



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

2022-2023 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 36% Asian, 2% African-American/Black, 35.4% Caucasian, 14.1% Hispanic/Latino, .2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1% Pacific Islander, 11.1% 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 1,963.

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 2022-2023

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 1 & 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 27 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 6 dual enrollment Foothill Community College courses.

For a list of all Honors, AP and Dual Enrollment courses, please see page 14 of the course catalog: <https://www.paly.net/learning/course-catalog>

For a description of special pathways and 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>

CLASS RANK & GRADE POINT AVERAGE

There are 541 students in the Class of 2023. 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	251
3.51 – 3.75	114
3.01 – 3.50	101
2.51 – 3.00	48
2.50 and below	20

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. Concurrent enrollment 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:

- Career Technical Education: AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, Principles of Bio Medical Science, Functional & Object-Oriented Programming, Functional & Object Oriented Programming H, Principles of Engineering, Work Experience, Audio Music Production & Audio Music Production - Advanced
- 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

SJ = Social Justice Pathway

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.
- 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).

TESTING

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

ACT Scores: Composite Average

Year	2020	2021	2022
ACT Scores	26.9	31.4	29.2
Nat'l Scores	20.6	20.6	20.6

SAT (1600 Scale)

Year	2021	2022	Nat'l & Int'l Mean
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	686	670	506
Math	723	699	493

AP Scores (May 2022)

973 students took 2,248 tests
94% scored 3 or higher
53% scored a grade of 5

National Merit Program

Year	2021	2022	2023
Semifinalists	38	32	39
Commended Scholars	74	5*	84

* Due to COVID, we did not offer the PSAT on campus in 2020

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

Community Engagement

272 students in the class of 2023 contributed 37,267 hours of service and had an economic impact of \$863,359

Athletics

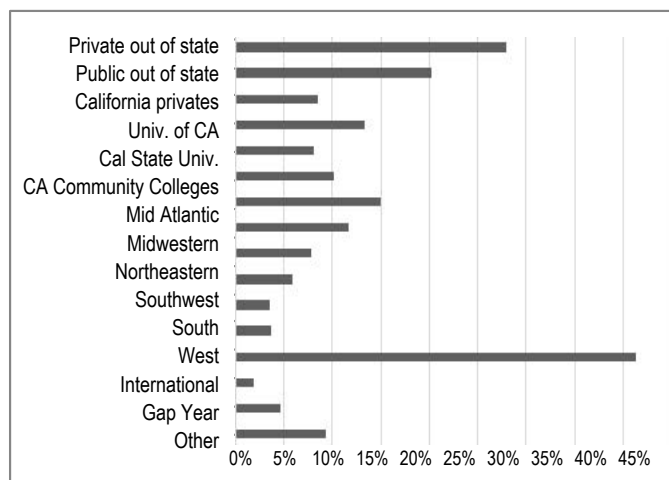
Palo Alto High School is a member of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League in the following sports:

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

B = Boys G = Girls C = Co-ed + = League Champion # = CCS Champion

Palo Alto High School Plans - CLASS OF 2022

75.92% directly to 4-year colleges • 10.1% directly to 2-year colleges
4.66 % Gap Year - 9.32 % 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 (650) 329-3712

School Counselors

Crystal Laguna = A-Be (650) 329-3719 claguna@pausd.org
James Hamilton = Bh-Gri (650) 329-3712 jhamilton@pausd.org
Selene Singares = Gro-Low (650) 329-3712 ssingares@pausd.org
Charles Taylor = Lu-Shaw (650) 833-4216 chtaylor@pausd.org
Jillian Restivo = She-Z (650) 329-3712 jrestivo@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

Community Engagement and Scholarship Coordinator

Karla Larson (650) 329-3823 klarson@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.

