



## Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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# GARDNER ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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### Organizational Profile

Gardner Academy, is a public elementary school located in the Gardner neighborhood of San Jose. The student population is 90% Latino and about 70% of these students are English Language Learners. Gardner serves an extremely poor and highly transient student population which poses unique challenges to the educators. About 80% of its students are eligible for the free or reduced lunch program. The school was designated as a “Professional Development School” in 2005. The school is an innovative laboratory for teaching. Each classroom is connected to a glass observation pod that allows visitors to observe teachers without interrupting the classroom. Gardner is designated as a program improvement school. It is also under SAIT (School Assistance Intervention Team) control to improve low test scores.

### SCU Student’s Role

SCU students who choose this placement will work in classrooms, assisting as tutors either one-to-one or in small groups. In some cases, placement times may overlap into recess or lunch time which provides SCU students an opportunity to interact with the children in a less structured manner. SCU students will receive their room/teacher assignment at the orientation meeting.

When signing up for a placement, SCU students should note a particular 2-hour time block and sign up based on the primary language (Spanish or English) that they would prefer to use during their placement. Placements are separated into grade levels. Arrupe Partnerships requires a 2-hour commitment per week.

### To Do Before Orientation

- Visit the website listed above to learn more about your placement or the umbrella organization with which it is affiliated.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.
- Provide the Arrupe Partnerships with proof of a negative intradermal **TB test** within the last **four** years. If your TB test is not current, please go to the Cowell Health Center immediately to get a TB test at no cost.

### To Do After Orientation

- Check the school calendar for holidays/school closures that may fall on your placement day. Arrupe students are expected to make up these days and arrange this with the supervisor or classroom teacher.