

FAST FACTS

Santa Margarita Catholic High School offers a coeducational, college-preparatory education developing students who are people of faith, skilled lifelong learners, healthy individuals and involved citizens of the world. Under the leadership of the Diocese of Orange, the school's 42-acre campus is nestled against the picturesque Saddleback Valley Mountains in Rancho Santa Margarita.

GENERAL

- **FOUNDED:** 1987, the charter class of 216 students graduated in June of 1991
- **ALUMNI:** 11,377 graduates
- **ENROLLMENT:** 1,641 students, 51 percent male, 49 percent female
- **CLASS SIZE:** Average class size of 22, student-to-teacher ratio of 15:1
- **FACULTY:** 105 faculty, 74 percent hold advanced degrees
- **TUITION:** \$16,435 for Catholic families and \$18,275 for non-Catholic families for the 2020-21 school year, discounted rate offered for additional students
- **TUITION ASSISTANCE:** One of every three students receives tuition assistance/scholarships. More than \$2.9 million to be awarded to families for the 2020-2021 school year
- **ACCREDITATION:** Accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Certified as an International Baccalaureate World School (IB), Member of the College Board
- **OVERALL AWARDS:** Ranked No. 1 Catholic coed high school in Southern California (Jay Matthews Challenge Index), No. 1 Catholic coed high school in Southern California for STEM education (Newsweek), A+ overall grade (Niche.com)
- **CULTURALLY DIVERSE:** 62% Caucasian; 10% Hispanic; 15% Asian/Pacific Islander; 11% Multiracial; 1% African American; 1% Native American/Alaskan
- **GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE:** Students live in 55 communities; SMCHS is home to international students from 14 countries.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Santa Margarita offers three bus routes serving North and South Orange County and an active carpool group
- **CLOSED CAMPUS:** Safety measures include a closed campus, partnership with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Text-a-Tip/TIPS incident reporting program, security personnel, emergency preparedness procedures and comprehensive visitor policy.

ACADEMICS

- **SAT SCORE (Class of 2020 average):** 1274, compared to the state average of 1065 and national average of 1059. Of the 214 students who took the SAT, 40% scored in the top 90% nationally
- **ACT SCORE (Class of 2020 average):** 27.2, compared to the state average of 22.7 and national average of 20.2. Of the 230 students who took the ACT, 43% scored in the top 90% nationally.
- **AP SCHOLARS:** 174 AP Scholars in 2020
- **AP TESTING:** 83 percent of students in 2020 scored a 3 or higher on AP exams, well above the national average.
- **NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS:** Four in 2020, more than any other Catholic high school in Orange County; these students scored in the top 1 percent in the U.S.
- **COUNSELORS:** Ten full-time counselors provide comprehensive counseling support. Students partner with an academic/social-emotional counselor and then acquire an additional college counselor their junior year.
- **HIGHER LEVEL COURSES:** 111 courses
- **IB WORLD SCHOOL:** The only Catholic International Baccalaureate high school in the county. SMCHS offers both the rigorous full diploma program and the opportunity for students to take IB courses.
- **AUXILIARY STUDIES PROGRAM:** Comprehensive academic support to assist students with specialized learning needs. A school psychologist supports student learning.
- **LEARNING STRATEGIES COURSE:** For students who need to strengthen their study skills.
- **OPTIONS PROGRAM:** Provides an inclusive Catholic education for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities.
- **MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN)** Award-winning program with students participating in mock meetings of the UN, interacting with students across the globe



• CLASS OF 2020 – BY THE NUMBERS:

- 99% attend college
- \$33 million in scholarship offers.
- Grads attend 118 different colleges in 32 states and two countries.
- 1,837 acceptances with a 100% acceptance rate at 167 schools.
- 138 graduates accepted at every college they applied
- 43 schools accepted to from U.S. News and World Report's Top 50 National Best Colleges

• DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS:

Dedicated to building strong partnerships with universities across the nation

• ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR & COLLEGE REP VISITS:

More than 200 colleges attend the annual college fair; approximately 150 college representatives visit campus annually

- **COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS:** Comprehensive college planning and preparatory curriculum, educational events and workshops for all grade levels



TECHNOLOGY

- **MICROSOFT SHOWCASE SCHOOL:** Seven consecutive years, one of 39 schools in the nation recognized for transforming the educational experience providing student-centered immersive learning
- **TECHNOLOGY-CENTERED ELECTIVES:** Including TV and digital media production, graphic design and computer programming
- **STREAM:** Integrates science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and math to bridge a better understanding of curriculum across disciplines
- **ROBOTICS:** The competitive team took top honors in the county in 2018 and has competed at the world championships three times.
- **ESPORTS:** Competitive video gaming fostering problem-solving and communications skills.

ARTS

- **COURSES IN BOTH VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS:** Including film, broadcast journalism, screenwriting, sculpture, painting, drawing, photography, orchestra, choir, dance, theater, theater tech, band, steel drums, classical guitar and handbells. The school offers 63 visual and performing arts courses.



- **ORANGE COUNTY CAPPIES:** Student-critic program gives students the opportunity to review other high school productions and have their work published.
- **TALON THEATRE PRODUCTIONS:** Recognized by the Spirit of the MACY Awards, the Orange County Cappies and the International Thespian Society.
- **DOMESTIC AND ABROAD TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES:** The performing arts program has performed at St. Peter's Basilica, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Carnegie Hall and the Segerstrom Center for the Arts and attended festivals across the nation and in Europe.
- **EAGLE TELEVISION:** Student-run news program produced in state-of-the-art digital media studio.



- **MAC LAB** A fully equipped Mac lab for graphic design and multimedia design classes



- **JURIED ART EXHIBITIONS:** Student artwork is featured in juried art shows
- **TALON ACADEMY OF THE ARTS:** After school program provides specialized training with guest artists and industry professionals.
- **COMEDYSPORTZ:** Improv training program strengthens communication skills

ATHLETICS

- **30 CIF TEAMS AND CLUB SPORTS TEAMS**
- **STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETICS:** 81 percent of students participate in athletics; all teams emphasize sportsmanship and character building
- **STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES:** A three-story athletic center with a 5,800 square-foot fitness and weight room center provides unmatched training opportunities for student athletes. The center earned LEED silver certification for its eco-friendly design and includes team and film rooms. The campus also includes tennis courts, an Aquatics Center complete with stadium seating, an Olympic-sized pool, athletic fields, all-weather track and recently installed FieldTurf.
- **COMMITTED TO UNIVERSITIES FOR ATHLETICS:** 46 student-athletes from the class of 2020
- **71 CIF championships, 220 league champions, 121 individual/relay championships and EIGHT state championships** – more than any other school since Santa Margarita opened in 1987
- **TEN-TIME RECIPIENT OF THE CIF COMMISSIONER'S CUP:** Honoring the top athletic program in the 570-member CIF Southern Section
- **NO-CUT SPORTS:** Football, swimming, diving, cross country, girls basketball, water polo and track and field all follow a no-cut policy
- **COMPETITIVE:** Santa Margarita competes in the Trinity League, touted as one of the top leagues in the nation.



FAITH AND SERVICE

- **MASSES:** All-school Masses are celebrated throughout the year. Daily Mass is offered in the school's Sacred Heart Chapel.
- **PEER MINISTRY:** Students serve as faith leaders by coordinating Masses, retreats and service opportunities.
- **RETREATS AND FELLOWSHIP:** Offered for all grade levels, praise and worship gatherings build community and strengthen faith
- **CHRISTIAN SERVICE:** All students engage in direct service to the vulnerable through a class project.
- **CAMPUS CHAPLAIN:** Santa Margarita has a chaplain on campus providing pastoral care and serving as a witness of religious life.



CAMPUS LIFE

- **CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES:** More than 90 percent of the student body participates in over 85 different campus clubs and activities.
- **LINK CREW:** Eases the transition into high school with upperclassmen serving as mentors to the freshman class
- **EAGLES EDGE:** Provides "real-world" growth and networking opportunities
- **LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER:** Provides a technology-based collaborative learning environment as well as quiet study space
- **LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:** Through extracurricular activities, clubs, honors societies, campus ministry programs, the arts and athletic teams, students develop leadership and management skills.
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH HARVARD'S MAKING CARING COMMON PROJECT & STANFORD'S CHALLENGE SUCCESS:** Supports students' well-being and learning engagement through research-based strategies and a culture of compassion.
- **DIVERSITY INCLUSION VISION EQUITY (D.I.V.E.) COMMITTEE:** The D.I.V.E. Committee works to strengthen diversity, inclusion and equity across SMCHS.
- **WELLNESS PROGRAM:** Expanded support services include a wellness director and wellness coordinator. The program provides mental health education, training, resources and referrals to support students and their families in meeting the challenges of adolescence.