



The Grauer School Profile



2020-2021

WHO WE ARE

The Grauer School, founded in 1991, is a grades 7-12 independent, relationship-driven, college preparatory day school with approximately 160 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 life preparatory 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)
- Online Education Strategies for Independent Schools (OESIS)
- UNESCO Associated Schools
- Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC)
- National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- California Association of School Counselors, Inc. (CASC)
- 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 the school taps deeply into our local community.

The Grauer School

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Associated School



National Association
of Independent Schools

Fully Accredited by



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 >

MASTERY LEARNING POLICY

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 2020	National Average
SAT		
EBRW	654	531
Math	590	528
TOTAL	1244	1059
ACT		
Reading	31	21.2
Math	27	20.3
TOTAL	29	20.7



COVID-19 PANDEMIC E-LEARNING TRANSITION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Grauer School pivoted to e-Home Learning on March 18, 2020, losing only one day of instruction. We maintained synchronous instruction during our e-Home Learning, and students attended virtual classes from 9:00am-3:00pm daily. Our seniors completed their Graduation Defense Thesis Presentations virtually, and the school year culminated with a virtual Graduation ceremony on Friday June 5, 2020. Our grading scale remained the same and will continue the same through the 2020-2021 academic school year. We will begin the new school year remotely with e-Home Learning.



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 students are expected to demonstrate a level of scholarship and also articulate the core values they have internalized as Grauer students. Seniors may choose from the following for their thesis defense: The Arts, Global and Humanitarian Studies, Science & Technology, Ecological Studies, Expeditionary Education, Leadership Studies, Liberal Arts, Personal Health and Athletics, Social Justice & Activism 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. 86% 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 participate in 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: 99TH PERCENTILE

Grauer students participated in the Panorama Social Emotional Learning Surveys in 2019, 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	Columbia College – Chicago	Loyola University	Reed College
Alabama, University of	Connecticut College	Lynn University	Regis College
Allegheny College	Cornell University	Macalester College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
American University	Cornish College of the Arts	Manhattan School of Music	Rhoades College
American University of Paris	Creighton University	Marquette University	Rice University
American Academy of the Dramatic Arts – New York	Dartmouth College	Maryland, University of	Rochester Institute of Technology
Amherst College	Davidson College	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Services	St. Mary's College of California
Arizona State University	DePaul University – Chicago	Massachusetts, University of	San Diego State University
Arizona, University of	DePauw University	McGill University, Canada	San Diego, University of
ArtCenter College of Design	Denver, University of	Miami, University of	San Francisco Art Institute
Auburn University	Dominican Univ. of California	Miami University of Ohio	San Francisco, University of
Azusa Pacific University	Drexel University	Michigan State University	Santa Clara, University of
Babson College	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Mills College	Sarah Lawrence College
Bard College	Emerson College	Minnesota, University of	School of the Art Institute - Chicago
Barnard College	Emory University	Montana, University of	Seattle University
Bates College	Evergreen State College	Mount Holyoke College	Simmons College
Bennington College	Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising	Naropa University	Skidmore College
Bentley College	Florida Institute of Technology	Nebraska, University of	Southern California, University of
Berklee College of Music	Fordham University	Nevada, University of	Southern Methodist University
Biola University	Franklin Pierce University	New College of Florida	Southern Oregon University
Boston University	Franklin University - Switzerland	New Mexico Institute 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
Brown University	Hampshire College	North Dakota, University of	Temple University
Bryn Mawr College	Hans University of Applied Sciences - Switzerland	Northeastern University	Texas Christian University
California College of the Arts	Harvey Mudd College	Northern Arizona University	Texas, University of – Austin, Dallas
California Lutheran University	Haverford College	Notre Dame, University of	The New School – New York
California State University - All Campuses	Hawaii Pacific University	Oberlin College	Trinity College
Cal Poly Pomona	Hawaii, University of - Manoa	Occidental College	Trinity College – Dublin
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	High Point University	Ohio State University	Tulane University
Capella University	Hofstra University	Oregon State University	United States Air Force Academy
Case Western Reserve Univ.	Illinois, University of	Oregon, University of	University of California - All Campuses
Central Florida, University of	Indiana University – Bloomington	Otis College of Art and Design	Utah, University of
Chapman University	Iteso University, Mexico	Pacific, University of the	Vassar College
Chicago, University of	Ithaca College	Pacific Lutheran University	Villanova University
Clemson University	Johnson and Wales University	Pennsylvania State University	Wake Forest University
Colby College	Laguna College of Art & Design	Pepperdine University	Washington State University
Colby-Sawyer College	La Verne, University of	Pitzer College	Washington, University of
College of Wooster	Lehigh University	Point Loma Nazarene University	Washington University, St. Louis
Colorado College	Les Roches School – Switzerland	Portland, University of	Wellesley College
Colorado School of Mines	Lewis and Clark College	Prescott College	Western Washington University
Colorado State University – Fort Collins	Linfield College	Puget Sound, University of	Westminster College
Colorado, University of – Boulder	Loyola Marymount University	Purdue University	Wheaton College
		Quinnipiac University	Whitman College
		Redlands, University of	Whittier College
			Willamette University