

Some Stories of Former Students and Graduates of Sacramento Valley School:

One boy's family moved away from the school just as he was about to enroll. He hitchhiked across the country and made arrangements to live with an uncle locally while he attended the remainder of his high school years.

One former student left because her family moved after attending for four years. She ended up going into a traditional high school and excelling. She was specially selected from a group of 700 international and American applicants into a partnership program to develop a brand new college of engineering including the curriculum, student activities, classrooms and whatever needed to open the Olin College of Engineering. Her mother attributes her SVS experience of designing her own education as the perfect foundation for this honor her daughter received.

One student left public education before he became a radical militant in search of revenge for the violence he felt from the current system of education. He had found a brochure from the school which showed him that there was a school which offered freedom, equality, democracy and a chance at a real education. He experienced astonishment that students, children, people of younger and his own age could function in an environment of total self determination - . all of a sudden, the world mattered and all the people in it. The artifice of self government was paramount to this student learning at SVS. He learned how to actively listen to another person's ideas, consider them objectively on their merits and contribute to the refinement process without being confrontational. He is now is a father of two. He supports his family in the computer industry. He is a poet, and a permaculturist, . He recently enrolled into a Masters program for sustainable architecture after years as an autodidact.

After blossoming into who she was, one student left SVS as a graduate and finished four year college.

One founding student was a leader here at SVS. He attended for a few of his high school years then left and returned to home schooling. He enlisted in the Army and has seen many tours of duty. He has been to Iraq as well.

One graduate of the school left and happily became a mother of three children.

One student left the school without a diploma, worked for a couple of years, enrolled in Junior College and transferred the University of Santa Cruz where she finished her college education and graduated.

Another founding student attended the school until she graduated. She has sampled life, taken some college courses, and worked in different environments including as a child care provider. She has a home based business and is enrolled in college to study cosmetology.

One graduate was convinced by his friend to attend SVS. His friend had been attending for a few years and invited him to visit a couple of times. After long discussions, he enrolled and attended his last two years of high school. After graduating, he went on to junior college where he began to participate in theater productions. He continued working and attending college and refining his theater skills. He attended UC Irvine to complete his college education. Along the way he started an improvisational comedy troupe and has performed in productions locally. He is currently working & performing in Long Beach, CA.

Another founding student was a leader in the school and attended for five years before graduating. She worked after leaving SVS and moved to Oregon to continue her education.

One boy's interest in theater was pursued before during and after attending SVS. He graduated and went on to many more productions locally and in junior college. He transferred to a Stephens College in Missouri and graduated. He has performed in New York and various Summer Stock productions. When he is not in a play, he is a waiter in New York.

One graduate left SVS to live in a kibbutz for a year in Israel. She traveled extensively, attended Art school in Memphis, Tennessee majoring in sculpture – metal & clay. She transferred to the San Francisco Art Institute where she will graduate soon and is getting married this month.

Another boy who graduated from SVS went on to the working world. He moved to Florida for a few years then returned to California.

One student who attended SVS for 11 years graduated and enrolled in Junior College. She did not learn to read until she was 11 or 12 but was asked by her college English professor to tutor other students in English in her first year of college. She enjoys many sporting activities. She received the Outstanding English Student award in May 2006. She is attending Cal Poly next year to study early childhood education.

Another graduate from SVS went on to junior college where he is still attending. He plays water polo.

Another founding student who attended SVS for 11 years decided to work for a year after her graduation from SVS. She enrolled in junior college. She found the transition from SVS to college to be easier than she thought. She was invited to join the Phi Theta Honor Society. She sings and performs in local theater productions, attends college full time and works in a dinner theater.

One graduate from the school moved out of her parent's home immediately after her graduation. She moved to Grass Valley where she worked some and attended college. She studies photography.

One founding student who attended SVS for 10 years decided to test if what his mother said was true and enrolled in a traditional school setting. Like everything else he mastered, he finished high school and graduated at 17. He applied for and was accepted in a trade school for diesel mechanics. He works in a welding shop locally.

Another student who attended the school for 2 or 3 years, decided to leave without a diploma and develop his glass blowing business in Oregon.

A recent graduate who attended SVS for five years has attended junior college and began founding another private school for young children. She lives and works locally.

Each student gathers their skills while living her/his life at Sacramento Valley School. Then they leave the school community to establish and align themselves with who they are each taking his/her own unique path.

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