

# *Silver Creek High School*

## *Information Document*

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# Academics

## Academic Programs

Silver Creek addresses the needs of all types of students, from those who may be struggling to advanced students focused on college prep.

SCHS's 3 excellent magnet programs (Forensic Science, Telecommunications, and Business) are strong academic programs with a career path and technical skills emphasis; providing an exceptional opportunity for those students who may not be focused on a 4-year college.

For students who may need some additional focus and skill development in order to be accepted by a 4 year college/university, the AVID Program (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an excellent option, providing additional academic guidance and resources to students.

Advancement Placement classes are college level classes given in high school for those students desiring advanced coursework, academic distinction on college applications, as well as actual college credits.

Silver Creek has a very thorough curriculum and puts out a “Course Descriptions and Program Offerings” catalog each year. The SCHS course catalog contains detailed information about every course offered at the school, any pre-requisites as well as how the individual courses can be applied to fulfill graduation requirements, as well as college admissions requirements.

This document is intended as a companion piece to the SCHS course catalog.

## AP Program

Silver Creek High School has an extensive Advanced Placement (AP) Program. AP classes are focused on students who wish to challenge themselves and also get a head start on college. Research by the College Board has shown that students who take an AP course in high school, whether they pass the course or not, are more successful in college. National standardized tests occur each May and should the student pass with a 3 or better (on a 5 point scale), he/she may receive college credit for that AP class. AP class grades are also weighted higher when calculating weighted grade point averages for college admission.

At Silver Creek, approximately 25% of the student body eligible at the school in 2009-2010 enrolled in at least one AP class, as in the previous school year. The program focuses heavily on ensuring a high percentage of enrolled students also actually take the AP exam. In the 2009-2010 academic year, 456 SCHS students took 772 AP exams across the many AP subjects taught at the school. SCHS students passed 58% of those 772 AP exams.

In 2008-2009, the pass rate was 64%.

## ***The AP Curriculum Available at Silver Creek***

AP English Language  
AP English Literature  
AP Japanese Language  
AP Spanish Language  
AP Spanish Literature  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC  
AP Statistics  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Physics  
AP World History  
AP US History  
AP American Government  
AP World History  
AP Human Geography  
AP Psychology

## **AVID**

In its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the AVID Program (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an option for students entering high school who are in the median academic achievement range (2.2-3.2 GPA in middle school), who may need some additional focus and skill development throughout high school in order to be accepted by a 4 year college/university. There were 155 students benefitting from the AVID program in the 2009-2010 school year and that number continues to grow.

AVID classrooms focus on WICR, which stands for Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, and Reading. These are areas a student should be able to master if he/she will succeed in high school, as well as, college. In addition, AVID students will utilize resources such as college placement centers, SAT study sessions, college tutors, and Socratic seminars to help them prepare for college. The current rate of high school seniors in California who have completed four years of AVID and are eligible for admission to the UC system is approximately three times as high as those graduates who have not completed AVID. AVID sets a high goal for all entering students, gives those students a rigorous curriculum, and provides resources to help the students succeed.

AVID is a 4-year program, and students in the program meet for 55 minutes daily. AVID sets a goal that all students who participate in 4 years of the program will be eligible for admission to a 4-year university. Parents need to apply to have their child accepted into the AVID program, and the selection it made based on teacher recommendations from the junior high school, an interview, grades and a student application.

## **Magnet Programs**

SCHS's excellent magnet programs can be great options for students desiring post-secondary learning opportunities, additional vocational training or who may be directly entering the workplace. There are three career paths available via the three magnet program options. Several of the magnet programs offer certification, summer internships as well as the possibility of taking college level courses while in

high school. Silver Creek High School's three magnet programs consist of: Forensic Science, Telecommunications, and Business.\*

In each of these programs, students have the opportunity to learn about a field through a set of special classes related to that field. The program also keeps track of students academic progress through extra attention from the many teachers involved in the program. The magnet program is a strong academic program with a career path and technical skills emphasis, and provides an exceptional opportunity for those students who may not be focused on a 4-year college, but who may be either community college bound, perhaps on a path to achieving a certification versus a degree (such as in Telecommunications, obtaining a networking certification within 2 years) or who may be entering directly into the workplace after high school.

The magnet program has built strong ties to nearby community colleges, universities and local corporations, which enable field-specific guest speakers, field trips and even the opportunity for summer internships.

### ***Telecommunications***

The focus of this career path is on the fundamentals of computer networking installation and integration. Students also study a variety of concepts related to audio and text information transmission. Silver Creek's networking classes are linked to those at Foothill College. Therefore, students have the opportunity to apply their classes toward a networking certification within two years of graduation. Students can obtain employment as network engineers, telecommunications analysts, computer maintenance, computer sales representatives and network specialists.

Silver Creek High School is the only school in the East Side Union High School District offering a Telecommunications program. In just 12 weeks, students will have already learned enough to design networks. In addition, the Silver Creek website is currently being redesigned by a student design team in the telecommunications department.

### ***Business***

This path features a combination of language studies, principles of international trade with a focus on business, and cross-cultural communication. This includes organizing, managing, and marketing a global business; geography; economics; and world cultures. Also included are units on personal finance and career exploration. An integral component of this path is at least two years of study in Japanese, French, Spanish, or Vietnamese.

A student will have a vast understanding of business and communication with employees and employers from other countries. Having this understanding, a student will have a myriad of career choices. Career path courses include: Introduction to Business, Foreign Language, AP Human Geography, and one of the following: Accounting, Marketing/ROP, or Work Experience.

Students participate in many extra activities as part of the Business program. Just a few examples would be: SAGE (Students for Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship), Next Gen Business Plan Competition, and NFTE (Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship) Business Plan Competitions. SAGE is an international non-profit organization that Silver Creek students participate in whose charter is to link secondary school student organizations to mentors from local universities and businesses. Its

purpose is to advance youth business and social entrepreneurship in an ethical and socially-responsible manner. Participating students create businesses; develop business plans, marketing collateral, presentations, etc.

## ***Forensic Science***

The Forensic Science Magnet Program is a career path which introduces students to the study of forensics, the science that examines evidence and solves crimes for presentation in a court of law. Students are instructed on how laboratory scientists analyze physical evidence, document evidence during laboratory analysis, and present results during testimony upon request of the attorney, and are taught the theory, concepts, and application of a full-service crime laboratory, which includes physical science, documentation examination, toxicology, a fingerprinting unit, and photography.

As just one example of how the Magnet Program offerings fold in a variety of learning opportunities for its students, during the 2009-2010 school year, the Forensics Science Program students at Silver Creek High School set up their own, “CSI: Silver Creek” Day on campus. The forensics class set up 12 different stations in the quad, each with a different forensics science topic. Some topics that were covered were drug analysis, DNA, forensic anthropology, blood spatter analysis, fingerprints, vehicular accident analysis, trace evidence, and ballistics.

Approximately 600 participating students got a chance to extract DNA from strawberries, identify different drugs, and use evidence to identify the age, gender, and height of a victim. After learning about all of the topics, they put their new knowledge to the test in actual crime scenes that were set up by the forensics students. They also took their own fingerprints and analyzed them. The purpose of the whole event was to introduce students to forensics through fun, hands-on activities that would possibly interest them in a career in a scientific field.

\* Note: A fourth Magnet Program, Legal Studies, is being discontinued with the 2010-11 school year. Currently enrolled Legal Studies magnet students will complete their participation but no additional students will be admitted.

## **CCOC**

The Central County Occupational Center (CCOC) offers courses within 12 industry sectors where junior and senior high school students can explore and develop technical skills that will lead them to higher education or into the workplace. CCOC students spend part of their day receiving specialized training in a variety of fields.

Students enroll in one of the three-hour programs listed below and attend three classes at Silver Creek High School. Students earn 15 credits each semester for successful completion. Because vocational classes are activity classes whose goal is to develop employable skills and characteristics, students must have good attendance. CCOC provides students with training that will enable them to enter the work force, attend technical schools, or continue their vocational career path at the community college level. The main areas of training at CCOC are automotive, business, construction, cosmetology, electronic technology, culinary arts, health, mechanical maintenance, public service and visual communication.

The programs at CCOC are open to 16-year old juniors and seniors. Students may sign up to attend the AM session (7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.) or the PM session (12:30 – 3:30 p.m.). Transportation from Silver

Creek is provided.

Descriptive brochures are available in the Counseling Office & Mini-Career Center.

Automotive Technology

*Auto Body Repair & Refinishing, Brakes & Alignment, Engine Repair & Transmissions, Truck Mechanics, and Tune Up & Electrical Systems*

Building Technology

*Air Conditioning/Refrigeration/Heating, Cabinetmaking, Carpentry, and Electrical Maintenance*

Business Technology

*Administrative Assistant, Probation and Legal Careers, Managerial Accounting, Office Assistant, and Small Business Management*

Engineering/Industrial Technology

*Computer Aided Drafting, Computer Technology Careers, Robotics/Engineering Technology, Metals Technology, and Precision Machining*

Health and Community Services

*Dental Assisting, Forensic Investigation, Health Occupations, Law Enforcement, Medical Assistant, Medical Office Careers, Veterinary Assistant*

Visual Arts

*Animation, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Multimedia, Video Production*

Culinary Arts

*Baking and Catering*

## API Scoring

The Academic Performance Index (API) is an annual measure of test score performance of schools and districts. **Currently, the API is calculated using results of the STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) program and the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).** The California Department of Education (CDE) calculates the API and disseminates the results directly to schools and districts as well as posting them on the CDE website (<http://api.cde.ca.gov/>)

The API is a single number on a scale of 200 to 1,000 that indicates how well students in a school or district performed on the previous spring's tests. **An API is calculated for the whole school plus its "numerically significant subgroups," including socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, and students with disabilities.** *It is worthwhile to note that schools with high percentages of these categories, such as SCHS, traditionally have lower API scores than schools that have low percentages of English learners, low-income and greater percentages of ethnic diversity. In SCHS's 2010 Growth API, 30% of SCHS test-takers/students were classified as "English Learners", 6% classified as "Students with Disabilities", 49% were classified as socioeconomically disadvantaged.*

The API system is on a two-year cycle that gives a "base" score for the first year and a "growth" score in the second year. The Base API, which is usually released in the spring (for example, 2010), comes from the previous spring's test scores (2009). The Growth API, released in September (2010), comes from 2010 spring test scores.

Schools have two rankings: (1) a statewide ranking that compares each school with all other schools in the state of the same type, and (2) a Similar Schools ranking that compares each school with 100 others that have similar student populations and other characteristics. *Silver Creek High Schools statewide ranking for 2009 was 7, and its Similar Schools ranking was also 7.*

The similar schools ranking compares a school with its peers based on the challenges they face because of student demographics such as:

- Socioeconomic indicators (average parent education, percent of students participating in free/reduced-price meals);
- Percent of students who are english learners (ELs) or have been re-designated as fluent English proficient (RFEP);
- Percent of students from eight different racial/ethnic groups;
- Percent of students with disabilities

Student demographics need to be addressed as they may be barriers to students' success:

- Providing academic assistance to kids who are ill-equipped for basic math and English classes
- Providing motivation to subgroups of students to perform well on STAR tests (one of the key data points that go into the API);
- Communication with parents in multiple languages
- Communication with parents who are not technology-enabled

The California State Board of Education set the statewide API target at 800 out of a possible 1,000. The Public Schools Accountability Act calls for most schools to improve their performance each year by 5% of the difference between their API and the statewide target of 800, with a minimum target of five points' growth. *Silver Creek High School's 2009 Base API was 763. In 2010, the school's Growth API*

was 771. The school exceeded its overall growth target overall, but two test-taker/student subgroups, Hispanic (35%) and English Learner (30%), lost API points. This is important as SCHS must continue to prioritize resources and school-wide focus on narrowing the achievement gap between the traditionally higher- and lower-performing subgroups.

Three other statistically significant test-taker/student subgroups improved on the 2010 Growth API: the Asian subgroup (42%) rose 2 points; Filipino (11%) and Socio-economically disadvantaged students (49%) both rose by 15 points.

Silver Creek High School currently has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest API of the 11 comprehensive high schools in the district. Of note, the other ESUHSD high school in the area (that shares one of SCHS's main feeder schools, Chaboya Middle School), Evergreen Valley High School, ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the statewide API ranking and 4<sup>th</sup> in their similar schools ranking. EVHS's 2010 Growth API was 839. And like SCHS, EVHS met its overall growth target but not all subgroup targets. A few of their stats, their English Learner test-takers/student subgroup was 19%. Their socio-economically disadvantaged test-takers/student subgroup was 15%.

You can go online and look at any school's API data, including the breakdown of their demographics and similar schools characteristics.

Moving forward:

Silver Creek High School has recently gone through their WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation process and as part of that has identified work plans to continue to improve API scores as well as continue to narrow the achievement gap in identified subgroups. The school's ACE Goals provide an umbrella for directing the school's efforts and prioritizations. The ACE Goals reflect that each SCHS student should be empowered to become an Academic Achiever, a Critical Thinker, and an Effective Communicator who interacts cooperatively as a socially responsible citizen in a multicultural and technical world.

## **Department Overviews**

### **English Department**

Silver Creek High School offers a broad English curriculum to meet the needs of its very diverse student body. Students must take 4 years of core, standards-based English courses (1-4) to meet graduation requirements. The English Department also offers Speech, Genres of Composition, Yearbook and Journalism. The English Department offers Honors classes at the Freshman and Sophomore levels, as well as Advanced Placement English Language at the Junior level and Advanced Placement English Literature at the Senior level. ELD students often proceed through English Language Learner and Sheltered English classes.

### ***Raider Review***

The Raider Review is Silver Creek's very own student-driven newspaper. The Raider Review is dedicated to providing a voice for students on the Silver Creek Campus. The staff report activities,

sports, campus and local news, entertainment, and student life. The students write opinions about a wide variety of topics from community issues; and write reviews on movies, music, TV, books, concerts and other programs. There are print editions as well as online editions which are update on a regular basis. The Raider Review back issues are also made available on the school website. The newspaper is also emailed to the local community newspaper, the Evergreen Times, which has facilitated getting Silver Creek High School student-authored news articles into the surrounding community's hands.

### ***Yearbook***

Yearbook is a wonderful creative opportunity for students interested in writing, graphic design, photography and/or learning more about layout design. Students must apply in March and be interviewed in order to be accepted into yearbook for the following school year. Yearbook is a one-year elective class commitment, and a certain amount of extra hours are required outside of the classroom due to deadlines and the need to work in teams. Silver Creek High School students are proud of their school, and the yearbook traditionally has encompassed many aspects of student life beyond academics.

### ***English Language Development (ELD)***

Students with special needs have a wide range of opportunities to receive instruction at the appropriate levels. To assume proper placement in the curriculum, incoming students who indicate that a language other than English is spoken in the home are assessed. To further support the needs of English Language Learner students, ELL classes are taught; additionally, sheltered classes at SCHS are also offered in a variety of subject areas.

### ***English Department course offering summary***

Please refer to the Silver Creek High School Course Catalog for detailed information on each course, prerequisites and additional notes.

#### Core

English 1  
English 2  
English 3  
English 4

#### Honors/AP

English 1A (Honors)  
English 2A (Honors)  
English Language (Advanced Placement)  
English Literature (Advanced Placement)

#### Elective (and program opportunities\*)

Genres of Composition  
Speech  
CAHSEE English support  
Yearbook (under "Visual Arts" in course catalog)  
Raider Review (student newspaper)\*

### ELD (English Language Development)

ELD Language Arts 1

ELD Language Arts 2

ELD Language Arts 3

ELD Literacy 1

ELD Reading Improvement2

ELD Reading Improvement3

## **World Language Department**

Silver Creek High School has an extensive foreign language program. Not only do all of the programs concentrate on basic reading, writing, and speaking of foreign languages, but each program also focuses on the traditions, cultures, and history of each country. We offer French, Spanish, Japanese and Vietnamese programs and AP classes to both strengthen students' native languages and expose other students to foreign languages.

There are many extra-curricular activities available to students involved in these programs. These include trips to other countries, housing foreign exchange students for a visit during the year, participating in cultural events and competitions, and clubs focused on the foreign language as an interest area.

Here are just two examples of the many exciting activities the World Language Department makes available to students in its Japanese language program, Silver Creek's Thunderously Hip Japanese Program (SCTHJP):

Silver Creek's Japanese program students are challenged to take an internationally accredited language examination designed to measure a person's Japanese skills. This test, given on one day around the world by the Japan Foundation and the Japanese Government, consists of a Reading Section, a Listening Section, and a Chinese character (kanji) section. Students who pass the exam are given a certificate ranking them based on their skill with the language; Silver Creek students traditionally have had a much higher percentage pass rate than worldwide pass rate.

The second example is the annual Japan Bowl held in Washington, DC; it is the only competition of its kind in the country and involves teachers and students from across the United States, representing over 60 schools. Teams of students answer Jeopardy-format questions about Japanese language, culture, history and politics in Japanese, taking on schools from all over the country. Preparing students for this competition is time consuming, but also creates a core set of students who go far beyond the material assigned to the classes. Our past Silver Creek High School teams have competed very well against all of the teams that come – many from prestigious, private high schools across the US. Historically, our Japan Bowl teams have placed in the top 10 nationally almost every year for the last 15 years.

There is a French and World Cultures Club, Japanese Club, Latino Student Union, Filipino Student Union and a Vietnamese Student Union which focus on activities such as participating in community

events, furthering students' knowledge of both the language and the cultural history through cultural festivals and sharing in cultural holidays and traditions, and participating in a variety of group bonding activities throughout the year. The Latino Student Union also sponsors a talent night each year, in which all types of performers can show their creativity and cultural passions. Note that there are many other clubs not focused on foreign language classes at SCHS, such as the Cambodian Varigation Union, the Chinese Cultural Club, that also celebrate cultural diversity.

Participation in some (10 units) aspects of Foreign language/Fine Arts is required for high school graduation, and 2 years of foreign language is required for CSU college admission (3 is strongly recommended for acceptance into UC).

### ***World Language Department course offering summary***

Please refer to the Silver Creek High School Course Catalog for detailed information on each course, prerequisites and additional notes.

#### *French*

French 1

French 2

French 3

French 4

French Language (Advanced Placement)

French and World Cultures Club\*

#### *Japanese*

Japanese 1

Japanese 2

Japanese 3

AP Japanese (Advanced Placement)

Japanese Club\*

#### *Spanish*

Spanish for Heritage Speakers

Spanish 1

Spanish 2

Spanish 3

Spanish 4

Spanish Language (Advanced Placement)

Spanish Literature (Advanced Placement)

Latino Student Union – club\*

#### *Vietnamese*

Vietnamese 1 for Vietnamese Speakers

Vietnamese 2 for Vietnamese Speakers

Vietnamese 3 for Vietnamese Speakers

Vietnamese 4 for Vietnamese Speakers

Vietnamese Student Union – club\*

## **Math Department**

Silver Creek students follow a traditional Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II sequence at Silver Creek. There is a two-year mathematics requirement for graduation. When entering Silver Creek, students can opt to challenge a particular math class. If the student passes the challenge test they are placed in the proper higher level math class. A number of our students coming into 9<sup>th</sup> grade begin in Geometry. Silver Creek offers Advanced Placement classes in Calculus AB, Calculus BC and Statistics as well as a number of Math Analysis sections.

For graduation, 20 credits of math (Algebra 1 & Geometry or higher) is required, as well as students passing the California High School Exit Exam. 3 years of math is required to meet admissions requirements for CSU and 4 years is highly recommended for UC college admissions.

Extra resources are provided for those needing additional support. SCHS's homework center meets in the library several days every week. Math tutoring is available, and many teachers provide tutoring assistance and other help.

Of interesting note is that AP Calculus students offer tutoring each year to 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders for their CAHSEE testing. Of those students who participated in this student-led tutoring, 80% passed.

AP Calculus AB and BC have a reputation of remarkable test scores on the National AP exams. In the 2009-2010 school-year, 78% of the AP Calculus AB students passed with the highest pass score of 5 and 95.5% of AP Calculus BC students pass with the highest pass score of 5. The overall pass rate was 100%.

The math department participates in several different math competitions throughout the year.

### ***Math Department course offering summary:***

Please refer to the Silver Creek High School Course Catalog for detailed information on each course, prerequisites and additional notes.

#### Core

Algebra 1  
Geometry  
Algebra 2  
Math Analysis

#### Honors/AP

Core classes can be accelerated with instructor approval/challenge  
Calculus AB (Advanced Placement)  
Calculus BC (Advanced Placement)  
Statistics (Advanced Placement)

#### Elective

Exploring Computer Science

## **NJROTC – Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps**

The purpose of the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) is to introduce students to the meaning of citizenship, the elements of leadership, and the value of scholarship in attaining life goals; engender a sound appreciation for the heritage and traditions of America, with recognition that the historically significant role of sea power will be important in America's future; and develop in each cadet a growing sense of pride in his/her organization, associates, and self.

The Naval Science curriculum includes leadership, seamanship, oceanography, meteorology, astronomy, navigation, and electronics. The curriculum and instructional activities within the NJROTC program at SCHS develop the high school student's ability to lead and motivate others and instill a strong sense of citizenship. SCHS offers the only Navy JROTC program in the ESUHSD district.

Silver Creek High School's NJROTC was recently awarded "Distinguished Unit" status for the 08-09 school year. The 2009-2010 school year's team was recognized as being one of the top high school NJROTC units located throughout the United States and overseas. All of the Navy's JROTC units compete annually and they are ranked according to their degree of excellence attained in administration, academic performance, military proficiency and host school support. SCHS's NJROTC unit has been extremely active throughout the 09-2010 school year in performing extracurricular activities and providing numerous community services in the school's local area. The unit also makes numerous public appearances and consistently wins awards for participating in parades, drill meets, and a variety of other competitions including: marksmanship, athletics and academics.

NJROTC students develop their self-discipline, self-confidence, and leadership skills to help them successfully meet life's challenges regardless of their chosen career paths. NJROTC is a 1, 2, 3, or 4-year program. Formal classroom training is supplemented by orientation visits and field trips to various military facilities to enhance classroom studies. Outstanding graduates of the program are eligible for Nomination to attend the US Naval Academy located in Annapolis, Maryland or one of the other service academies. They may also be awarded a four-year scholarship to attend a college or university that offers a Navy ROTC program. The NJROTC program is also a great opportunity for those Silver Creek students who may be interested in the military as a post-graduation option to learn more about the military. NJROTC promotes better student achievement in other classes as well.

### ***NJROTC course offering summary***

Please refer to the Silver Creek High School Course Catalog for detailed information on each course, prerequisites and additional notes.

#### **NJROTC (Navy Junior ROTC) Courses**

Naval Science 1  
Naval Science 2  
Naval Science 3  
Naval Science 4

## **Performing Arts Department**

SCHS has a very active and diverse performing arts program, which includes drama, music, choir and dance. A new multi-purpose theatre arts building has already had committed funding, and will be under

construction at the end of the 2010-11 school year, with a full stage, new music classrooms and new dance studios! The completion of this new building will further facilitate the many performing arts options and activities students will have.

Currently, SCHS performing arts students participate in many school events, as well as outside performances. School events include: rallies, concerts, pep band (football games, assemblies), Spirit Week, Homecoming, Winterfest and parent/community events such as Back To School Night, Freshmen Welcome, etc. Formal performances are also held each year across all areas of the performing arts program. Members of the various groups are expected to study and practice outside of class, participate in performances outside of class, and may be asked to purchase an identifying t-shirt and/or outfit.

For students seeking even greater exposure to the theater, there are usually two musicals offered by audition only. During the 2009-2010 winter season, "Seussical the Musical" featured 60 students in two separate casts.

All of the performing arts students also participate in many fundraising activities in order to fund their many exciting events. One example of the type of opportunities the performing arts students have is the Disneyland trip that was held at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. A hundred Silver Creek High School performing arts students participated in a 4 day trip to Disneyland and participated in several Disney-sponsored performance workshops as well as being featured in several actual performances. Dance, Drama, Treble Choir, Concert Choir, and Band classes were represented on the trip.

Participation in some (10 units) aspects of Fine Arts is required for high school graduation, and 1 year of fine arts or performing arts is required at a minimum for acceptance into both UC and CSU college programs.

### ***Performing Arts Department course offering summary***

Please refer to the Silver Creek High School Course Catalog for detailed information on each course, prerequisites and additional notes.

#### *Performing Arts Courses*

Advanced Band

Choir (Concert Choir)

Choir 2-4 (Treble Choir)

Chamber Choir

Dance Survey 1

Dance Survey 2

Theatre Dance 2

Drama 1

Drama 2

Guitar

Beginning Piano

Advanced Piano

## **Science Department**

Silver Creek High School offers a wide range of science classes. In addition to the three standard science courses Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Silver Creek offers a number of AP classes including AP Biology, AP Chemistry and AP Physics. Elective classes also include Physiology, Marine Biology, Forensics, and Biotech.

Silver Creek's Forensics and Biotechnology classes fall under the heading of the Forensics Science Magnet, which is the only one of its kind in the district (see section on Forensics Science Magnet, page 5).

Biotech focuses on using bio-organisms to make a commercial product such as cancer fighting medicine. The course allows students the opportunity to test on various natural products such as plants and marine algae to find a potential cure for cancer. Students are also trained on various laboratory techniques to analyze DNA, study genetically modified organisms, extract bacteria from insects, and clone a plant using micro-propagation techniques.

Forensics is the science that examines evidence and solves crimes for presentation in a court of law. Forensic students learn different techniques to analyze evidences typically left at a crime scene and using all these bits of evidence to help reconstruct the circumstances of the incident being investigated.

Silver Creek Science students are very involved each year in the county-wide Science Fair sponsored by Synopsis. This fair includes both public and private high schools, and SCHS has many participants as well as winning future scientists. In the past year (2009-2010), 900 East Side Union High School (ESUHSD) students from 7 different high schools within the district submitted 450 science projects as part of sciencepalooza!, a joint venture of the ESUHSD and the non-profit Synopsis Outreach Foundation. 102 of the total 450 projects came from Silver Creek High School, and 36 of those won an award. A student from Silver Creek High School was awarded an Einstein Award which earned her an invitation to participate in the county-wide Synopsis Championship event. In addition, a SCHS science teacher won the Special Achievement by a Teacher Award, for encouraging SCHS students to produce such exceptional science projects. Silver Creek High School was also recognized as one of two schools to split the Synopsis Award for Outstanding School.

### ***Science Department course offering summary***

Please refer to the Silver Creek High School Course Catalog for detailed information on each course, prerequisites and additional notes.

#### Core

Integrated Science 1

Biology

Biotechnology

Chemistry

Physics

#### Advanced Placement

Biology (Advanced Placement)

Chemistry (Advanced Placement)

Physics (Advanced Placement)

### Elective

Forensic Science

Marine Biology

Physiology

See Forensics Science Magnet Program

## **Social Sciences Department**

Silver Creek has a diverse array of offerings in its social science curriculum, which spans basic graduation requirements, several unique electives and a very challenging set of AP courses. There are three years of Social Science classes required for graduation. The required courses include a year of World History/Cultures, United States History and a semester each of American Government and Economics. The Social Science Department also offers a variety of elective courses including Cultural Studies, Geography, Law & Society, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology and Social Problems. The department also offers a variety of Advanced Placement courses including AP World History, AP United States History and AP American Government, AP European History, AP Human Geography and AP Psychology.

There are a variety of clubs on campus which focus in the social sciences arena, such as Junior Statesmen of America and Californians for Justice.

### ***Social Sciences course offering summary***

Please refer to the Silver Creek High School Course Catalog for detailed information on each course, prerequisites and additional notes.

### Core

American Government

Economics

Law & Society

Philosophy

Physical Geography

Psychology

Social Problems/Sociology

United States History

World History

### Advanced Placement

American Government (Advanced Placement)

European History (Advanced Placement)

Human Geography (Advanced Placement)

Psychology (Advanced Placement)

United States History (Advanced Placement)

World History (Advanced Placement)

## **Student Government/Leadership**

Many students that are involved with the student government at Silver Creek High School are in a leadership class. The structure of the government includes the Executive Council, consisting of elected officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Spirit Leaders) from the ASB and from each of the four grade levels, the Supreme Court, and a variety of commissions that are responsible for organizing and running different events and programs. These commissions include Athletics, Audio Visual Technology (AVT), Events, and Community Relations. The Executive Council and the commissions put on dances, rallies, spirit weeks and other events. Outside the leadership class exists the Inter Club Council. This group is charged with organizing all club events and being an important link to the numerous clubs on campus. This program provides a wide range of opportunities to develop and use leadership skills and is an outstanding training ground for tomorrow's leaders.

Officers are selected to serve for one year, representing their classmates in official events as well as working to provide a lively, equitable, and entertaining atmosphere on campus, while being instructed in and working in leadership positions within the school.

Working closely with the Leadership class and coordinated through this class are the numerous clubs on campus. Clubs are formed through student interest, advised by certificated staff members, and chartered as mandated by the student constitution, district and state guidelines. These clubs provide innumerable options for student involvement on campus, providing places for students to learn to juggle, find community service options, or share their heritage with one another. With over 30 active clubs with student leaders guiding their activities, these clubs provide an invaluable resource for students to practice their leadership skills and find and make their individual niche on campus.

While the Leadership class provides a place to hone skills and learn the work involved in representing and working for the student body and the clubs provide a number of dissimilar options for student involvement, Silver Creek also provides several options for the entire student body to become involved. Most notable of these are the annual Homecoming night rally, "Winterfest" talent show, and Fantastics class competition. Homecoming and Fantastics provide options for anyone to participate in grade-level competitions of skits, games, float-creation, and other activities. The entire student body is invited to take part as a means of bonding with their classmates, channeling their energy into school pride and learning valuable skills such as teamwork and time management. Winterfest serves as an open invitation for our uniquely talented students to showcase their skills before the student body, staff and parents. With acts regularly spanning from singers and bands to gymnastics to various ethnic dances, this event provides a forum for students to celebrate their individual diversity and recognize their skills. A "Silver Creek Idol" Contest is also held during lunchtime each year. Through these events we invite our student body to participate and recognize the energy and potential of student mobilization, taking a hold of their educational experience and helping positively shape the culture they exist in at Silver Creek High School.

Clubs are formed through student interest, advised by certificated staff members, and chartered as mandated by the student constitution, district and state guidelines. These clubs provide innumerable options for student involvement on campus, providing places for students to learn to juggle, find community service options, or share their heritage with one another. The school hosts some 30 active clubs, consisting of academic (i.e., California Scholarship Federation), special interest (i.e., Anime Club, Film Club, Video Game Club, etc), service (i.e., KEY Club, Interact Club, Conservation Corporation, etc), sports (i.e., Juggling Club, Sports Club, Breakdancing Club, etc) and so on. New

clubs can be formed at the beginning of the school year and are a great way to meet new people who share similar interests and develop invaluable leadership skills. The SCHS teachers and staff encourage an active and diverse group of extracurricular activities.

## **Visual Arts**

The Visual Arts program consists of several different areas of focus: Art, drawing and painting, crafts, and photography. There is also a yearbook class, which encompasses all aspects of design, photography and writing for the school's yearbook.

The goal of the visual arts program at Silver Creek High School is to help students become aware of the many forms art takes and to explore some of these areas for both production and appreciation. Students will learn to paint, draw, and sculpt in the Art 1 class, and the focus will be expanded to include additional drawing and painting in the subsequent Drawing and Painting courses. Media covered are oil, acrylics, watercolors, pencil, pen and ink, pastels, printmaking, and mixed media. In Drawing and Painting, students will also learn about and experiment with different painting styles such as realism, impressionism and abstraction.

In Crafts, student will learn design fundamentals and apply these fundamentals in the creating of projects in various craft media. This includes some of the following: clay, batik, jewelry, and wood crafts. The student will also learn about the cultural and historical background of some crafts.

Photography is a basic course in photography. Students will learn to use a 35-mm camera, and learn black and white photography processes such as film developing, printmaking and special effects. Digital photography is explored along with the history of photography.

A photography class highlight each year has been an activity entitled, "A Day In The Life of a Silver Creek Student". This event celebrated its 10th year during the 2009-2010 school year. Students photograph student activities inside and outside the classroom on one day, from dawn to dusk. A photography class calendar was actually created in the 2008-2009 school year, with a different student's photo on each month. This was used both to recognize the great talents and creativity of the students, but also to raise funds for more photography equipment for the school.

Participation in some (10 units) aspects of Fine Arts is required for high school graduation, and 1 year of fine arts or performing arts is required at a minimum for acceptance into both UC and CSU college programs.

### ***Visual Arts course offering summary***

Please refer to the Silver Creek High School Course Catalog for detailed information on each course, prerequisites and additional notes.

#### **Visual Arts Courses**

Art 1

Crafts 1- 3

Drawing and Painting 1- 3

Photography 1 - 2

Advanced Studies in Art

Yearbook 1- 2

# Extracurricular Activities

## Athletics

Silver Creek High School has a comprehensive athletics program for all students. All students are encouraged to tryout for their favorite athletic team. The school publishes their sports schedule in the annual Silver Creek High School calendar that each student receives at the beginning of the year, as well as posting games and sports rallies on the school's website.

Fall Sports consist of: Cross Country, Football, Girls' Tennis, Girls' Volleyball, Girls' Water Polo, and Boys' Water Polo

Winter Sports consist of: Girls' Basketball, Boys' Basketball, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, and Wrestling

Spring Sports consist of: Badminton, Baseball, Softball, Swimming, Boys' Tennis, and Track and Field

The Silver Creek Athletic Booster Club (SCABC) recently re-established itself during the 2009-2010 school year. These parent volunteers have built up a core team of parents and students and have held a number of fundraisers to raise money for the athletics programs. Fundraisers have included a Pasta dinner, selling snacks at athletic events, Homecoming and Back to School Nights, assisting with the Hampton Phillips track event as well as designing and selling Silver Creek Raider Athletics t-shirts and sweatshirts. They also promote eScrip within the school and community. All funds from eScrip flow to our young athletes! The booster club is eager to get additional parents, support and assistance! Unfortunately, fundraising to retain sports at Silver Creek - and at most public high schools throughout California - will no longer be a luxury to help pay for extras but will become a necessary aspect of maintaining high school sports.

SCHS hopes to continue the sports program with the same level of teams that have been available this year and in the past, but ultimately, the decision relating to the program's future is that of the East Side Union High School District's Board of Trustees. In March 2009, the trustees decided that after school sports needed to be "self-funded". The entire cost for after school sports now needs to be generated by "pay to play" donations, along with donations from the community and district-wide fundraising such as the 5K Fun Run to be held annually in the Spring. Additionally, each school's athletics department and athletics booster clubs will continue to schedule their own independent fundraising events.

## Cheerleading

The cheerleading program is a strong and long standing tradition at SCHS. The cheerleaders show their school spirit and support for their fellow classmates by cheering and performing at football games, basketball games, and various other school/sporting events throughout the school year. In addition to their commitments to the school and the community the program competes on a regional and national level. Tryouts for the cheer team are in late April/early March. For more information please feel free to contact SCHSCheerCoach@hotmail.com .

## **Clubs**

Clubs are formed through student interest, advised by certificated staff members, and chartered as mandated by the student constitution, district and state guidelines. These clubs provide innumerable options for student involvement on campus, providing places for students to learn to juggle, find community service options, or share their heritage with one another. The school hosts some 30 active clubs, consisting of academic (i.e., California Scholarship Federation), special interest (i.e., Anime Club, Film Club, Video Game Club, etc), service (i.e., KEY Club, Interact Club, Conservation Corporation, etc), sports (i.e., Juggling Club, Bike Club, etc) and so on. New clubs can be formed at the beginning of the school year and are a great way to meet new people who share similar interests and develop invaluable leadership skills. The SCHS teachers and staff encourage an active and diverse group of extracurricular activities.

### ***Academic Clubs:***

#### **National Honor Society (NHS)**

The National Honor Society (NHS) is an academic club. Hard work and outstanding determination are needed to become eligible for membership in this prestigious group. In addition to maintaining high standards of scholarship, each applicant for NHS must demonstrate not only outstanding character, but past and present service and leadership in school and in community services as well.

Based on each student's prominent characteristics, teacher recommendations are given to the NHS selection committee for consideration and evaluation each fall. New members are notified of their acceptance and inducted into membership at the traditional candlelight ceremony. Membership in this organization is an honor and testifies to the dedication of the students involved.

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Membership in NHS not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

Four main purposes have guided chapters of NHS from the beginning: "To create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools."

#### **California Scholarship Federation (CSF)**

CSF is a statewide organization for students who achieve mostly A's and B's on each semester's report card. The organization is committed to service to the school and the community.

The application process begins approximately two weeks after the beginning of each semester. All prospective members must apply each semester. Students are admitted based on a point system. Points are given for grades: A's=3, B's=1. A minimum of 10 points is required for eligibility. Additional requirements are: two or more A's and B's in college prep courses. C's do not count in the points required for admission. Absolutely no D's or F's are allowed on any report card.

## *Service Clubs*

**Key Club:** A Club that seeks to instill the values of leadership, volunteerism, and character building in the hearts of its members.

**Interact:** An International organization of service and social clubs that fosters leadership and responsible citizenship and promoted international understanding and peace.

**Conservation Corp:** Participate in events at SCHS and the surrounding community such as planting trees, cleaning up local parks, beaches, and creeks, and showing everybody that teens can go green!

## *Interest Clubs*

**Video Game Club:** A group of video game enthusiasts that meet to play games, introduce new games, analyze plot and generally have fun!

**Filipino Student Union:** An organization focused on learning about the culture, language, and history of the Philippines to connect the roots of the past to the present for a better future of their culture.

**Young Entrepreneurs Club:** A group focused on teaching the youth of America to become successful in the business world.

**Black Student Union:** Focused on promoting community involvement and high academic standards.

**Aware:** designed to spread knowledge of the many calamities faced by innocent people around the world, as well as lend a helping hand to the people who suffer from such injustices.

**Chinese Cultural Club:** participates in cultural events, goes on field trips, and promotes the awareness of Chinese culture by organizing CCC night.

**Vietnamese Student Union:** consist of group bonding activities, cultural festivals and planning events focusing on the Vietnamese culture.

**Gay-Straight Alliance:** The club's goal is to spread awareness and tolerance about homosexuality.

**Cambodian Varigation Union:** The goal is to spread the Cambodian culture to all ethnicities.

**Latino Student Union:** The LSU serves the Latino community through community and school events, furthering student's knowledge of Latin American history and display its commonly celebrated holidays and colorful culture.

**Juggling Club:** Our mission is to teach people how to juggle regardless of their ability, race, gender, height, weight, or shoe size. Because it is a great way to exercise the mind and the body, entertain yourself and others, and meet a lot of interesting people along the way.

**French and World Cultures Club:** Combination of creativity and wiliness to learn about various world cultures.

**Californians for Justice:** We fight to ensure everyone will have a quality education.

**Junior Statesmen of America:** Dedicated to serving the community in functions such as helping in elections and voicing student political opinion.

**Japanese Club:** Promotes the spread of Japanese culture through participating in school events and organizing trips to Japanese related events.

**Bike Club:** strives to build a cycling community not only in our school, but in the whole East Side of San Jose.

## **Campus Life, Student Services & Community Support**

### **Counseling**

The counseling department at Silver Creek High School is an incredibly bustling place, with a steady stream of students and parents, all facing questions and challenges as they deal with a mountain of choices and decisions throughout the high school years. At Silver Creek, counselors are assigned to each class level. Drop-in services for students in the main office are given on first-come first-serve at-large basis during break or lunch.

Students are provided grade-specific class counseling several times a year, enabling them to be proactive and motivated in their academic progress. These visits cover such things as academic advisement, college planning, application process, financial aid information, graduation status, course scheduling and the like. Our students know what they need to accomplish to go that next step, whether that be selecting coursework that makes the most sense for them to meet their academic goal (whether that be simply graduating or attending a 4 year university), signing up for the PSAT, or evaluating their options for a vocational program to get them into the work force.

At risk students are identified, an intervention plan developed, and they are monitored. One-on-one parent conferencing helps enhance a student's chance at success. Our counselors become role models for many students. Our counselors are a major resource to our teachers; and a source of good information on many things to our parents.

High school can be an enjoyable and worthwhile experience if the student is willing to participate and make the necessary efforts to succeed in his or her classes. The counselors are there to help students meet the goals they set for themselves. The partnership between home and school makes a big difference in a students' success.

### **Healthy Start**

Silver Creek High School is very fortunate to have Healthy Start on its campus, a support program that provides outreach to students and families who are struggling with family, personal, and social issues. These issues might include divorce, a death in the family, drug and alcohol use, teen pregnancy,

relationship issues, anger, depression, and many other teen issues that can negatively impact academic performance and healthy choices.

The Healthy Start Program has been at Silver Creek for nearly 20 years. It began as a grant funded program, and then became a regular part of the tapestry of school services, supported by school funding. Over the years, many County services and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have donated hundreds of thousands of hours in services to our students and parents, hoping that they will make a difference and help our students to find academic, social, and personal success. We see over 600 different students each year which translate into helping over 12,000 youth since the inception of the program.

Some of the agencies that provide services to Silver Creek include Pathway Society, Gardner Health Center, AACI (Asian Americans for Community Involvement), Catholic charities, EMQ Children and Family Services, Ujima Adult and Family Services, San Jose State University Intern Program, Starlight Community Services, Juvenile Probation, and Social Services.

You might be thinking that Healthy Start is a program that only works with high risk students, but on the contrary, we see many students who are in high level classes, perform academically, and participate in many school activities. These students are not exempt from stress, family problems, and temptation to make poor personal and social choices. The providers in Healthy Start believe that all students deserve a chance to be successful and feel good about attending school.

The Healthy Start Program works in tandem with academic counseling, the discipline team, our school psychologist, and all staff to ensure that our students receive a quality education and are informed about alternative support services when needed. The teachers at Silver Creek are committed to academic excellence, but also recognize that a healthy mind and spirit are necessary for student success.

## **Mini-College Center**

There is resource office in the main administration building which houses the new (in 2009-2010) “mini”-College Center. In this office students will find information on colleges, scholarship information, financial aid information and college testing information and forms (SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, etc). There is also some information on military careers and summer programs, internship opportunities and information on the CCOC (Central County Occupational Center). Additionally, there is an internet-capable PC for use by students during break and lunch to use for college research purposes, financial aid application purposes, scholarship search and the like. The school hosts presentations by representatives from various colleges and universities and posts that visit information in Schoolloop. Parents volunteer in the mini-College Center to maintain up-to-date information and post relevant information (scholarship availability, College Fair info, etc) on Schoolloop.

## **Parent Participation**

### **For Middle School/Prospective Parents:**

The local middle schools typically schedule a day for their students to visit SCHS. New parents wanting to tour the school, or to schedule a shadow day for your 8<sup>th</sup> grade/new student, please contact the school office. The SCHS administration is always willing to have parents and/or community

members visit the campus as long as they check-in with the front office. Visiting classrooms is permissible but must get prior authorization from administration. Silver Creek's PTSA also holds an informational Open House each spring for incoming students and parents.

The Silver Creek website is in the process of being re-designed by the web design students; new information will be published as it becomes available. A general email contact id for queries can also be sent to [SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net) and we will try to route your email to the appropriate individual at the school in order to assist you.

### **For Current SCHS Parents:**

Current SCHS parents have many opportunities to visit and support the school year-round. Each year the school hosts many events, such as Back to School Night, in which parents can meet teachers and staff, tour the campus and enjoy student-led activities such as musical performances, juggling club performances, etc. A school calendar is distributed each year which details all school events, PTSA meetings and other forums of interest happening on the campus. Additionally, the school website is a good resource.

PTSA, school site council, the athletics booster group, parent coalitions (African-American, Hispanic and Vietnamese), participation at school fundraisers, attendance at school performances and sports events...there are many ways parents and community members can get to know SCHS! Check out school loop for communications and regularly email your child's teachers! Regular meetings for most of the SCHS parent organizations are pre-scheduled and posted on the annual calendar and on the website calendar as well. There are many active alumni groups available on the web and on Facebook! Get involved!

### ***PTSA***

The Silver Creek High PTSA (Parent-Teacher-Student Association) is a great place for parents to get involved and have a positive impact. You can participate in a variety of school activities and programs, while your membership dues directly support our kids' experiences and opportunities at Silver Creek. The PTSA is very involved on our campus. The organization focuses on fundraising, promoting the school in the community, assisting with on campus projects, giving input on facility improvements, offering assistance to clubs, offering an annual college scholarship, and much more.

Here are a few ways the PTSA has helped out at SCHS:

- Providing funding for the sophomore class to hold a Winter Wonderland Christmas Craft Event for our community and our neighborhood kids.
- Helping out at Homecoming, and raising funds through a food booth at the event.
- Supporting a positive presence on campus by supporting programs that put parents available on the campus during lunchtime.
- Helping in the college & career center; posting scholarship and other college prep info on school-loop.
- Providing pre-Prom refreshments.
- Coordinating and volunteering at Senior Honors Night.
- Arranging career related presentations for Creek students be given by parents in that career field.
- Assisting with the funding for student enrichment programs and student travel to these events –

- such as Japan Bowl and national music and choir festivals.
- Helping at sporting events and with student clubs on campus.
- Proctoring student exams; assisting in the library.
- Assisting teachers with grant writing; publicizing SCHS to local newspapers.
- Fundraising events

Various committees may be created within the PTSA to focus on important topics. One such committee is the Beautification Committee.

### **PTSA Beautification Committee**

“...beauty is a silent but powerful force that makes communities safer, healthier and more livable.”  
Keep America Beautiful.

All Silver Creek High School families and community members are welcome to help support the PTSA Beautification Committee. The mission of this group is to improve the physical beauty of the Silver Creek High School campus to reflect the academic success of its students and show the students how much they are valued in this community. The group coordinates planting flowers and decorative landscaping on the Silver Creek High School campus as well as improving on the attractiveness of the Silver Creek High School campus in other ways. The group's goal is to involve all members of the Silver Creek High School Community: students, future students, alumni, teachers, parents, siblings, caring neighbors and businesses.

Projects are posted on School Loop throughout the year. Silver Creek High School students can participate through school clubs to fulfill their community service hours. With prior registration with the Silver Creek PTSA, middle school students can participate in scheduled projects with their parents or school group to earn community service hours.

The PTSA Beautification Committee also accepts donations to fund its efforts.

The PTSA Board meets once a month during the school year with General Meetings held approximately every other month. Special presentations and/or topics of interest, such as Teen Driver Safety, are occasionally featured at General Meetings. PTSA meetings can be found on the school calendar and are announced in School Loop. The organization also maintains a yahoo group and Facebook page.

Please become a PTSA member along with your daughter/son, too! The money the PTSA earns with memberships is used to help with student programs that could otherwise not happen due to funding. Besides becoming a member, there are many other ways you can help! The PTSA's email address is [SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net) .

### ***School Site Council***

The School Site Council is the guiding force behind the success of the school plan. The composition of the council is established by the state and allows for a well represented group which is reflective of our student population. The School Site Council serves all students by ensuring equal access to the core curriculum for all students as well as developing programs to assist special needs students and evaluating the effectiveness of supplemental programs. It is the responsibility of the council to monitor,

support, and evaluate program projects. The School Site Council is also empowered with creating a prioritized list of campus renovation improvements which have been made possible by Measure A, Measure G and Measure E Bond funding. School Site Council is comprised of teachers, parents, students, and administrators. The School Site Council may be the most important committee in the entire school. The Council preserves justice and democracy at the School Site. The Council meets one day a month from 5:30-6:30 in the library (the specific dates are posted in the annual calendar and on the school website calendar).

### ***English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)***

The purpose of ELAC is to provide opportunities for parents to give advice and assist the school in the decision-making process concerning programs for English Learner students. The committee shall advise the principal and staff in the following four areas: The development of the school plan for English Learner instructional programs submitted to the School Site Council; Conducting the school's needs assessment; information on the administration of the school's language census and implications for the school site as to staffing, student placement, instructional programs and special programs to prevent any academic deficits; and Efforts to make parents aware of the importance of regular school attendance.

### ***Silver Creek Athletics Booster Club (SCABC)***

The Silver Creek Athletics Booster Club (SCABC) recently re-established itself during the 2009-2010 school year. These parent volunteers have built up a core team of parents and students and have held a number of fundraisers to raise money for the athletics programs. Fundraisers have included a Pasta dinner, selling snacks at athletic events, Homecoming and Back to School Nights, assisting with the Hampton Phillips track event as well as designing and selling Silver Creek Raider Athletics t-shirts and sweatshirts. They also promote eScrip within the school and community. All funds from eScrip flow to our young athletes! The booster club is eager to get additional parents, support and assistance! Unfortunately, fundraising to retain sports at Silver Creek - and at most public high schools throughout California - will no longer be a luxury to help pay for extras but will become a necessary aspect of maintaining high school sports.

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Contact the Silver Creek Athletics Booster Club (SCABC) at [scabc@att.net](mailto:scabc@att.net) for more information!

### ***Tools for Improved Parent-School Communication***

SCHS uses the same Schoolloop.com system for homework posting and grade reporting and it is utilized by many middle schools in the local area, so it is a familiar and helpful tool for parents. Schoolloop is also used extensively for posting school news, and provides for student, parent, teacher and staff email communication via its email posting capabilities.

The school also uses Teleparent.net for telephone-based, recorded communication to parents. This tool can send messages to parents in their home language.

A calendar of school days for the ESUHSD is available for download through the district's website ([www.esuhd.org](http://www.esuhd.org)). A school calendar is provided to each student at the beginning of the year and can also be viewed on the Silver Creek website. The school calendar contains a lot of great info about the school, the athletics schedule, major activities (dances, other events), etc.

The school is re-designing its website to provide regular and improved communication to students, parents and community members. We regularly place articles of interest in the local newspaper, the Evergreen Times. The school posts time-sensitive and informative event info on the school marquee. Parents/guardians are informed of students' academic progress at least six times a year through progress reports and grades. Many of our written communications sent home to parents are translated into Vietnamese and Spanish, our two major parent primary languages other than English. The school hosts various on-site events for parents and community members including: Freshman orientation, Back to School Night, Parent Education Forums, Financial Aid Night and College Night and classes for Spanish-speaking and Vietnamese-speaking parents.

## **Safety**

Every high school, both public and private, has external community issues which can intrude onto campus without proactive measures in place. What SCHS does as a school is to prevent the activities from occurring on our campus. Our associate principal of administrative services, Ms. Tammy Maddox, is in charge of attendance and discipline on the SCHS campus. Her team makes every attempt to identify issues or persons of interest that are becoming discipline problems on campus, and they also extend that to beyond the school boundaries into the surrounding community. Her team also works with the SJ Police Dept to coordinate efforts to keep SCHS and its surroundings safe. At lunch and during after school functions there is additional school staff focused on providing supervision services.

The school maintains a school safety plan, which is reassessed and updated each year by the School Safety Committee, which is composed of teachers, staff, administrators, students, parents and interested community members. It can be reviewed by the public. The plan consists of a well communicated (to the student population), strict discipline policy which encompasses everything from attendance to dress policies.

SCHS students are proud of their school, and the incidence of graffiti, vandalism or other issues is minimal. Many students volunteer time to clean and beautify the campus, including members of various clubs and classes.

For additional information related to SCHS safety, please contact Ms. Maddox at [MaddoxT@esuhd.org](mailto:MaddoxT@esuhd.org).

## **Special Needs Program**

Students with Special Needs at Silver Creek have a wide range of opportunities to receive supplemental services such as tutoring, counseling and support programs. The Special Education Department gives services to students with different learning disabilities, speech and language impairments, hearing

impairments, autism, and other health impairments.

The department is made up of 9 credentialed special education teachers, and paraprofessionals, one adaptive physical education teacher, one psychologist, two speech therapists, and a district program specialist. Some of our students are placed in mainstream classes where they receive the proper accommodations to succeed.

## **Help SCHS – Community Support**

Check out the PTSA section on the Silver Creek High School website (you can find it via the “Contacts” page on the website) to see different ways you can help SCHS students. There are a lot of ways you can help, either on campus or from home.

One of the PTSA’s major fundraising activities is promoting various “community partnership” programs. These are mostly FREE programs that let parents and community members easily help the school.

### **Lucky, Save-Mart, FoodMaxx groceries SHARES Card:**

All you have to do is get a SHARES card from Silver Creek’s PTSA (stop by the admin office or email us at SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net and we’ll mail you one) and have the store scan the card every time you shop. It is not a credit card, so you can still use your own favorite credit/debit card, cash or check. SCHS gets 2-3% of your purchases! It really adds up!

### **Dining Fundraisers:**

Dining Fundraisers are held every other month at restaurants in the community. This is really a great partnership between schools and local restaurants, as the cook in the family can take a night off and the restaurant donates a portion of your transaction to the PTSA. For dates, locations, and flyers, please watch the "News" section of school loop. In the future, we hope to get the information posted on the school website as well.

### **eScrip: (just link your Safeway grocery card to SCHS, & the school makes money!)**

After you register your Safeway grocery card, or your credit cards and debit/ATM cards on the secure www.eScrip.com website, up to 5% of your purchases at merchants like **Safeway, Pak n Save, Staples, Macy’s and Round Table** (and there are many more) will be donated to Silver Creek High School!

This program does not cost you a thing and registration is easy (and free!). Just go to www.eScrip.com and follow the instructions to sign-up. Silver Creek High School’s ID# is 7206124. The money that SCHS receives from eScrip is currently allocated to the school’s athletics programs. Even if you have designated a previous school to gain these funds, you can easily re-designate Silver Creek High School to be your current school of choice! (eScrip also allows you to split donations across multiple schools).

**Target** (requires use of a Target “RedCard”, either Target Visa, Target credit card or Target check card, which is a debit card linked to your existing checking account)

Go to www.target.com, and click “Take Charge of Education” near the bottom. Enter school ID # 30807 in the space provided. That will take you to a page that will show you how much money Target has donated thus far, and if you scroll down, you can then link your existing card to Silver Creek or it

also gives you the option to sign up for a card. Once your card is linked, a percentage of your purchases is donated to the school!

### **Office Depot - 5% Back To School Program**

Every time you shop for basic school supplies at Office Depot, tell them you want to have Silver Creek High School get credit for your purchase! That's all you have to do! 5% of qualified purchases will get credited to SCHS! (Some restrictions apply)

### **SUBWAY - School Rewards Program**

If you are a frequent Subway customer, you can link your reloadable Subway card to Silver Creek High School, and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the school. It is easy to do. You just need a Subway card, and you can then go to [www.Subway.com](http://www.Subway.com), click on Subway School Rewards and you'll be prompted to find "Silver Creek High School" to link it to your card. Easy and delicious!

### **Jamba Juice – School appreciation card**

Get a free Jamba Juice card from [SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net). Have it swiped every time you purchase a Jamba Juice and the school earns 10% of your purchase (with another 2% going to the National PTA)! The more you sip a delicious Jamba Juice the more our students earn!

### **What about your own employer?**

Many companies, like CISCO, have employee donation matching...if an employee makes a donation to the school, he/she might be able to get their company to match the donation by just asking if they have such a program!

For more info please email, [SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net) .

## **About This Document**

The intended audiences for this document are:

- Parents/families of children (especially middle-school age students) wanting to learn more about the school
- Community members interested in learning more about the positive attributes of the school and/or interested in supporting Silver Creek High School student endeavors

This document is meant as a companion piece of the "Course Descriptions and Program Offerings" catalog that is published by the school each year for its students. The Course Descriptions document lists every course offered by the school that year, along with the pre-requisites for each course, as well as how each course satisfies both Cal State and UC California acceptance criteria.

This document, along with a color brochure and articles (written for the Evergreen Times), was created by a Silver Creek High School senior as his Boy Scout Eagle Project during the Spring of 2010.

The documents can be found on the Silver Creek High School website and will be updated by the PTSA on an ongoing basis. Questions? Email us at: [SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net) .