



SEQUOIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

2855 Borchard Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320-3898
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Community

Sequoia Middle School is located in Newbury Park, California, and is one of five middle schools in the Conejo Valley Unified School District. The student population is derived primarily from six elementary schools, but also includes school-choice families from neighboring communities. Approximately 1,100 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students attend Sequoia Middle School. Our three-year comprehensive program serves a rich diverse student population that is 1% African American, 9% Asian, 29% Hispanic, 59% White, and 2% Other. With both an ethnically and socio-economically diverse student population, Sequoia is home to a wide variety of programs and activities that were developed to meet the expanding educational needs and interests of our students in a district that educates nearly 20,000 students.

The Sequoia facility was built in increments over a period of several years. The first students attended Sequoia in 1969 and the school was completed in 1974 with the addition of physical education and elective facilities. A 10,000 square foot gym was added in the spring of 2002. Sequoia received 9 permanent modular buildings to replace portable buildings on campus in the fall of 2003. Sequoia also received a facelift on the exterior of the buildings and had the wood exteriors replaced by stucco and brick. A new lunch shelter was added in 2004 and, in the summer of 2005, Sequoia had all the restrooms modernized and a wheelchair lift added in the multi-purpose room. During the summer of 2007 the Sequoia quad received an update with new drainage along with extensive new landscaping. Sequoia's DISCOVER Academy, a science-based academy, opened in the fall of 2010.

Curriculum

Current essential standards are adopted and disseminated in a block-schedule format (2 day cycles of 3 classes per day) with input from all stakeholders, which are derived and aligned with state and district content and performance standards. Students are heterogeneously grouped in English, math, science and social science with the exception of Honors level courses in 7th and 8th grade (Honors Science is only offered in the 8th grade.) A variety of exploratory courses enriches and supplements the core curriculum. Non-English Proficient and Limited-English Proficient students are offered courses to assist them with the middle school curriculum. In addition, Sequoia offers several special education programs including special education classes for English, math, social science, science and adaptive physical education. The goals of the school are pursued within an atmosphere that supports and fosters the self-discipline and independent judgment necessary from grade level to grade level with the ultimate goal of a smooth transition to high school. In alignment with our feeder high school, Newbury Park High School, we strive for our future promoting students to begin the process and/or engage in critical thinking, effective communicating, problem solving, and active community membership; in short, students who possess core knowledge and are understanding and respectful of others.

Culture

Historically, Sequoia students perform outstanding in academics and behavior. Counselors and teachers provide personal assistance to families with questions about courses, high school and college preparation, and private issues on a daily basis. We work particularly hard to meet student needs, especially those who are at-risk and/or are not meeting their full potential. We continuously identify obstacles to student achievement, implement action plans to address them, and work with the community to overcome them. Community support takes many forms: input from all stakeholders, open School Site Council meetings, our in-school Response to Intervention (RtI²) / Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and Saturday Math and English (M.E.) tutorial programs that utilize our own teachers to assist our students in all subject areas and many more. As we look to the future, we are planning facilities and program expansions, but we want to make sure growth does not mean the loss of personalized services and relationships that have become central to our identity. As a result of parent, community, staff, and student collaboration, our students continue to embody the school motto: "Take Care of Yourself, Take Care of Each Other, and Take Care of This Place."

Special Programs

Sequoia's RtI²/MTSS program is one of the few teacher created models in the region; we also house a middle school academy program (DISCOVER-A Science-based Academy), a school within a school that provides 21st century science skills, focus and academic preparation for selected students, as well as other programs and courses that challenge and support students to achieve at high levels.

DISCOVER

Academy of Applied Sciences and Engineering Exploration *WHERE THE FOCUS IS INTEGRATION OF CURRICULAR CONTENT AREAS TO PROMOTE INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING*

The DISCOVER Academy is a structured academic program within Sequoia that offers the advantages of both large and small learning communities. Using social sciences, applied sciences, and engineering exploration as interdisciplinary themes, the academy stresses hand-on, innovative, and inquiry-based education to encourage a lifelong love of learning in students.

DISCOVER's students are afforded the opportunity to take full advantage of Sequoia's diverse offering of electives, highly regarded physical education curriculum, varied educational programs, and social activities. Simultaneously, the academy students will cultivate their critical thinking and creative skills in Sequoia's intensive and pioneering DISCOVER Academy.

The DISCOVER Academy's rigorous three year program design provides students the opportunity to enrich their learning via content-specific, thematic units.

6 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power of Water• Hierarchies and Structure• Causes of Failure• Man-Made/Natural Architecture
7 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovation and Inventions• Structure and Function• Survival and Adaptation
8 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth and Formation• Liberation and Laws• Progression and Advancement

TECHNOLOGY – Multimedia/Web-Based Learning/Research Projects/Targeted Computer Skills

REAL-LIFE SCIENCE – Guest Speakers/Field Excursions/Community Service Projects

SYNTHESIS AND MASTERY – Trimester Projects/8th Grade Culminating Project

Students apply for the school district's choice program.

Information regarding the school choice program is available at www.conejousd.org.

Information on DISCOVER is available at <http://www.conejousd.org/sequoia/Home.aspx>.