

South Sutter Charter School

School Profile 2020-2021

South Sutter Charter School
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Chief Academic Officer
Jodi Jones,
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Chartering District
Marcum Illinois School District
2452 El Centro Blvd
East Nicolaus, CA 95659

Guidance Coordinators
Michelle Booth
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Our Students

41% of our Seniors have taken or are currently taking at least one college course while in high school

39% Qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch

20% Spoke a language other than English as their first language

Ethnicity

White: 62%
Hispanic: 16%
Asian: 2%
African American: 2%
Two or more races: 8%

Academics

Average SAT Composite:
Insignificant sample size last year due to COVID.
Previous year was: 1143

Grade Point Averages

Highest GPA
• Weighted: 4.29
• Unweighted: 4.0
Average GPA: 3.31
Median GPA: 3.48
Lowest GPA: .92

Post-Secondary Plans

Last year's seniors:
4-Yr. University: 12%
2-Yr. College/CTE: 69%
Military/Workforce: 19%

Our Community

South Sutter Charter School has served students residing in seven counties: Colusa, Yolo, Sutter, Sacramento, Placer, Yuba, and Butte, since August 2005. About half of our students reside in the Sacramento Metropolitan Area. The rest are from rural and agricultural areas. Many students live in remote mountain areas. We have a high population of Russian and Eastern European immigrants living in the Sacramento area.

Our chartering district is Marcum-Illinois Elementary School District, located in East Nicolaus, a small agrarian community between Sacramento and Yuba City.

Our School

- Serves approximately 2633 students from transitional Kindergarten -12th grade
- There are 732 high school students
- This year's graduating class has 187 students
- 100% of our teachers are fully credentialed
- We are currently WASC accredited through 2022
- Recently NCAA approved

South Sutter Charter School serves students from Transitional Kindergarten through grade 12. Our high school is an independent study program accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The high school program is an independent study program in which students have a wide variety of curriculum choices overseen by credentialed teachers. Students may choose to take courses using our own curriculum and highly qualified teachers, online classes, and classes from community college. Students have access to single subject credentialed teachers in all core subjects as well as individual tutoring and a range of enrichment opportunities. All students may meet annually with a guidance coordinator to work with them on a four-year plan to ensure that they are college and career ready.

Over half of our seniors started high school elsewhere. Families are attracted to our school for a variety of reasons. Many come for the freedom of educational advancement including taking community college classes or graduating early. Others enroll because they were failing to thrive at their previous schools and come to ours for the individualized help and feeling of safety and support. Still others come because of economic situations and our school allows them to have the flexibility to work during the school day and complete their studies before or after work.

The school organization is a multi-layered system that includes a Parent Council (decision-making body), a Chief Academic Officer, an advisory council, a Curriculum Director, Guidance Coordinators, and a Special Education Director; all of whom coordinate educational resource support to parents and students. The structure allows resources to be deployed in accordance with the family and student needs and wants for curriculum.

Philosophy

South Sutter Charter School operates on the philosophy that all students have different learning styles, abilities, and background experiences. As important as "what" students learn is "how" they learn. The former may be viewed as the end goal of education while the latter is the road leading to it. SSCS will utilize learning and assessment modalities that, based on current research, identify best practices regarding how students learn.

Graduation Requirements

210 credits required for graduation

Each semester is worth 5 credits with 10 credits for the year

Graduation requirements include:

- 30 credits (3 years) Reading/Writing;
- 20 credits (2 years) Mathematics;
- 30 credits (3 years) Social Studies
- 20 credits (2 years) Science
- 50 credits of Life Skills including 2 years PE
- 60 elective credits including 1 year of a Visual or Performing Art, Language Other than English or Career and Technical Education course

Grading

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=below 59%

Regular Grading Scale

Our school used a 4.0 grading scale:

A=4.0

B=3.0

C=2.0

D=1.0

Weighted Grading Scale is as follows for AP, honors, and college courses:

A=5.0

B=4.0

C=3.0

D=1.0 (no boost included)

Ranking

We do not rank our students.

COVID-19 and Wildfire Considerations

Due to South Sutter's distance education format, student performance and achievement has been minimally impacted. From March 2020-May 2020, students were able to continue working at the typical pace. For students who were emotionally or physically impacted by COVID-19, the Pass/Fail option was offered as a final grade in lieu of a letter grade.

Another way that COVID-19 impacted our school is that we have received many students whose schools switched to distance education. Because we are well-known for our success with this model, many families transferred to our school.

Many of our students were also negatively impacted by wildfires over the last two school years. Great efforts were made to replace educational resources and teachers worked to get students caught up as soon as possible. Due to our model, students were able to complete their work even when evacuated.

The Curriculum

Our students may take courses through approved syllabi or from online vendors. Our current a-g list offers 12 honors courses and 25 AP courses. However, our students must take the AP classes from online course providers.

Students are given the option of taking different levels of coursework; general level courses, "a-g" college preparatory courses, honors courses, and AP courses. Our "a-g" and AP courses have been approved by the University of California system and are taught by subject-specific Highly Qualified Teachers. The "a-g" courses are designated on the student's transcript with an "a-g" label. The AP courses are designated on the student's transcript with an "AP" label. Approximately half of our students take some a-g approved classes and 15% complete the a-g pattern to be eligible for the University of California.

AP and Honors Courses

- Twenty-five Advanced Placement courses are offered on our AP Ledger
- Multiple honors courses (both online and classroom based) are offered.

Levels of Coursework

- Basic level-struggling students
- Grade level courses
- a-g College Preparatory courses
- AP/Honors/Concurrent Enrollment courses

Our "a-g" and "a-g Honors" courses have been approved by the University of California system as meeting both the rigor and the content expected to prepare students for CSU/UC success and are taught by subject-specific Highly Qualified Teachers. Honors courses are designated with the "Honors" label. Our current a-g list can be found at:

- <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist/institution/4118>.