

Ignite Curious Minds



Our **mission**: ignite curious minds,
awaken generous hearts,
engage a changing world.







The Berkeley School is a place where teachers, families, classrooms, and campus environments work together to ignite children's curious minds, awaken their generous hearts, and prepare them to engage in a changing world.

Welcome to The Berkeley School— the East Bay’s most joyful, engaged, and connected learning community serving students from preschool through 8th grade.

In 1963, at the epicenter of a wave of civic change and innovation that would sweep across the nation, a group of Berkeley families and educators came together to found our school. Then, as now, they were motivated by the belief that a great education should meet each child’s academic and social-emotional needs, inspire and support their growth, and reinforce both their independence and their desire to help others.

Decades later, The Berkeley School remains a place where teachers, families, classrooms, and campus environments work together to **ignite children’s curious minds, awaken their generous hearts, and prepare them to engage a changing world.**

Our preschool-8th grade educational program is focused on equipping students with the academic capabilities,

social-emotional skills, and moral agency required to make things better for present communities and future generations. Our supportive, differentiated classrooms provide the developmentally appropriate challenges and constructive feedback that help create and build students’ potential as learners and human beings.

Over the years, our school’s greatest successes have come from our community’s collective ability to engage change by trusting in the knowledge that many hands, minds and hearts help make education effective and joyful for all involved – especially our students. We’d love to have you join us!

MITCH BOSTIAN
HEAD OF SCHOOL



At The Berkeley School, students develop the academic capabilities, social-emotional skills, and moral agency required to be civically engaged humans whose actions make things better for present communities and future generations.

Our classroom and campus communities invite all students to stretch to their potential by engaging in meaningful academic learning, developing responsive relationships with classmates, teachers, and community members, and coming to understand their own and others' identities.

From preschool through eighth grade, our students internalize the power of "different, together" that a diverse learning community conveys.

Guided by skilled educators, students engage in everyday interactions and experiences that help them understand their individual gifts and challenges and motivate them to move beyond their comfort zones.

TBS students are seen, supported and known. They learn how to learn, how to seek and offer help, and how to advocate for their own and others' needs. They graduate equipped with the skills, tools, and mindsets necessary to engage the world and create meaningful, positive change.

53

faculty and staff members

33

zip codes where our families live

9:1

average K-8 student-teacher ratio

\$1M

yearly Individual Family Tuition budget

33%

of families paying an adjusted tuition rate





How does a school equip students with the understanding and skills needed to succeed academically and live ethical, compassionate, and curious lives?

Start with an inclusive mission that calls our community to remember that *all* minds are curious, *all* hearts are generous, and the world is *always* changing.

Add small class sizes and low teacher-to-student ratios – because strong relationships, developed through daily interactions, lead to better outcomes.

Create developmentally diverse campus communities where students can forge strong relationships with peers, older and younger students, and adults who know and care for them.

Hire and retain caring, committed teachers whose deep knowledge of child development comes from decades of experience, respect for children and their needs, and the curiosity that drives continuous professional growth.

Build a strong academic curriculum rooted in assessment-rich, learning-centered pedagogies: the Montessori method, Reggio Emilia, Project Zero's Teaching For Understanding, and Zaretta Hammond's *Culturally Responsive Teaching & The Brain*.

Welcome parenting adults into meaningful family-school partnerships that build trust, value curiosity, honor different perspectives and lived experiences, and focus on what's best for children.

End by striving to live up to and into the mission, every day, bringing curiosity, compassion, and the desire to engage change to every interaction that takes place on our campuses and in our community.

Repeat - as often as possible- every year since 1963.



OUR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Preschool Program

Ages 2-5

At The Berkeley School, students are given the guidance needed to achieve their full potential as individuals, members of their local communities, and active citizens of the world. We believe children learn by making meaningful connections with the world around them. Our early childhood classrooms incorporate elements of Montessori and Reggio Emilia pedagogies in an environment that invites play, harnesses curiosity, and sparks ideas.

Our beautiful campus—a **Certified Wildlife Habitat**—provides endless possibilities for open-ended exploration and experiential learning.

There are five distinct classrooms on our campus. Our Caterpillar classroom is for children ages 2 to 2.7. Our three mixed-age classrooms serve children aged 2.7 to 4.5. Our Mariposa classroom houses our transitional kindergarten program for children who will turn 5 in the first months of the academic year and move on to kindergarten the following year.



OUR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Caterpillar (2s) Program

The “Caterpillar Class” is tailored to the unique developmental needs of two-year-old children, offering a gentle onramp to preschool. The program provides an intentionally designed, sensory rich environment with ample opportunities to explore, experiment, and play.

Mixed Age (3-5s) Program

Our three mixed-age classrooms offer a blend of Montessori and Reggio Emilia pedagogies. Children learn through sensorial experiences, practical life works, art-making, language exploration, inquiry, wonder and play. Children spend either one or two years in mixed-age classrooms.

Transitional Kindergarten

Our older students who turn five at the beginning of the academic year are grouped together to continue building the confidence they have developed. More emphasis is put on literacy, math, social-emotional skills, and self-regulation – everything they’ll need for kindergarten the following year.

3:10 teacher:student
ratio

3:20 teacher:student
ratio

2:15 teacher:student
ratio





Extended Day Program

Our Extended Day program runs from 3:00 -5:30 pm. Our staff includes teachers from each of the “home” classrooms to provide continuity of care throughout the extended school day. Activities include circle time, arts and crafts, snack, sandbox play, and a variety of gross-motor games.

Our Staff

Our highly experienced faculty have a deep understanding of early childhood development. They create inspiring, intentional learning spaces that meet the needs of a developmentally and culturally diverse group of students. **Art and music specialists** visit each of our classrooms weekly to enhance students’ learning and growth.

Our Community

Our Early Childhood Campus is a diverse, multi-generational community of children, parenting adults, and teachers. Children love to learn about cultural traditions from around the globe, and we welcome all community members to share their language, art, culture, food, and talents throughout the year. We love to learn and play together!

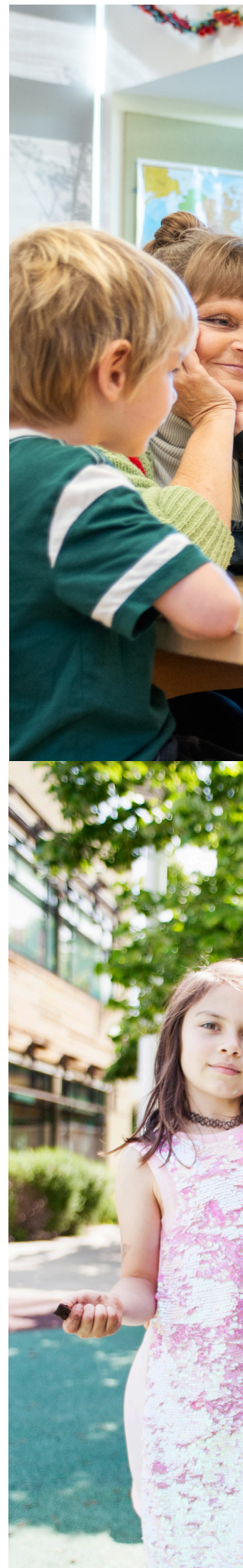
OUR K-8 PROGRAM

Elementary Program Grades K-5

Our K-5 program builds students' core academic skills in literacy, mathematics, science, and cultural studies by igniting their curiosity and creating supportive classroom and campus communities that help them experience the "gentle disequilibrium" that fuels learning and growth.

By emphasizing *learning how to learn*, teachers help students understand their strengths and challenges, establish their own goals, and assess their progress, developing confidence and competence as they rise through the grades. They learn to advocate for their needs and the resources that will help them be successful.

Small class sizes, low teacher-student ratios, a robust academic and arts enrichment program, dedicated K-5 academic and social-emotional support, and a unique combination of single-grade and mixed-age classrooms equip students with the knowledge, skills, and collaborative approaches needed to engage a changing world.





TBS teachers build a classroom foundation of social-emotional well-being in order to allow and encourage students to take the intellectual risks that will help them learn, grow, and thrive on- and off-campus.



CHRIS CHUN
K-8 DIRECTOR OF
TEACHING & LEARNING

OUR PROGRAM



Middle School Program

Grades 6-8

At The Berkeley School, middle school students *learn to lead and lead to learn.*

Aligned with the unique developmental needs of 11-14-year-olds, our middle school program maintains the small class sizes, in-depth learning experiences, and rich, intergenerational relationships that nurture brains, bodies, and identities during periods of rapid growth.

Math, English, science, civics, and Spanish classes equip students to succeed academically. Meanwhile, students pursue self-expression and self-knowledge through visual and dramatic arts programs, team sports, health classes, and multi-night experiential education programs.

Supported by a robust advisory program, study skills classes, executive function coaching and tutorials, students have opportunities to connect with younger students in ways that help them become leaders while staying true to themselves.



OUR K-8 PROGRAM



“Here at TBS, students pursue academics with joy and curiosity. Teachers support students in developing a sense of who they are as learners and finding the mental and emotional confidence needed to take on academic and social challenges integral to learning and growth. By experiencing “gentle disequilibrium” in supportive, connected environments, students stay curious, attentive and ready to engage the world around them with compassion and skill.”

CHRIS CHUN
K-8 DIRECTOR OF TEACHING & LEARNING

Student Engagement Team

At The Berkeley School, supporting a diverse community includes supporting neurodiversity. Our Student Engagement Team – academic and social-emotional learning specialists and deans of students – works closely with teachers to support each student’s learning in ways that build independence and leverage strengths. While not all students will work directly with a member of the Student Engagement Team during their time at TBS, everyone benefits from the work they do.

Engaging The Bay Area

Our location – two blocks from North Berkeley BART, two minutes from the 51B bus, and 10 minutes walk from both the Berkeley train station and the University of California campus – allows our students and teachers to connect regularly with the area’s rich educational and cultural resources. Students visit parks, neighborhoods, museums, and performances all over the Bay Area, enabling them to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences in meaningful, lifelong ways.

Experiential Education

As TBS students get older, they engage in immersive, overnight experiences that develop their independence, strengthen their connections to each other, and deepen their academic learning. From single-night trips to the Sierras and Fort Ross in 4th and 5th grades to multi-night Point Reyes trips in middle school, students work up to a capstone, weeklong eighth-grade trip to Costa Rica, where they use their Spanish to engage with and support local communities and initiatives.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic engagement – developing the understanding, skills, and awareness needed to identify and solve complex challenges in ways that make things better for all members of a community – has been embedded in student and adult learning at The Berkeley School since our founding in 1963.

In addition to civics-focused classes, we incorporate civic engagement across the curriculum. From scaling social justice issues in math to analyzing environmental justice in science, students engage deeply with real-world issues. Projects like plastic recycling drives, Promote the Vote events, and partnerships with local artists and government agencies ensure that students actively contribute to their community while developing a deeper understanding of how systems of power, people, and the environment intersect.

Through real-world civic engagement projects, students develop skills vital to their future success.

Analyzing information: Civic education encourages students to evaluate information sources critically. As they explore complex civic challenges with no clear solution, they learn how to distinguish among facts and opinions, identify bias, and seek reliable sources.

Problem-solving: Civic education demands that students move beyond talking about ideas and develop solutions that can be implemented effectively. Identifying community issues, brainstorming and evaluating solutions, and creating plans is rigorous work.

Making decisions: Civic education requires students to weigh options and distinguish between intention and impact before making decisions, and accept responsibility for the outcomes of those decisions.



Yo tengo un sueño que todos somos iguales.

abril

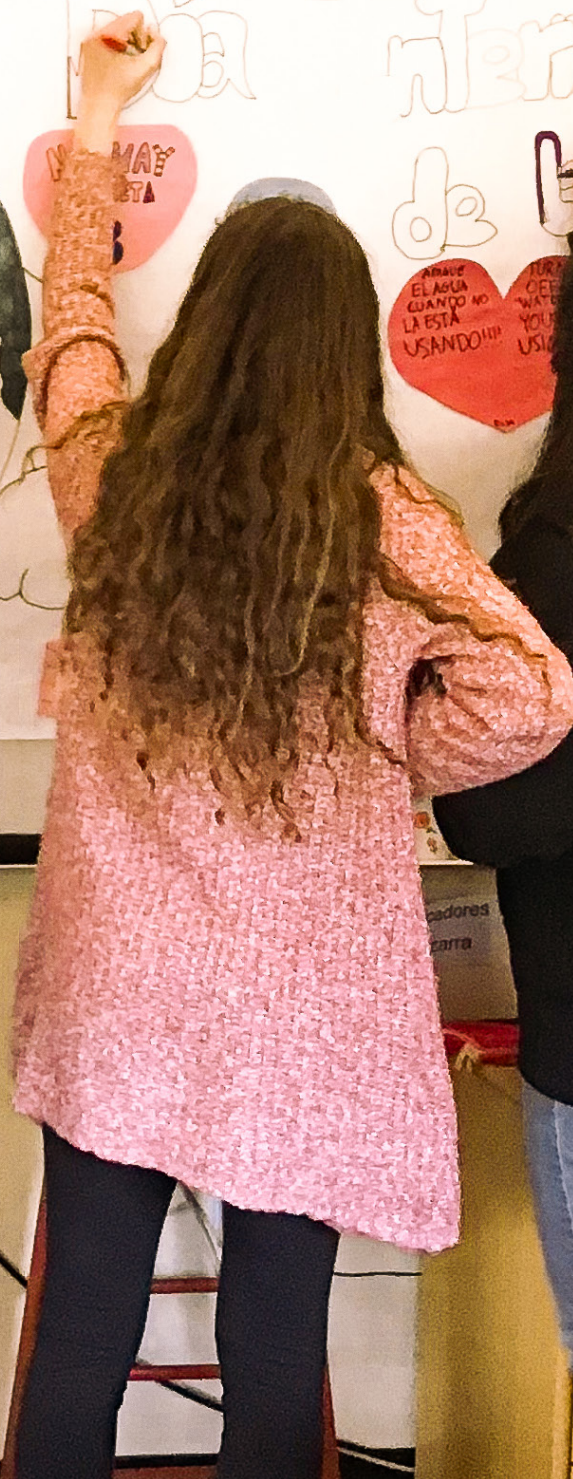
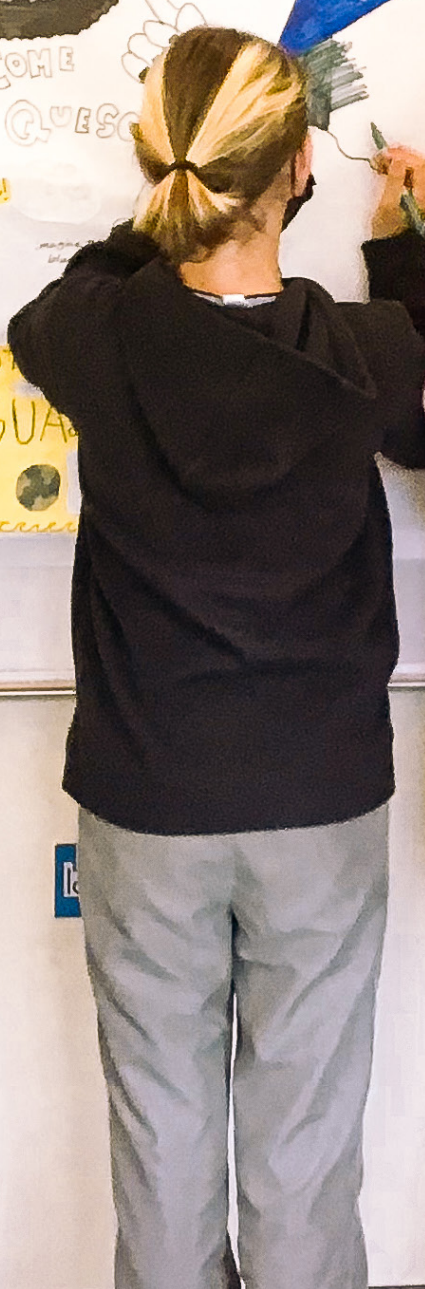
NO FLAKES
COME QUESO
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Día

Internac

de
AMAR EL AGUA CUANDO NO LA ESTÁ USANDO!!!
TURN OFF WATER YOU'RE USING!!!





From sports to enrichment classes to exploratories to a community makerspace, TBS students have daily opportunities to connect with each other across grade levels in pursuit of common interests and goals.

Sports

Our dynamic, inclusive athletic program features all-gender teams in three seasonal sports: flag football (September–November), basketball (December–March), and volleyball (April–May). Teams are open to all students in grades 4–8 –no prior experience required. Players learn the importance of communication, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Through twice-weekly practices and games against local schools, students hone athletic skills, teamwork, and healthy competitive spirit.

Buddy Programs

Humans evolved to thrive in multi-age, intergenerational groups where relationships with older and younger community members helped everyone meet their developmental needs. Recognizing this, our buddy programs connect older and younger students throughout the school year in formal and informal ways, creating connections that last throughout their time at TBS.

Exploratories

In middle school, students and teachers plan and propose trimester-long, once-a-week classes called exploratories that are built around personal interests or areas of expertise. Classes run by students and/or teachers have included: 3-D printing, baking, birdwatching, Dungeons and Dragons, film analysis, Magic: The Gathering, origami, strength training, theater, visual journaling, and yearbook. This is an opportunity to build leadership and collaboration skills, share passions, and learn that we can learn from everyone in the community – not just the teachers!

Extended Day Programs

With students coming from 33 zip codes, our K-8 Extended Day program creates an afterschool neighborhood where children can play, learn, and thrive. From the STEM and maker classes offered by our on-campus partner Tinker Coop to our competitive FIRST Lego and Robotics teams to a range of offerings including judo, cooking, Dungeons and Dragons, and ultimate frisbee, TBS students move seamlessly from the school day to activities that leave them fulfilled and excited for more.



“The best part of my day as a teacher is watching the kids being kids while they are having fun and learning how to navigate life. In the 21 years I have worked at The Berkeley School, I have felt supported and appreciated while striving to be the best teacher I can be.”

CRAIG
PHYSICAL EDUCATION



“I love guiding my students through art-making processes, exploring materials, fostering creative thinking, and supporting their social emotional growth. The freedom to design a dynamic art curriculum and collaborate with incredibly creative colleagues has brought me immense joy.”

JULIANNE
TEACHING ARTIST



“The best part of being at The Berkeley School for the last 24 years is watching and learning from the children. They are our best teachers and I feel grateful to be part of this dynamic community.”

GRISELDA
ECC LIVE OAK TEACHER



What matters in education is what matters in life—and it starts with our incredible teachers.

We cultivate life-long learners—and that includes our faculty. We believe that the best way to ensure student learning is to hire, nurture, and retain motivated teachers whose desire to ignite students' curious minds and awaken their generous hearts is only matched by their dedication to continuous professional growth.

55

faculty and staff members

805

collective years of teaching experience

20

teachers with 10 or more years at TBS

60%

faculty who identify as people of color

100%

of faculty and staff participate in yearlong SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) training



At The Berkeley School, **community** is at the heart of what we do.

Volunteer opportunities, family affinity groups, and community events spark and cultivate meaningful connections that help students learn, grow, and thrive. Our students, families, and faculty work together to create an environment where everyone feels seen, supported, and **known**.

“Volunteering at TBS offers the opportunity to connect with the broader community, faculty, and other parents who are in a similar stage of life. The relationships you build at school may last a few years or a lifetime, but they will enrich both your parenting journey and your school experience for years to come. Equally important, volunteering gives you a chance to participate in your child’s school experience and model the value of community engagement.”



Erin Sibley
Events and Volunteer
Coordinator



Family Association

The TBS Family Association (the FA) organizes activities, services, and fundraisers throughout the year. It is our goal that every family has an opportunity to participate, so we can better serve our children and school community while meeting and spending time together in pursuit of a common goal.

Affinity Groups

We've learned that providing opportunities for affinity groups — connection opportunities for both students and adults whose paths are less widely represented in our overall community—are essential to nurturing our diverse, multicultural school community and are a critical ingredient in sustaining a mission-aligned culture.

WHERE DO OUR GRADUATES GO?

Our graduates leave The Berkeley School with the academic skills, curiosity, empathy, confidence, and self-knowledge needed to pursue their passions, build collaborative relationships, and make a positive impact in their local and school communities. Whether they move on to a medium-sized independent high school, a large public high school, an East Bay Catholic high school, a school for the arts, or an out-of-state boarding school, they're equipped for the future – whatever it holds.



BEYOND THE BERKELEY SCHOOL



I feel so grateful to have spent most of my childhood in the close-knit, supportive community of TBS. My freshman year was easy because I was so prepared. I graduated as a much more confident student and have remained close to the friends I made.

GRACE



Our 82 graduates from 2020-24 currently attend 23 different high schools throughout the East Bay, San Francisco, Marin, and the Peninsula – as well as Arizona, Maine, and Rhode Island.

WHERE DO THEY GO?

Albany High School
Athenian School
Bay School
Bentley School
Berkeley High School
Bishop O'Dowd High School
Branson School
College Preparatory School
Dunn School
El Cerrito High School
Head Royce School
Holy Names High School
Latitude High School
Lick-Wilmerding High School
Maybeck High School
Marin Academy
Moreau Catholic High School
Moses Brown School (RI)
Oakland Technical High School
Oakland School of the Arts
Orinda Academy
San Domenico School
St. Ignatius High School
St. Mary's College High School
University High School (SF)
Urban School
Waynflete School (ME)



K-8 Campus

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Preschool Campus
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(510) 849-8340

