



KHAN LAB SCHOOL 2020-2021 PROFILE

**A community of learners
empowering every
student to navigate
their own path.**

Fast Facts

Founded 2014 by Sal Khan
High School Founded 2017



Type K-12, Independent, Co-educational,
Mixed-age learning



Total School Enrollment (K-12): 199
Upper School Enrollment (6-12): 110
High School Enrollment (9-12): 57



Students in the Class of 2021 10



Teacher-Student Ratio 1:10



Calendar Full-day, full year model;
Two semesters and a summer term

Highlights

We do not provide letter grades or rank our students. Students receive regular reports that map their progress towards fulfilling a course's learning outcomes.

Students meet with an advisor weekly to support their social, emotional, and academic learning.

Academic progress in a discipline is decoupled from age, and every student is assigned to a mixed-age cohort.

While we do not offer AP courses, KLS students took a total of 41 AP exams last year and 93% received 3 or higher.

The class of 2021 took a total of 19 exams last year and 95% received 3 or higher.

Middle 50% of PSAT/NMSQT Scores for the class of 2021: 1320-1455

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS

On March 16, 2020, Khan Lab School shifted to remote learning, and it is uncertain when the high school will return in person. We follow an online weekly school schedule that includes both synchronous and asynchronous classes. Because of our smooth transition to remote learning, it was unnecessary to adjust our mastery-based assessment model. Starting in March 2020, SAT and ACT test centers were closed in the Bay Area and exams continue to be canceled, impeding students' ability to sit for standardized tests. The majority of our first graduating class will not have standardized test scores and have not visited colleges in-person, yet they remain steadfast in their educational goals and personal passions.

OUR SCHOOL

Khan Lab School (KLS) is a non-profit, mastery-based school founded by Salman Khan in 2014 to cultivate his student-centered philosophy in a physical school environment. Khan is also the founder of Khan Academy and author of *The One World Schoolhouse* (2012), in which he makes the case for mastery-based, mixed-age, and blended learning with a departure from traditional letter grades. Today the KLS community is bringing that vision to life on its own campus and also sharing knowledge within education more broadly.

OUR STUDENTS

KLS believes that young people are capable of far more than society currently recognizes.

Students at KLS embrace this philosophy, as they progress in their unique journeys and experience the meaningful outcomes of mastery learning. Instead of competing against one another, they collaborate and make real contributions in the world around them. Our students are not singularly focused on chasing high marks or piling on AP courses (we don't have them!). Instead they take agency in their own learning, seek to understand course content, cultivate a range of interests and skills, and demonstrate their achievements in various contexts. Our students are pioneers in every way. They are pioneers of KLS, of mastery-based education, of the Mastery Transcript, and, most importantly, of their own future.

OUR FACULTY & ADMINISTRATION

Khan Lab School's 19 Upper School faculty and administrators foster a community of learners who love to learn. We work diligently to ensure consistency in mastery across disciplines, while also maintaining a commitment to meeting students where they are. The quality of learning remains consistently high, even as our lab school regularly reimagines and tests new methods of teaching and learning. Our team is committed to this model, designed to help our community share best practices with educators locally and globally.

OUR CURRICULUM

KLS uses a mastery-based learning model, creating the time and space for what matters most. Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of all competencies and skills identified in a course before moving on, thereby reducing the number of "gaps" in their education. Academic progress in a discipline is decoupled from age, and every student at KLS is assigned to a mixed-age cohort. While the time it takes a student to finish a course may vary, the depth of mastery remains constant. KLS creates space within and beyond the core academics for students to explore their passions. In this space, they further develop their skills and apply their learning within contexts that are meaningful to them—and quite often develop expertise at a far younger age than many would expect. Physical activity, wellness, and creative expression are also central to community life.

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HOW TO READ OUR TRANSCRIPT

Foundational and Advanced Credits

In short, Foundational Credit is teacher-driven whereas Advanced Credit is student-driven. Foundational Credit is earned when a student has mastered course content and skills. Advanced Credit is earned when a student chooses to go beyond the already high course expectations and applies their learning in a real-world context. Examples of Advanced Credit include (but are not limited to) internships, teaching, competitions, research, community service, and various passion projects. Applied learning is often transdisciplinary and requires our students to be responsible, independent, collaborative, creative, and entrepreneurial problem-solvers.

In Progress: Current courses are listed as “In Progress” on the transcript because we believe that a student must demonstrate understanding multiple times in multiple contexts before achieving mastery.

Foundational Credit: 90% of all learning outcomes are mastered; a student must demonstrate an understanding of learning outcomes in multiple contexts. *A student with a grade of 90% and above at a traditional school would earn foundational credit at KLS.*

Advanced Credit: More than 90% of learning outcomes are mastered; a student must demonstrate an understanding of learning outcomes in multiple contexts and apply them beyond the confines of the course to earn advanced mastery. Advanced Credit is optional and difficult to obtain. Earning these credits requires original work and self-motivation.

—There is no minimum number of advanced credits a student can earn.

—Most students earn 5-6 Advanced Credits prior to Graduation.

—Outer Wellness is not credit-bearing and is taken as pass/fail.

—We do not rank our students and do not use letter grades.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

KLS uses a mastery-based learning model and graduates have a solid academic foundation across all disciplines. KLS creates space within and beyond the core academics for students to explore their passions. In this space, they further develop their skills and apply their learning within contexts that are meaningful to them—and quite often develop expertise at a far younger age than many would expect. Graduation requirements are thus simplified in order to create the time and space for students to pursue what matters most to them.

Students must earn a total of 22 Foundational Credits in order to graduate from Khan Lab School. These credits are earned in part by meeting the University of California’s 15 required subject requirements as well as successful completion of a year-long Senior Capstone project and 6 courses of their choice.

- 2 years of history**
- 4 years of English**
- 3 years of mathematics**
- 2 years of science**
- 2 years of a foreign language**
- 1 year of visual and performing arts**
- 1 year of college-prep elective**

- 6 years of elective courses**
- 1 year Capstone Project**

Students are only required to take five academic courses each year, as they are expected to demonstrate a deep understanding of all competencies and skills identified in a course before moving on, thereby reducing the number of “gaps” in their education. During the senior year, students take a minimum of four courses, including a capstone project.

DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

Khan Lab School partners with Foothill College to offer several courses that are listed on the transcript as “Dual Enrollment Courses.” While students receive foundational credit for courses taken at Foothill, they are evaluated using an A-F scale that cannot be translated into our model. *Students are unable to earn Advanced Credit for dual enrollment courses.* Please refer to the official Foothill transcript for course grades.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Senior Capstone

In the final year at KLS, students are required to do a year-long Capstone project and present their findings to a committee. Students can fulfill this requirement through professional internships, college-level research, or high-level community engagement.

Year-Round & Extended Day Calendar

Our extended school day and year-round academic calendar allow for deeper learning. Our students are not rushed through courses; eliminating gaps in their learning. They can use the additional days and extended schedule to get extra help, pursue a passion project, and/or earn Advanced Credit.

Advising

Teachers are also Advisors at KLS because academic learning cannot be separated from social and emotional learning (SEL). In their weekly advisory group meetings, students are heard and supported, as advisors lead them through SEL exercises and discussions.



OUR ACCREDITATIONS

Khan Lab School is accredited by **Cognia™**, a parent organization of the **North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement** (NCA CASI)

Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC)

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)

AFFILIATIONS

National Association of College Admissions Counselors

Western Association of College Admissions Counselors

Mastery Transcript Consortium® (MTC) Member School

