

SINGLE GENDER CLASSES

SPS core instruction is in single-gender classes, with one boys' class and one girls' class per grade level. SPS students have the opportunity to socialize and learn with students of the opposite gender during lunch and recess as well as during other social/recreational activities. Students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade also have the opportunity to learn with students of the opposite gender during activity classes (art, music, P.E., yoga, character education and foreign language).

The bulk of the research (see, for example, Finn, 1980; Hamilton, 1985; Lee and Bryk, 1986; Lee and Marks, 1990; Riordan, 1990; Trickett and Trickett, 1982) supports that single-gender education is superior to coeducation on traditional measures of academic achievement and on behavioral and social variables as well. For example, graduates of single-gender schools are more likely to go to competitive colleges and more likely to aspire to graduate school or professional school. Boys and girls in single-gender schools are more likely to:

- be better behaved
- find learning more enjoyable and the curriculum more relevant
- have a significantly more positive attitude toward learning
- have more confidence in their abilities
- develop better organizational skills
- be more involved in classroom activities