



The Grauer School Profile



2021-2022

WHO WE ARE

The Grauer School, founded in 1991, is a grades 7-12 independent, relationship-driven, college preparatory day school with approximately 160 students in attendance. Nestled on six green acres in the coastal community of Encinitas just five miles north of the San Diego city limit, Grauer serves students from surrounding communities as well as international students. The Grauer Foundation for Education is a not-for-profit organization governed by a Board of Trustees.

MISSION

We redefine what an independent school looks and feels like. As one of San Diego's leading life preparatory schools, The Grauer School's purpose is unique, research-driven, and simple – to teach and encourage students to become resourceful, intellectually curious, intrinsically motivated, self-advocating, and accountable in a compassionate, college preparatory environment.

FACULTY

At The Grauer School, 86% of our teachers possess advanced degrees, and Cum Laude is the norm. We attract teachers who have graduated with distinction from their universities, have a strong commitment to humanitarian service, and have had sustained international and intercultural experiences. With 35 certified personnel, including the Head of School, Principal, and Counselor, our teacher-to-student ratio is 1:7. This **small school advantage** enables the faculty to foster relationship-driven education and to cultivate an abiding intellectual curiosity in our students.

ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Grauer is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

The Grauer School is a member of professional organizations worldwide, including:

- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- Small Schools Coalition (SSC) - Founder
- National Honor Society (NHS)
- Online Education Strategies for Independent Schools (OESIS)
- UNESCO Associated Schools
- Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC)
- National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- California Association of School Counselors, Inc. (CASC)
- American School Counselor Association (ASCA)

PARTNERSHIPS

Community partnerships have been fostered since Grauer's inception. Students work closely with the Surfrider Foundation and the Nature Collective on local coastal issues. Our sister school is Maui Preparatory Academy. We are an Associated School of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This designation establishes Grauer as one of 11 UNESCO Centers for Innovation in the United States and the only one in our region. The school campus has been awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold status. We are a proud member of the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce, and the school taps deeply into our local community.

The Grauer School

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Associated School



National Association
of Independent Schools

Fully Accredited by



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Grauer School’s graduation requirements follow the University of California track (a-g requirements) and exceed California State Standards. Moreover, 50 documented hours of community service, ecological and humanitarian expeditions, and a capstone Senior Graduation Thesis Defense are required of our graduates.

Honors

Honors is our most rigorous course of study; **Grauer does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) classes**. To promote a balanced, holistic educational experience, students can enroll in a **maximum of three Honors courses per year** (unless they have petitioned our Leadership Team to add an additional course). Honors coursework is offered in almost all academic areas and must be approved by the department chair and the student’s counselor. An Honors course will result in an additional point towards the student’s GPA.

Ranking

At The Grauer School, we do not rank our students.

Required Classes

English	4 units
Mathematics	3 units
Lab Science	3 units (4 units recommended)
Health	0.5 units
World Religions	0.5 units
World History & Geography	1 unit
U.S. History & Geography	1 unit
Economics & U.S. Government	1 unit
World Languages	2 units (3 units recommended)
Visual & Performing Arts	1 unit
College Prep Electives	1 unit
Physical Education	3 units

Grading Scale

Grade	Regular Courses	Honors Courses	Percentile
A	4 points	5 points	90-99
B	3 points	4 points	80-89
C	2 points	3 points	70-79
D, F, Incomplete	0 points	0 points	69 >

MASTERY LEARNING POLICY

The Grauer School employs a **Mastery Learning** policy. Honoring the traditions of **Socratic education**, students revise their work to ensure that they progress to the next level of complexity only when they have mastered the prior level to the degree of their own choosing. We recognize that students are individuals, and all are encouraged to maximize their talents and to persevere until they achieve success. Students may not revise summative assessments and comprehensive semester exams.

STANDARDIZED SCORE AVERAGES

	The Grauer School Class of 2020*	National Average
SAT		
EBRW	654	531
Math	590	528
TOTAL	1244	1059
ACT		
Reading	31	21.2
Math	27	20.3
TOTAL	29	20.7

*No scores are available for the Class of 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



COVID-19 PANDEMIC E-LEARNING TRANSITION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Grauer School provided e-Home virtual learning from March 2020 through October 2020. During this time, our grading scale remained the same and students attended synchronous, virtual classes from 9:00am-3:00pm daily. We offered local day trips to all students in lieu of our traditional expeditions, and we hosted important transitional experiences for our students virtually. From October 2020 through June 2021, most of our students returned to in-person on-campus learning, while a small number of students opted to continue e-Home learning. The Grauer School began the 2021-2022 school year fully in-person and on-campus with no option for e-Home learning.



SENIOR GRADUATION THESIS DEFENSE

To verify that our students have grown into resourceful, compassionate individuals, every Grauer senior develops a comprehensive **Senior Portfolio** and makes an original, in-depth presentation to a panel of teachers, parents, peers, and administrators. The students are expected to demonstrate a level of scholarship and also articulate the core values they have internalized as Grauer students. Seniors may choose from the following for their thesis defense: The Arts, Global and Humanitarian Studies, Science & Technology, Ecological Studies, Expeditionary Education, Leadership Studies, Liberal Arts, Personal Health and Athletics, Social Justice & Activism and Other (By Petition).

EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

Grauer was founded on a one-of-a-kind **Expeditionary Learning** program to enrich its college preparatory curriculum, in accordance with the school's motto "Learn by Discovery"™. Rooted in the philosophy that real-world engagement is critical to an authentic education, the program transports students around the community and the globe to immerse themselves in unfamiliar languages, cultures, and ecosystems for two full weeks or more per year. These cultural and humanitarian experiences are life-altering. Community service, the arts, geography, physical challenge, social interaction, and student reflection are all a part of the process in this widely emulated program.

CO-CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT

The Visual and Performing Arts department at The Grauer School allows students to discover their **passions and unique artistic talents**. With film studies & production, multimedia, music, photography, recording arts, studio art, theatre, and yearbook opportunities, a student's senses – and sense of accomplishment – can be awakened in a multitude of ways. 86% of Grauer students take advantage of our arts offerings.

An extraordinarily high percentage of Grauer students play sports and compete in **inclusive** athletic competitions. For our high school athletes, we partner with Horizon Prep in varsity and junior varsity sports sanctioned by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), Division 5. CIF sports offerings include basketball, cheer, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, tennis, track & field, and volleyball. Club sports also rotate throughout the year, including archery, sailing, surfing, yoga, and more.

Grauer provides a full range of **college preparatory STEM options**, including robotics, computer science, engineering design, environmental science, graphic design, and guitar building. **Grauer's Shockwave Robotics team members have been world-champion contestants five times.** Our math and science classes incorporate technology and engineering through project-based learning and student projects, providing hands-on opportunities that expand upon what they have learned in the classroom. We also believe in turning STEM into STEAM, incorporating "A" for Arts through collaborations with our arts programs.

The Grauer School's mission is to develop **compassionate citizens** as we collaborate with students in helping in their community, in nature, and around the world. Students participate in at least 50 documented hours of community, humanitarian or ecological service as they move through high school.

Student-run clubs are in regular development by petitioning students. Club offerings vary each year, including academic, athletic, and leadership opportunities.

STUDENT SATISFACTION: 99TH PERCENTILE NATIONWIDE

Grauer students participated in the **nationally-normed** Panorama Social Emotional Learning Surveys in 2021, along with thousands of other schools and students across widely diverse geographical areas across the nation. The surveys measure students' feelings about teaching and learning. Grauer students responded to questions in these specific areas:

- Vitality of the social and learning climate
- Physical and psychological safety at school
- Strength of the connection between teachers and students in and out of the classroom
- Rigor of teacher expectations around effort, understanding, persistence and performance in class
- Sense of belonging and being valued as a member of the school community
- Degree to which the school experience is engaging, informative, important, relevant and useful

Compared to the nationwide sample of high school students, Grauer students' responses were in the 99th percentile in all of these areas.



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The Grauer School is exceptionally proud of our alumni as they represent what is best about our school, worldwide. The talents, creativity, and passion of our graduates have been recognized and honored widely. Our many acceptances include the colleges and universities below.

Air Force Academy Prep School	Cornish College of the Arts	Macalester College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Alabama, University of	Creighton University	Manchester Metropolitan University	Rhodes College
Allegheny College	Dartmouth College	Manhattan School of Music	Rice University
American University	Davidson College	Marquette University	Rochester Institute of Technology
American University of Paris	DePaul University – Chicago	Maryland, University of	St. Mary's College of California
American Academy of the Dramatic Arts – New York	DePauw University	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Services	San Diego State University
Amherst College	Denver, University of	Massachusetts, University of	San Diego, University of
Arizona State University	Dominican Univ. of California	McGill University, Canada	San Francisco Art Institute
Arizona, University of	Drexel University	Miami, University of	San Francisco, University of
ArtCenter College of Design	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Miami University of Ohio	Santa Clara University
Auburn University	Emerson College	Michigan State University	Sarah Lawrence College
Azusa Pacific University	Emory University	Minnesota, University of	School of the Art Institute - Chicago
Babson College	ESMOD France	Montana, University of	Seattle University
Bard College	Evergreen State College	Mount Holyoke College	Simmons College
Barnard College	Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising	Naropa University	Skidmore College
Bates College	Florida Institute of Technology	Nebraska, University of	Southern California, University of
Bennington College	Fordham University	Nevada, University of	Southern Methodist University
Bentley College	Franklin Pierce University	New College of Florida	Southern Oregon University
Berklee College of Music	Franklin University - Switzerland	New Mexico Institute of Technology	St. John's University
Biola University	George Washington University	New Mexico, University of	Stonehill College
Boston University	Gonzaga University	New York University	Swarthmore College
Bradley University	Grinnell College	North Carolina, University of	Syracuse University
Brandeis University	Hampshire College	North Dakota, University of	Temple University
British Columbia, University of	Hans University of Applied Sciences - Switzerland	Northeastern University	Texas Christian University
Brown University	Harvey Mudd College	Northern Arizona University	Texas, University of – Austin, Dallas
Bryn Mawr College	Haverford College	Notre Dame, University of	The New School – New York
California College of the Arts	Hawaii Pacific University	Oberlin College	Trinity College
California Lutheran University	Hawaii, University of - Manoa	Occidental College	Trinity College – Dublin
California State University - All Campuses	High Point University	Ohio State University	Tulane University
Case Western Reserve Univ.	Hofstra University	Oregon State University	United States Air Force Academy
Central Florida, University of	Illinois, University of	Oregon, University of	University of California - All Campuses
Chapman University	Indiana University – Bloomington	Otis College of Art and Design	Utah, University of
Chicago, University of	Iteso University, Mexico	Pacific, University of the	Vassar College
Clemson University	Ithaca College	Pacific Lutheran University	Villanova University
Colby College	Johnson and Wales University	Pennsylvania State University	Wake Forest University
Colby-Sawyer College	Kenyon College	Pepperdine University	Washington State University
College of Wooster	Laguna College of Art & Design	Pitzer College	Washington, University of
Colorado College	La Verne, University of	Point Loma Nazarene University	Washington University, St. Louis
Colorado School of Mines	Lehigh University	Portland, University of	Wellesley College
Colorado State University – Fort Collins	Les Roches School – Switzerland	Prescott College	Western Washington University
Colorado, University of – Boulder	Lewis and Clark College	Puget Sound, University of	Westminster College
Columbia College - Chicago	Linfield College	Purdue University	Westmont College
Columbia University	Long Island University	Quinnipiac University	Wheaton College
Connecticut College	Loyola Marymount University	Redlands, University of	Whitman College
Cornell University	Loyola University - Chicago	Regis College	Whittier College
	Lynn University		Willamette University
			Williams College
			Wisconsin, University of - Madison