



The Children's School
2022 – 2027

Introduction

The Children's School (TCS) is an independent, progressive school serving Toddlers (beginning at 26 months) to Eighth Grade. The TCS mission is to *inspire each child's unique potential and desire for life-long learning through a strong academic, social and environmental curriculum.*

Our collaborative learning and progressive teaching methods are part of an educational community where risk taking is expected, where making a difference is encouraged, and where working together is the norm.

Our Three Core Tenets

As one of the top progressive schools in San Diego, we believe three core tenets are vital to educating children:

1. Academic development and social growth must be equally supported
2. Students learn best when they take an active role in their education
3. Teaching children how to learn is as important as teaching them what to learn

Our Philosophy

Teachers Are Our Foundation

Professional and passionate, The Children's School attracts expert teachers in all disciplines. United in a common approach to a modern, progressive education, these charismatic adults form bonds with students and serve as mentors and advocates, exploring together the joys of risk taking and the importance of continual social, emotional and academic growth.

Our Education is Broad, Deep & Engaging

We provide integrated, interdisciplinary teaching focusing on personalized and experiential learning while also ensuring a robust exploration of math, science, writing, reading, art, technology, music, social studies, physical education and Spanish. Woven through everything is an equal commitment to children's social and emotional growth.

We Are About Respect

When a school is built on mutual respect and cooperative learning experiences, wonderful things happen. Teachers are given the autonomy they need to create innovative curriculum. Student voices are honored. Collaboration flourishes across disciplines and classrooms. Everyone thrives. At The Children's School, we model respect in all our engagements and encounters between teachers, students and parents.

We Believe in Community

Shared values and priorities unite our overall mission and our time together every day. A strong school community and active home/school partnership means joyful learning that is rooted in relationships. That sense of community and a celebration of diversity and inclusion infuses our work as citizens and as educators. We care about each other and the world.

The World as Classroom

Step onto our private school campus in La Jolla and see why our students love coming to school every day. From the buildings to the thoughtfully designed outdoor learning environments, the physical space inspires creativity, curiosity and exploration. The beach, tide pools, Birch Aquarium, UCSD, and more are our neighbors. Whether on campus, in the local community or on a field trip, students find ways to tie what they see into what they are learning.

Integrated Learning is More Meaningful

By seeking commonalities between subject matters, we create connections to the real world through experiential learning. Integrated projects are a part of how students explore different subjects. We believe these practical and real-

world applications of interdisciplinary studies help shape students' future scholarship, work, and world views. Teachers model this through constantly collaborating on curriculum, a real-life example of the lifelong learning we champion.

Goals and Strategies 2022-2027

GOAL 1

Identify the key elements that support the long-term sustainability of the school

Strategies/Action Items:

1. Provide a weighted, multi-criteria evaluation analysis related to the size of the school, recognizing financial, social and visionary aspects. Identify relevant criteria, their respective weight in the evaluation and various scenario outcomes, to be presented to the board for review and strategic decision making.
2. Perform in-house research identifying key success factors behind schools existing for > [50] years and extend to which TCS could learn /benefit from implementing or pursuing same, where deemed relevant and congruent with the school's vision
3. Determine rationale and amount of cash reserves and how to manage.
4. Recognizing COVID possibly resulted in a temporary in-flux of new students, review our marketing efforts and efficiency (how we differentiate and advertise ourselves) in order to maintain current or higher student enrollment figures. Identify potential external knowledge / resources that could be helpful.
5. Start evaluation of options for the board to consider, given current lease has a finite term. Evaluation to include specific focus on legal options/potential to increase COP.
6. Identify key drivers to accomplish growth of the middle school.

GOAL 2

Advance our Modern Academic Approach to Learning

Strategies:

1. Keep current with best practices in education and update the curriculum as needed.
2. Educate and inspire our parent community and the greater San Diego community on the value of progressive education today.
3. Continue to emphasize TCS's social and emotional curriculum.
4. Communicate our outstanding academic achievements to the TCS parent community and the broader external community.
5. Maintain an appropriate use of technology materials for hands-on learning at each grade level.
6. Continue to invest in our teachers, including but not limited to additional professional development.
7. Formalize procedures for onboarding new faculty members.

GOAL 3

Build on TCS's Success in Environmental Education and Sustainability

Strategies:

1. Create a robust Environmental Curriculum where students develop a clear understanding of their impact on the natural world, how to mitigate this impact, and how to contribute to better sustaining the world we live in. TCS endeavors to seamlessly integrate environmental learning into its math, science, reading, writing and arts curriculum.
2. Provide professional development for all faculty and staff to foster excellence in environmental education.

GOAL 4

Maintain Excellence in Leadership and Governance

Strategies:

1. Establish a procedure for leadership succession for the Board
2. Formalize procedures for onboarding new Board members
3. Provide ongoing education for existing Board members
4. Review the current committee structure
5. Continue to ensure TCS's legacy by modeling a culture of giving.