



MIRALOMA ELEMENTARY

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Welcome to Miraloma's Self-Guided Tour!

In order to provide the best learning environment for our students, we ask that you:

- **Observe the classrooms from the hallway. Please do not enter any of the classrooms (even if they are empty) and avoid crowding near classroom doors.**
- **Please refrain from using cameras.**
- **Do not approach students, teachers, and staff. Our parent volunteers are stationed throughout the school and will happily answer your questions.**
- **Look for direction signage at each tour stop:**



Miraloma's Mission: Miraloma is the home of a diverse and inclusive community that respects and celebrates the differences and strengths of each member. Our mission is to nurture the whole child through dynamic and authentic learning experiences that spark their curiosity and guide them to uncover new interests, passions and creative expression. Teachers, parents and administration work together to provide a safe and supportive environment for students to discover new things and embrace mistakes as learning opportunities as students grow towards independence.

Miraloma's Vision: Our goal is for all students at Miraloma to enjoy learning and achieve their personal best. We aim to guide all students to become resourceful and resilient lifelong learners who persevere when presented with academic, social and emotional challenges. We strive to teach students to be active participants in their community and advocates for social justice. We wish for students to leave Miraloma with a solid foundation for success, knowing that they have the tools needed to navigate the changing world.

School Information

- School hours: 7:50-1:50
- K-5 school, approximately 400 students
- K-3rd grades-3 classes each; 4th & 5th grades-2 classes each; one 4th/5th grade combination class
- 2 special day classes, mild/moderate autism focus (K-2, 3-5)
- Current class size (max): 22 students in grades K-3rd, 26 in grades 4th and 5th
- Built in 1951, 51,900 Square Feet
- 19 classrooms (No permanent portable classrooms), 3 outdoor yards

TOUR STOP A – LIBRARY

Welcome to our library. Classes visit once a week. Our librarian and parent/guardian volunteers help by shelving books and keeping our collection of more than 6000 books accessible for everyone. The library is open every school day. Come inside and take a look or read a book!

- Staffed by a SFUSD librarian 3 days a week and parent volunteers help daily
- All books (6,000+) are catalogued on the computer using the Library of Congress bibliographic information and the Dewey Decimal system
- Each class visits the library once a week. They hear a story (often read by a parent volunteer) and each student has a library card and can check out a book. The 4th and 5th graders have additional time to use the library for research
- Annual Scholastic Book Fair tied in with our Read-a-thon

TOUR STOP B - AUDITORIUM

(Across from the library)

Miraloma is the only K-5 public school in SF that has a separate auditorium, gym and cafeteria. Our auditorium seats 190 and hosts many events:

- Weekly sing-alongs for K–5th grades. Families are welcome to join in. If you wish to observe/participate at a future date, please check-in at the office first
- Assemblies
- Theater and music lessons
- Student performances, talent show rehearsals
- Performances by SF Symphony, author talks, etc.

TOUR STOP C – “MEET THE STAFF” BOARD & COMMUNITY SLIDE SHOW

The teachers are a distinct highlight at our school. On average, our teachers have worked at Miraloma for 12 years. They are experienced, dedicated, and caring and make every effort to help all students reach their full potential. It is worth noting that the teachers participate in school-wide peer observations, which supports their professional development and deepens the collaborative spirit in the school.

These bulletin boards long with the calendar boards near the office will give you a great general introduction to the Miraloma community. Other means of communication used at the school include:

- Our website – www.miralomasf.com
- Weekly school newsletter via email
- School listserv – All are welcome to join the group, managed by parents
- Grade-wide listservs - For communication across all classrooms of the same grade
- Classroom listservs - For communication among parents in the same class
- Miraloma Facebook page
- Morning Circle – Students and parents gather in a circle on the yard in the morning for greetings and announcements before going into the classrooms
- Room parents – Parent volunteers reach out to class families and help coordinate classroom activities

TOUR STOP D – OUTDOOR SCIENCE BULLETIN BOARD

This board is dedicated to our Outdoor Science program. We are fortunate to have a full-time teacher dedicated to teaching Outdoor Science at Miraloma, through a working partnership with Education Outside. The children spend time each week in our educational garden, learning the various aspects of how things grow and helping to care for our school chickens. You will learn more about the garden when you visit it in tour stop F.

TOUR STOP E - CLASSROOM BOARDS & ARTS ENRICHMENT

Communication from teachers is posted outside of each classroom. Numerous art programs fill our hallways with color and imagination and fill our school with activity.

Parent information boards may display classroom newsletters, parent volunteer schedules, pictures and information on the Student of the Week, and wish lists.

Enrichment at Miraloma

- The art committee is a collaboration between teachers, staff, and parents in promoting and supporting visual arts, music, movement, and writing
- Art instruction in the classroom is led by the teachers and parent volunteers
- SF Arts Education– Through a partnership with SFArtsEd, Miraloma contracts with several working artists to teach:

- Sing Along for all grades K-5 every Friday morning
 - Movement & Dance in Kinder and 1st
 - Ceramics in 2nd and 3rd grades (with a working kiln on site!)
 - Drama & Theater in 4th and 5th grades
- Instrumental Music - SFUSD provides music instruction by a credentialed music teacher for 4th and 5th grades. Students may choose instruction on the flute, violin, clarinet or trumpet
 - Visual arts instruction to each classroom through the SFUSD Visual and Performing Arts Department (VAPA)

TOUR STOP F - MIRALOMA OUTDOOR SCIENCE

In Miraloma’s Educational Garden, students dig in the earth, plant seeds, and nurture vegetables and fruit. They taste and appreciate diverse edibles, discovering the source of the food we eat and the science of how it grows.

Highlights include a greenhouse, rainwater irrigation system, and outdoor classroom. Our full-time Outdoor Science teacher from AmeriCorps (in partnership with EducationOutside.org) works with classroom teachers to incorporate Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into our curriculum.

- Students help raise chickens and learn about how they lay eggs
- Families sign up to maintain the garden and care for the chickens during the summer months and reap the benefits of the harvest
- An organic fruit or vegetable snack, prepped by parent volunteers in the garden, is provided to all classrooms daily

Head down the stairs to the next stop.

TOUR STOP G - KINDERGARTEN

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER CLASSROOMS. There will be an opportunity to see inside the kinder classrooms at the next tour stop.

We have three general education kindergarten classrooms plus one K-2nd Special Day Class.

TOUR STOP H – KINDERGARTEN-1ST GRADE YARDS

(Exit the building into the yard. Turn right down the stairs to the kindergarten-1st grade yard aka “the lower yard”. Continue alongside the building to the playground.)

K and 1st graders have their own specialized age-appropriate playground during recesses.

SNEAK PEAK: The windows in the kindergarten play yard are a good place to get a glimpse inside the kinder classrooms.

TOUR STOP I - UPPER GRADES

Head back inside the way you came. The 4th and 5th grade classrooms are on the bottom floor—there are two 4th grade classes, two 5th grade classes, and one combined 4th/5th grade class. An important part of the fundraising efforts at Miraloma supports an additional 4th/5th grade teacher to keep the class sizes in the upper graders lower, so we have 23-25 children in each class instead of 33.

2017-18 SBAC State Testing Results: In Math, 75% of our 3rd-5th grade students' scores met or exceeded standards (vs. SFUSD average 52%). In English Language Arts, 82% of our 3rd-5th grade students' scores Met or Exceeded Standards (vs. SFUSD average 53%).

We have had a positive trend for three straight years of increased outstanding achievement on our SBAC State Tests in 3rd-5th grades for both Language Arts and Math. Not only do we surpass the SFUSD average scores by large margins, but also all of our focal subgroups have been making large gains

TOUR STOP J – THE ART ROOM (A.K.A. STEAM LAB)

S.T.E.A.M. = Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics

Our STEAM Lab is a classroom extension where classroom teachers, visual art teachers, and students have access to art supplies, a SMART board, and other equipment for hands on learning. The lab is also used for special projects such as science dissections and engineering tower building.

Technology at Miraloma:

- Chromebooks are used by all 3rd-5th grade students to support all aspects of the curriculum, including online non-fiction current event reading (Newsela) and differentiated math programs (TenMarks). Students also use the computers for typing, writing, collaboration and presentations. Students in the lower grades use iPads to enhance their learning.
- We have projectors and sound systems in all rooms, including our gymnasium, library and auditorium
- Communication and school surveys – the majority of our communication, including our annual survey is online

(At the end of the hall by the stairs, turn right and step outside.)

The mural on the wall near the cafeteria was done by Precita Eyes and the 2003 graduating 5th grade class with the theme of world peace.

TOUR STOP K - UPPER YARD

The spacious upper yard is used for Morning Circle, recess, and Physical Education.

The entire community gathers on the yard every morning at 7:50 for Morning Circle. Morning Circle has a different theme every day so it's not just a place to hear announcements- it's a sacred time when our community comes together.

Along with our Kindergarten recess yard, all grades have recess on our upper yard at staggered times. Students are grouped K-1, 2-3 & 4-5. We currently partner with the YMCA and employ two lunchtime Recess Coordinators who support at lunchtime recess every day. Parent / guardian recess volunteers are also always invited to support our organized games, encourage safe and inclusive play, help with conflict management, and promote good sportsmanship.

MIRALOMA PLAYGROUND (aka Sandy Park)

(Note the Rec & Park playground and field next to school)

Students also have access to the city park next door with their teachers.

- Our PE program and many classes use the playground and the lower field regularly for special projects or as an incentive.
- SF Recreation and Park Miraloma Afterschool Program is another after school alternative for many families located at Sandy Park.

TOUR STOP L - CAFETERIA

The cafeteria is versatile and connects directly to the upper playground and the gymnasium. The kids eat in shifts to allow everyone the opportunity to eat inside, regardless of whether a student buys or packs his/her own lunch. Specifically, we have three different lunch blocks where Kindergarteners/1st graders, 2nd/3rd graders, and 4th/5th graders eat together.

Breakfast and lunch are both served. Students can either bring lunch from home, purchase a school lunch (\$3.00 for lunch, \$1.50 for breakfast), or receive a free lunch if they qualify.

Lunch is eaten after recess, allowing the children to burn off energy first and then focus on eating.

TOUR STOP M - GYMNASIUM

(Walk through the door at the back of the cafeteria to get to the gymnasium.)

Miraloma has a dedicated full-size gymnasium, a rare feature for an elementary school in the City.

- Our gymnasium is primarily used for Physical Education (PE) instruction but it is also used by our YMCA afterschool program and for other special programming
- The 20-foot horizontal climbing wall, the new ceiling mounted projector and the sound system are all funded by our PTA
- Our PE Teacher is also partially funded by our PTA and works at Miraloma full-time

- She works with teachers to integrate physical education into the school curriculum
- Our PE Teacher supports our teachers and our whole school with a dynamic array of activities including a weekly running club

This concludes the self-guided tour. Thank you for visiting Miraloma!

Please find your way back up the stairs to the check-in table and return any borrowed materials.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT MIRALOMA

Please read on for more information about our school. If you have questions, feel free to ask a parent tour volunteer, they are here to help!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

There is one on-site after school program run through the Stonestown YMCA. Approximately 2/3 of the student population utilizes this program.

YMCA After School Program

- The sliding scale fee program is funded by a grant through SFUSD
- Along with academic support there are enrichment “clubs” involving: sports, engineering, art, science, cooking, movement, photography, technology, etc.
- The YMCA has a holistic approach that encourages community involvement and student leadership
- Limited part-time (2-3 days/week) care available
- Hours are 1:50-6:00
- Grades K-5

After School Enrichment:

In addition to after-care, a variety of after school enrichment activities led by parents and SF Parks & Rec are offered on campus or next door at Miraloma Park.

Past offerings have included: soccer, tennis, Girl Scouts, basketball, SF Rec and Parks Shred and Butter skateboarding class.

INCLUSION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Miraloma is an inclusive community where children of all abilities thrive. In addition to our Special Education services, we maintain intervention resources available to all our students to ensure every child’s success.

School-wide resources include:

- Student Advisor
- Social Worker & USF Intern
- Reading Intervention Teachers (2)
- Response to Intervention Facility (RTIF) to support our focal student social-emotional and academic success

Special Education at Miraloma

Miraloma is an inclusive school and we welcome children of all abilities. We provide differentiated services to fulfill the Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) of students with disabilities. 13% of our student population has an IEP. We strive to include and integrate all students who have IEPs into our general education classrooms and provided them every opportunity to learn and develop alongside their peers.

We have two Special Day Classes, K-2 and 3-5. Both of these Special Day Classes are classified as Mild/Moderate with a focus on serving students with Autism. Our principal and staff are engaged and invested in furthering the inclusion model, and we have a supportive parent community who actively works to support each other and our school.

Special Education resources and facilities include:

- 2 Special Day Classes
- 2 Resource Specialists to support students with IEPs in the gen ed setting
- 11 Paraprofessionals (this number changes every year)
- Designated learning space for pull-out services
- ADA upgrades include an elevator, ramps, and a lift to lower K classroom

STAFF & PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

- School Site Council (SSC)
- PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Committees include:
 - Arts
 - Auction
 - Buildings & Grounds
 - Community Service
 - Fun Run
 - Garden
 - Hospitality
 - Inclusive Schools
 - Library
 - Snack
 - Tours and Outreach
 - Web and Communications
 - Welcome
 - Yearbook

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many kindergarten seats are there?

We have three kindergarten classes with space for a total of 66 students.

How big are the classes?

Currently, K-3rd grade classes are limited to 22 students across SFUSD. The district has a cap of 33 for 4th and 5th grades however Miraloma has a cap of 26 students thanks to PTA funding for our combined 4th/5th grade class teacher.

How much homework is there?

Along with many other resources, homework expectations are found on our website. They align with SFUSD homework policies, but as we all know, time spent on homework always depends on the child. Reading by the parents to the students or by the students themselves is expected every night.

How much parent involvement is there?

Miraloma has an extremely high rate of parental and community involvement. We have an active PTA that organizes fundraising activities, coordinates volunteers, and provides our students with various school programs and activities. Parents help out as committee members (see the list above!); volunteers in the classroom and library; and as organizers of our many events, such as the school auction, spring festival, book fair, and clean-up days.

How much does the PTA raise?

The PTA raised almost \$450K last year. Miraloma's active community volunteers time and raises significant funding that supports outstanding enrichment opportunities in the arts, sciences and physical education. Additionally, we prioritize funding for two full-time literacy specialists, our social worker and our RTIF teacher to support social-emotional needs within each grade level.

Our three main fundraising events include:

- Auction
- Fun Run
- Annual Fund (direct donation)

Is student transportation to and from school available?

No. Buses are only available for students receiving Special Education services as determined in their individualized education plan (IEP).

How diverse is Miraloma?

Miraloma is a diverse school in every respect. There is diversity in religion, socio-economic levels, family structure (single/dual/guardian/gay/adopted/etc). There are a variety of political beliefs and *everyone* is included and accepted at our school. Specifically, 44% of our students are White, 16% Hispanic, 14% Asian and 4% African American. 15% of our students are socio-economically disadvantaged and 13% qualify for special education.

What is Miraloma's feeder middle school?

Every K-5 school in the district is matched with a middle school feeder school. James Denman Middle School is the feeder school for Miraloma and four other elementary schools—Sunnyside, Lakeshore, Longfellow, and Sheridan. Each year, the 5th grade class goes on a field trip to tour the campus and has an opportunity to hear from current students. Miraloma also welcomes back recent alumni to participate in an annual student panel to talk about their Denman experiences. The Miraloma talent show is held in the Denman auditorium each year, featuring a bake sale hosted by our alumni parents.

Note: For high school, SFUSD does not have a feeder system or a geographical attendance area like the elementary schools do. In 2018, Miraloma graduates of Denman Middle School enrolled in a range of public and private high schools including Lowell, Ruth Asawa School of the Arts (SOTA), Lincoln, Mission, Balboa, Lick Wilmerding, University, Urban, and more.

How are behavior problems handled?

Our teachers use Restorative Practices and TRIBES to promote community-building and pro-social skills based on the principles of mutual respect and fairness. Teachers address behavior problems in the classroom by giving the child an opportunity to “restore” the situation and they

always encourage students to own their mistakes through apologies and reflection. When problems persist, teachers and students receive extra support from our CARE Team.

What is the CARE Team?

Our CARE Team frequently meets to support students most in need. Students who need consistent behavior or academic support may be referred to the CARE Team for a Student Success Team meeting (SST) together with the classroom teacher and parents/guardians. Our CARE Team includes the Principal, Social Worker, 2 Literacy Specialists, 2 Resource Specialists and our RTIF.

What is RTI and what is an RTIF?

The Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI) model is used across SFUSD schools to provide tiered levels of academic and behavior support to all students. Miraloma also has a full-time RTIF (Response to Intervention Facilitator), funded by the PTA, that works to support our students based on the philosophies of the RTI model.

TRIBES & Restorative Practices

TRIBES is a program that establishes a caring environment for cooperative learning and structure for positive interaction. Teachers use this philosophy and children are taught its agreements starting in kindergarten.

- Attentive listening
- Appreciations / no put downs
- Mutual respect
- Be safe

Restorative Practices (RP) are a shift away from punitive consequences for misbehavior and give students the opportunity to embrace their mistakes. RP promote strengthened relationships and community building while providing meaningful and supported opportunities for students to be held accountable and take responsibility for making their school community a safe and nurturing environment.