may bring their own snack if they wish, as long as they do not bring junk food (candy, chips, soda, etc.)

Q: Can my child participate in the after-school program and outside activities such as baseball, ballet, or tutoring?

A: Yes, if students are participating in a “parallel program”, a waiver may be signed that will excuse them from our program on those days.

Q: Can my child participate in GATE and/or choir?

A: Yes. Please talk with our program coordinator.

Q: Does the program run during school holidays? Do you have a summer program?

A: The SHS program is closed on all school holidays and we do not have a summer program.