



**STEAM** |   
SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • ARTS • MATH

## **Visitation Day Agenda**

### Our Why

- We strive to develop and empower lifelong learners who have the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to lead successful lives.

### Our How

- ...through a sustainable model for innovation that supports learners in solving authentic problems through inquiry.
  - Washington Elementary provides an engaging and collaborative community where all learners thrive.
  - We are a STEAM-focused school

### Intention for your visit:

- See/Hear/Feel
- Provide overview and experience the Locomotive STEAM program
- Address immediate parent questions
- Model key elements of Inquiry Based Learning

I. Welcome - What brought you to Washington?  
A. Need to Knows?

II. Classrooms TK/Kindergarten

III. Student Panel Q & A

IV. Closing Circle

- A. FAQ Sheet
- B. Like our Facebook page "Washington Locomotives"
- C. All information shared today can be accessed on our website  
[www.washington.scusd.edu](http://www.washington.scusd.edu)

## Visitation Day Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What makes Washington unique?

*Washington Elementary provides an engaging and collaborative community where all learners thrive. We are an interdisciplinary STEAM- focused school with a sustainable model for innovation that supports learners in solving authentic problems through inquiry. We strive to develop and empower lifelong learners, that have the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to lead successful lives.*

We Lead, We Innovate, We Empower, We Care

There are many contributing factors that make our school unique: We're building a public-school community of learners from the ground up. Our standards-based STEAM program is implemented through interdisciplinary project-based learning and our projects center around problems to solve that directly affect/impact the community around us. We focus significant attention around mindfulness and the social emotional growth of our students. Our afterschool program, STEAM Academy is designed to support the focus of our STEAM school through enrichment.

#### **Student Leadership**

Our school "Why" centers on empowering our students to take charge of their own learning.

- Mindfulness
- STEAM Exhibition
- Opportunities for students to demonstrate their Leadership

#### **Classroom Design**

Each classroom was designed and furnished for Project Based Teaching and Learning. Each class is equipped with 1-1 technology (iPads, Chromebooks).

#### **The "A" in STEAM**

In addition to utilizing art as strand of PBL in all classrooms, students K-6th participate in Art class 2-3 times a week with our certificated Art teacher. In this class students learn to paint, color and draw using a variety of mediums. All students TK-6<sup>th</sup> have Theater and Music classes twice a week taught by teacher residents from the NorCal School of the Arts.

#### **Physical Movement-Yoga**

All students start the day with Yoga. Led by our "Yogamotives," our students begin each morning with breathing exercises and affirmations that focus on agency and mindfulness.

**2. What does a typical day look like?**

School-wide yoga at 9 AM. Then each grade transitions to morning circle (SEL). The day consists of lessons that focus on gross motor skills, math, literacy, science, mindfulness, STEAM-PBL and Art. A typical STEAM project will focus on 2-4 strands around STEAM. A STEAM project can take 2-6 weeks.

**3. What is the student to teacher ratio?**

Our ratios are set districtwide: TK-1:12, K-3<sup>rd</sup> 1:24, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 1:33. Additionally, we partner with the CSUS College of Ed and The Met High School for additional mentors, interns and classroom aides.

**4. What are your student demographics?**

We serve a diverse student population of families that come from many socioeconomic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Currently 1/2 of our students reside in Midtown, 1/4 reside within SCUSD boundaries and 1/4 reside outside the SCUSD boundaries. Our school reflects the richness and diversity of our City!

**5. What is your discipline policy?**

As a school, we take a personal restorative approach to discipline. We are intentional with our school-wide practices that include Mindfulness Yoga, community and peer mediation. Our collective whole student approach is meant to be proactive as we guide our students in becoming leaders and empowered in their own learning and growth.

**6. How do you differentiate learning?**

PBL allows students to work around their strengths as well as their areas of growth. Some projects are intentionally planned across grade levels, which gives students the opportunity to work at different grade/academic abilities.

**7. What does teacher training look like?**

Our teacher team meets on Thursday's to define our work around project-based learning and school culture. Our teachers utilize a critical friends protocol to get feedback on each project, student work and dilemmas around projects. Additionally, our teachers receive extensive training during the summer and throughout the year on Project Based Learning.

**8. What's the homework policy?**

TK-2<sup>nd</sup>, homework can center on a driving question to discuss at home, and/or reading to your child. It varies in 3-6th grade from reading for pleasure for a set time, doing research for a project, math practice, or contributing to group work on a Google doc.

## **9. Are there after school activities?**

- STEAM Academy
  - NorCal School of the Arts
  - Destination Imagination
  - Running
  - Basketball
- 2024-2025:
- Ballet Folklórico
  - Drumming

## **10. What are parent expectations?**

Your involvement is essential to building our school culture and community. We welcome your energy, your time and expertise, big or small.

In 2016 our families formed the Locomotive Community Organization (LCO). The mission of the LCO is to:

1. Create a community of close relationships between the child's home and school by encouraging communication and engagement between teachers, the administration and families.
2. Provide support for Washington Elementary teachers, families and students. The LCO is inclusive and constitutes a group of diverse, organized and effective members who will meet this mission through among other things, developing and participating in school wide activities, providing substantive administrative feedback as appropriate and raising funds for the financial support of the school and teachers.