Our four middle schools offer students opportunities to explore interests, discover new subjects, and learn about themselves in supportive and nurturing environments.
Welcome to Santa Clara Unified School District’s Middle Schools

Whether your child is moving up to middle school from one of our elementary schools, or this is your first time in our district, Santa Clara Unified is committed to prepare all students to achieve in an ever-changing world.

**During the middle school years, our educators ease students’ transition from the more dependent environment in elementary school to becoming independent learners and great citizens.**

They also cultivate a supportive and creative learning environment to encourage students to continue to enjoy learning, while preparing them for high school. We do this through fostering, supporting, and nurturing students’ social, emotional, physical, and psychological needs inside and outside of the classrooms.

Each of our four middle schools—Buchser, Cabrillo, Callejon, and Peterson—is focused on our district’s key strategic objectives to prepare all students for success in a rapidly evolving world—a world that demands our young people to possess a new set of skills, knowledge, and interpersonal abilities required for success:

- **Academic Excellence:** College and Career Readiness
- **Culture of Excellence**
- **Family Engagement**
- **Safety and School Climate**
- **Technology**
Each of our unique middle schools offer the same core curriculum, a variety of electives and programs to cultivate students’ interests, excellent counseling services with a low student to counselor ratio, opportunities for family engagement, and fun activities during and after school.

**Learning and Family Support During and After School**
All four middle schools offer after school tutoring and homework assistance programs, so that working parents can ensure that their child is in a safe, structured environment that supports learning. In addition, each of our middle schools provide support and services for students with special needs.

**Sports and Activities**
Our middle schools offer after school sports programs including, but not limited to, track and field, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and soccer to all students who are interested in participating. In addition, each school provides a variety of clubs that nurture students’ individual interests to create, debate, tinker, and discover.

**Character Education**
During the middle school years, students develop their own thoughts, opinions, and beliefs. Our middle schools nurture an environment of inclusion, kindness, respect, and responsibility through year-long character education programs and positive behavior supports inside and outside of the classroom.

**Exemplary Programs**
Our middle schools also offer special programs that allow students to challenge themselves further, including honors courses and advanced math and music. In addition, all middle school students have the opportunity to participate in:

- **49ers STEM Leadership Institute**: Open by application to all Santa Clara Unified middle school students, this institute is a six-year program (starting in seventh grade at Cabrillo Middle School and concluding in twelfth grade at Santa Clara High School) that inspires and prepares students to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) majors at top-tier universities and become the future leaders in their fields.

- **Peterson+ Program**: Available through our open enrollment process, this program offers a unique opportunity and a different instructional approach for sixth grade students who want the extra challenge and rigor.

We invite you to discover why Santa Clara Unified School District’s middle schools are the schools of choice for so many students and their parents. Learn more about each of our schools by visiting santaclarausd.org.
Buchser Middle School provides a safe and supportive learning atmosphere where teachers and staff members encourage students’ individual gifts and talents, as well as social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth.

**Engaging Students During and After School**
Throughout the school year, students enjoy socials, dances, and fun lunchtime activities such as Throwback Thursdays which feature old-fashioned recess games. Clubs and activities such as the Geography Club, Engineering Club, Tech Challenge and student government foster students’ interests.

After school, students can receive homework support and participate in structured activities through our award-winning after school YMCA program. Other options include various homework clubs and sports teams, including basketball, pickleball, soccer, track and field, and volleyball.

**Engineering Lab**
Our engineering lab provides all students the opportunity to design, make, and test catapults, stomp rockets, thermal devices, sling shots, and other inventions. The lab also engages students in other topics beyond engineering, including making models representing the balance of power in government and the symbolic meaning of a character in literature.

“Buchser Middle School students are such an inspiration on a daily basis. They come from all walks of life, work so hard, and truly want to learn. I’m honored to be their teacher.”

JESSICA NORTH, BUCHSER MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

**Students Create, Debate, and Discover**
- Award-winning music program: intermediate, advanced and jazz band
- Speech and debate
- Technology and robotics
- Art and culinary arts
- Leadership
- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program: Students gain skills they need to be successful in college and beyond.

**Inclusive and Friendly**
Buchser is known for its friendly, helpful students who value kindness and being up-standers. Our WEBB (Where Every Bobcat Belongs) leaders welcome and mentor incoming sixth graders and help them feel accepted and safe in middle school.

**Visit us online:** bms-scusd-ca.schoolloop.com

Buchser Middle School
1111 Bellomy Street, Santa Clara
408.423.3000
Imagine a school that not only provides an excellent education for your child, but also flexible and creative instruction, a true celebration of diversity, and caring and encouraging adults who are invested in each child’s success in and out of the classroom. At Cabrillo Middle School, we believe we can prepare every student to achieve success in an ever-changing world.

**Building Character**

Monthly character education themes and programs help students to:

- Reach their academic potential and have the ability to succeed in school
- Succeed in the workplace and their careers
- Live happy, worthy, and fulfilling personal lives
- Become engaged, responsible, and productive citizens

**Engaging Students During and After School**

Cabrillo Middle School knows how to have fun! We celebrate students’ diversity during our Multicultural Day and enjoy games with families during our Annual Carnival and Turkey Trot.

Our after school tutorial programs and YMCA and City of Santa Clara Youth Activity Center programs support student learning and parents’ after school care needs. After school sports teams include basketball, pickleball, soccer, track and field, volleyball, and wrestling. Cabrillo Middle School is also uniquely famous for their wiffle ball games!

**Focusing on Their Future**

While learning core subjects, students discover how their new knowledge applies to future careers:

**Career Day:** Students engage with local professionals in a variety of industries during our annual Career Day.

**49ers STEM Leadership Institute:** Open by application to all Santa Clara Unified middle school students, this six-year program (starting in seventh grade at Cabrillo Middle School and concluding in twelfth grade at Santa Clara High School) inspires and prepares students to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) majors at top-tier universities and become the future leaders in their fields.

“*Our campus is also smaller and cozy, which allows students to connect with one another. Cabrillo Middle School is an amazing campus with amazing people.*”

RACHEL TRAN, CABRILLO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

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Visit us online: cabrillo-scusd-ca.schoolloop.com

Cabrillo Middle School
2550 Cabrillo Avenue, Santa Clara
408.423.3700
There is something special when you first walk onto the Don Callejon School campus. Located in the Rivermark area of Santa Clara, with its central courtyard featuring an outdoor theater, grassy knolls, and an outdoor lunch area, Callejon is a K-8 school that provides an intimate, safe, and supportive atmosphere for students and their families.

Preparation Students for High School and Beyond

Our middle school program promotes a positive mindset to help students develop critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of the core curriculum, while nurturing their personal growth and individual interests through electives and programs:

- Spanish
- Band and orchestra
- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program: Students gain skills they need to be successful in college and beyond
- Journalism and yearbook
- Leadership
- Book Club
- GAINS (Girls Achieving in Non-Traditional Subjects): Encourages girls’ interest in math and science careers, and introduces them to other careers

After school, students engage in variety of clubs and sports that support learning and foster their interests, including: Girls Who Code Club, STEM Club, Technology Club, Homework Club, and basketball, soccer, volleyball, and track.

Supportive and Nurturing Community

Throughout the year, students and their families participate together in a number of unique, fun, and educational activities:

- K-8 STEAM Fair
- Movie Night
- Walk-a-Thon and 49ers Junior Rush Fun Run
- Spring Fling
- Math/Literacy and Multicultural Nights
- Buddy Program: Middle school students serve as mentors to our elementary school students

Our school community thrives because staff, parents, and community members collaborate to develop the positive self-esteem, academic success, and social responsibility of all of our students.

Visit us online: callejon-scusd-ca.schoolloop.com

“in Callejon School we are a family and we are always there for each other no matter what.”

MYKAELA, DON CALLEJON SCHOOL STUDENT

Don Callejon School
4176 Lick Mill Boulevard, Santa Clara
408.423.3300
Peterson Middle School understands that your child comes to us with unique experiences, interests, and learning styles. Our goal is to truly know your child well and use this knowledge to guide, support, and motivate each student to their greatest potential.

**Easing the Transition into Middle School**

Sixth grade students transition into middle school by being teamed up with two teachers each, and spend four of the six periods with their homeroom teacher and the other two periods with the other teacher in their team. Our sixth grade students also experience enriching and engaging field trips. Our Peterson+ Program offers a unique opportunity and a different instructional approach for sixth grade students who want the extra challenge and rigor.

**Students Create, Explore, and Discover**

Varied electives and enrichment activities reflect the diverse interests of our students, including, but not limited to: Spanish and Japanese; Construction (woods), Tech Literacy, Art, or Culinary Arts; Leadership and Environmental Leadership; Music (guitar, band, and orchestra); Honors classes in English or Science and Advanced Math classes up to Geometry Honors.

**Nature Area and Wildlife Program**

Peterson Middle School is nestled next to the Nature Area which models eight different biological communities, providing students lab and field experiences that correspond with biological concepts taught in the classroom. Our Wildlife Program helps students learn how to be responsible stewards of the environment and provides them collaborative applied experiences with animals, reptiles, habitats, and dens.

**Inclusive and Friendly**

Our Pirate Buddies program provides inclusion for students with disabilities and fosters students’ understanding and acceptance of differences, builds genuine friendships, and decreases bullying.

**Engaging Students During and After School**

Students thrive through our mentoring program, Science Fairs, Social Studies Fair, Art Show, and Variety Show. Students can engage in a variety of after school programs including our Marine Biology Club, Nature Guides, Speech and Debate Club, Coding Club, Robotics Club, Math Club, Science Club, Book Clubs, Glee Club, Performing Arts Club, FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America), and more. Students also participate in volleyball, soccer, basketball, tennis, and track and field.

“I can always talk to the principal when I’m not feeling right and can get the help I need.”

PALAK, PETERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

Visit us online: pms-scusd-ca.schoolloop.com

Peterson Middle School
1380 Rosalia Avenue, Sunnyvale
408.423.2800