

STERNE

LOWER SCHOOL



Discover how you learn.

Explore your strengths.

Find your place.

It starts at Sterne.

Bring Joy to Learning

Achieve your potential.

Fourth grade marks the transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” For students with literacy, math, and attentional challenges, school can feel overwhelming. Sterne’s strengths-based, nurturing approach focuses on the abilities and interests of these young learners. A dynamic, project-based learning model provides opportunities for students to receive support as they solve problems, apply creative thinking strategies, and discover the joy in learning. Dyslexic learners benefit from phonics-based, structured literacy intervention in small groups and in whole-class models.

5:1

ratio of students
to teacher
for grades 4–8

300+

hours of interactive,
hands-on STEM
curriculum annually
in grades 4–8

We’ve got your back.

Academic interventions are part of our integrated learning model so that minimal scaffolding from the outside is needed—no “pull outs” or “school after school.” For dyslexic students, our Sterne READS intervention program integrates support within English Language Arts classes. This inclusive design provides individualized support while keeping students connected to their classmates, teachers, and grade-level curriculum. Social-Emotional Learning is a vital component to middle school, and we provide a thematic, experiential SEL framework that teaches vital skills and promotes self-awareness, further enhanced by peer mentorship programs, counselor-led groups, and community-building activities.

34

unique social
emotional learning
activities every year

60%

of Sterne
students receive
dyslexia support





Pursue your passions.

Students with athletic and artistic aspirations thrive at Sterne. A majority of our students participate in a competitive or club sport and we provide opportunities for athletes of all stripes and abilities. Students develop physical and mental strength, self-confidence, and a team ethos—life skills that extend far beyond the gym.

Likewise, our cutting-edge arts facilities and exceptional instructors are instrumental in guiding students to pursue their artistic passions. From the studio to the stage, in front of the camera and behind the scenes, creativity and self-expression are always center stage at Sterne.

65%

of Sterne students participate in an organized competitive or club sport

70%

of Sterne students are active in a visual or performing arts class or program



Discover your place.

Learning comes alive when students expand their horizons. Curriculum-based experiential trips and Expedition Days provide hands-on experiences that deepen understanding, connecting Sterne students to cultures and communities throughout the Bay Area and beyond. Back on campus, celebrating uniqueness is a core value, and our clubs and affinity groups allow students to explore interests and pursue their passions. Traditions such as pep rallies, talent shows, dances, concerts, movie nights, Spirit Week, and more highlight school pride and connect the Sterne community.

12+

clubs and affinity groups every year for Middle School students

60+

experiential activities outside the classroom every year



It starts here.

Founded in 1976, Sterne moved into our “forever home” at 838 Kearny Street in 2017. Our vibrant urban campus is located in the heart of San Francisco, where the Financial District, Chinatown, and North Beach neighborhoods converge. We’ve expanded and enhanced our facilities with a new science lab and visual arts studio as well as a cutting-edge performing arts and athletic center that includes a recording studio, film lab, music room, black box theater, and a full-size gymnasium. These spaces come alive with student concerts, art exhibitions, athletic competitions, assemblies, dances, pep rallies, and social events that bring students and families together and strengthen our close-knit community.

24

zip codes
represented

23%

LGBTQ+
families

52%

self-identified
students of color

2017

year we signed
a 99-year lease
at 838 Kearny

52%

families
receive tuition
assistance

7,000

square feet of
outdoor
play space

These statistics reflect grades 4–8

Since 1976, Sterne has been building on the foundation of individual strengths to discover and nurture each student’s version of greatness.

STERNE
SCHOOL 50
YEARS

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Sterne School admits students of any race, color, and national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, or sex in the administration of its educational and employment policies, admissions policies, financial aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

