



Daring to Make a Difference

Educators uncovered a hidden achievement gap among Hmong students in our region. Learn about their grassroots effort to create a dramatically different school to meet the needs of this underserved population.



Yav Pem Suab Academy
(Ya Bay Shooa)





DID YOU KNOW?

Yav Pem Suab means
“The future.”

Yav Pem Suab Academy has gone above and beyond to create a future in which all children can meet their potential.

Charting a New Course

The Yav Pem Suab story

by Kate Gonzales

In the Hmong language, yav pem suab means “the future,” but in Sacramento, there was a time when the academic future of Hmong students was dim.

Nearly a decade ago, Sacramento educators uncovered an achievement gap among Hmong students, and a group of innovators set out in search of a solution. After years of hard work, Yav Pem Suab Academy — a public charter school serving scholars in kindergarten through sixth grade — has gone above and beyond to create a future in which all children can meet their potential.

Vince Xiong, founding principal of Yav Pem Suab Academy (pronounced Ya Bay Shooa), was on the task force that identified the academic struggles of Hmong students in Sacramento City Unified School District. For years, Hmong students’ academic data were grouped with all other Asian students. When the task force separated the data, the achievement gap was revealed.

“We’ve crossed the ocean to get here,” Xiong says, noting the struggles Hmong people have faced to get where they are today. After the Vietnam War, many Hmong people moved from Thailand’s refugee camps

to the United States, where they’ve faced cultural and educational barriers. If the community could invest in the future generations of Hmong students, why wouldn’t they?

In 2005, Xiong founded a nonprofit to promote Hmong student achievement. Dr. Dennis Mah, a former principal who founded two other Sacramento charter schools, spoke to Xiong and others about the promise of charters.

“He came in and talked about education, and that one sure way to achieve the American dream is through education,” Xiong remembers. “So that put a spark in our interest.”

The group began to envision their dream charter school, inspired by the idea that they could design a unique school system. They built parent interest and community support through forums, radio interviews and door-to-door outreach, and wrote a charter to outline the proposed elementary school’s priorities and techniques. Those techniques included Body-Brain Compatible Education (which promotes hands-on learning), a longer school year and Hmong language development.

Sacramento City Unified School District approved the charter and, in 2010, Yav Pem Suab Academy (YPSA) opened its doors to 171 scholars on the first day of school. Xiong had personally enrolled 89 of those children at their homes.

In the academy’s first year, scholars had an average score of 556 on the California State Standards Test. The state’s goal for every school is a score of 800, and the two years following YPSA scholars reached that goal.

Today, YPSA serves 420 scholars in kindergarten through sixth grade. The founders formed Urban Charter Schools Collective, the nonprofit that oversees Yav Pem Suab Academy, to create a community of innovative charter schools. While YPSA is the collective’s sole charter school, Mah, board treasurer for the collective, says they plan to build a middle school as need grows. First, they wanted to demonstrate the effectiveness of their approach.

“That was important, to show that community members could make it work — make it work for the kids who were the lowest-achieving in Sac City,” Mah says.

Discover the difference of Yav Pem Suab Academy

What is Yav Pem Suab Academy (YPSA)?

Yav Pem Suab (pronounced Ya Bay Shooa) Academy is a free public charter school that addresses the unique educational needs of Hmong students and other traditionally disenfranchised students in Sacramento. The name means “the future,” and the school has produced well-rounded scholars since 2010.

Who does YPSA serve?

YPSA serves scholars in kindergarten through sixth grade. While the school emphasizes academic excellence among Hmong scholars, children from all backgrounds are welcome. In the 2015-16 school year, 420 scholars were enrolled at YPSA.

What makes the academy unique?

YPSA features Hmong language development and cultural studies for all scholars. The school utilizes the Body-Brain Compatible Education approach to mastery, which features hands-on learning and movement. Academy educators believe learning is an inseparable partnership between body and brain.

What is Urban Charter Schools Collective?

Urban Charter Schools Collective is the nonprofit that oversees Yav Pem Suab Academy. The collective’s founders envision a community of charter schools that enhance educational opportunities for all scholars.

How can I reach YPSA?

- **Online:**
www.ypsacharter.org
- **By phone:**
916-433-5057
- **On campus:**
7555 S. Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95831

PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF



At YPSA, a high value is placed on movement and multicultural experiences. Above: Scholars perform a dance for parents. Right: A dancer with Yeej Huam Dance Academy performs during the YPSA Multicultural Day.

PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES



“What’s good for every kid is good for Hmong kids.”

Lee Yang
Superintendent, Urban Charter Schools Collective



DID YOU KNOW?

The Hmong were American allies during the Vietnam war.

Embracing Diversity, Promoting Excellence

All are welcome at YPSA

At Yav Pem Suab Academy, educators know that scholars learn best when they are free to be themselves and embrace their heritage. While the academy and its umbrella nonprofit, Urban Charter Schools Collective, were founded to address the achievement gap among Sacramento’s Hmong learners, children from all backgrounds are invited to experience this powerful model of education.

The tools and approach the school uses to boost Hmong achievement have a positive impact on all underserved students.

“What’s good for every kid is good for Hmong kids,” says Lee Yang, superintendent of Urban Charter Schools Collective. “It’s just good teaching.”

In the 2015-16 school year, 64 percent of YPSA scholars were of Hmong descent. The Hmong people originate from a mountainous region that straddles Laos, Vietnam, China and Thailand. During the Laotian Civil War, the CIA secretly recruited Hmong soldiers to fight the North Vietnamese Army. After the war, many Hmong fled Laos and settled in Thailand’s refugee camps. The transition was not easy, as Yang knows. He was a young boy when his family settled in Stockton and says it was hard to navigate a new culture, language and customs.

“My survival English phrase that first day was taught to me by my uncle: *I don’t know*,” Yang remembers.

Some Hmong students face academic barriers due to low levels of literacy, cultural values of humility

by Kate Gonzales

and communication gaps between children and parents, and their schools. Yav Pem Suab Academy works to reduce those barriers for all scholars, and Yang’s experience has made him an accommodating superintendent.

“Going through all that, now I have different perspectives when I work with children, especially children who don’t speak English or are just new to the school,” he says.

Scholars gain confidence in the required Hmong language courses, where they learn to read, write and speak in Hmong. The school weaves in sign language and hand symbols to encourage movement and further instill lessons.

They also practice Lifelong Guidelines and LIFESKILLS, two programs developed by Susan Kovalik that encourage scholars to display values like cooperation, trustworthiness and personal best.

One of the most important aspects of Yav Pem Suab Academy is that it is a school that celebrates diversity and honors the background of every scholar. In May, the school hosted Multicultural Day — a Saturday event with food, dancing, performances and traditional outfits. The campus hosts special celebrations for Chinese New Year, Black History Month and more.

“Every single cultural event that we have here, the message is still the same,” says Principal Vince Xiong. “Have integrity and have pride in who you are.”

Global learning, local significance

Did you know that the Sacramento region is home to the third-largest urban concentration of Hmong immigrants and descendants in the nation? For that reason, Yav Pem Suab Academy believes it’s important for children to have a wider understanding of the language and culture.

Every one of the academy’s scholars learns the language, history and cultural heritage of Hmong people through the school’s Hmong Language Development Program. In the long run, scholars gain a leg up in the job market, as there is a need for people who can communicate in Hmong in the education, health care, service provider and other fields.

Each scholar is tested and, based on ability, placed in beginning, intermediate or advanced Hmong Language Development courses. Beginning-level scholars practice learning sounds and patterns in the language, so it becomes easier for them to learn Hmong and other languages in the future.

Intermediate scholars build on some existing understanding of Hmong language, and staff work to develop pride and self-confidence.

Advanced scholars speak and receive Common Core instruction almost completely in Hmong.

While a quarter of students are not Hmong, YPSA’s program ensures every child gains an appreciation of the Hmong culture and our region’s diversity.

Meet the Scholars

Scholar Goes Above and Beyond

by Kate Gonzales

“Every Sunday she can’t wait until it’s Monday ... She loves going to school.”

Lena Fang
Parent of YPSA third-grader
Faith Xiong

Third-grader Faith Xiong enjoys reading, writing and hip-hop dance classes at Yav Pem Suab Academy. She often helps other scholars with their work, as well.

PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES



Third-grader Faith Xiong loves to read, write and hip-hop dance. At Yav Pem Suab Academy, she has had the opportunity to flourish in all these areas. And when there is time left over after her work is done, she offers support to her fellow scholars.

“This school has a lot of programs for the kids to learn and grow,” says Faith’s mother, Lena Fang. She says unique enrichment courses like taekwondo and dance, as well as the school’s required Hmong language classes, stood out when it was time for Fang to select a school for her daughter. “I never had that when I was her age,”

Fang says.

Since kindergarten, Faith has attended Yav Pem Suab Academy, where she has excelled in

math, reading and writing. Her teacher, Pa Foua Yang, says Faith is a strong writer, whether it’s a narrative or opinion piece. She adds that Faith is a role model who goes above and beyond.

“She takes initiative in her own learning,” Yang says. “She always wants to challenge herself.”

The school emphasizes the practice of LIFESKILLS, which include caring and cooperation. Faith lives up to these values, and once she completes her work in the classroom, she is eager to help others.

“She not only talks about it but she displays those LIFESKILLS as well,” Yang says.

Faith loves the hip-hop dance class, and thanks to the great programs at Yav Pem Suab Academy, she looks forward to school each week.

“Every Sunday she can’t wait until it’s Monday,” Fang says. “She loves going to school.”

Support for the Whole Child

by Anna Quinlan

Keelie Brazell knew she wanted a different educational experience for her daughter, Madison. Brazell’s oldest son, now 21, had dropped out of high school following a years long struggle to find the right fit in public school, and she wanted a better outcome for her daughter.

Madison was enrolled at Yav Pem Suab Academy when she was in second grade; three years later, she and her mother haven’t looked back once.

Madison recently gave a speech — in both English and Hmong — at a televised school district meeting regarding YPSA’s charter renewal.

“It’s really just within the last two years or so that she’s shown an interest in thinking about what she wants to be when she grows up,” Brazell says, adding that Madison has shown a lot of interest and aptitude for creative writing during her time at YPSA.

The fifth-grader has also gotten involved with the Anbu Dance Company, a local dance school that

teaches classes at the school and allows scholars the chance to perform on stage at events such as YPSA’s Multicultural Day.

“A couple years ago she would have never gotten up in front of a group to perform,” Brazell says. “[The dance classes] really help children who are shy. It builds up their self-esteem.”

The diversity among scholars and families has also had a positive impact.

“My children are getting a broader view of other cultures,” Brazell says, adding that she notices a high level of parent involvement at YPSA.

Brazell credits the small class sizes and focus on being a productive citizen with the transformation she’s seen in her daughter.

“[Teachers] are so supportive and never judgmental,” she says. “They’re really focused on creating all-around good people and teaching the students life skills.”



Fifth-grader Madison Brazell gained self-confidence through the performance opportunities at YPSA and has thrived since she first attended the school in second grade.

PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

“[Teachers] are so supportive and never judgmental.”

Keelie Brazell
Parent of YPSA fifth-grader Madison
Brazell

of YPSA

Nurturing Tomorrow's Leaders

by Kate Gonzales

Melissa Saechao never imagined her son, Jacob, would run for president. “He did this year and he won, and he’s been doing an amazing job at it,” she says proudly.

Jacob, a sixth-grade scholar at Yav Pem Suab Academy, was elected president of Tiger Society, the school’s student senate, for the 2015-16 school year. He ran to give back to the school he loves so much. He has attended YPSA since he was in third grade and enjoys the school because of the supportive teachers.

“They give you courage and they help you when you’re down,” he says.

Jacob has also learned things traditional public schools do not offer — like Hmong language and culture. Saechao says her son has more confidence and leadership skills, and she likes that he’s getting an expanded worldview.

“You never know someone’s background until you’ve actually learned about it,” she says. “As he’s

older, the more languages you know for any job it’s always better.”

Some of Jacob’s favorite aspects of the school include science, the emphasis on movement and taekwondo. As a scholar in the academy’s accelerated taekwondo program, he helps other students learn the martial art. He’ll soon take the test to earn his yellow belt.

In previous years, Jacob was also a member of the academy’s competitive Anbu dance team, which Saechao says emphasized teamwork and cooperation. But this year, he’s focused on the presidency.

Saechao says she really saw her son’s confidence come out when he made his stump speech to the student body. He performed a dance and was the only candidate who memorized his speech.

“It set him apart a little bit,” she says. “It was pretty awesome.”

“They give you courage and they help you when you’re down.”

Jacob Saechao
Sixth-grader at YPSA

Jacob Saechao found the confidence to blossom into a leader at YPSA.
PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

A School Kids Love

by Anna Quinlan

When Sisay Gebrehiwot moved his family from Ethiopia to the U.S. seven years ago, he hoped to give them a better life with more opportunities. When a friend recommended Yav Pem Suab Academy, he scheduled a visit. He hoped the school, with its smaller class sizes, would offer the individualized attention that he desired for his three children. He was immediately impressed.

Gebrehiwot’s daughter, Anna Tesfay, is in fifth grade and has experienced a total transformation in her attitude toward school since starting at YPSA.

“She likes everything,” says her father. “She wants to study more and she has higher morale. If she doesn’t know how to complete an assignment she’ll tell me, ‘Take me to the library,’ so she can figure it out herself. She’s very independent now.”

She is especially interested in science and hopes to be a doctor when she grows up, “so she

can help people,” says her dad. She’s also taken an interest in the taekwondo classes that YPSA offers and raves about the educational field trips. Her parents are also continually impressed with her linguistic acumen as she studies Hmong as part of the school’s diverse curriculum.

Gebrehiwot credits the teachers’ willingness to work with families and students according to their unique strengths and concerns as the most valuable distinction of YPSA’s educational program.

“The principal is a true leader, a guider,” Gebrehiwot says. “He sees everybody as equal. My kids are learning with everyone, and that is a great start. When they grow up they’ll understand that everyone is equal and must work together.”

“My kids are learning with everyone ... When they grow up they’ll understand that everyone is equal and must work together.”

Sisay Gebrehiwot
Parent of YPSA fifth-grader Anna Tesfay

Anna Tesfay has become an engaged and enthusiastic scholar at YPSA. She loves science and plans to become a doctor.
PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

A Community of Choice for

Charter schools authorized by SCUSD:

Providing parental choice in innovative public schools that do things differently to achieve success for all pupils



California Charter Schools Explained

When California lawmakers passed the Charter Schools Act of 1992, it paved the way for parents and educators to have more input and choices in the way schools are designed and how they teach children.

These schools can be powerful agents of change and improvements

in education, particularly for students who have traditionally been low-performing (as measured here by the Unduplicated Pupil Percentage, or UPP). The UPP is the percentage of students who are eligible for free/reduced school meals, are English learners, and/or foster youth. SCUSD's UPP is 71.88%. The UPP is typically higher

in charter schools, due to the legislative intent that calls for:

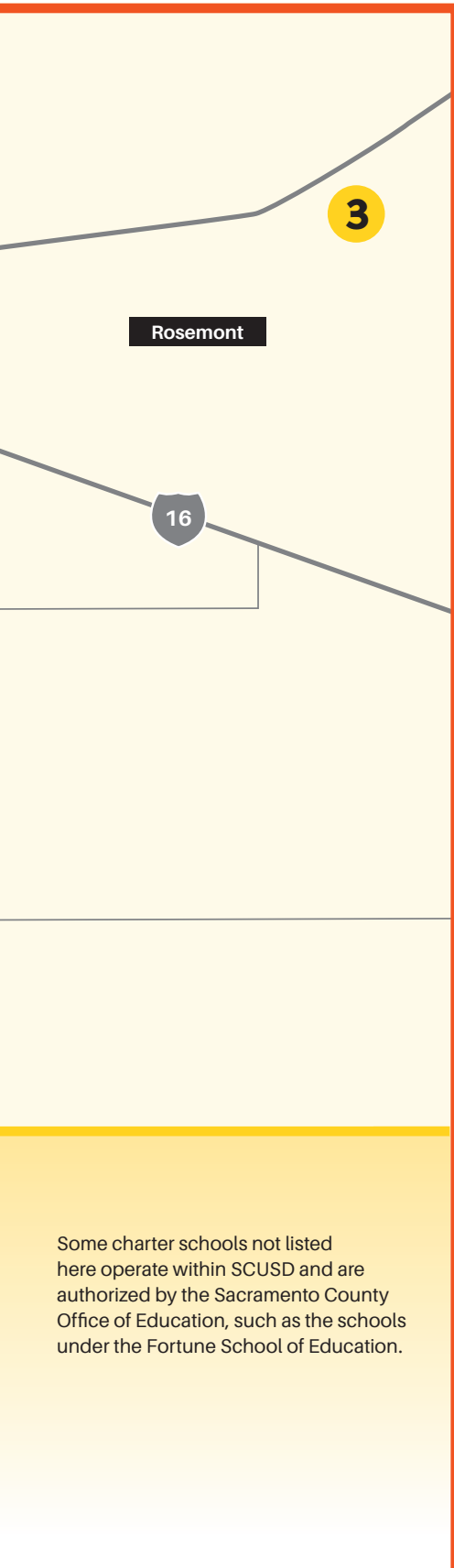
- Improving pupil learning
- Increasing learning opportunities for all pupils — particularly those identified as low-achieving academically
- Encouraging innovative teaching methods

- Creating new opportunities for teachers, including responsibility over the school's learning program
- Providing more educational choices for students
- Holding charter schools accountable for meeting measurable student outcomes,

and provide schools with a method to change from rule-based to performance-based accountability systems

- Promoting rigorous competition within the public school system to stimulate continual improvements in all public schools

Fostering Excellence



Some charter schools not listed here operate within SCUSD and are authorized by the Sacramento County Office of Education, such as the schools under the Fortune School of Education.

Independent charter schools

1

St. HOPE Public School 7 (K-8)
5201 Strawberry Lane
Sacramento, CA 95820

916-649-7850

ps7.org

83%

2

Oak Park Preparatory Academy (7-8)
2315 34th St.
Sacramento, CA 95817

916-649-7880

oakparkprep.org

85%

3

Sacramento Charter High School (9-12)
2315 34th St.
Sacramento, CA 95817

916-277-6200

sachigh.org

73%

4

The Language Academy of Sacramento
2850 49th St.
Sacramento, CA 95817

916-277-7137

lasac.info

80%

5

Aspire Capitol Heights Academy
2520 33rd St.
Sacramento, CA 95817

916-739-8520

aspirepublicschools.org/schools/regions/california-schools/aspire-capitol-heights-academy

87%

6

California Montessori Project, Capitol Campus
2635 Chestnut Hill Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

916-325-0910

cap.cacmp.org

25%

7

Sol Aureus College (SAC) Preparatory
6620 Gloria Drive
Sacramento, CA 95831

916-421-0600

sacprep.org

63%

8

Yav Pem Suab Academy
7555 S. Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95831

916-433-5057

ypsacharter.org

85%

9

Capitol Collegiate Academy
2118 Meadowview Road
Sacramento, CA 95832

916-476-5796

capitolcollegiate.org

87%

1

Bowling Green Charter Chacon Language & Science Academy
6807 Franklin Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95823

916-433-7321

chacon.scusd.edu

85%

2

Bowling Green Charter McCoy Academy
4211 Turnbridge Drive
Sacramento, CA 95823

916-433-5426

bowlinggreenmccoy.scusd.edu

85%

3

George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science
10101 Systems Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95827

916-395-5266

carverartsandscience.org

49%

4

New Joseph Bonnheim Community Charter
7300 Marin Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95820

916-277-6294

scusd.edu/school/new-joseph-bonnheim-community-charter

94%

5

Sacramento New Technology High School
1400 Dickson St.
Sacramento, CA 95822

916-395-5254

sacnewtech.org

71%

6

Met Sacramento High School
810 V St.
Sacramento, CA 95818

916-264-4700

metsacramento.org

54%

Legend

Contact

Website

UPP Score
The percentage of students who are eligible for free/reduced school meals, are English learners, and/or foster youth

IPAD LEARNING



DID YOU KNOW?

Movement enhances the brain's capacity to learn by supplying more oxygen to the brain. At YPSA, scholars are involved in daily brain-gym and movement classes like dance, PE and taekwondo to increase their brains' learning capacity.

Learning Beyond the Book

by Kate Gonzales

YPSA has tools to provide high-quality education

At Yav Pem Suab Academy, there are no limits on scholars' potential to achieve great things. Scholars are encouraged to dream big and to put in the hard work it takes to achieve their goals. The founders and educators at Yav Pem Suab Academy believe any child can thrive in a strong educational environment. Here are some features unique to Yav Pem Suab Academy that makes it a wonderful place to grow and learn.

Body-Brain Compatible Education

This educational approach promotes mastery in teaching and learning, and emphasizes the importance of hands-on learning. Scholars begin each day with morning movement, when they stretch and dance together with classmates and teachers. They also take movement breaks after about 20 minutes of instruction, to keep their minds present and engaged. Each scholar also has daily taekwondo, dance and physical education classes. Key components of Body-Brain Compatible Education include an absence of threat and an enriching environment, so the school works to create a safe, uncluttered and organized atmosphere.

HMONG LANGUAGE LESSONS



Hmong Language Development Program

Scholars do not have to be of Hmong descent to enroll at YPSA, but all pupils will learn Hmong language and culture. Hmong scholars will develop a sense of understanding and pride in their heritage, while their non-Hmong peers forge new relationships and gain a deeper appreciation for diversity. Every scholar also learns how to read, write and speak Hmong through the Hmong Language Development Program.

Lifelong Guidelines & LIFESKILLS

The academy strives to build confident, well-rounded citizens, so every day scholars practice and are recognized for meeting Lifelong Guidelines and gaining LIFESKILLS. The five guidelines are: Trustworthiness, Truthfulness, Active Listening, No Put-Downs and Personal Best. The LIFESKILLS fall under the personal best guideline, and include Caring, Cooperation, Flexibility, Friendship, Perseverance, Pride and Sense of Humor, among others. Each month, the school focuses on a specific LIFESKILL, but scholars are encouraged to practice them at every opportunity and are recognized with a "good job" or a high-five.

Extended day

Scholars get more time to learn thanks to a longer daily schedule, which is from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for kindergartners and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for all others. Most students get Fridays off, except for those who need more targeted instruction, which is held for an hour on Fridays. This scheduling adds up to 100 more days of school per year compared to other district elementary schools and reduces the summer break in order to prevent kids from forgetting what they learned through the year.

Technology

At YPSA, there is a laptop or tablet available to every scholar, every day. Scholars in kindergarten through second grade use an iPad, and third- through sixth-grade scholars use laptops.



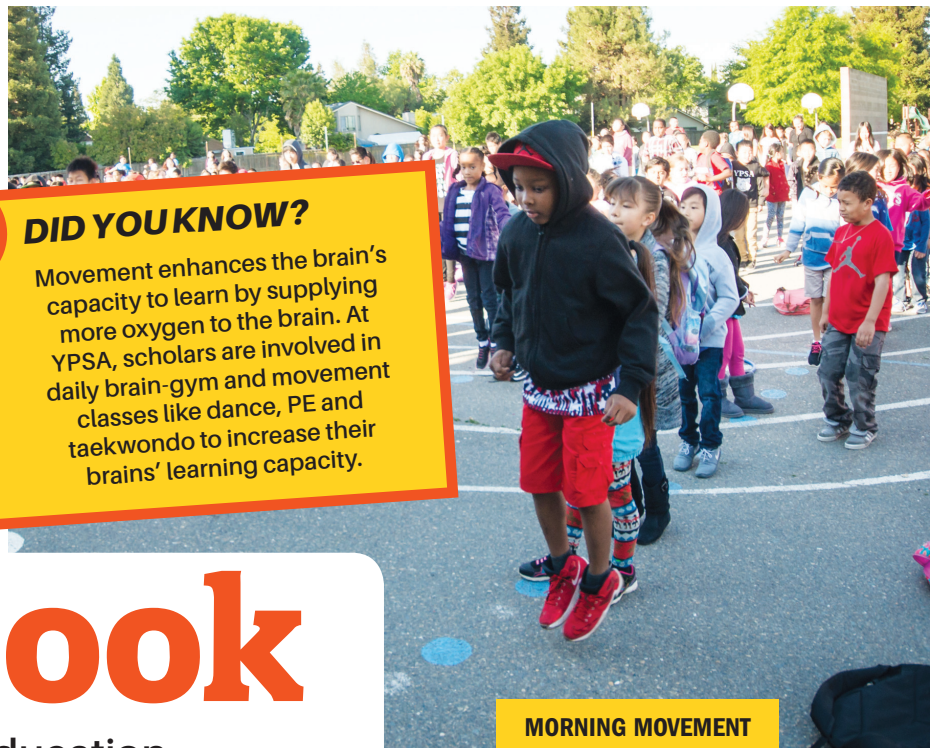
20:1 SCHOLAR-TO-TEACHER RATIO

Small class sizes

Every classroom at the academy, from kindergarten to sixth grade, has a 20:1 scholar-to-teacher ratio. The smaller class sizes make it easier for teachers to build stronger one-on-one relationships with scholars.

Being there experiences

YPSA invests heavily in learning trips, or "being there experiences," which take scholars and the lessons they're learning out of the classroom. Experiences include panning for gold along the American River in Coloma and feeling the sensation of zero gravity at iFLY Indoor Skydiving in the Bay Area.



MORNING MOVEMENT

When it comes to educating Sacramento's underserved children, Yav Pem Suab Academy settles for nothing less than extraordinary. The school's scholars have the chance to engage in rich experiences that bring learning to life.

**At Yav Pem Suab,
children get more.
More ...**

MOVEMENT



LIFESKILLS: EFFORT



HANDS-ON



BEING THERE



LIFESKILLS: FRIENDSHIP



Teachers With a Mission

YPSA educators go above and beyond to help scholars achieve

by Mark Lore

The secret behind the success of Yav Pem Suab Academy may very well lie in the passion and heart that its teachers pour into their work.

Michelle Lee is one of those dedicated educators. She's in her sixth year of teaching kindergarten at YPSA, where she says scholars are nurtured to become "high-performing" individuals. That means not only learning through academic lessons, but essential life lessons as well. In turn, teachers at YPSA create their own curriculum that encourages creativity and collaboration in the teaching process.

It's a win-win for both scholars and teachers. But perhaps more importantly, YPSA gives scholars a better chance for success, with a particular emphasis on closing the achievement gap among Hmong children.

Lee says she was drawn to teach at YPSA because of its emphasis on supporting this underserved group, in addition to the rich program of holistic educational and enrichment opportunities.

YPSA's enrichment program provides many of the offerings that are increasingly hard to find in traditional public schools — things like dance, field trips and even taekwondo for every scholar. These types of programs may seem disposable when budgets are tight, but Lee asserts that to some scholars they're just as important as math, reading and history.

"Any educator, experienced or not, knows that children do not all learn in the same way," she says. "Children need various and numerous ways to integrate and use their 'smarts,' and the enrichment program seemed like a great way to showcase all that."

Collaboration plays a big part in scholar-teacher success. One hour a day is built into the schedule for teacher collaboration. It's a time where teachers can not only share tricks that might help scholars in certain learning areas, but teachers can also plan lessons together and collect and analyze data that help determine which methods work, and which ones don't.

"It challenges creativity and curriculum-building. I'm still moving and growing," says Mailee Thao, who's in her second year teaching fifth grade at YPSA.

In addition to focusing on children's learning strengths (and faculty teaching strengths), YPSA puts a strong emphasis on creating a positive and safe learning environment that's built on trust.

Thao recalls a situation during her first year where a scholar with autism would sometimes leave class as a coping mechanism. She explained that the other scholars accepted and nurtured him, rather than teasing him or ignoring him. It was touching to Thao, and it was a case where the scholars actually helped her through a challenging situation.

"I was like, 'You guys are comforting me! You're incredible,'" Thao says. "I can see that at this school there's a culture that's been established. It's not just: go to school and go home."

"At this school there's a culture that's been established. It's not just: go to school and go home."

Mailee Thao
Fifth-grade teacher at YPSA



Michelle Lee (top right) and Mailee Thao (bottom right) are just two of the talented educators who help make YPSA an exceptional place.

PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES



DID YOU KNOW?

YPSA built a curriculum around research-based approaches to education. Horacio Sanchez's Brain-Based Approach to Education and Susan Kovalik's Body-Brain Compatible Education Model are parts of YPSA's program.

A great place to grow

Yav Pem Suab Academy is not just a great place to learn, it's also a wonderful workplace! If you're an educator who wants to make a real difference in children's lives, the academy may be the best place for you. Here are some of the benefits of working at YPSA:

Strong morale

Be part of a caring, cooperative team that feels a lot like family.

Support

Mentors help new teachers familiarize themselves with the academy. Teachers also have three hours each day for grade-level support, when they can prep materials and collaborate.

Skill development

Develop useful skills and knowledge around Body-Brain Compatible Education and other innovative approaches in education.

Make an impact

YPSA offers opportunities to hone your leadership skills and gain meaningful professional development, and work at a school that truly wants to see all scholars excel.

Find out if a career at Yav Pem Suab Academy is right for you!

- **Learn:**
www.ypsacharter.org
- **Call:**
916-433-5057
- **Visit:**
7555 S. Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95831

Celebrating Staff

At Yav Pem Suab Academy, our star staff make a real impact in scholars' lives. We value each member of our caring, supportive staff.

YAV PEM SUAB ACADEMY COUNCIL



ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT STAFF



YPSA YARD STAFF, CUSTODIAL STAFF AND KITCHEN MANAGER



MEMBERS OF THE YPSA INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF



URBAN CHARTER SCHOOLS COLLECTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



YPSA TEACHER OF THE YEAR, CLAUDIA SHERRY, WITH SCHOLAR CODY XIONG AND HIS MOTHER, ZIA VUE.

Connect with YPSA

Strong connections to culture, community and heritage are at the heart of Yav Pem Suab Academy's values. Whether you're a teacher, a parent or a community member who wants to partner with the academy, there is a way for you to connect!



Contact YPSA



- 7555 South Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95831
- 916-433-5057
- www.ypsacharter.org
- www.facebook.com/yavpemsuabacademy
- @YavPemSuab

Why charter schools?



Enroll your child

The academy serves scholars in grades kindergarten through six. The school has robust academic offerings, including Hmong language, taekwondo and more.

As a public charter school, there is no fee for admission, but space is limited. Visit the school today to start the enrollment process. Bring a birth certificate or green card, proof of address, parent identification and child's immunization records.

Visit the school's office at 7555 S. Land Park Drive, Sacramento, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Join the staff

There are lots of reasons Yav Pem Suab Academy is a great place for educators to work, and to grow. If you're a teacher who wants to work in a fun, enriching

environment where everyone is encouraged to reach new heights, YPSA may be the school for you.

View current openings:
www.urbancsc.org/employment.html.



Partner up

Want to help YPSA make a positive impact in children's lives? Connect with the academy today to discuss potential partnership opportunities.

For more information about partnerships, call 916-433-5057.



"Charter schools serve as a choice for students and families, and in many cases students from traditionally underserved backgrounds have thrived at the charter schools serving the Sacramento area."

Jim Scheible
*Region 3 Member Council
representative, California Charter
Schools Association*



"Charter schools are among the most recent positive, innovative educational movements for young scholars of our time. I believe they continue to innovate and replicate best practices. Because of their fluidity and often local controls, charter schools allow stakeholders to move on proven successes and changes for the betterment of all students in an expeditious manner."

Miles Myles
*Board president, Urban Charter
Schools Collective*



"Charter schools are a good option for raising student achievement because they define achievement broadly to include academic, life, and other meaningful components and build deep connections with students and families to engage high achievement."

Eric Premack
*Executive director, Charter Schools
Development Center*