

Family Event Guidelines

At the core of The San Francisco School are the values of culture, community and diversity. We strive to model these values and instill them in our students. These values are natural but they do not come without the intentional effort we dedicate to every facet of the SFS experience. Whether it's through opening day ceremonies, assemblies, parent/guardian committee work or teacher curriculum development, our school aims to embrace each family equally.

We ask that you join us in creating a community that celebrates diversity and encourages the participation of all of our members. When planning events, please consider how family structure, socioeconomic backgrounds, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, physical abilities, and age affect families' participation and strive to make full participation is accessible to all.

Quick guide to promote inclusive activities:

- Consider no cost events
- Not gender-specific
- Accessible by public transportation
- Consider childcare needs
- Avoid conflicts with holidays and school-sponsored events
- Vary venue and time of events

Timing and Schedules

- Check the school calendar to avoid conflicts with school-sponsored events and/or religious holidays
- Consider how family makeup such as two working parents/guardians, single parents/guardian and families with young children influence participation
- Scheduling conflicts can discourage families from attending events, provide advance notice

Family Structure

- Plan for "parent/guardian" gatherings, not "moms" or "dads"
- Invite "partners" rather than spouses
- Offer invitations that are authentically welcoming to all families; if applicable, is the invitation accessible to English as a second language families?

Socioeconomic considerations:

- Consider the type of event you are organizing – will families of varying socioeconomic experiences feel welcomed?
- Consider the costs of food, transportation, entertainment, enrollment fees, materials, uniforms that may hinder participation of all families
- Consider reduced rates for groups, sharing equipment, activities with sliding scales

Transportation and Location

- Vary the range of venues and location (include venues accessible to the disabled)
- Transportation can be a challenge for families, aim to hold events in locations that are accessible by public transportation and by bicycle
- Arrange carpools whenever possible

When in doubt, don't assume - that everyone can afford a parents'/guardians' night out, that everyone has their own transportation. Keep in mind other aspects of diversity, such as family structure, LGBTQ issues, adoptive parenting, age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, learning differences, size and physical abilities. Just as our children are learning to respect and value individuals whose backgrounds and situations are different from their own, families are also in the same path to creating a community that celebrates the diversity and encourages the participation of all members.