

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Santa Fe Girls' School believes that education is not a matter of opening the top of a student's head and pouring in the information, but rather is a dynamic, open-ended and very personal process that requires dialogue and exchange of ideas among students and teachers.

When the student has the opportunity to develop a personal and trusting relationship with the teacher, the teacher can then discover the learner's "world view": how that student perceives, organizes and internalizes information. The teacher can also discover what experiences and cultural influences have formed this particular student's perspective. Using this knowledge, the teacher purposefully weaves threads which the student can recognize and relate to her own experience, building personal connections to the expanding tapestry of information. It is this personal connection with learning that makes it possible for a student to apply her knowledge to the challenge of a new concept; this, in turn, fosters empowerment and a life-long love of learning.

SFGS recognizes that all academic disciplines overlap. For example, one acquires math skills as an indirect product of studying geography and mapping; a study of history must include an understanding of cultural systems, economics, environment and geography, as well as current events. English and Spanish literacy build on one another; applied and fine arts foster the ability to perform exact measurement and calculation, as well as broaden understanding of historical context. Additionally, SFGS focuses on building students' critical and divergent thinking skills and their ability to articulate what they think. Finally, SFGS believes that diversity in the classroom creates excitement for learning; multiple perspectives from both the students and from the academic material provide stimuli for lively debate, depth of thought and informed opinion.

The mission of SFGS is to foster intellectual growth and emotional strength in adolescent girls, preparing them for the demands of high school, college and young adulthood. With this educational philosophy as its guiding principle, SFGS offers an integrated curriculum that meets the requirements of the New Mexico State and the Santa Fe Public Middle School Performance Standards.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Santa Fe Girls' School?

Santa Fe Girls' School is a middle school for girls, ages 11 to 14. It is during the critical adolescent stage that girls often take a back seat to boys in mathematics, science, applied arts and technology. SFGS understands that girls at this age become sensitive to a subtle cultural assumption that girls can be smart and aggressive, but only to the extent that they do not outperform the boys. Girls consistently place balanced social dynamics at the top of their priorities and will often achieve this balance by retreating from competition with boys. Consequently, girls lose confidence in academics and themselves.

Research indicates that many girls develop stronger academic skills in an all-girls school. In a single-gender school, girls enjoy greater opportunities to participate in class activities, receive more individual attention from the teacher and reap the academic and emotional benefits of an active involvement in their own education.

Founded July 1998, SFGS is a private, nonprofit school. SFGS opened its doors September of 1999. The aim of the school is to offer a rigorous academic environment where girls develop and maintain a positive self-image. The single-sex school eliminates the possibility of gender discrimination. The mission of SFGS is to foster intellectual growth and emotional strength in adolescent girls, preparing them for the demands of high school, college and young adulthood. SFGS offers an integrated curriculum focused on building critical thinking skills and the ability to formulate and articulate thought. SFGS students develop and refine skills in academic reading comprehension, research and academic writing, mathematical thinking and calculation and intellectual analysis. Further, SFGS emphasizes a multicultural perspective in social studies, history and media literacy and includes a Spanish fluency and literacy component. In addition to the core academic program, SFGS offers art, music, drama, poetry, environmental science, physical fitness and service learning.

How many students are enrolled?

The 6th and 8th grade classes each seat 15 students. The 7th grade is capped at 16, with a total possible enrollment of 46.

What is the tuition fee?

Tuition for the **2010-11** school year is \$9,700. There is typically an annual tuition increase based upon cost-of-living considerations and other operational expenses. The tuition covers basic educational expenses, all book fees and major activities. Minimal charges may be assessed for field trips and special events. An admissions fee of \$800 is paid upon contract signing and is applied toward tuition. The remaining tuition balance is due in full on August 1.

Is tuition assistance available?

SFGS does offer tuition assistance. The general policy is to award any single student no more than 50% of the total tuition for any year, depending upon financial assessment. SFGS utilizes the services of School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS), an agency located in Pittsburgh, for the processing of parents' financial statements and applications for tuition assistance. For more information regarding tuition assistance, please refer to the section of the packet titled, *Tuition Assistance Policy*.

Does tuition cover all operational costs?

Tuition covers less than 75% of the school's operating costs. Both cash and in-kind donations are critical to the success of SFGS. In addition to raising operating funds, money is also needed for the school's tuition assistance programs.

To raise the necessary funds, the school has a part-time development director, who works with individuals, foundations and local businesses to help raise the funds needed.

SFGS hosts one major fund raising event each spring. Parents are asked to serve on the auction committee, collect donations and help the evening of the event.

Parents are an integral part of the school's fund raising program. They can be helpful by introducing potential donors to the school, volunteering their time and making the school one of their giving priorities.

Donations are welcome throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to contact 820-3188 if they can be of assistance.

When will school start and what schedule will it follow?

SFGS classes begin in September, on the Tuesday following Labor Day. The school generally follows the Santa Fe Public School schedule regarding seasonal, vacation dates. Classes are in session from 8:30 am until 3:15 pm. For the months of March, April and May, Fridays are half days, with dismissal at lunchtime.

What high school will SFGS students attend after graduation from the 8th grade?

SFGS graduates are fully prepared for the 9th grade at any high school they choose, private or public. The SFGS curriculum meets the requirements of the New Mexico State and the Santa Fe Public School Middle School Performance Standards.

TUITION ASSISTANCE POLICY

The goal of the Financial Aid Program at Santa Fe Girls' School is to provide:

- diversity in the student body,
- continuity and stability for students whose financial circumstances change, qualifying them for financial aid,
- educational opportunity for students who would otherwise lack the means to attend the School, and
- fulfillment of balance within or to fill particular grades.

Tuition assistance is need-based and is apportioned as guided by School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS) and the Financial Aid Committee. The Financial Aid committee awards tuition assistance in keeping with the financial aid goals of Santa Fe Girls' School. If the request for financial aid does not support the goals of the School's Financial Aid Policy, the request may be denied.

1. All families, including those receiving financial aid, are expected to contribute to the School both monetarily and as volunteers in those areas that best suit their talents and interests.
2. Applicants for financial aid must be willing to provide full financial information as requested by the School. Financial information is kept strictly confidential, known only to the Financial Aid Committee.
3. The targeted amount of total financial aid is at least 5% of the budgeted tuition revenue for the application year.
4. The general policy of Santa Fe Girls' School is to award any single student **no more than a 50%** reduction of the total tuition for the award year. The final amount awarded up to 50% is decided by the Financial Aid Committee and is based on information received from SSS.
5. Financial aid provided in one year does not commit the School to providing aid in the future, nor to providing the same amount or kind in the future.
6. **Financial aid information is located in the SFGS office and should be picked up no later than March 1.**

ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST

Admission to Santa Fe Girls' School is a "rolling admissions" process. This means that families are interviewed and decisions made for the upcoming school year as completed applications are received at the school. Therefore, it is recommended that interested families begin the application process upon receipt of admissions material.

- Application forms are due back ***as soon as possible.***

Please mail your completed application (including applicant and parent questionnaires) to:

**Santa Fe Girls' School
Admissions
310 W. Zia Road
Santa Fe, NM 87505**

- A self-addressed envelope is provided in this packet for the **Teacher Recommendation**. This will allow him/her to mail this information directly to the school. Please be sure your daughter's name is on the recommendation **before** giving it to one of your daughter's teacher and remind him/her to return it ***as soon as possible.***
- Copies of the **most recent report card and latest standardized testing results should be mailed directly to the school as soon as possible.** Please fill out and sign the **Transcript Release Request** and present it to the registrar at your daughter's school. **We need this information before we can schedule an interview.**
- Enclose, with the completed application, a **non-refundable \$65.00 Application Fee**. Please make your check payable to "Santa Fe Girls' School." We will not process an application without the fee payment.
- SFGS will contact you to schedule a personal interview and the Admissions Test **once all application material and fee is received.**

**SANTA FE GIRLS' SCHOOL
APPLICANT FAMILY INFORMATION**

▪ Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Applying for grade: 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____

▪ Mother's/Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Employer's Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

▪ Father's/Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Employer's Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Student lives with: Mother & Father _____ Mother(s) _____ Father(s) _____ Guardian _____

Names and ages of siblings: _____

Previous elementary school(s): _____

Check here if you plan to apply for financial assistance: _____

Optional: Student's race/ethnic origin – check one:

Anglo _____ African American _____ Asian _____ Hispanic _____ Native American _____

Other: specify _____

Santa Fe Girls' School maintains a non-sectarian program and admits children of all abilities, races, religions and cultural heritage to all rights, privileges, programs and activities of the school. SFGS does not discriminate on any basis in administration of its financial aid policies.

STUDENT APPLICANT QUESTIONNAIRE

Applicant's Name _____ Current Grade _____

Please share your thoughts on the following questions. If you need more room, use the back of this sheet. **Please hand write your answers.**

1. Is SFGS your first choice for middle school? If so, please explain why. If not, please explain why not.

2. If you had one wish, what would it be? Please explain in detail.

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____



***TEACHER RECOMMENDATION
SANTA FE GIRLS' SCHOOL***

Applicant's Name: _____ Grade: _____

To the Applicant:

Please print your name at the top of this form and give it to one of your teachers. Make sure you provide the self-addressed envelope located in your application packet.

To the Teacher:

Santa Fe Girls' School (SFGS) is a 6th, 7th and 8th grade middle school committed to nurturing and empowering young women. SFGS offers an academic environment of active learning, individual exploration and critical thinking. SFGS fosters intellectual rigor, creativity, self-expression, teamwork and leadership skills.

Please complete the recommendation form and submit it to SFGS in the envelope provided by the applicant. **All recommendations are due upon receipt of this request. Please understand that the application and interview process cannot move forward until this recommendation has been received at SFGS.** Your thoughtful and candid assessment is an important part of the admission process. This recommendation will remain confidential and will not become part of the applicant's permanent record. We appreciate your cooperation and time.

Thank you,

Janet Graham
Administrative Director



TRANSCRIPT RELEASE REQUEST:

Dear Prospective Parents/Student:

Please **complete** the top portion of this form and give it to your **present school's registrar**.

Transcript Release for

Applying for Grade Year Date

Current School Address City/State/Zip

I authorize the release of all requested information including:

- Final Grades (Most recent report card)
- Latest Standardized Test Results
- Immunization Records

Parent/Guardian Signature

Dear School Registrar:

The student named above is applying to Santa Fe Girls' School.

Please submit all requested materials indicated above for applicant **upon receipt of request**. Admission to Santa Fe Girls' School is a "rolling admissions" process. This means that families are interviewed and decisions made as completed application are received at the school. Your prompt response assists in this process.

Please mail materials to:

Santa Fe Girls' School
310 W. Zia Road
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Thank you for your cooperation.

Janet Graham
Administrative Director