

Mulberry School

A 2008 California School of Character

Mulberry School is a private preschool and elementary (Jr. Kindergarten-5th grade) school located in Los Gatos, in Santa Clara County. The school's mission is to "provide a safe and creative learning community where the development of the whole child and active parent participation are integral to the day-to-day educational experience."



Head of School - Patti Wilczek

Responding to both well documented and emergent needs in education, Mulberry achieves its character goals for students, families and teachers through a *Positive Discipline* approach to education. Developed for classrooms by Jane Nelsen, *Positive Discipline* is a program designed to teach young people (and their families) to become responsible, respectful and resourceful members of their communities; it teaches important social life skills in a manner that is deeply respectful and encouraging for both children and adults. As stated in the Mulberry School Parent handbook: "The goal for discipline at Mulberry is to maintain safety, to teach our children to make responsible choices, and to help all children feel respected and supported." Recently recognized as a National Demonstration School Level I for Positive Discipline in the classroom - one of only two officially acknowledged in the nation - Mulberry is transforming the educational environment of its students and their families.

-From Mulberry's Application

MULBERRY SCHOOL
EXPECTED SCHOOL-WIDE LEARNING RESULTS

The mission of Mulberry School is to provide a safe and creative learning community where the development of the whole child and active parent participation are integral to the day-to-day educational experience.

Student will demonstrate their:

Intellectual Understanding by:

- Problem-solving skills
- Creative and Critical Thinking
- Meta-cognition (thinking about their own thinking)

Naturalistic Intelligence by:

- Understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural world
- Observation and organization of patterns in nature
- Respect for local and global environment

Social Consciousness by:

- Belonging and contributing to a multi-generational community
- Becoming active caring citizens with sense of fairness
- Pride in effort
- Conflict resolution skills
- Appreciation of diversity

Participating Actively by:

- Cooperative and Collaborative learning
- Assessment of own Learning Style with Emphasis on Strategies
- Parents engaged in learning process

Imagination by:

- Self-expression through writing, music, visual arts, speaking and performance arts
- Curiosity
- Taking risks and using multiple approaches
- Free play

Realistic Thinking by:

- Learning as Connected to Everyday Life and Life-Skills
- Ability to Connect the Concrete to the Abstract
- Academic understanding

Emotional and Physical Well-Being by:

- Appreciation of movement and a healthy lifestyle as essential to the learning process
- Multi-sensory learning and the ability to self-regulate
- Moral autonomy and personal integrity
- Acceptance of self and others
- Intrinsic motivation and self-discipline

"Mulberry is a safe place to make a mistake." - 1st Grade Student





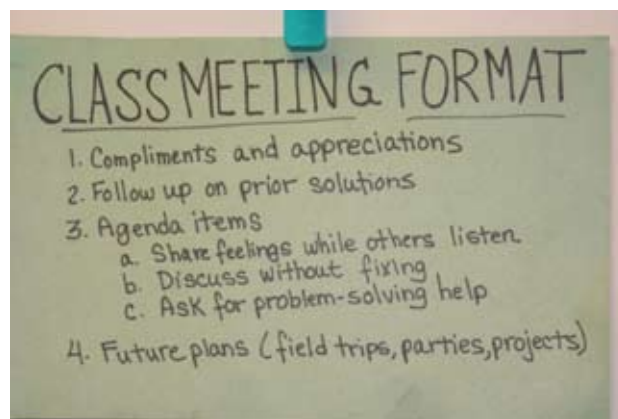
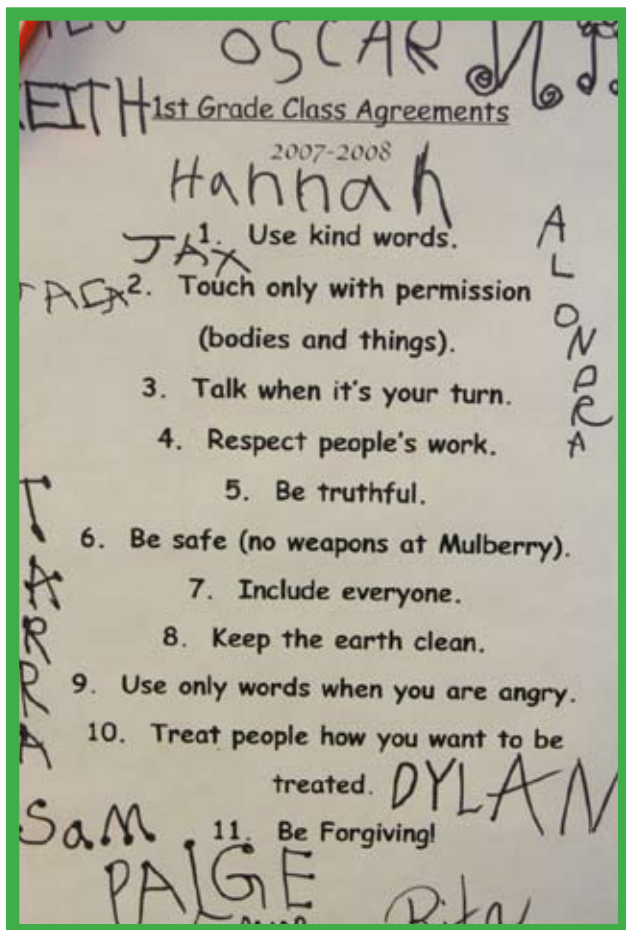
“Here at Mulberry I feel safe to say how I feel because I know that no one will make fun of me. Class meetings help because people who aren’t involved in the conflict could give me and others help to solve the problem. You can disagree and they won’t feel bad. Everyone listens to you at class meetings and everyone has an equal amount of respect.” -5th Grade Student

Highlights of Mulberry’s Character Education Initiative

- ★ *Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum* - Serves as the fulcrum on which all other learning turns.
- ★ *Professional Development* - Every aiding parent, teacher and staff member is trained in the Positive Discipline approach.
- ★ *Classroom Agreements* - Created and signed by students at the start of the year, they serve as a list of shared expectations designed to promote safe and productive learning environments in each classroom.
- ★ *Student Council* - The Council is viewed as a service activity; all students participate on a rotation basis.

“In class meetings we solve problems. They (class meetings) help us get ideas to solve problems.”

-1st Grade Student



“I think when I move on from Mulberry I will feel comfortable talking about problems I have with other people because of the Positive Discipline Mulberry provides. The stuff the teachers teach us makes us feel stronger and feel that everybody including me has a voice.”

-5th Grade Student