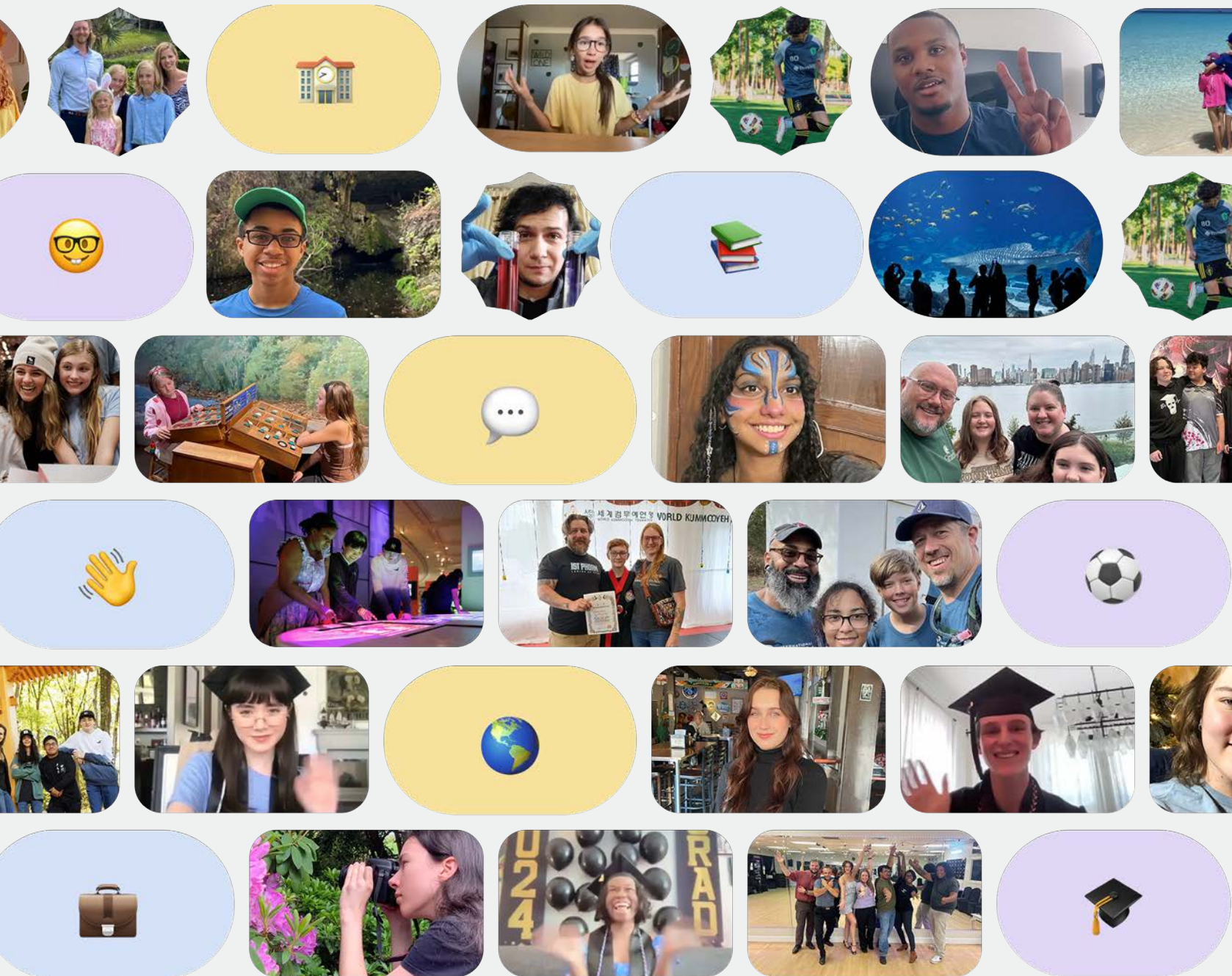




The Future of School





"THE FACT IS THAT GIVEN THE
CHALLENGES WE FACE, EDUCATION
DOESN'T NEED TO BE REFORMED—IT
NEEDS TO BE TRANSFORMED."

—SIR KEN ROBINSON

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Dear Prospective Sora Family,

There is no institution more vital than school, nor one more needing reinvention.

School is traditionally built on repetition and rote memorization, but now machines and Artificial Intelligence are very good at that. If students are to thrive in this new world, they need a fundamentally different skill set. They don't need to compete with machines; they must become more human.

At Sora, while memorization still has a place in learning, the internet has significantly weakened its power. Previously, skilled labor was driven by knowledgeable individuals recalling the proper facts or equations for the problem at hand; now, however, the most important skills include fully understanding the context of the problem, asking the right questions, and locating credible sources of information to answer them. The ethos of a liberal arts education—teaching students how to think—has never been more relevant.

This is why Sora was founded.

We've developed a new way of learning—a humanized system that helps students engage critically and thoughtfully with the world we share, that equips them with the ability to explore life in a meaningful way to them, whoever they are.

This is Sora. While your student is with us, we aim to challenge their intellect, embrace their curiosity, and propel them forward into the future.

We hope you'll join us.

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Wilson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Christopher Wilson
Head of Schools

Sora's Mission and Vision

At Sora, our mission is to deliver a transformative learning experience that empowers middle and high school students to thrive in the modern world. By blending live, interactive classes with independent, flexible focus time, we create a unique environment where students can engage deeply with their learning, pursue their passions, and grow alongside like-minded peers.

Our approach prioritizes academic excellence, social development, and real-world preparation, fostering a dynamic and inclusive community where every student is inspired to achieve their unique goals.

We know traditional schools don't work for everyone—but we believe education can and should be different. Drawing from decades of experience in pioneering schools, we've seen how transformative a learning environment can be when it prioritizes real-world relevance, collaboration, student choice, and low-stakes, mastery-based assessment.

Sora is the first private school to bring this proven, innovative approach into the online space, offering students unparalleled flexibility without compromising on academic rigor or personal growth.



YOUR PERSONALIZED LEARNING JOURNEY

How Is Learning at Sora Different?

Learning how to think has never been more relevant.

At Sora, we do things differently than the traditional school system. Some of the key differences include:

Inquiry-Based Learning

Inquiry-based learning empowers students to ask questions and investigate real-world problems.

Voice and Choice

Students are happier and more engaged in school when they own their journey and choose how they demonstrate their learning.

Teachers as Guides

Our faculty work alongside students like performance coaches, helping them grow and deepen their understanding and mastery.

Mindsets over Memorization

No matter how well young Albert Einstein learned the rules of math or physics, he would never have revolutionized our understanding of the universe had he not been curious or rebellious.



Our curriculum is Interdisciplinary

In the real world, you'll encounter math in the context of social studies, language arts in the context of science, and countless other combinations. So why wouldn't those subjects interact when you learn them at school?

Sora's program breaks the barriers of traditional school "subjects" and allows students to explore and master essential skills across traditional academic disciplines (like math and history). Students will take interdisciplinary classes like **Let's Jam: The Music of Math** and **Sora vs Wild**.



Our curriculum is Meaning-Based

Meaning-based learning encourages students to make personal connections with their new knowledge and answer 'why?' not just 'what?'. Sora students think about the meaning of their learning, not just how to demonstrate it in their final projects.

As a student, the more you understand the meaning behind the pressing challenges of the world and the opportunities they offer, the more you will connect in your own life. This leads to richer learning and real-world action and influence. Students make connections to find deeper meaning in classes like **Snacking Rationally** and **Innovating with Integrity**.

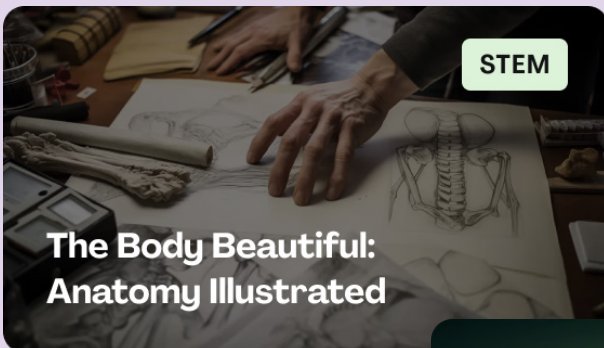
Classes Students Crave

As you can tell, Sora's classes are not like traditional classes found in most public, private, and online homeschool curriculums. Instead of the lecture-based, content-driven format, Sora's classes are active, hands-on explorations of interesting topics, where students meet to engage in interactive learning activities.

Each class lasts twelve weeks. During that time, students work to answer a guiding question by acquiring relevant content knowledge and engaging in a variety of learning formats. These can include group discussions, research, hands-on activities, and more!

At the end of each cycle, students apply their knowledge and acquired skills and demonstrate what they know by submitting a project-based deliverable.

Because our offerings evolve each year, students get to explore a wide range of classes—for example:



Students Drive Their Education

We believe students should own their education, so we've flipped the curriculum allowing students to choose what and how they learn based on their interests.

At Sora:

You're in the driver's seat of your education. Students have a say in what they learn and how they want to pursue their interests & goals.

You play the most critical role in your learning journey. Students must stay on track, be professional, manage their time, show up, and follow through on completing their work.

You'll practice real-world learning. Students won't learn just one subject at a time. Instead, they'll explore a variety of subjects together in ways that apply to the real world!

You are more than a number. At Sora, there are no grades that mark the endpoints of learning. Instead, we recognize that learning is continuous, and show student progress through Mastery Levels.



Customize Your Sora Journey

Learning experiences at Sora go beyond live classes; our students also have access to various asynchronous (or independent) learning opportunities like independent study and dual enrollment.

Independent Study allows students to pursue projects they propose, design, and complete in practically any area of interest. This could be almost anything: writing and recording an original song, building an online boutique, designing the prototype for a more comfortable pointe shoe, and so much more! The independent study process looks slightly different from middle school to high school and is designed to support students academically and developmentally as they progress through Sora's program.

Additionally, students can earn college credits while working towards their high school requirements through **Sora's dual enrollment program**. We've partnered with 21 institutions and local community colleges so you can explore a variety of courses related to your interests and goals.

A Unique Model

Through their classes, independent studies, and dual enrollment experiences, students are working to master core curricular components, which we call units and abilities:

Units

Units represent what you know. Using state standards we have distilled traditional school subjects into their smaller parts. Units address each subject that a student must master for graduation, such as cell biology, polynomials, the US Constitution, and the politics of literature.

Abilities

Abilities show what you can do. Abilities grow with students over their time at Sora, and each ability should be demonstrated a number of times to practice applying them in different situations and under different circumstances. These include project management, designing solutions, and effective communication.

Middle School at Sora

The middle school curriculum comprises a series of academic units revisited during each year of the middle school experience. Curricular units are designed to provide foundational experiences in key academic disciplines, allowing for deeper learning as they are revisited and expanded upon within middle school and into later years, including high school and beyond. Key abilities are also tied to each learning experience. This model allows for spaced repetition of thematic topics and concepts, promoting long-term retention of skills and allowing students to build upon prior knowledge each year while maintaining a balanced and well-rounded academic experience.

Middle School Requirements

English Language Arts

American Literature: Fiction
American Literature: Non Fiction
World Literature: Fiction
World Literature: Non Fiction
Creative Writing
Expository/ Persuasive Writing

Science

Chemistry
Physics
Life Science: Organisms
Life Science: Ecosystems
Earth and Space Science
Environmental Science

Social Studies

Founding the US
World Changing and Current Events
World Geography
Cultures/ Religions
Historical Activism
Diversity and Ancient Civilizations

Math

Mathematics at Sora is sequenced and integrated, meaning students will complete a sequence of mathematics-focused classes, practicing the math units and skills by level. The math classes available to middle school students are Math Essentials, Math Foundations, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. Students are placed in math levels based on their previous experiences/transcripts and a placement assessment.

PE

To be completed independently with parent/ coach verification.

World Language (Optional)

Through Sora's partnerships, middle school students have access to a wide range of world language options, allowing them to earn high school-level credit.

Abilities

Designing Solutions
Investigating
Project Management
Quantitative Reasoning
Reading
Speaking and Listening
Writing

High School at Sora

Through our interdisciplinary, meaning-based, student-led approach, our high school program enables students to explore and master essential skills across traditional academic disciplines. Simultaneously, they learn to tackle unfamiliar challenges, embrace diverse perspectives, and generate innovative solutions.

High School Graduation Requirements

English Language Arts (4)

3 credits must be World Literature A, World Literature B, American Literature

4th credit options include Journalism, Creative Writing, and Rhetoric

Science (4)

3 credits must be Biology, Chemistry, Physics

4th credit options include Anatomy and Physiology, Earth Science, Environmental Science, and Oceanography

Math (4)

3 credits must be Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2.

4th credit options include Precalculus, Calculus (with a Precalculus prerequisite), and Statistical Reasoning

Social Studies (3)

3 credits must be US History, World History A, World History B

Mentorship

In the 11th grade, students participate in the Mentorship Program. In this program, they are supported in selecting a potential career field of interest, identifying a mentor in the chosen field in their local community, and scoping a capstone project.

Capstone Project

In the 12th grade, students engage in a Capstone Project, which allows them to explore further an issue or topic within their field of interest while making a contribution to their local community. The Capstone Project will also reflect their time at Sora Schools and culminate in a showcase presentation before graduation.

World Language (2)

Students have access to a wide range of world language options through external partners, allowing them to earn high school-level credit.

PE

To be completed independently with parent/ coach verification.

Health (0.5)

Personal Health, Healthy Living, Physical Fitness

Abilities

Analyzing History
Designing Solutions
Effective Communication
Primary Research
Secondary Research
Quantitative Reasoning
Reading Critically
Writing

We Measure What Matters

Traditional education is designed to be unnecessarily stressful. You won't find endless worksheets or high-stakes tests at Sora. Instead, we employ a mastery-based assessment system where students choose how they want to demonstrate their learning and can overwrite any score at any time.

We meet these needs while still staying true to “The Sora Way,” which motivates students to explore and pursue their interests, promotes reflection and improvement (not anxiety), and portrays an accurate measurement of a student's mastery.

Throughout their journey at Sora, students can always resubmit work, so their progress and development is in their control. Assessments are not final until graduation, so students always have the opportunity to revisit any work they were previously assessed on and enhance their mastery scores.



Stay On Track With Sora Home

Every student works with their advisor to visualize their whole Sora journey and how their learning choices map to their future life goals. While students primarily make choices based on their interests, our custom software ensures their plans keep them on track for graduation and academic success.

Stay in touch with faculty

Sora Home is the one-stop shop for connecting with faculty. If you or your student have questions about an expedition or assignment, contacting the faculty is a breeze.

Understanding your student's progress

Easily see how your student is moving through the curriculum and staying on track to their graduation goals.

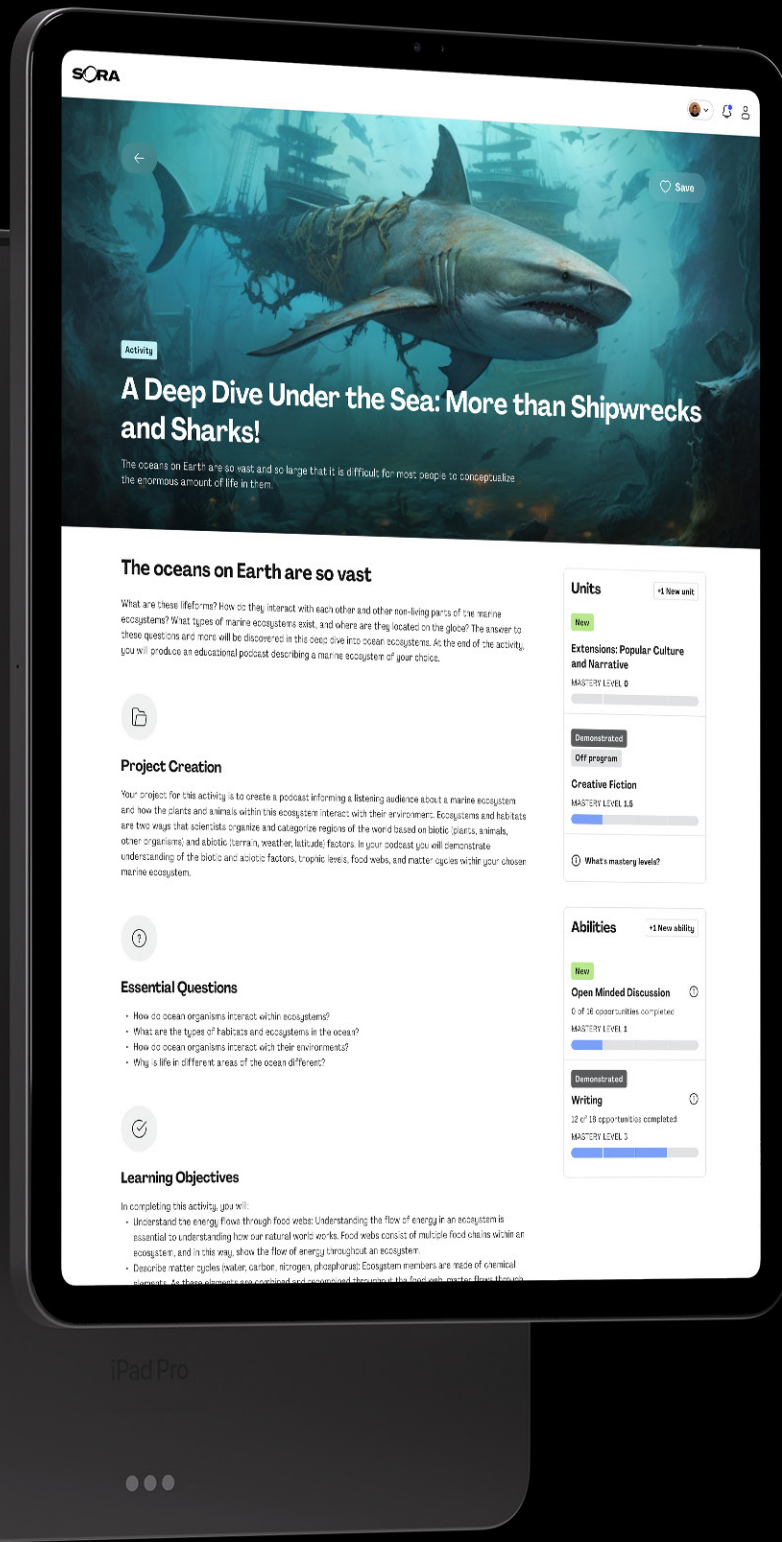
Empower students to review their work

We believe in putting students in the driver's seat of their education. They can review their collection of work to compile it into a portfolio for college or job applications.

UX DESIGN AWARDS

product
2024

Sora Home won
the 2024 UX
Design Award
for innovative
learning
experience
management
platforms.



Daily Life at Sora

Sora has live classes and office hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Students have the flexibility to choose from two time blocks—**Morning or Mid-Day**—or mix and match to create a schedule that fits their needs.

Wednesdays are dedicated to community-building, featuring club meetings, school assemblies, and time to catch up on projects or meet with teachers one-on-one.

Sora students also have daily House Meetings with their faculty advisor and other students in their house, providing a supportive space to check in, track progress, and build friendships.

Example of a Morning Block schedule:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 MORNING 9-12:20 EST ✓ STEM or Humanities ✓ STEM or Humanities  Math  House Meeting	 MORNING 9-12:20 EST ✓ STEM or Humanities ✓ STEM or Humanities  Math  House Meeting	COMMUNITY DAY Club meetings, 1:1 support etc.  Club Block	 MORNING 9-12:20 EST ✓ STEM or Humanities ✓ STEM or Humanities  Math  House Meeting	 MORNING 9-12:20 EST ✓ STEM or Humanities ✓ STEM or Humanities  Math  House Meeting
MIDDAY BLOCK 12:30-3:50 EST	MIDDAY BLOCK 12:30-3:50 EST	 House Meeting  Assembly  Club Block	MIDDAY BLOCK 12:30-3:50 EST	MIDDAY BLOCK 12:30-3:50 EST

Learn From Anywhere

Sora families benefit from membership in an expansive and diverse school community. In recent years, **our families have represented more than 45 states and 15 countries**—and the list keeps growing.

Sora families also have the flexibility to learn from practically anywhere, whether at home or on the road. We have families who travel across the country or even worldwide, using their travels to pursue their academic interests and earn credit. One student studied French and European history for a month in France with his parents, while another explored off-grid living in Oregon.

Additionally, whether our families are nomadic or just frequent travelers, many of our students connect in person with one another as they make their way around the country and the world!



World-Class Faculty

When it comes to your student's education, you want to know that their future is in competent, capable, and caring hands. Sora has some of the best faculty in the world who work with our students to fully engage with all the fantastic educational experiences our curriculum offers.

They are experienced in relating learning to the real world, motivating students to excel and ensuring they can provide the most innovative, relevant, and student-centered learning experience.

When selecting faculty, we look for educators who have excelled at driving students to new heights and have demonstrated a commitment to their open lifelong learning. We value faculty with extensive and diverse backgrounds in both teaching and learning. Our faculty have experience applying learning and knowledge to real-world projects, just as we hope our students will do.

The diversity of our faculty and students comes from being online. We have built an award-winning team of international faculty. Your student will be working with genuinely world-class faculty, and very few schools can say that.



Advising

In addition to developing and facilitating learning experiences, Sora's faculty also serve as student advisors, ensuring that our students succeed at Sora and beyond.

Advisors serve as students' accountability partners and mentors. They provide the resources students need to succeed academically, as well as the development of personal and professional skills. Advisors monitor a student's goals, connect them with resources like professional mentors and partners, and communicate with parents to ensure they receive the support they need to thrive.



VIBRANT
COMMUNITY

Global School, Local Feel

Connection and community are at the heart of our school culture. Our remote learning environment feels human and authentic, not distant and isolated—a place where students can connect, support, and inspire one another.

One of the benefits of a Sora education is the opportunity for students to be a part of an incredible and diverse peer community. Our learning environment becomes more transformational and unique as our community unites young people from all over the world. We know that with so many backgrounds, perspectives, and beliefs present at Sora, learning is enhanced and enriched for everyone because of the lived experiences and identities of our student body.

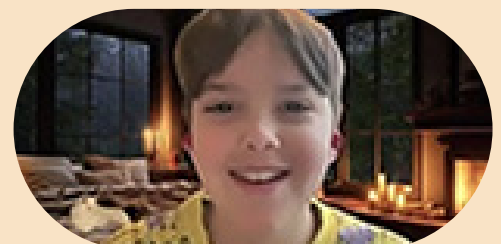
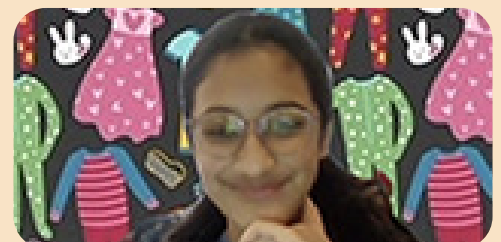
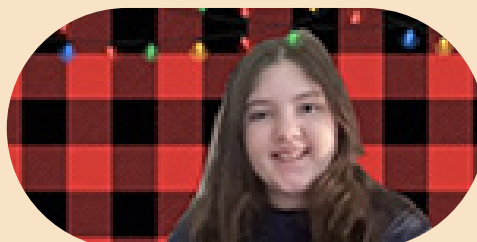
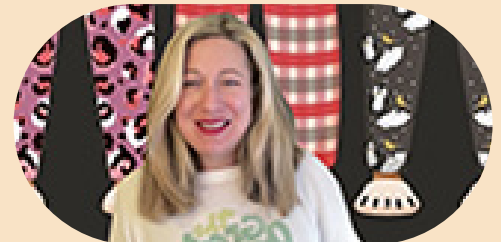


Student Houses

Our remarkable faculty and thoughtful curriculum actively challenge and engage Sora's students. We aim to ensure students are wholly supported academically, emotionally, and socially, and that's where houses and house advisors come in.

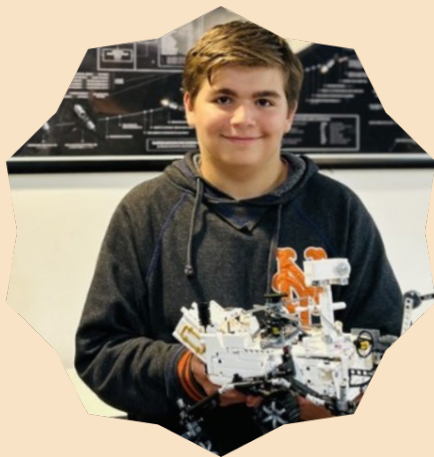
Houses are small groups of mixed-grade level students organized by time zone and daily schedule blocks. Each house is led by the faculty house advisor and supported by elected student house representatives. Houses provide excellent opportunities for students to build connections and foster a unique house culture. As a part of a house, students participate in pop up challenges, spirit week competitions and have a dedicated channel on our virtual community platform to connect with their housemates.

Houses meet every day and utilize the time for announcements, connections, and an advisory curriculum that covers various topics helpful to student success.



Student-Led Clubs

Clubs are one of the most popular student life activities, and at Sora, the possibilities for student clubs are nearly endless! All clubs are student-generated, student-led, and based on student interests ranging from art to gaming to the LGBTQ+ community and beyond. Clubs give students opportunities to self-organize and pursue their interests with other like-minded peers.



Extracurriculars

The fun doesn't have to end after the school day! Students can also join our extracurricular activities led by Industry Coaches.

Drama is led by a Broadway, television, and film actor in New York City, and **Debate** is led by an esteemed coach with over ten years of experience! Debate and Drama programs are open to both Middle and High School students, while our title-winning **Esports** program is exclusive to High School students. Led by a top .02% coach with collegiate championship experience, the esports team consists of organized multiplayer video game competitions. Our esports team even has opportunities to compete at in-person competitions.



Parent Community at Sora

Sora's vibrant community is not just for students! For families, we facilitate many opportunities to connect with other guardians near and far while engaging in a school community that cares about their students' education. We offer regular Parent Town Halls, a Parent Program series that provides ways to support your student, and everything from a book club to a parent support group.

Parent Road Map

An essential recurring meeting with School Leadership and the Curriculum and Product Teams during which current and future school plans are shared and discussed with Sora's parents.

Sora Talks

Monthly events bringing outside experts to discuss timely topics in education and parenting, giving families tools and inspiration to support their students.

Parent Support Group

Sora's new Parent Support Group is a recurring event designed by Sora families to connect, share experiences, ask questions, and support one another.

Parent Crafting Corner

For all artists—from writers to knitters and candlemakers—we offer a casual virtual meet-up to show off what we're creating, get ideas for future hobbies, and give encouragement.

Conversations with Campus Leaders

Grab your coffee and join Sora's Head of Schools, Chris Wilson, and School Directors, to hang out with no specific agenda to chat and connect!

LIFE

AFTER

SORA

Who Do Sora Students Become?

To fulfill our mission of empowering students to flourish and thrive through an education as meaningful and unique as they are, we aim for graduates to enter life after Sora possessing seven traits, which we call our portrait of a graduate.

Growth Mindset

Believing that all of your skill and knowledge can be improved through hard work.

Meaning Making

Constructing your personal narrative and grounding your actions in the impact you aim to have on the world.

Metacognition

Recognizing your own thought processes and patterns and blasting through them to achieve your goals and to make things easier in the future.

Agency

Taking ownership of your life. Shaping your narrative around what you can influence and control.

Curiosity

Discovering the things that excite you and dedicating the space, time, and resources to explore them, with the wonder of a child.

Positive Sum

Helping others to thrive by supporting their successes and being equally dedicated to seeing these habits flourishing in your peers, as you are in yourself.

Connection Seeking

Producing new knowledge by connecting what you already know to new experiences and information. The human brain is a relevance-finding machine!

Prepared for College and Career

At Sora, we aim to prepare students for the next chapter in their lives, no matter what that might be. For most students, a four-year university is the right choice. For others, an apprenticeship or trade program may be a great fit. Some others may take a gap year, start their own business, or directly join the workforce.

The Life After Sora Program is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Sora families can choose how they navigate college and career counseling, with access to workshops, resources, and sessions on vital topics such as financial aid, scholarships, essay writing, applications, portfolio building, and the college transition.

In addition to scaffolded support every year beginning in eighth grade, the Life After Sora Counselor works closely with students and families to better understand their goals, identify options, assist in crafting compelling applications, acquire letters of recommendation, and more.

As part of the college admissions process, Sora produces a clear transcript outlining credits earned. Our transcripts showcase what students learned at Sora and highlight their unique strengths and any notable project work. This format is informed by the Mastery Transcript Consortium, used by hundreds of schools worldwide, and is positively received by college and university admissions offices.

College Successes

Our graduates consistently score in the top 25% on standardized tests like the SAT. 95% were accepted to their top three-choice colleges, and we have maintained a college acceptance rate of 98% for our graduating classes.

Sora graduates are well-prepared for collegiate studies and have been accepted to some of the best universities in the world.





Tuition & Affordability

50% of high school parents say they would choose a different school for their child if location and price were not a factor. We believe a quality private school education shouldn't be out of reach for admissible students.

To prepare students to explore the world, our school community should reflect the real world with a diverse student body that is representative of all socio-economic backgrounds. To achieve this goal, Sora seeks to enroll families who understand and embrace the mission of Sora regardless of socio-economic background through our Flexible Tuition Program.

Flexible Tuition is a need-based tuition assistance program. This program allows both middle school and high school families to apply for reduced tuition, taking their financial circumstances into account and making a Sora education affordable to qualified students who could not otherwise join our school community.

43%

of Sora families benefit from
the Flexible Tuition Program

\$6,000

Average grant per student

\$100,000

Median annual household income for
families receiving Flexible Tuition



Ready to take the next steps?

Scan the QR code or visit
soraschools.com/admissions

