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**400-410**  
STUDENTS

STUDENTS FROM  
**17** CITIES  
IN **7** COUNTIES

**45-50%**  
STUDENTS OF COLOR

# About Sycamore

## OUR HISTORY

In 1985, a group of parents and teachers had a dream. They dreamed that they could create a school where intellectually gifted children could be challenged and stimulated, a school where children could actually reach their potential as students and future leaders.

Since that time, Sycamore School has focused on the specific needs of our brightest learners. Our students, who would be outliers in other educational settings, find the challenge and support they need to develop their significant potential. These students learn in ways that differ from the norm; they need a program that is broader, deeper, more complex, more abstract, and delivered at a faster pace.

> > > **Sycamore provides that.**



*Sycamore has given me an infinite quest for knowledge, the ability to ask for help, and, most importantly, lifelong friendships.*

STUDENT

**20%**  
**RECEIVING NEED-BASED  
FINANCIAL AID**

**95+**  
**SUMMER CAMPS  
OFFERED**

**16**  
**ACRES OF LAND INCLUDING  
AN OUTDOOR SCIENCE LAB**

Gifted learners have unique intellectual, social, and emotional needs. They need an open, enriched educational environment designed to develop superior thinking skills and the opportunity to complete a broad range of academic and artistic projects and products. Sycamore School provides a full-time educational program to meet the needs of academically gifted students.

### OUR MISSION

Sycamore School exists so that academically gifted children can experience the enriched, accelerated education they need to reach their potential and to lead responsible, constructive, fulfilling lives.

### A LEADER IN GIFTED EDUCATION

Sycamore's vision is to be recognized as the premier resource in Indianapolis and among the best in the nation for the education and development of the academically gifted child.

Sycamore has an ongoing commitment to leadership in developing and improving teaching methods, learning strategies, and curricula in gifted education. Our teachers are dedicated to learning from others in gifted education and to sharing their experience and expertise for the educational enrichment of all children.



*Sycamore is 100% the right decision for me. It allows me to be academically and socially stimulated while surrounded by kids who are like me. The teachers are personally invested in students' lives and leave a deep impact on all of us. Sycamore allows me to blossom and find a crowd and a place to express myself.*

STUDENT





*I think Sycamore prepared me very well for the rigorous courses (IB and AP) that I took throughout high school. Sycamore also instilled a love of learning, which I still hold today.*

GRADUATE



### ACCREDITATION

Fully accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS)

### INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER

National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)  
National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)  
Indiana Association for the Gifted (IAG)

### FOCUSED MISSION

Sycamore is the only private, independent school in Indiana dedicated to the education of gifted children from Preschool through 8th grade.

### OUR CORE VALUES

At Sycamore we believe the most important character traits for all Sycamore students are:

respect  
moral courage  
empathy  
relationships

These traits are taught to every age group and are practiced and exemplified by students. Our faculty in each division work to systematically integrate these character traits into our already existing programs, and they appear in virtually every discipline we teach as well as in athletics, on the playground, and in our clubs and activities.

# Who is a Gifted Child?

Gifted students have characteristics and needs that are unique, but as a group they comprehend complex ideas quickly, are inquisitive, and tend to learn more rapidly and in greater depth than their same-age peers. They tend to retain information in richer detail and use that information to make connections between seemingly unconnected concepts. Each gifted child is complex and unique, and Sycamore School understands and celebrates that. Simply put, gifted children are the reason for our school's existence.

## 12 SIGNS OF GIFTED STUDENTS

- **Early language development**
  - Advanced vocabulary and language usage
  - Sometimes early reading without formal teaching
- **Excellent memory**
  - Accurate recall of events and details
- **Persistent curiosity**
  - Insatiable appetite for learning
- **Rapid learning**
  - Masters concepts easily and is ready to “move on”
- **Sense of humor**
  - Sees humor in situations at an early age
- **Intensity**
  - Passionate about areas of interest
- **Long attention span**
  - Attends to areas of interest for long periods
- **Sensitivity**
  - Emotional and tactile sensitivity
  - Intuitive
- **Keen skills of observation**
  - Likes to watch and understand before participating
- **Preference for older playmates**
  - Chooses to be with older kids or adults
- **Perfectionism**
  - Likes to do things correctly the first time
  - Expects a lot of him/herself
- **Strong sense of morality and justice**
  - Strives for fairness
  - Compassionate



>>> Visit [sycamoreschool.org/giftedkids](http://sycamoreschool.org/giftedkids) to learn more about gifted learners and their characteristics.



“ ”

*The thing that makes this place feel like it does is the people. Everyone has a little extra kindness, a little extra perseverance, a little extra something. When I arrived here, I was immediately surrounded by people who wanted to learn, who wanted to grow into better people, and ultimately, people who just wanted to be friends. I didn't have to seek out new people to hang out with; they sought me out. Sycamore is like a family.*

STUDENT

100%

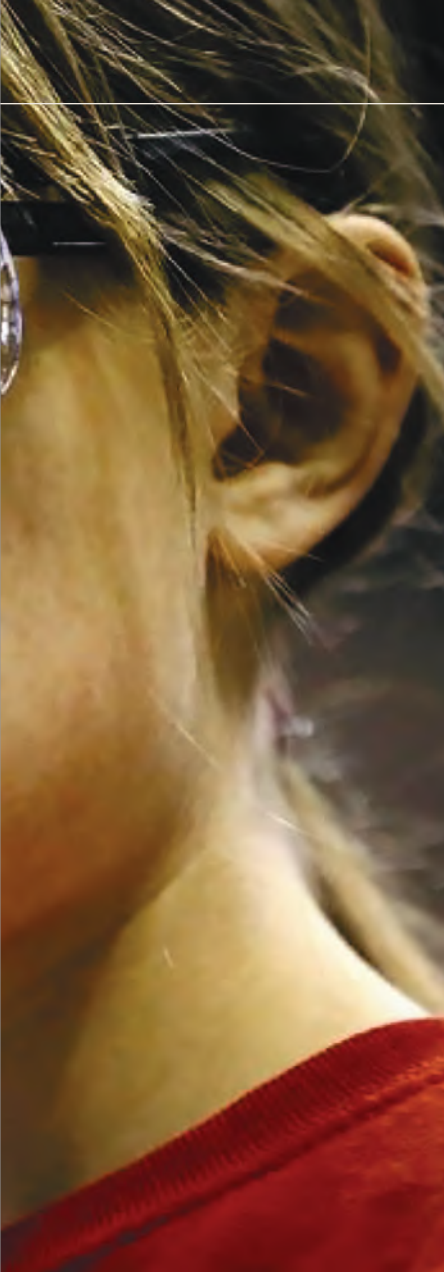
OF TEACHERS HAVE OR  
ARE PURSUING GIFTED  
& TALENTED LICENSURE

5:1

STUDENT-TO-TEACHER  
RATIO IN PRESCHOOL

6:1

STUDENT-TO-TEACHER RATIO  
IN PREKINDERGARTEN



“ ”

*Sycamore's students make it worth it all. At Sycamore students are engaged, inquisitive, and hungry to learn more, and they ask excellent questions. It is a joy teaching them and watching them develop the skills and critical thinking that will continue to help them excel.*

TEACHER

10:1

**STUDENT-TO-TEACHER RATIO  
IN KINDERGARTEN-4TH GRADE**

20-22

**TYPICAL MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CLASS SIZE**

3

**DEDICATED INDOOR  
SCIENCE LABS**

# Student Activities

Sycamore students are not only active and engaged inside the classroom but also via numerous clubs and activities.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD AND LOWER SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

While these can vary from year to year, below are typical offerings:

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Art                | Karate           |
| Chess              | Kickball         |
| Coding/Programming | LEGO Robotics    |
| Cooking            | Martial Arts     |
| Creative Writing   | Math Pentathlon  |
| Dance & Movement   | Minecraft Coding |
| Drama              | Pottery          |
| Fencing            | Story Workshop   |
| Gymnastics         | Yoga             |

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC TEAMS AND CLUBS

While these can vary from year to year, below are typical offerings:

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Coding Club         | Quiz Bowl                  |
| Debate              | Science Bowl               |
| Drama Club          | Spell Bowl                 |
| MathCounts          | Student Leadership Council |
| Math Team           | Student News               |
| Odyssey of the Mind | VEX Robotics               |

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Baseball      | Tennis          |
| Basketball    | Track and Field |
| Cross Country | Volleyball      |
| Soccer        |                 |



>>> Visit [sycamoreschool.org/extended-programs](https://sycamoreschool.org/extended-programs) to learn more!

**70+**  
**FIELD TRIPS**

(PRESCHOOL-8TH GRADE)

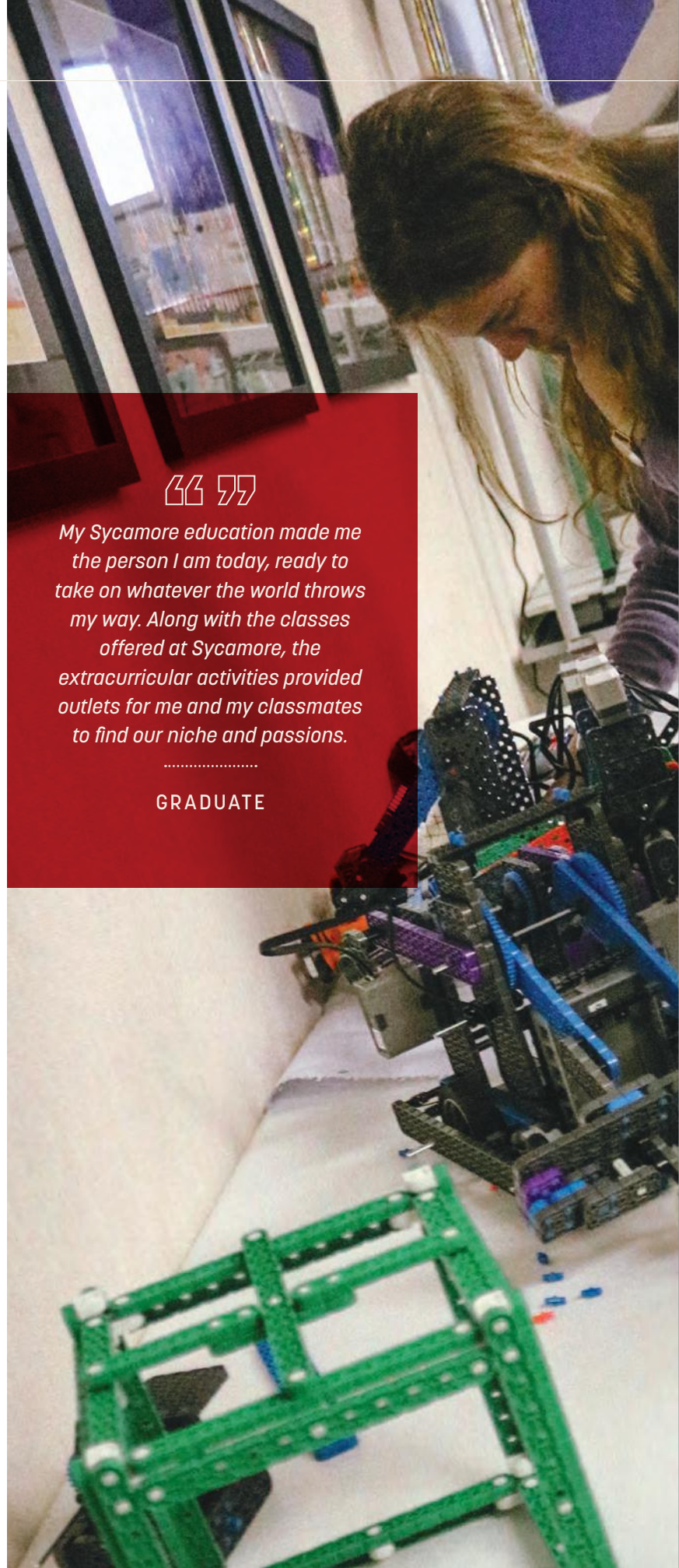
**80+**  
**EXPERT SPEAKERS**  
**EACH YEAR**

**7,000+**  
**ITEMS DONATED TO FOOD**  
**PANTRIES EACH YEAR**

“ ”

*My Sycamore education made me the person I am today, ready to take on whatever the world throws my way. Along with the classes offered at Sycamore, the extracurricular activities provided outlets for me and my classmates to find our niche and passions.*

GRADUATE





*The teachers and faculty have modeled kindness and inclusiveness.*

STUDENT

# Engaged



**18,500+**  
BOOKS IN THE  
MEDIA CENTER

**12**  
ATHLETIC TEAMS

**QUEST BEFORE SCHOOL**  
CARE AVAILABLE AT 7 A.M.

**QUEST AFTER SCHOOL**  
CARE AVAILABLE UNTIL 6 P.M.

# Celebrate



# Learning



*Sycamore's teachers are encouraged to learn, try, and fail! I have never been in a school where we celebrate learning from things that don't go the way you planned. Teachers are trusted and respected to do what is best for our students.*

TEACHER

# Our Graduates

After graduating from Sycamore, our students continue their educational pursuits at some of the finest high schools, colleges, and universities.

Sycamore alumni attend high schools such as the following:

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School  
 Brownsburg High School  
 Carmel High School  
 Cathedral High School  
 Choate Rosemary Hall School  
 Culver Academies  
 Guerin Catholic High School  
 North Central High School  
 Park Tudor High School  
 Phillips Academy Andover  
 Purdue Polytechnic High School  
 University High School of Indiana  
 Westfield High School  
 Zionsville High School

Sycamore alumni go on to attend some of the top colleges and universities. Below is an abbreviated list:

Boston University  
 Brown University  
 Butler University  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 Clemson University  
 College of William & Mary  
 Cornell University  
 Davidson College  
 DePauw University  
 Duke University  
 George Washington University  
 Harvard University  
 Indiana University  
 Kenyon College  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Miami University (Ohio)  
 New York University  
 Northeastern University  
 Northwestern University  
 Princeton University  
 Purdue University  
 Stanford University  
 University of California Berkeley  
 University of Chicago  
 University of Cincinnati  
 University of Colorado, Boulder  
 University of Miami  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Notre Dame  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Virginia  
 Vanderbilt University  
 Washington University in St. Louis  
 Yale University



>>> Visit [sycamoreschool.org/alumni-outcomes](http://sycamoreschool.org/alumni-outcomes) to see a comprehensive list of high schools as well as colleges and universities at which Sycamore graduates are currently enrolled.

**90+**  
**NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS**  
**SINCE 2010**

**ALUMS CURRENTLY ATTEND**  
**20+ HIGH SCHOOLS**  
**& 50+ COLLEGES**

“ ”

*Sycamore knows its kids and provides them with amazing learning opportunities and experiences. Students are engaged, participating in hands-on learning. Students at Sycamore are recognized, respected as learners, and supported throughout their educational journey. As we often say, “At Sycamore your child is known and loved.”*

TEACHER

**OVER 13% OF  
GRADUATES ATTENDING  
IVY LEAGUE+ UNIVERSITIES**  
(NATIONAL AVERAGE: <1%)

**6  
CAROLINE D. BRADLEY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SINCE 2016**  
(FULL-RIDE SCHOLARSHIP TO ANY PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE U.S.)



# Supporting the Whole Student

Sycamore's mission of educating gifted children includes supporting the whole gifted child. A full-time staff psychologist provides short-term and group counseling, crisis counseling, and parent consultation in addition to working with teachers and staff members to embed Social Emotional Learning (SEL) throughout the school that involves the following:

- Developmentally targeted proactive social/emotional learning in all divisions
- Parent education and support
- Faculty and staff consultation
- Gifted learners often exhibit asynchronous development, meaning that their intellectual skills develop earlier and faster than their skills in other domains. A Learning Resource team provides specialized services for twice-exceptional (2e) students—students who are both gifted and have another diagnosis that impacts their learning.
- Classroom-infused Executive Functioning programming that is developmentally appropriate
- Collaboration with teachers and staff
- Management of classroom and testing accommodations
- Completion of assessments to identify needs
- Instructional and emotional support for students
- Parent support and education



*Sycamore's teachers have a passion for learning. They are dedicated to creating an environment that is stimulating, nurturing, and well differentiated for students. They are lifelong learners who look for ways to support growth in their classrooms and challenge students to have open mindsets and reach for their goals. Even more importantly, the teachers and staff make the students feel known and appreciated. They greet them at the door each morning at drop off and help them feel welcome each day. There is a true sense of family and community.*

PARENT OF TWO SYCAMORE STUDENTS



“ ”

*Sycamore is a school that supports the growth of the entire child, not just academically, but also in the arts, music, sports, clubs and extracurriculars. Students at Sycamore are encouraged to explore all avenues of learning to help support their growth and development and cater to their special interests.*

PARENT OF TWO  
SYCAMORE STUDENTS



“ ”

*I love that Sycamore offers students the opportunity to grow beyond academics, to find the passions that drive them outside of school work. We came to Sycamore for the academics, but it's been the holistic growth that I have appreciated the most. And it's amazing to see the teachers as dedicated to these extracurricular activities as they are to academics.*

PARENT OF TWO  
SYCAMORE STUDENTS



# Admission and Financial Aid

## APPLYING TO SYCAMORE

We welcome applicants of all backgrounds. We admit students who display a high level of intelligence and academic achievement and who need a curriculum that is broader, deeper, and faster-paced than most. Each student should demonstrate age-appropriate social and emotional development and behavior that would enable the child to function effectively in a classroom environment. We consider all of the following when making admission decisions:

- Parental input from the application
- Intellectual ability (IQ testing or preschool screening)
- Academic achievement (report card and achievement test results)
- Teacher recommendation
- Classroom visit (applicants for Prekindergarten through 8th grade)

## NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Sycamore School admits qualified students of any race, color, gender, and national or ethnic origin and is impartial in its administrative and educational policies with respect to these characteristics.

## AFFORDING SYCAMORE

Sycamore knows that not all families can afford the full cost of attending an independent school; therefore, we award need-based financial aid to serve as many gifted students as possible regardless of family income.

Here are some key things to know about financial aid at Sycamore:

- Financial aid is not a loan and does not have to be repaid. It is a reduction in tuition.
- All financial aid at Sycamore is based on financial need.
- An independent third party determines what a family can afford.

## FINANCIAL AID STATS

APPROXIMATELY

20%

OF SYCAMORE'S STUDENTS RECEIVE  
NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID

APPROXIMATELY

\$1 MILLION

OF FINANCIAL AID AWARDED ANNUALLY

\$14,300

AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID AWARD

## SEE SYCAMORE IN ACTION

We invite you to see Sycamore for yourself. Opportunities to do so include the following:

- Individual visits/tours
- Open houses
- Sneak Peeks
- Virtual visits

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

 [sycamoreschool.org/admissions](https://sycamoreschool.org/admissions)

 [admissions@sycamoreschool.org](mailto:admissions@sycamoreschool.org)

 (317) 202-2544

 [facebook.com/sycamoreschool.indy](https://facebook.com/sycamoreschool.indy)

 [instagram.com/sycamoreschool](https://instagram.com/sycamoreschool)

 [youtube.com/sycamoreschool](https://youtube.com/sycamoreschool)

 [@sycamoreschool](https://twitter.com/sycamoreschool)



>>> Visit [sycamoreschool.org/apply](https://sycamoreschool.org/apply) to learn more and to begin the process of applying for admission to Sycamore!

“ ”

*Sycamore has truly been more than a school to my kids; Sycamore is their second home. In this magical place we have found a community who is extremely caring and loving with teachers who take that extra step to support the kids' needs in every way possible. Gifted kids thrive next to their intellectual peers, and I know my kids are constantly being inspired by their classmates.*

PARENT OF THREE SYCAMORE STUDENTS

“ ”

*One of the most special things about Sycamore School is the sense of community. There is a true sense of togetherness that is shared by the students, parents, teachers, and staff, and this is evident from the moment you walk in the door. It feels like being part of a very big family, and that bond is strengthened by the mission of the school. The environment is nurturing, encouraging, and rich in opportunity.*

PARENT OF TWO SYCAMORE STUDENTS

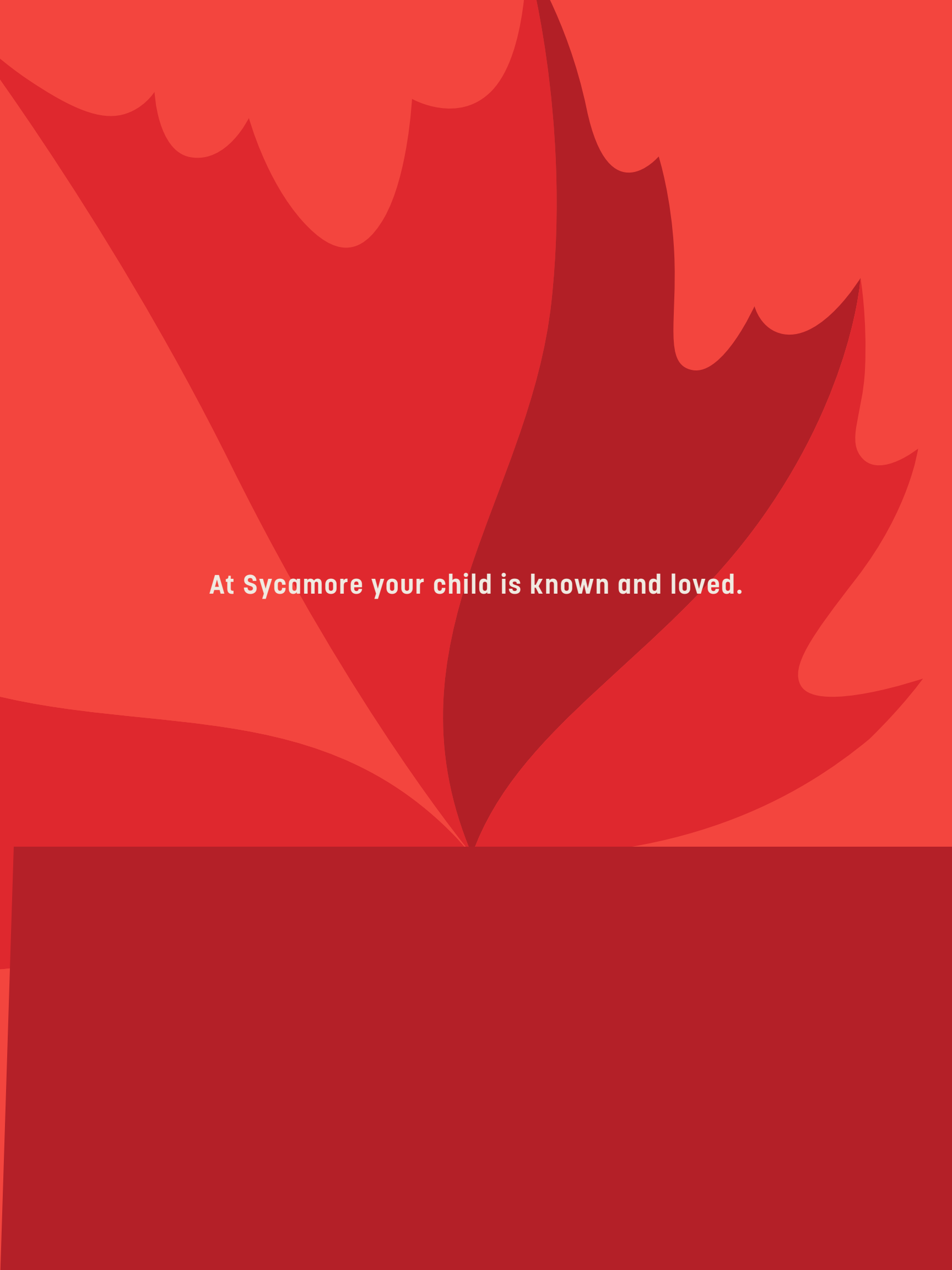


“ ”

*While my intuition was spot on that Sycamore would feel like a second home for my kids, I was not anticipating that it would feel like a second home to me as well. Some of my closest friendships have formed with fellow parents at the school. We share the same values and ideals in raising kind, hard working, and motivated kids who appreciate all the learning opportunities Sycamore has to offer both inside and outside of the classroom.*

PARENT OF TWO  
SYCAMORE STUDENTS



A large, stylized red maple leaf serves as the background for the top half of the page. The leaf is composed of several overlapping shapes in different shades of red, creating a sense of depth and texture. The top half of the page is a light red, while the bottom half is a solid, darker red.

**At Sycamore your child is known and loved.**



**SYCAMORE SCHOOL**

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