

THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

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Interim Head of School: Thomas Bendel

Director of College Counseling: Cameron Gaede

Director of Admissions: Thomas Goldsmith

College Board Code: 010335

ACADEMIC PROFILE 2021-22

THE SCHOOL: The Altamont School is a coeducational, college preparatory school located atop Red Mountain in a residential area five minutes away from downtown Birmingham, Alabama. Altamont was established in 1975 through the merger of the Birmingham University School and the Brooke Hill School. The school serves approximately 360 students in grades 5–12, with an upper school enrollment of 192. Thirteen percent of the student body are Asian American/Indian; 10% are African American; and 3% are Hispanic.

ADMISSIONS: Admission to Altamont is competitive. An applicant's academic record, the Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE), an interview and teacher recommendations are all considered in the admissions evaluation. Personal references are important, but the admissions committee accepts students based on academic ability and the behaviors required by the Altamont Honor Code and Standards for Students as outlined in the student handbook. Altamont seeks students from all ethnic, cultural, racial, and religious backgrounds who can benefit from a challenging academic program.

FINANCIAL AID: Of the students enrolled at Altamont for the 2021-22 school year, approximately 38% share \$1,253,043 in scholarships (merit and fellowship) and financial aid. For the 2021-22 school year, scholarships and financial aid equal 15.4% of tuition revenue.

MISSION: The mission of The Altamont School is to improve the fabric of society by graduating compassionate, well-educated individuals capable of independent thinking and innovative ideas. To this end, the school attracts, nurtures, and challenges students whose commitment to truth, knowledge, and honor will prepare them not only for the most rigorous college programs, but also for productive lives.

HONOR CODE: To underscore our environment of trust and integrity, our Honor Code is an integral part of Altamont. This code affirms our values and traditions and facilitates the transition from the Altamont community to the world at large. Our Honor Court consists of six members: President of the National Honor Society, President of the National Junior Honor Society, two upper school students elected by the student body, and one upper school student selected by the faculty. The Head of School appoints one faculty sponsor who serves in a non-voting role.

ACCREDITATIONS: The Altamont School is accredited by SACS and holds membership in the NAIS, AAIS, SAIS, ERB, SSSFA, The College Board, NACAC, and SACAC. Altamont complies with the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM: With few exceptions, upper school core courses are taught at the **Honors** or **AP** level. **Senior Seminars** are semester-long, intensive seminars offered in the English, history, and math departments. With approval, juniors may take history and math seminars. Students must take a minimum of five major subjects each year and must accumulate 23.5 credits to graduate. In addition, all Altamont students must read one book a month outside of class. Students must meet departmental requirements in English, world languages, history, mathematics, science, fine arts, speech, and physical education/health.

Graduation Requirements (fulfilled in upper school only):

- *English:* 4 years, which include 2 semesters of Senior Seminars
- *World Languages:* 3 consecutive years of the same language*
- *History:* 3 years *
- *Mathematics:* 3 years (students must complete Statistics or Pre-calculus)*
- *Science:* 1 year of each of the following lab sciences: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics; OR 1 year of Biology, Chemistry, and two additional years of science courses.*
- *Fine Arts:* Two fine arts courses are required. One course, Jazz Band for example, may be taken twice to meet this requirement. The school recommends that students take a fine arts course each year.
- *Health:* 1 year
- *Physical Education:* 1 year
- *Speech:* 1 year

*We strongly recommend that students take four years of world languages, history, mathematics, and science.

Grading System:

- **100-Point Scale:** Altamont's grading system is based on an unweighted 100-point scale. Official grades are given at the end of each semester and at the end of the school year.
- **4.0 Scale:** To reflect the academic rigor at Altamont, we provide an unofficial weighted GPA on a 4.0 scale.

2021-22 Course Offerings: (H) Honors (AP) Advanced Placement (SS) Senior Seminar

ENGLISH

- 9th Grade English (H)
- 10th Grade English (H)
- AP American Literature
- African Am. Lit (H) (SS)
- Modern Eastern World Lit. (H) (SS)
- Modern American Drama (H) (SS)
- Russian Literature (H) (SS)
- Southern Stories (H) (SS)
- Women Writers (H) (SS)
- Speech

- 20th C. Europe (H) (SS)
- Contemp. Pol. Theory I (H) (SS)
- Contemp. Pol. Theory II (H) (SS)
- Greek History (H) (SS)
- Latin American Studies (H) (SS)
- Roman History (H) (SS)
- South & Civil Rights (H) (SS)
- Vietnam (H) (SS)
- World War I (H) (SS)

MATHEMATICS

- Algebra (H)
- Geometry (H)
- Algebra II (H)
- Pre-Calculus (H)
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- Complex Calculus (AP calculus prerequisite)
- Diff. Equations (AP calculus prerequisite)
- Linear Algebra (AP calculus prerequisite)
- Multivariable Calculus (AP calculus prerequisite)
- Finite Mathematics (H)
- Statistics (H)

SCIENCE

- Biology (H)
- Chemistry (H)
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Environmental Science
- Physics (H)
- AP Physics 1
- AP C Physics
- Human Anat. & Physiology every other year
- AP Psychology

TECHNOLOGY

- 3-D Printing
- Adv. Computer Systems
- Programming
- Video Game Development
- Web Design

FINE ARTS

- 3-D Art & Design
- Acting
- Ceramics
- Choir
- Creative Writing

- Drawing
- Jazz Band
- Music Tech. & Composition
- Music History & Theory
- Orchestra
- Musical Theatre
- Painting
- Photography: Documentary
- Photography: Nature
- Photography: Studio
- Sculpture
- Technical Theatre

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- PE
- Health
- Weight Training

HISTORY

- Anc. & Med. Civilizations (H)
- Europe and the Modern World (H)
- Modern World History (H)
- AP U.S. History
- AP Macroeconomics
- AP Microeconomics

CLASS of 2022 (38 students)

Unweighted, six-semester core GPA

The highest six-semester GPA in the Class of 2022: 98.59

Class of 2022

# students with all As on transcript	7
# students with at least 1 B on transcript	14
# students with at least 1 C on transcript	11
# students with at least 1 D on transcript	6

***** Due to COVID-19 mitigation efforts at The Altamont School and their impact on our curriculum and students, we are not providing AP, ACT, or SAT testing information this year. *****

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: 4 of the 38 students in the Class of 2022 will be recognized by National Merit.

CLASSES OF 2018-21 (182 students)

Unweighted, six-semester core GPA

The highest six-semester GPA 2018-21: 98.58

Classes of 2018-21

# students with all As on transcript	43
# students with at least 1 B on transcript	70
# students with at least 1 C on transcript	53
# students with at least 1 D on transcript	16

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Of 182 students in the classes of 2018-21, 26 were recognized by National Merit.

FIVE YEAR COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS

American University, Appalachian State University, Auburn University (12), Baldwin Wallace University, Bard College, Barnard College (3), Bates College, Baylor University, Belmont University (4), Berea College (2), Birmingham-Southern College (2), Bocconi University, Boston College, Boston University (2), Brown University (4), Clemson University, Colgate University, College of Charleston (3), Colorado State University (Fort Collins), Columbia University, Cornell University (2), Dartmouth College (2), Dickinson College (2), Drexel University (2), Duke University (4), Elon University (4), Emory University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Furman University (2), George Mason University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Georgia Institute of Technology (3), Gonzaga University, Grinnell College, Hampden-Sydney College, Harvard University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Harvey Mudd College, High Point University, Hollins University (2), Holy Cross College, Johns Hopkins University (2), Kenyon College, Lehigh University (2), Louisiana State University, Loyola University Chicago, Marion Military Institute, Middlebury College, Mississippi State University, Morehouse College, Mount Holyoke College, New York University (3), Northeastern University (2), Northwestern University (2), Oglethorpe University (3), Pomona College, Reed College, Rhodes College (5), Rice University (4), Rochester Institute of Technology, Rollins College (2), Samford University (4), Savannah College of Art and Design, Sewanee: The University of the South (10), Skidmore College, Spring Hill College (4), Stanford University, Tabor College, Texas Christian University (2), The University of Alabama (10), Trinity University (2), Troy University, Tulane University (5), United States Air Force Academy, United States Naval Academy, University of Alabama at Birmingham (9), University of Alabama in Huntsville (2), University of Arizona, University of Auckland, University of British Columbia (2), University of California (Berkeley), University of California (Los Angeles), University of California (San Diego), University of Chicago, University of Colorado Boulder (2), University of Denver (3), University of Georgia (2), University of Michigan, University of Mississippi, University of Missouri (Columbia), University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), University of Notre Dame, University of Pennsylvania (3), University of South Alabama, University of Southern California (2), University of Virginia (3), Vanderbilt University (2), Vassar College, Villanova University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Wake Forest University, Washington and Lee University (3), Washington University in St Louis (2), Williams College, Wofford College (2), Yale University (4)

SPECIAL FEATURES AND PROGRAMS:

- **The C. Kyser Miree Ethical Leadership Center** is designed to give Altamont students an opportunity to learn leadership skills and give them hands-on opportunities to utilize what they have learned. Leadership opportunities and internships may be local or global in scope and nature.
- **Senior Seminars** in English, history and math offer semester-long, intensive college-level courses.
- **Fall Project Week** offers experiential learning through travel, service, and outdoor activities and includes an annual college trip with visits to approximately 12 colleges and universities.
- **Honor Code** and student-operated Honor Council.
- Numerous opportunities in the arts, academic competitions, and speech and debate participation.
- Varsity and Junior Varsity opportunities in nine sports.
- Award-winning forensics.
- Numerous service opportunities.

FACULTY: Altamont has an administrative and teaching staff of 62; student-to-faculty ratio is 12:1. Sixty-nine percent of faculty have master's degrees or higher, 76% have taught at Altamont for five years or longer, and 21% are published writers. Thirty percent of faculty and staff are alumni. Students benefit from a strong advisory program and also have access to college advising and personal counseling.

ACADEMIC/ATHLETIC FACILITIES: Altamont's campus is located on 28 acres. The main school building houses 40 classrooms; two science wings; the Cabaniss-Kaul Center for the Arts; a Student Center; the Martin Hames Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden; a complete computer network with three 3D printers and science labs; a 14,000-volume library and extensive College Counseling Resource Center; and special studios for chorus, art, photography, orchestra, and audio and video production. The main campus includes six tennis courts, a track, a soccer field with discus cage, shot-put ring, long jump pit, pole vault pit, and golf cage. Two gymnasiums provide two basketball courts, three volleyball courts, athletic training room, and weight room. A second campus provides soccer, baseball, and softball fields.

SCHOOL CALENDAR : The school operates under a two-semester system. Class meetings follow a two-week, rotating cycle in which each period meets four times per week for a total of 240 minutes.

The Altamont School admits students of any race, color, creed, gender, national or ethnic origin to the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions practices, and other School-administered programs.