



Orinda Academy is an independent co-educational high school founded in 1982 and located in Orinda, California, just east of Oakland. Class sizes range from 5-16 students with a ratio of students to teaching faculty of 7:1. The majority of our students come from the East Bay region including Berkeley, Oakland, Orinda, Walnut Creek, Alameda, Lafayette, Piedmont, Richmond, Danville, Pleasanton, and Castro Valley.

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College Counselor - Cyndy Gifford-Palermo
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Registrar - Susan Neylan
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Accreditation and Associations

Orinda Academy is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), People of Color in Independent Schools (POCIS), and the East Bay Independent Schools Association (EBISA).

Graduation Requirements

Orinda Academy's graduation requirements are aligned with and meet or exceed the University of California and California State University "a-g" admissions standards.

History/Social Science "a"	1 year of world history and 1 year of U.S. History
English "b"	4 years
Mathematics "c"	3 years through Algebra 2
Science "d"	2 years of laboratory science
Language other than English "e"	2 years of the same language, 3 recommended
Visual and Performing Arts "f"	1 year, 2 recommended
College Preparatory Electives "g"	1 year
Health	1 semester
Physical Education	2 years of participation

Community Service

40 hours

Grading Standards

Coursework is awarded a grade on an A-F scale with grade points assigned to standard courses on a 4.0 scale and to honors courses on a 5.0 scale. GPA is computed on the basis of academic courses only. Orinda Academy does not report class rank.

Courses of Study

History/Social Science

**California History, World Cultures, *Honors World Cultures, U.S. History, *Honors U.S. History, Civics, Economics, Psychology, **Sociology

English

English 1, English 2, *Honors English 2, English 3, Honors American Literature, Advanced Composition, **Honors Advanced Composition

Mathematics

Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, *Financial Algebra, Precalculus, *Honors Precalculus, Calculus, *Honors Calculus, Honors Calculus 2, **Introductory Statistics

Science

Environmental Science, Biology, *Honors Biology, Chemistry, *Honors Chemistry, Advanced Physics, *Honors Physics

Language

Spanish levels 1-4, **Honors Spanish 3, *Honors Spanish 4, American Sign Language levels 1-4, French levels 1-4

Arts

Stage Band, Guitar, Vocal Music, Music and Film Studies, Music Theory, **Honors Music Theory, Beginning Art, Advanced Art, *Honors Advanced Art, **Beginning Digital Photography, *Digital Photography 1, **Digital Photography 2

Electives

Study Skills, Yearbook, Journalism, Weight Training and Fitness, Team Sports, *Pickleball, Volleyball, Leadership, *Advanced Leadership, Health

*Added to the curriculum offerings beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

**Added in the 2020-21 school year.

Student Activities and Special Programs

Students of Color Union - Student Council Collective - Queer-Straight Alliance - Student Disciplinary Panel - ECO Team - Friday Clubs - Yearbook - Campfire Forum - Annual All-School Retreat

Educational Adventures Week (intersession) - Prom - Senior/Alumni Connection Day - Wellness Day
Peer Leadership - STEM Night - Winter and Spring Arts Festivals - Cultural Inclusion Association

College Placement

Approximately 95 percent of Orinda Academy graduates continue their education in a college or university. College acceptances from the last five graduating classes include:

American University	Georgia State University	Seattle University
Arizona State University	Goucher College	Simmons College
Azusa Pacific University	Hampshire College	Southern Oregon University
Beijing Conservatory of Music	High Point University	State University of New York
Beloit College	Hofstra University	Buffalo
Berkeley City College	Idaho State University	Syracuse University
Berklee College of Music	Indiana University Bloomington	Trinity College
Boise State University	Irvine Valley College	University of Alabama
Bryant University	Ithaca College	University of Arizona
California College of the Arts	Jackson State University	University of California
California Polytechnic	Kansas State University	Davis
Pomona	Landmark College	Irvine
California State University	Langston University	Merced
Bakersfield	Liberty University	Santa Cruz
Chico	Loyola Marymount University	University of Colorado - Boulder
East Bay	Macalester College	University of Dallas
Long Beach	Mansfield Hall	University of Delaware
Los Angeles	Marymount California University	University of Denver
Maritime Academy	McDaniel College	University of Illinois
Sacramento	Mercyhurst University	University of Minnesota
San Marcos	Miami University - Oxford	University of Mississippi
Sonoma	Mills College	University of Missouri
Chapman University	Montana State University	University of Montana
College of Charleston	Musicians Institute - College of	University of New Hampshire
College of Idaho	Contemporary Music	University of Puget Sound
College of San Mateo	New York University	University of Redlands
Colorado State University	Ohio Wesleyan University	University of San Francisco
Columbia College - Chicago	Pacific University - Oregon	University of Utah
Cornell University	Penn State University	Ursinus College
Dean College	Reed College	Washington State University
DeAnza College	Regis University	Westminster College - Salt Lake
DePauw University	Rochester Institute of Technology	Wheaton College
Diablo Valley College	St. Mary's University	Whitman College
Dominican University	San Francisco State University	Whitworth University
Drew University	San Jose State University	Willamette University
Drexel University	Santa Clara University	

Distance Learning Protocol - Spring, 2020

On March 13, 2020, under a statewide shelter-in-place order from California Governor Gavin Newsom, Orinda Academy transitioned to a full distance learning protocol and remained in the distance learning protocol through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. All classes continued to meet without interruption via videoconference, and all of our students were able to access classes, homework, extra help from teachers, learning support, and assessments to complete all second semester coursework.

Grade Recording for Spring, 2020

Because of the abrupt nature of the transition to distance learning and to account for the variety of learning profiles represented by our student body, the school administration determined that we would put in place a “do no harm” grading policy for students. All students and families were given an option to elect a letter grade or a CR/NC (credit/no credit) grade notation for the second semester. We allowed students to choose a hybrid grading system, as we recognized that in some cases, and in some classes, depending on our students’ learning profiles, students thrived in the distance learning protocol, but in some classes they struggled with the challenge of being separated from regular in-person contact with their teachers.

Distance-to-Hybrid Protocol for 2020-2021

To begin the school year, Contra Costa County remains in a category that does not allow for full in-person school meetings. The master class schedule for the school was implemented for the full school year with embedded flexibility that, when permitted by the state, will allow our classes to move from full distance learning to a hybrid attendance protocol with approximately half of the students on campus. In either scenario, all students have access to technology that allows them to access their classes, the learning management system, and robust supports for learning. Classes earning 5 credits per semester meet synchronously four times per week. One day per week is scheduled for asynchronous work, tutorials with teachers, and assessments. Classes earning 2.5 credits per semester meet once per week synchronously with asynchronous work required on Wednesdays or during other unscheduled time.

Grade Reporting for 2020-2021

Grades will be reported on our standard A-F scale for both semesters of the 2020-2021 school year.