

Santa Clara Core Curriculum Learning Goals

Knowledge

To be prepared for well-informed engagement in society, students must comprehend what has shaped the world they have inherited, the evolving ways of understanding it, and how they might transform it for the better. To that end, the Core deepens students' knowledge of the most profound ideas and ways of knowing that emerge from the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences. Students develop a greater understanding of:

- Global Cultures:** The intertwined development of global, including western, cultures, ideas, institutions, and religions
- Arts and Humanities:** The production, interpretation, and social influence of the fine and performing arts, history, languages, literatures, philosophy, and religion
- Scientific Method:** The principles of the scientific method and how they are applied in the natural and social sciences
- Science and Technology:** The formative influences, dynamics, social impacts, and ethical consequences of scientific and technological development
- Diversity:** Diverse human experiences, identities, and cultures within local and global societies, especially as formed by relations of power and privilege
- Civic life:** The roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizens and institutions in societies and in the world

Habits of Mind and Heart

To contribute to a rapidly changing, complex and interdependent world, students must develop ways of thinking, feeling, and acting that allow them to educate themselves for the rest of their lives with passion and purpose. By attending to the cognitive and affective dimensions of human experience, the Core enables students to think more deeply, imagine more freely, and communicate more clearly. Students learn:

- Critical Thinking:** The ability to identify, reflect upon, evaluate, integrate, and apply different types of information and knowledge to form independent judgments
- Quantitative Reasoning:** Analytical and logical thinking and the habit of drawing conclusions based on quantitative information
- Complexity:** An approach to understanding the world that appreciates ambiguity and nuance as well as clarity and precision
- Ethical Reasoning:** Drawing on ethical traditions to assess the consequences of individual and institutional decisions
- Religious Reflection:** Questioning and clarifying beliefs through critical inquiry into faith and the religious dimensions of human existence
- Communication:** Interacting effectively with different audiences, especially through writing, speech, and a second language

Engagement with the World

To engage the world in meaningful ways, students need opportunities to explore and refine self-knowledge in relation to others. The Core enhances students' understanding of the integrity of their own lives and the dignity inherent in the lives of others, especially the impoverished, suffering and marginalized. The Core develops students' capacities for and commitment to:

- Perspective:** Seeking out the experience of different cultures and people, striving to view the world through their eyes
- Collaboration:** The capacity to collaborate intellectually and creatively with diverse people
- Social Justice:** Developing a disciplined sensibility toward the causes of human suffering and misery, and a sense of responsibility for addressing them
- Civic Engagement:** Addressing major contemporary social issues, including environmental sustainability and peaceful resolution of conflict, by participating actively as an informed citizen of society and the world