



Palo Alto Senior High School

Established 1894

50 Embarcadero Road

Palo Alto, CA 94301

650-329-3701

www.paly.net

CEEB/ACT School Code 052-350

2021-2022 School Profile

Palo Alto High School, Paly, has long had a national reputation for academic excellence. The proximity of Stanford University, the Silicon Valley business community, and San Francisco has created a socially diverse community with high academic expectations and a strong belief in quality public education. The student body reflects the community's socio-economic status and educational level. The ethnic/racial makeup of our student population is 35.1% Asian, 1.72% African-American/Black, 38.4% Caucasian, 13.8% Hispanic/Latino, .25% American Indian/Alaskan Native, .79% Pacific Islander, 9.94% 2 or more races. 10% of the student population is enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch Program; 9% are first generation college students. Total student enrollment is 2,032.

Palo Alto High School's Guidance Program provides academic planning, personal counseling, and college and career advising for students. At the core of the guidance department is the Teacher Advisor (TA) Program. The primary delivery of guidance materials and instruction is via the teacher advisors in the Friday advisory periods. The teacher advisors serve as students' academic advisors and write students' counselor recommendations and/or school reports.

ACADEMICS 2021-2022

Paly students benefit from a rich curriculum and extensive extra-curricular opportunities. The student-teacher ratio is 28:1. Students may enroll in up to seven classes a semester. Students must take a minimum of five classes. Students earn 5 credits for passing each semester course.

Graduation Credit Requirements (220)

- English – 40
- Mathematics – 30 (including Algebra I & 2 & Geometry)
- Science – 20 (Biological – 10; Physical – 10)
- Social Studies – 40
- Electives – 25
- World Language – 20
- Arts, Visual & Performing – 10
- Career/Technical Ed (CTE) – 10
- Living Skills – 5
- Physical Education – 20

Honors Courses

Paly offers 26 Honors courses.

AP Courses

Paly offers 27 AP courses. Paly recommends students take no more than 2 AP courses a year. Note: AP Spanish Literature was not offered during the 2021-2022 year due to low enrollment.

Dual Enrollment Courses

Paly offers 5 dual enrollment Foothill Community College courses.

For a list of all Honors, AP and Dual Enrollment courses, please see page 13 of the course catalog: <https://www.paly.net/learning/course-catalog>

For a description of the Social Justice Pathway and TEAM cohort programs, as well as a list of all courses offered with title abbreviations, see the Palo Alto High School Course Catalog online at: <https://www.paly.net/learning/course-catalog>

Grading System

All credits earned in grades 9-12 count toward graduation. All courses are counted in computing grade point average with exception of courses earning:

P = Pass NM = No Mark NC = No Credit

School service and Teaching Assistant courses are graded on a P or NC basis.

Grade points are determined by using the following scale of equivalents:

A = 4 B = 3 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0

All AP and honors classes will receive an extra grade point for a C or higher in grades 10 - 12.

GPA's are calculated on a weighted 5-point system for Honors (H), Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment (D) courses in grades 10-12. All other courses factor into the GPA on a 4-point scale. A student's weighted GPA appears on his/her high school transcript and related college-application School Reports. We do not weight grades from coursework in 9th grade.

Off-campus courses, with prior approval, are added to the Paly transcript. Off-campus AP courses earn an additional grade point in the weighted GPA. Community college courses earn double credits.

Please note that +/- are not factored into the GPA. The following classes do not provide +/- in their grading rubrics:

- CTE: AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, Principles of Bio Medical Science, Functional & Object-Orientated Programming
- Science: Biology & Bio H, AP Bio, Chemistry H & AP Chem
- World Language: all classes

Key to Transcript Symbols in Course Titles on Transcripts

A = Advanced (math)/Accelerated (English)

B = Blended

D = Dual Enrollment Community College Course

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- The high school closed March 17, 2020 due to health concerns stemming from the pandemic. Students were graded using Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) scale for Semester 2 in the 2019-2020 school year.
- In Fall 2020, school opened in distance learning with live daily interaction as well as rigorous coursework. 2020-21 school year academic instruction was provided primarily through synchronous instruction via Zoom. Grading resumed and A-F semester grades were issued.
- California Assembly Bill 104 allowed parents to request an A-D letter grade earned in any course during the 2020-2021 school year to be changed to Pass (P) and any F grade to No Pass (NP).
- Due to COVID conditions, we were unable to administer any standardized tests (PSAT, ACT, SAT) until April 13th, when we administered an optional school-day SAT primarily as an alternate qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Current seniors continue to report no or limited available test seats at local sites for fall 2021 SAT and ACT administrations.
- Student attendance for college representative visits on campus this fall is restricted to seniors due to capacity limits set in compliance with Santa Clara County COVID-19 health guidelines.

CLASS RANK & GRADE POINT AVERAGE

520 students in the Class of 2022. Individual rank in class is not reported. To assist you in evaluating student performance, the following grade distribution chart is provided.

GPA Range (Unweighted)	Number of Students
New – no GPA yet	7
3.76 – 4.00	239
3.51 – 3.75	105
3.01 – 3.50	110
2.51 – 3.00	40
2.50 and below	19

TESTING

Students at Paly continue to demonstrate outstanding performance on standardized tests.

ACT Scores: Composite Average

Year	2019	2020	2021
ACT Scores	28.2	26.9	31.4
Nat'l Scores	22.6	20.9	20.6

SAT (1600 Scale)

Year	2020	2021	Nat'l & Int'l Mean
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	669	686	533
Math	667	723	528

AP Scores (May 2020)

964 students took 2,244 tests
91% scored 3 or higher
42% scored a grade of 5

National Merit Program

Year	2020	2021	2022
Semifinalists	26	38	32
Commended Scholars	73	74	5

Award-Winning Student Activities & Clubs

Arts

- Creative Writing
- Scholastic Arts
- Theater

Music

- Symphonic Band & Orchestra
- Jazz Band
- Pep Band
- Concert Band
- Wind Ensemble
- Madrigal Singers
- Spectrum Singers
- Premier Choir
- Concert Choir

Student Activities

- Spirit Team
- Cheer and Dance

Clubs

- Math Club
- Robotics Team
- Science Olympiad
- Speech and Debate

Publications

- C Magazine
- The Campanile (newspaper)
- InFocus (broadcast)
- Madrono (yearbook)
- Paly Voice (online news)
- Verde Magazine
- Viking (sports magazine)
- Video Production

Community Engagement

203 students in the class of 2022 contributed 41,136 hours of service



Athletics

Palo Alto High School is a member of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League in the following sports:

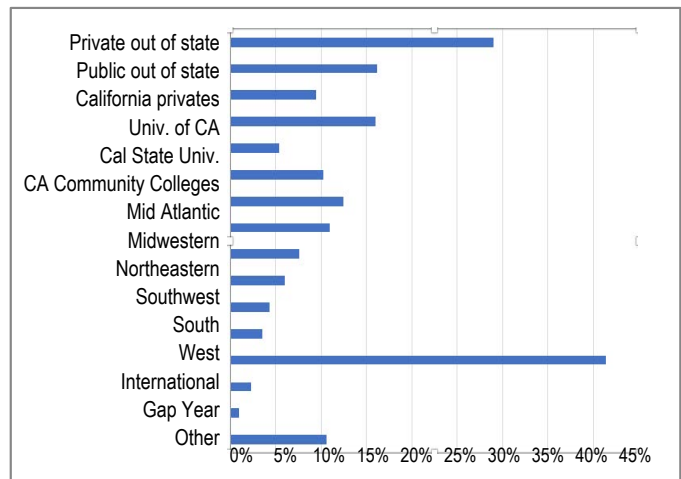
- Badminton (C)
- Baseball (B)
- Basketball (B,G)
- Cheer (C)
- Cross Country (B,G)
- Field Hockey (G)
- Football (B)
- Golf (B,G)
- Lacrosse (B,G)
- Soccer (B,G)
- Softball (G)
- Swimming & Diving (B,G)
- Tennis (B,G)
- Track/Field (B,G)
- Volleyball (B,G)
- Water Polo (B,G)
- Wrestling (C)

B = Boys G = Girls C = Co-ed

Palo Alto High School Plans - CLASS OF 2021

Due to distance learning last year, we were unable to collect complete data. The following information reflects 404 students from a class of 550.

76.9% directly to 4-year colleges • 10.6% directly to 2-year colleges .93% Gap Year - 11.57% Other



CONTACT INFO

Principal Brent Kline (650) 329-3831

Assistant Principals

Jerry Berkson (650) 329-3760
 LaDonna Butler (650) 329-3760
 Erik Olah (650) 329-3760
 Michelle Steingart (650) 329-3760

Guidance Department

Charles Taylor (12th Grade) (650) 833-4216 chtaylor@pausd.org

College & Career Center (650) 329-3818

College Advisors

Sandra Cernobori (A-K) (650) 329-3813 scernobori@pausd.org
 Crystal Laguna (Pathways) (650) 329-3719 claguna@pausd.org
 Janet Cochrane (L-Z) (650) 833-4298 jcochrane@pausd.org

Palo Alto Unified School District

Dr. Donald B. Austin, Superintendent
 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306
 (650) 329-3737

MEMBER OF:

- The College Board
- National Association of College Admission Counselors (NACAC)
- Western Association of College Admission Counselors (WACAC)

Complies with NACAC's *Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission*. Accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges.