



A Creative, Liberal Arts Charter School
Est. 2009 by the REACH Parent Foundation

On the Brook Haven Campus
7905 Valentine Ave.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Sebastopol Union School District

Karen Mirabelli, School Director 707-321-3793

Choosing the REACH Charter School is a choice for a particular approach to education. The REACH School believes that children learn best when parents are supportive participants in the educational team of student, teacher, and parent. Therefore, REACH seeks students whose families can make the commitment to support the school's educational approach via volunteer hours and who provide an academically and socially supportive environment at home.

In all subjects at REACH, learning, thinking, problem solving and inquiry are stressed. The REACH instructional program is based upon three tenets that differentiate it from other instructional programs. These are:

- 1) REACH uses Project Based Learning as a systematic teaching method that engages students in developing knowledge and skills through an extended inquiry process structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully designed projects and tasks.
- 2) Students are taught in integrated, thematic units that are frequently project-based, cross-disciplinary and based on a central concept, theme or essential question. An integrated, thematic curriculum teaches children the ability to make connections, to solve problems by looking at multiple perspectives, and to incorporate information from different fields. It is an ideal approach for designing projects and assignments that address the many different intelligences students possess.
- 3) All students participate in a curriculum that includes social and emotional development and fosters acceptance of and respect for self and others. Educating the whole child means educating a child who is aware of the fact that all actions have a permanent impact on his/her surroundings. Community service and environmental awareness are an integral element of The REACH School curriculum.

The goal of REACH is that by the end of eighth grade, students will be fully prepared for the move to high school, including being supported with test preparation, essay writing, and high school visits—all aimed at helping each student find the right match for his or her interests and goals.

Educational History and Goals Questionnaire

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE. USE ADDITIONAL PAPER IF NECESSARY. YOU MAY ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS ON THE COMPUTER AND ATTACH THE ANSWERS TO THIS DOCUMENT.

1. Please describe the education you want for your student.

2. Explain why you think The REACH School will meet your student's needs.

3. Please describe your student's strengths.

4. Please describe your student's challenges.

5. Describe the ways your student's current school program is not meeting your student's needs.

6. Explain all your student's extracurricular activities and interests.

7. List the languages spoken in your home.

The following items are presented for parents to understand the family commitments necessary for the success of the program.

Volunteerism:

Children are more invested in their education when they witness their family's involvement and support in their educational environment. All REACH families are strongly encouraged to participate in volunteer activities for the school. Participation is a crucial component for the success of the school. There are many ways for parents to be involved in the program: volunteering in the classroom, voluntary financial contributions, serving on committees, attending informational meetings, helping on field trips, etc. Can you commit to this level of parental involvement?

An average time commitment is approximately five hours per month. Do you have regular availability?

Learning Environment:

In support of the active learning environment of the program, parents are asked to:

- Provide a responsible home environment that supports responsible, creative and caring behavior
- Support teachers' high expectations of students
- Limit and monitor the exposure of students to age-appropriate electronic media (i.e., TV, cell phones, movies, video games)
- Value the need for homework— providing time and place

What is your student's current practice? Would you be able to cooperate with the program's philosophy?

Do you have any concerns or questions about The REACH School?