



## **Solana Highlands School K-6 Conversion Exploration Frequently Asked Questions - November 2019**

- 1. How does the school provide age-appropriate play structures for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students?**  
Play structures installed at the District elementary schools are sized for 5-11 year olds.
- 2. How does the school develop schedules for students that accommodate recess & lunch, PE, Music, Discovery Labs, English Language Development and Learning Resource Centers?**  
The staff (administration in concert with teachers, support personnel, and Discovery Lab personnel) look at instructional schedules and break periods to determine the best times for eating and play (recess and lunch) and for other specialty programs.
- 3. How would study trips be decided for grades 4, 5, and 6?**  
Study trips for all grade levels are site specific with decisions being made at each site.
- 4. Would students at SH be able to participate in overnight camp-type trips as other upper grade levels across the District?**  
All sixth grade students across the District participate in Outdoor Education through the San Diego County of Education. Trips taken by fourth and fifth grade students are site determined and specific.
- 5. Will 4th, 5th and 6th graders be able to walk, bike, and roll to and from school?**  
Walking, riding, and rolling to and from school is site specific with decisions being made at each site.
- 6. What other programs might be offered at SH that are similar or different than SP?**  
Programs offered during and after school are determined by each site across the District.
- 7. What special perks, freedoms would 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students receive at SH?**  
This is a site specific decision that would involve input from staff, parents, and students.
- 8. If approved to become a K-6 school, what is the proposed timeline for transitioning?**  
The actual timeline will be determined at the end of the community engagement process. The originally suggested timeline is:
  - 2021-22 - third graders transition to fourth grade at SH (conversion begins)
  - 2022-23 - fourth graders transition to fifth grade at SH
  - 2023-24 - fifth graders transition to sixth grade at SH (conversion complete)
- 9. Does the conversion to a K-6 school impact class sizes?**

Class sizes are determined districtwide and whenever possible follow these teacher-to-student average ratios:

- Grades K-3 = 20:1
- Grades 4-6 = 27:1

It is important to note that students do not come in nice neat little packages of 20:1 and 27:1 so there are times these ratios are a little higher or lower from year-to-year.

**10. Does the conversion to a K-6 school impact speciality classrooms and caseload sizes?**

Each school is allocated eight (8) specialty classrooms (except for Carmel Creek and Solana Pacific who have additional special education programming needs). There may be points in a school's history where they have lower enrollment enabling additional flexibility to classroom usage as well as times where some specialty classrooms require consolidating when enrollment grows for a period.

**11. Will Solana Highlands stay small if it remains a K-3 configuration?**

Projections going forward indicate Solana Highlands would have approximately 310 K-3 students.

**12. What is the capacity of SH if converted to a K-6 school?**

33 classrooms at Solana Highlands, out of which eight (8) are specialty. A K-6 confi would be approximately 575 students.

**13. What happens with enrollment at Solana Pacific following the conversion?**

Currently at 543 4-6 grade students, Solana Pacific is projected to have approximately 400 students at the end of the conversion tentatively scheduled for 2023-24.