



KIRBY SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE 2020-2021

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MISSION STATEMENT

Through intellectual challenge in a responsive environment, Kirby empowers students to shape their futures with confidence. Our students learn to think critically, develop their creativity, and engage diverse communities with thoughtfulness and respect.

Core Beliefs:

- Offering academic challenge across the disciplines at all age levels maximizes the growth of each Kirby student
- Kirby's inspiring faculty cultivate and model lifelong curiosity
- Our commitment to small class sizes enables us to be responsive to every learner
- Student confidence is supported by our close-knit culture of kindness and mutual respect
- Young people who have an active voice in their own education and community will be motivated and enthusiastic learners
- When adolescents are taught and encouraged to lead healthy, balanced lives, their learning capacity and happiness increase
- Development of creativity and adaptability are crucial to a growth mindset and enhanced through exploration of a wide variety of arts, electives, and experiences
- Collaboration among parents, faculty, and students is fundamental to student success
- Culturally responsive education is a conscious, ever-deepening process of recognizing, exploring, and embracing our differences

THE SCHOOL

Kirby School is an independent, co-educational day school for grades 6 through 12 and is a member of, and is accredited by, the California Association of Independent Schools, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Kirby's CEEB Code is 053290. Established in 1994, Kirby was named for a Santa Cruz pioneer who devoted her life to education, freedom, and enfranchisement. The School was founded on the belief that students who are respected and encouraged will exhibit great enthusiasm for learning and achieve at the highest levels.

FACULTY

Sixty percent of Kirby's 40 faculty members hold advanced degrees, including 4 Doctorates and 20 Master's Degrees. Fine and performing arts teachers have augmented their formal degrees with extensive professional experience.

STUDENTS

Kirby enrolls 221 students: 70 in the middle school (6-8) and 151 in the high school (9-12). The graduating Class of 2020 had 41 students. Kirby's average class size is 12. The school admits students on their ability to be successful in a rigorous academic environment without regard to race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical disability, national origin or other legally protected status.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Kirby's commitment to tuition assistance which is designed to support a highly qualified and diverse student body, is a fundamental part of the school's mission. For the 2020-2021 academic year, 31% of Kirby's students received tuition assistance, totaling \$1,462,230.



Academic Program

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Kirby's graduation requirements exceed the "a-g" admissions requirements of the University of California system. Honors and AP courses are listed in bold. Semester-long courses are marked with an *.

ENGLISH

(4 years required)

English 9

English 10

International Student English

College Writing Skills

English 11 and English 12 choices:

Banned Books *

Beyond Conflict *

Personal Narratives *

Public Speaking *

AP Multicultural English Literature & Composition

Creative Writing *

History, Literature, & Art of Russia *

HISTORY

(3 years required)

AP US Government

History 9: World History of the Middle Ages

History 10: Modern World History or **Honors History 10**

History 11: US History or **Honors US History Practicum**

Macroeconomics *

LANGUAGES

(2 years of one language required)

American Sign Language 1, 2, 3 & 4

Spanish 1, 2, 3, & 4

Latin 1, 2, 3 & **Honors Latin 4**

MATHEMATICS

(3 years required)

Algebra 1

Geometry

Algebra 2

Pre-Calculus

AP Calculus B/C

AP Statistics

Honors Linear Algebra *

Honors Differential Equations *

Financial Mathematics with Advanced Algebra Applications

LABORATORY SCIENCES

(3 years required)

Biology

Chemistry

Forensic Chemistry

Human Biology *

Marine Biology *

Honors Advanced Biology

Physics

Honors Physics

Honors Advanced Chemistry

Honors Environmental Science

AP Physics

COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVES

Intro to Programming

PERFORMING ARTS

(1 year required)

Chorus (1 unit/sem)

Chamber Choir (by audition)

Jazz Choir (by audition) (1 unit/sem)

Concert Choir (by audition)

Orchestra (by audition) (1 unit/sem)

Jazz Ensembles (by audition) (1 unit/sem)

Drama 1, 2, 3 & 4

Intro to Dance

Dance Company (by audition) (1 unit/sem)

Instrument Studies

Music Theory

VISUAL ARTS

(1 year required)

Art 1: Foundation

Art 2: Intermediate 2D Art

Art 3: Portfolio Preparation

Art 4: Portfolio Preparation

Honors Studio Art

Book Arts 1, 2 & 3

Photography

Photo: Portfolio Preparation

FITNESS, WELLNESS & HUMAN DEV.

Health and Wellness * (1 semester required)

Health and Wellness A * (1 semester during 9th or 10th grade)

High School Fitness * (2 units/sem) or Contract Fitness * (1 unit/sem) (4 units total required)

Psychology *

Community Activism & Internships *

Academic Achievement

INTENSIVE ACADEMIC PATHS

In addition to Honors and AP courses, Kirby offers four elective high school Intensive Paths for students wishing to pursue in-depth study in a specific academic or artistic field. All paths meet or exceed the 94-unit graduation requirement.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE PATH (STIP)

STIP provides a program for students interested in intensive study of science, math, and/or computer sciences, with the goal of reaching a high level of mastery and positioning themselves for advanced college-level work. STIP students' coursework includes four years of laboratory science, four years of mathematics (including Pre-calculus), a research project or internship, and additional elective units in science, math, and computer science.

HUMANITIES INTENSIVE PATH (HIP)

HIP enables students who are passionate about history, writing, and/or literature to explore those areas in depth. HIP coursework includes five years of history or English and culminates in a focused senior project advised by a faculty mentor.

LANGUAGES INTENSIVE PATH (LIP)

LIP offers students intensive study of foreign languages and cultures. LIP students use their elective options for focused study in world cultures, including four years of one foreign language and two additional years in a second language.

ARTS INTENSIVE PATH (AIP)

AIP emphasizes the study of fine or performing arts. Under the mentorship of a faculty advisor, AIP students choose a general arts program or concentrated study in a specific discipline, supported by a total of 18 additional units in the arts and a creative, culminating project presented in the senior year.

GRADING AND CLASS RANK

Grade point average (GPA) is calculated using all courses. In high school, final GPAs are cumulative from the fall semester of freshman year. For transfer students, all courses from the previous school are used (except when transferring from an International School). Advanced Placement, Honors, and University of California transferable college-level courses are weighted. Class Rank: Students are not ranked.

ACT AND SAT TEST SCORES

SAT REASONING TEST SCORES

AVERAGE COMBINED SCORES

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
KIRBY	1330*	1310*	1332*	NA
NATIONAL	1083	1068	NA	NA

SAT Reasoning combined scores include math, critical reading and writing scores.

* Out of 1600

ACT REASONING TEST SCORES

AVERAGE SCORES

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
KIRBY	27	29	26*	NA
NATIONAL	21	21	NA	NA

* Scores are from tests taken through June 2019. Scores from tests taken after June 2019 are not available at the time of printing.

AP SCORES

Of the 73 students who took AP exams in the Spring of 2020, 69.9% scored a 3 or above.

2019-2020 GRADING

In accordance with Kirby's commitment to fairness and equity, letter grades were substituted with a Pass/No Pass system for the Spring Semester of 2020 upon the emergency transition to distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



College Admissions

Kirby graduates have matriculated at the following schools in the past 5 years:

Bard College	Northeastern University*	Tulane University*
Beloit College	Northern Arizona University	University of British Columbia
Bennington College	Northwestern University*	University of California, Berkeley*
Berklee College of Music	Oberlin College*	University of California, Davis
Boston Conservatory	Occidental College	University of California, Los Angeles*
Boston University*	Oregon State University	University of California, Riverside
Brown University*	Pitzer College*	University of California, Santa Barbara
Cabrillo College	Portland State Honors Program	University of California, Santa Cruz
California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo*	Pratt Institute	University of Colorado, Boulder
Carleton College*	Princeton University*	University of Colorado, Denver
Carnegie Mellon University*	Purdue University	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Case Western Reserve University	Quest University Canada	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*
Clark University	Reed College	University of Oregon, Honors College
Colgate University*	Regis University	University of the Pacific
College of Wooster	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Pittsburgh
Colorado School of Mines	Rhode Island School of Design*	University of Puget Sound
Colorado State University	San Francisco Art Institute	University of Rochester*
Columbia College Chicago	San Diego State University	University of South Wales
Columbia University*	San Jose State University	University of Southern California*
Cornell University*	Santa Barbara City College	University of St. Andrews
Delft University of Technology	Santa Clara University	University of the Redlands
Emerson College	School of Visual Arts	University of Washington
Fashion Institute of Technology	Scripps College*	University of Wisconsin
Georgia Institute of Technology	Seattle University	Vassar *
Goucher College	Skidmore College*	Washington University, St. Louis*
Hampshire College	Smith College	Wellesley College*
Harvey Mudd College*	Southern Oregon University	Wesleyan University*
Lewis and Clark College	St. Olaf College	Western Washington University Honors Program
Loyola Marymount University	Stanford University*	Whitman College
Mills College	Swarthmore College*	Willamette University
Mount Holyoke College	Syracuse University	
New York University*	The New School	
	Tufts University*	

* Indicates a highly selective college with an acceptance rate of 30% or lower, which comprises less than 5% of all American colleges.