

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 accessible to all.

Quick guide to promote inclusive activities:

- Consider no-cost events
- Non-gender specific and gender inclusive
- 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 parent/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" or "parenting adult" 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 non-English speakers? (ParentSquare translates to a preferred language for individuals who set that in their preferences.)

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 may not have a personal vehicle. Keep in mind other aspects of diversity, such as family structure, 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 on the same path to creating a community that celebrates diversity and encourages the participation of all members.