



# Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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## TRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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### Organizational Profile

Merritt Trace Elementary School is the Kindergarten through Fifth Grade campus of San Jose Unified School District's Academic, Visual and Performing Arts strand. Every student at Trace performs on stage at least once per school year. All students attend classes in Drama, Art, and Music; third through fifth graders are eligible to participate in additional classes in Instrumental Music (Strings and Band) and Choir. Kindergarten students experience a 2-way bilingual immersion in Spanish.

In addition to its unique arts focus, Trace emphasizes a strong academic program. Highly-qualified teachers have high expectations for their students. An after-school Homework Center is available for children needing more support. Trace Elementary is a Title I school, which means that the school serves a large majority of economically disadvantaged students.

In July 2010, part of the school was devastated by a fire. The school district and school staff came together to assure that students could begin, as planned, in mid-August.

### 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 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.

### To Do Before Orientation

- Go to the Cowell Health Center immediately to get a TB test at no cost. You will need to have a **negative TB verification within 60 days** for your fingerprint appointment.
- Immediately make **fingerprint** appointment at the San Jose Unified District Office and follow attached instruction sheet. Placement cannot begin until fingerprints are cleared.
- Visit the website listed above to learn more about the school.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.

### 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.