



# The Grauer School Profile



## 2019-2020

## WHO WE ARE

The Grauer School, founded in 1991, is a grades 7-12 independent, relationship-driven, college preparatory day school with approximately 150 students in attendance. Nestled on six green acres in the coastal community of Encinitas just five miles north of the San Diego city limit, Grauer serves students from surrounding communities as well as international students. The Grauer Foundation for Education is a not-for-profit organization governed by a Board of Trustees.

## MISSION

We redefine what an independent school looks and feels like. As one of San Diego's leading college prep schools, The Grauer School's purpose is unique, research-driven, and simple – to teach and encourage students to become resourceful, intellectually curious, intrinsically motivated, self-advocating, and accountable in a compassionate, college preparatory environment.

## FACULTY

At The Grauer School, 86% of our teachers possess advanced degrees, and Cum Laude is the norm. We attract teachers who have graduated with distinction from their universities, have a strong commitment to humanitarian service, and have had sustained international and intercultural experiences. With 35 certified personnel, including the Head of School, Principal, and Counselor, our teacher-to-student ratio is 1:7. This **small school advantage** enables the faculty to foster relationship-driven education and to cultivate an abiding intellectual curiosity in our students.

## ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Grauer is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

The Grauer School is a member of professional organizations worldwide, including:

- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- Small Schools Coalition (SSC) - Founder
- National Honor Society (NHS)
- Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC)
- UNESCO Associated Schools
- Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC)
- National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- California Association of School Counselors, Inc. (CASCI)
- American School Counselor Association (ASCA)

## PARTNERSHIPS

Community partnerships have been fostered since Grauer's inception. Students work closely with the Surfrider Foundation and the Nature Collective on local coastal issues. Our sister school is Maui Preparatory Academy. We are an Associated School of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This designation establishes Grauer as one of 11 UNESCO Centers for Innovation in the United States and the only one in our region. The school campus has been awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold status. We are a proud member of the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce, and tap deeply into our local community.

### The Grauer School

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**CEEB Code:** 050862

### Associate Director of Counseling

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### Head of School

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### Principal

Dana Abplanalp-Diggs  
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Associated School



National Association  
of Independent Schools



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Grauer School's graduation requirements follow the University of California track (a-g requirements) and exceed California State Standards. Moreover, 50 documented hours of community service, ecological and humanitarian expeditions, and a capstone Senior Graduation Thesis Defense are required of our graduates.

### Honors

Honors is our most rigorous course of study; **Grauer does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) classes**. To promote a balanced, holistic educational experience, students can enroll in a **maximum of three Honors courses per year** (unless they have petitioned our Leadership Team to add an additional course). Honors coursework is offered in almost all academic areas and must be approved by the department chair and the student's counselor. An Honors course will result in an additional point towards the student's GPA.

### Ranking

At The Grauer School, we do not rank our students.

### Required Classes

English	4 units
Mathematics	3 units
Lab Science	3 units (4 units recommended)
Health	0.5 units
World Religions	0.5 units
World History & Geography	1 unit
U.S. History & Geography	1 unit
Economics & U.S. Government	1 unit
World Languages	2 units (3 units recommended)
Visual & Performing Arts	1 unit
College Prep Electives	1 unit
Physical Education	3 units

### Grading Scale

Grade	Regular Courses	Honors Courses	Percentile
A	4 points	5 points	90-99
B	3 points	4 points	80-89
C	2 points	3 points	70-79
D, F, Incomplete	0 points	0 points	69 >

The Grauer School employs a **Mastery Learning** policy. Honoring the traditions of **Socratic education**, students revise their work to ensure that they progress to the next level of complexity only when they have mastered the prior level to the degree of their own choosing. We recognize that students are individuals, and all are encouraged to maximize their talents and to persevere until they achieve success. Students may not revise summative assessments and comprehensive semester exams.

## STANDARDIZED SCORE AVERAGES

	The Grauer School Class of 2019	National Average
<b>SAT</b>		
EBRW	636	536
Math	614	531
TOTAL	1249	1068
<b>ACT</b>		
Reading	28	21.3
Math	26	20.5
TOTAL	27	20.8



## SENIOR GRADUATION THESIS DEFENSE

To verify that our students have grown into resourceful, compassionate individuals, every Grauer senior develops a comprehensive **Senior Portfolio** and makes an original, in-depth presentation to a panel of teachers, parents, peers, and administrators. The student is expected to demonstrate a level of scholarship and also articulate the core values he or she has internalized as a Grauer student. A senior may choose from the following for their thesis defense: The Arts, Global and Humanitarian Studies, Technology, Ecological Studies, Expeditionary Education, Leadership Studies, Liberal Arts, Personal Health and Athletics, and Other (By Petition).

## EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

Grauer was founded on a one-of-a-kind **Expeditionary Learning** program to enrich its college preparatory curriculum, in accordance with the school's motto "Learn by Discovery"™. Rooted in the philosophy that real-world engagement is critical to an authentic education, the program transports students around the community and the globe to immerse themselves in unfamiliar languages, cultures, and ecosystems for two full weeks or more per year. These cultural and humanitarian experiences are life-altering. Community service, the arts, geography, physical challenge, social interaction, and student reflection are all a part of the process in this widely emulated program.

## CO-CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT

The Visual and Performing Arts department at The Grauer School allows students to discover their **passions and unique artistic talents**. With film studies & production, multimedia, music, photography, recording arts, studio art, theatre, and yearbook opportunities, a student's senses – and sense of accomplishment – can be awakened in a multitude of ways. 70% of Grauer students take advantage of our arts offerings.

An extraordinarily high percentage of Grauer students play sports and compete in **inclusive** athletic competitions. For our high school athletes, we partner with Horizon Prep in varsity and junior varsity sports sanctioned by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), Division 5. CIF sports offerings include basketball, cheer, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, tennis, track & field, and volleyball. Club sports also rotate throughout the year, including archery, sailing, surfing, yoga, and more.

Grauer provides a full range of **college preparatory STEM options**, including robotics, computer science, engineering design, environmental science, graphic design, and guitar building. **Grauer's Shockwave Robotics team members have been world-champion contestants five times.** Our math and science classes incorporate technology and engineering through project-based learning and student projects, providing hands-on opportunities that expand upon what they have learned in the classroom. We also believe in turning STEM into STEAM, incorporating "A" for Arts through collaborations with our arts programs.

The Grauer School's mission is to develop **compassionate citizens** as we collaborate with students in helping in their community, in nature, and around the world. Students give at least 50 documented hours of community, humanitarian or ecological service as they move through high school.

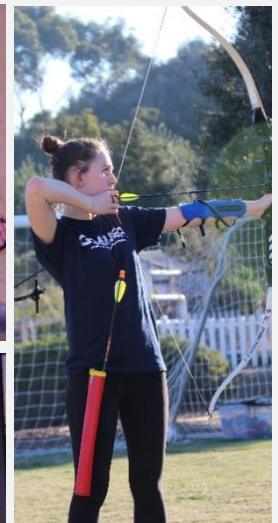
**Student-run clubs** are in regular development by petitioning students. Club offerings vary each year, including academic, athletic, and leadership opportunities.

## STUDENT SATISFACTION: 99<sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE

In 2019, Grauer students participated in the Panorama Social Emotional Learning Surveys along with 3,000 other schools and 2,000,000 other students and teachers across widely diverse geographical areas and school types. The survey probed student perceptions of school in these areas:

- Quality and depth of teacher-student relationships
- Vitality of the social and learning climate
- Rigor of teacher expectations for student effort, understanding, persistence, and performance in class
- Sense of belonging and being valued as a member of the school community
- Degree to which the school experience is engaging, informative, important, relevant, and useful
- Level of physical and psychological safety on campus

**Compared to the nationwide sample, our students' responses were in the 99th percentile in every one of these areas.**



## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The Grauer School is exceptionally proud of our alumni as they represent what is best about our school, worldwide. The talents, creativity, and passion of our graduates have been recognized and honored widely. Our many acceptances include the colleges and universities below.

Air Force Academy Prep School	Connecticut College	Lynn University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Univ.
Alabama, University of	Cornell University	Macalester College	Rhoades College
Allegheny College	Cornish College of the Arts	Marquette University	Rice University
American University	Creighton University	Maryland, University of	Rochester Institute
American University of Paris	Dartmouth College	Massachusetts College of	of Technology
American Academy of the	Davidson College	Pharmacy & Health Services	St. Mary's College of California
Dramatic Arts – New York	DePaul University – Chicago	Massachusetts, University of	San Diego State University
Amherst College	DePauw University	McGill University, Canada	San Diego, University of
Arizona State University	Denver, University of	Miami, University of	San Francisco Art Institute
Arizona, University of	Dominican Univ. of California	Miami University of Ohio	San Francisco, University of
Auburn University	Drexel University	Michigan State University	Santa Clara University
Azusa Pacific University	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ.	Mills College	Sarah Lawrence College
Babson College	Emerson College	Minnesota, University of	School of the Art Institute
Bard College	Emory University	Montana, University of	of Chicago
Barnard College	Evergreen State College	Mount Holyoke College	Seattle University
Bates College	Fashion Institute of Design	Naropa University	Simmons College
Bennington College	and Merchandising	Nebraska, University of	Skidmore College
Bentley College	Florida Institute of Technology	Nevada, University of	Southern California, University of
Berklee College of Music	Fordham University	New College of Florida	Southern Methodist University
Biola University	Franklin Pierce University	New Mexico Institute	Southern Oregon University
Boston University	Franklin University - Switzerland	of Technology	St. John's University
Bradley University	George Washington University	New Mexico, University of	Stonehill College
Brandeis University	Gonzaga University	New York University	Swarthmore College
British Columbia, University of	Grinnell College	North Carolina, University of	Syracuse University
Bryn Mawr College	Hampshire College	North Dakota, University of	Temple University
California College of the Arts	Hans University of Applied	Northeastern University	Texas Christian University
California Lutheran University	Sciences - Switzerland	Northern Arizona University	Texas, University of – Austin, Dallas
California State University -	Harvey Mudd College	Notre Dame, University of	The New School – New York
All Campuses	Haverford College	Oberlin College	Trinity College
Cal Poly Pomona	Hawaii Pacific University	Occidental College	Trinity College – Dublin
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	Hawaii, University of - Manoa	Ohio State University	Tulane University
Capella University	High Point University	Oregon State University	United States Air Force Academy
Case Western Reserve Univ.	Hofstra University	Oregon, University of	University of California -
Central Florida, University of	Illinois, University of	Otis College of Art and Design	All Campuses
Chapman University	Indiana University – Bloomington	Pacific, University of the	Utah, University of
Chicago, University of	Iteso University, Mexico	Pacific Lutheran University	Vassar College
Clemson University	Ithaca College	Pennsylvania State University	Villanova University
Colby College	Johnson and Wales University	Pepperdine University	Wake Forest University
Colby-Sawyer College	Laguna College of Art & Design	Pitzer College	Washington State University
College of Wooster	La Verne, University of	Point Loma Nazarene	Washington, University of
Colorado College	Lehigh University	University Portland, University	Washington University, St. Louis
Colorado School of Mines	Les Roches School – Switzerland	of	Wellesley College
Colorado State University –	Lewis and Clark College	Prescott College	Western Washington University
Fort Collins	Linfield College	Puget Sound, University of	Westminster College
Colorado, University	Long Island University	Purdue University	Wheaton College
of – Boulder	Loyola Marymount University	Quinnipiac University	Whitman College
Columbia College – Chicago	Loyola University – Chicago,	Redlands, University of	Whittier College
Columbia University	Maryland, New Orleans	Reed College	Willamette University
		Regis College	