

Vision for Literacy

The ability to read, write, and communicate connects people to one another and empowers them to achieve things they never thought possible. Communication and connections are the basis of who we are and how we live together and interact with the world.

-International Literacy Association

Our shared commitment is that every Sunnyvale School District student becomes fully literate. Students receive engaging, rigorous, and targeted literacy instruction as they develop and refine their skills through purposeful, engaging, and authentic reading and writing. Instruction includes opportunities for student choice, collaboration, and interaction with relevant and diverse texts as students use literacy skills to explore their world. We create literature-rich environments and foster the love of literacy in all students.

Sunnyvale students will:

- Read fluently and purposefully with understanding and appreciation
- Communicate effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences
- Think and respond critically and creatively
- Access, manage, critique, integrate, analyze, evaluate, create and communicate information using technology tools responsibly

In a classroom:

Students are...	Teachers are...	Instructional Leaders are...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Actively engaging in rich literacy tasks aligned with content standards○ Regularly participating in productive discourse to build and communicate understanding○ Applying skills and knowledge to the reading and writing of increasingly complex texts○ Writing across genres and for a variety of purposes to communicate understanding○ Engaging in rigorous activities with time to explore, struggle, and make sense of ideas○ Building their understanding of how language works○ Constructing meaning through reading, writing, listening, and speaking○ Making intentional language choices when speaking and writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Facilitating literacy development across all subjects○ Utilizing responsive literacy techniques○ Modeling literacy strategies, fluent reading, and writing throughout the day○ Emphasizing the importance of mistakes in learning and modeling perseverance○ Adjusting instruction by responding to student needs○ Seeking out culturally responsive texts across genres to increase engagement and expression○ Providing language instruction across subject areas○ Encouraging metacognition○ Establishing relationships with students and building upon their experiences, strengths, and interests○ Regularly engaging with the standards and other resources to strengthen their practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Consistently communicating with families about literacy activities and resources○ Providing families with opportunities to extend literacy learning at home○ Supporting teachers with time and resources to collaborate, deepen practice, and align instruction○ Advocating for resources and opportunities to deepen teacher practice○ Building connections within the wider community to support student learning and family engagement○ Advocating for programs that support rigorous literacy learning, including a school library○ Responding to challenges that interfere with learning○ Encouraging and facilitate ongoing conversations to analyze data and impact instruction

Key Instructional Practices in the Sunnyvale School District

- Shared reading and writing
- Interactive read-aloud
- Whole group mini-lessons
- Foundational skill development
- Small group differentiated instruction
- Writing workshop
- Ongoing formative assessment
- Modeling processes and strategies to produce and understand text
- Making thinking visible
- Structured academic discourse and opportunities for extended language interaction
- Utilizing sentence frames, visuals, graphic organizers, and other language resources
- Analyzing mentor texts
- Activating background knowledge
- Explicitly teaching language structures and providing opportunities for student practice and feedback