



Los Olivos, CA | [dunnschool.org](http://dunnschool.org) | 805.688.6471

# LIVE where you LEARN



# THE DUNN SCHOOL MISSION

The Dunn School community educates  
whole students to their fullest potential  
in preparation for a life of learning and  
responsible leadership in society



# WHOLE STUDENT EDUCATION

Whole Student Education occurs when a student is fully seen, heard, and known. It starts with a professional community that supports, engages, and challenges students not just between the school bells, but in all the important character-building moments that occur before and after them, too. **Dunn prepares students for life beyond college by thinking 20 years out.** Who are you going to be, and how can a school help you discover that? By giving you the space to practice, to try, to experience all the things you may do out in the world while you're still in school, you'll receive the opportunity to experience the person you're going to be, so you can have an impact as a human being forever.



# DUNN'S EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK

For more than 65 years, Dunn has stayed true to its mission to educate the whole student. In that pursuit, our professional community furthers student understanding and appreciation of five important values.



EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

—

PHYSICAL READINESS

—

INTELLECTUAL GROWTH

—

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

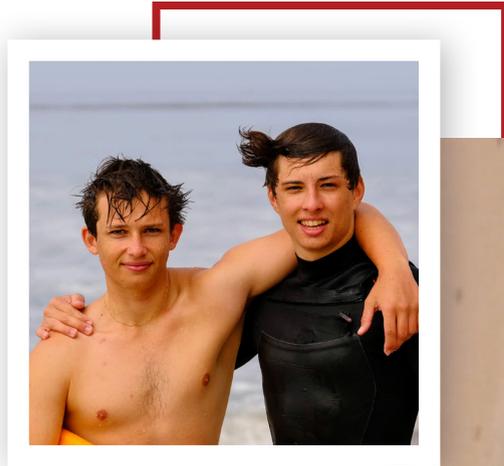
—

MORAL COURAGE

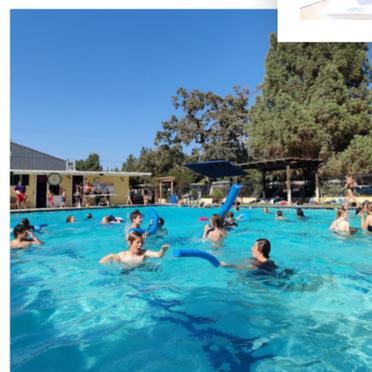
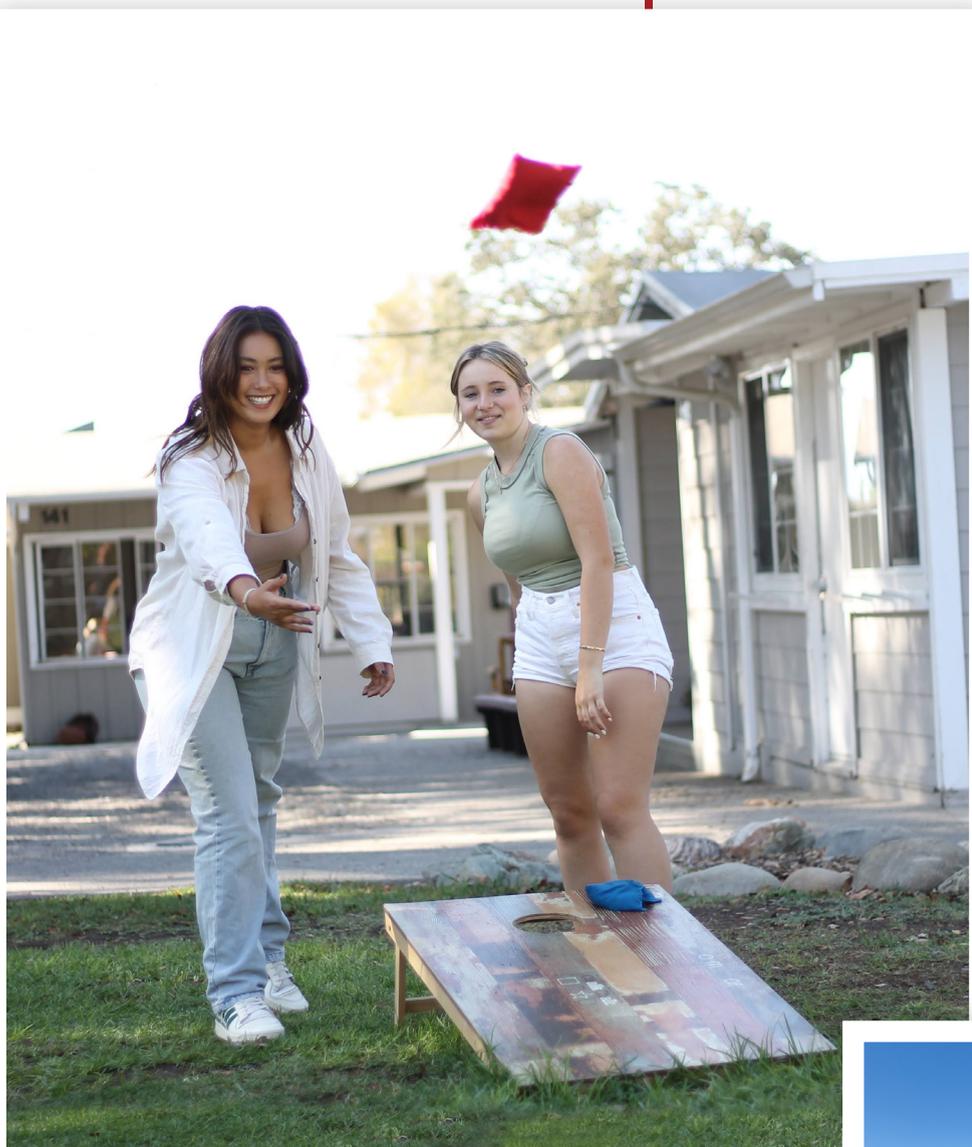
# STUDENT LIFE



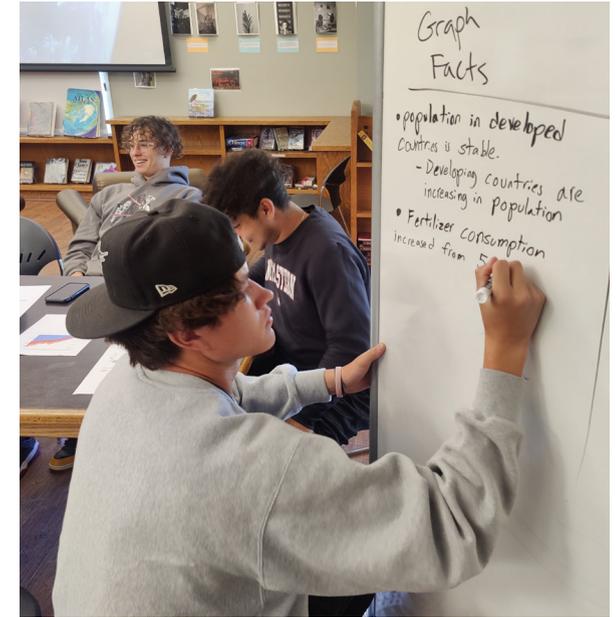
Each weekend (and on special occasions during the week!), Dunn plans and executes a wide variety of activities for student enjoyment. Trips to shop, to local restaurants, to LA Dodgers' games, to amusement parks, and to many of the naturally beautiful spots in Central California are just a sampling of the fun that we have with our activities program. Many of these programs are chosen by the students themselves – we have an active student-run Activities Committee that helps plan both on-campus and off-campus events. Whether you are a boarding student or a day student, there's always something to do!



We have four dormitories that provide a home away from home for our students. Dedicated faculty and staff live in each dormitory, and the vast majority of teachers spend time overseeing study hall during the academic week. Student leaders and members of the school's administration create programming specifically for the students living in our dormitories, which feature single and double options as well as a full kitchen and lounge spaces.



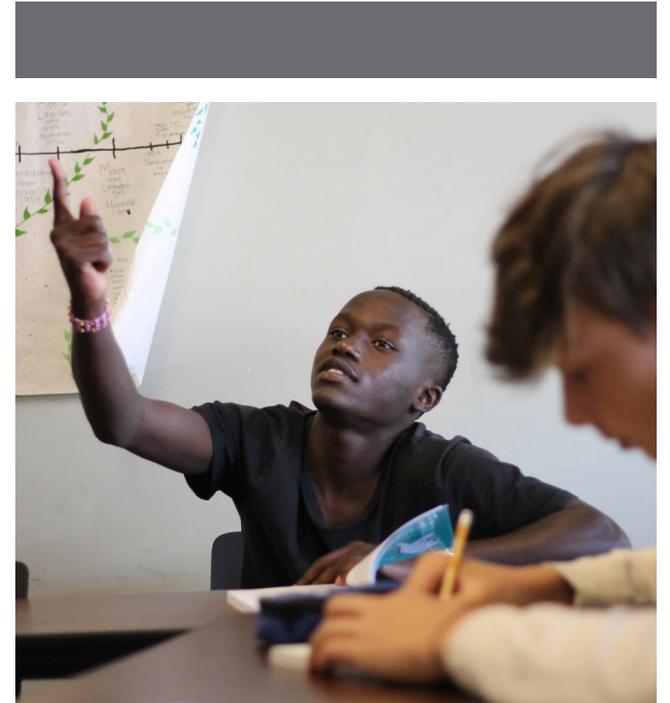




# ACADEMICS

The academic program at the Upper School balances intellectual rigor and skill mastery with a highly supportive and accessible faculty. Our teachers promote creativity, intellectual courage, curiosity, and ethics in the learning process. And it is this balanced approach that allows us to engage a broad range of learners across disciplines in an authentic and purpose-driven approach to academics. **Dunn's curriculum is highly responsive to the interests, abilities, and aspirations of our students and the unique strengths of our faculty**, which means on any given

day a student may go from deep reading and discussion in one class to a collaborative activity in the next. A Dunn education is marked by the opportunity to engage with a range of topics through a variety of approaches, ensuring that all types of learners are appropriately challenged and supported in the learning process through multiple modes of assessment. A visitor to Dunn is just as likely to see students launching rockets from Munger Common as they are to see them writing an in-class essay.





# INNOVATION

More so than memorizing facts and recalling them in a test environment, a true measure of intellectual growth is seen in your ability to create and innovate. By bringing our innovation program to the forefront, Dunn is providing space for students

to develop skills and the creative mindset to become makers. Whether it's through engineering design, robotics, computer science, or racecar simulation – which combines multiple STEM disciplines – opportunities abound.



# ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**The Robert W. Jurgensen Program** is proof that experiential, project-based learning need not sacrifice rigorous academic standards. For underclassman, students attending Jurgensen's Entrepreneurs will be eligible to receive college credit (3) from the University of Delaware via a partnership with their EntreX Lab. For upperclassman, students enrolling in Jurgensen's Economists will benefit from a dual-credit (3) partnership with Syracuse

University's Project Advance. These partnerships offer the best of both worlds, as students will benefit from the small class sizes, and creativity of the RWJ Program instructors while engaging in accredited college-level curriculum. Their college aptitude and confidence will be established long before their first college application is complete.







# EXPRESSION

**A key component to being seen, heard, and known as a whole student lives in the ability to express yourself**, and expression takes place in many arenas on the Dunn campus. The Sinclair Art Studios is a state-of-the-art facility housing our fine arts, including a drawing/painting studio, a fully-equipped ceramics studio and sculpture yard, and a multimedia classroom for digital photography and filmmaking. Music classes take place in the historic schoolhouse at the center of campus. It's

equipped with practice rooms, pianos, guitars, drums, and other instruments, as well as studio quality digital recording equipment. Acting class takes place in the Nancy Luton Jackson Barn, a performance space that's home to each school year's plays and musicals. Dunn's Speech and Debate program is a blend of public speaking, acting, and arguing that also prepares students to express themselves in Dunn's Martin Luther King Jr. Speech and Debate Contest Series.



# WHOLE STUDENT COLLEGE COUNSELING



At Dunn, College Counseling is highly personalized, and we do not subscribe to one approved list of schools. Rather, by knowing our students and having a deep understanding of their strengths and areas of growth, we help them develop their own personal criteria to identify colleges where they will thrive academically and socially. We encourage them to make authentic choices, and our matriculation list shows that our students do just that. From public universities to small liberal arts colleges, Dunn students find their right-fit college homes. Our College Counseling program offers many opportunities for students to explore college options and to learn about the admissions process, including on-campus visits with admissions representatives, small group instruction, and individual application support. While we expect students to drive this process, it is a collaborative effort between them, their parents, and our office. **The College Counseling team is here every step of the way to help students:**

- Design a course schedule that is appropriately challenging and has college interests in mind
- Take ownership of the college search process
- Understand the many college options that exist
- Develop a well-balanced list of colleges for consideration
- Create an authentic and compelling application
- Manage the admissions process
- Decide between college offers, including reviewing financial aid and scholarships





# ATHLETICS

The excellence of our athletic program is clear from the number of Dunn student-athletes who have gone on to play at NCAA Division I, II and III colleges and universities. Despite being a small school, we are able to produce athletes with enough talent to play at the next level – and even professionally. We've had several Gatorade California Players of the Year and one Gatorade National Player of the year.

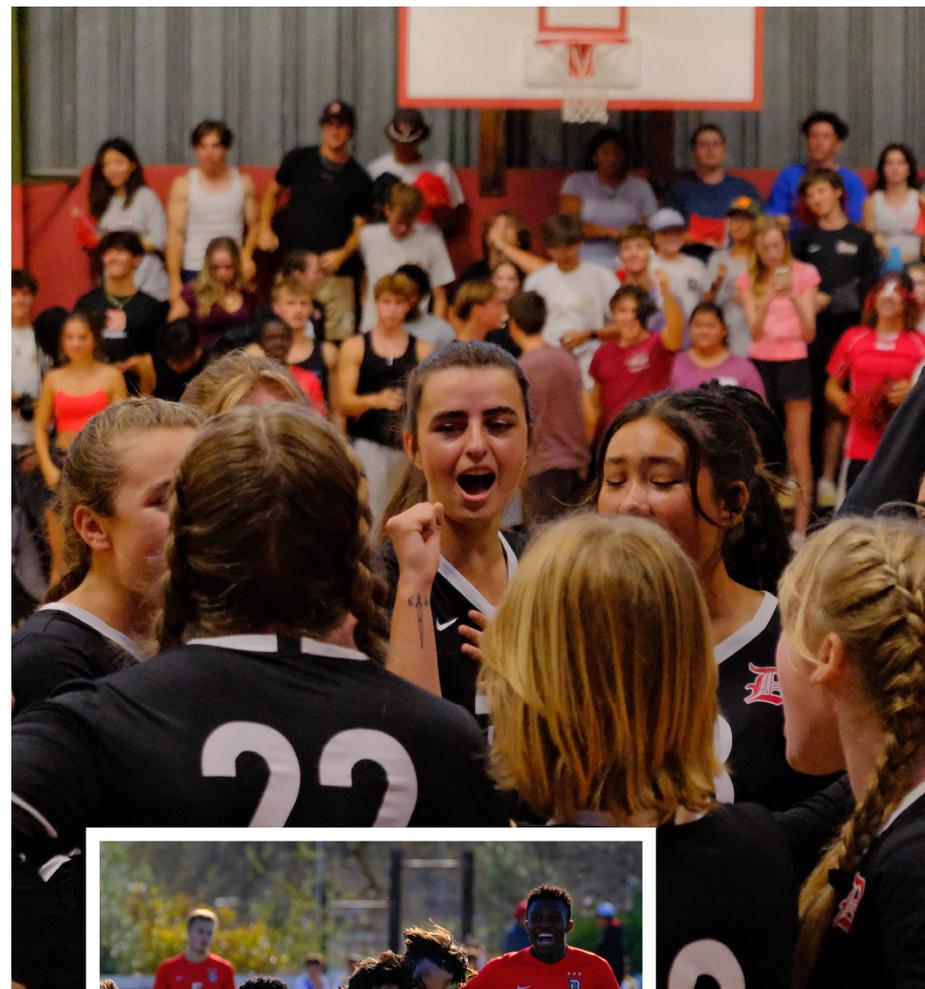
Dunn's program fosters leadership, self-confidence, and commitment to a team. Through practice, training, and competition, **Dunn students gain an appreciation for teamwork, sportsmanship, perseverance, and healthy life habits – traits transferable to life beyond athletics.** Experienced coaches embrace whole child education by developing character skills on and off the field and promoting teamwork in every aspect of the sport.

Athletic accomplishments come in many shapes and sizes. Dunn School embraces the athletic spectrum and pushes students to be their best physical selves, preparing their bodies for a lifetime of healthy living and activity. But we also enjoy tremendous success for a small school. In 2023, we had our first female student athlete sign a national letter of intent to play collegiately at Ivy League university Princeton.

All students must participate in sports year round, and one of those seasons is required to be interscholastic competitive athletics (\*).

### Our Sports:

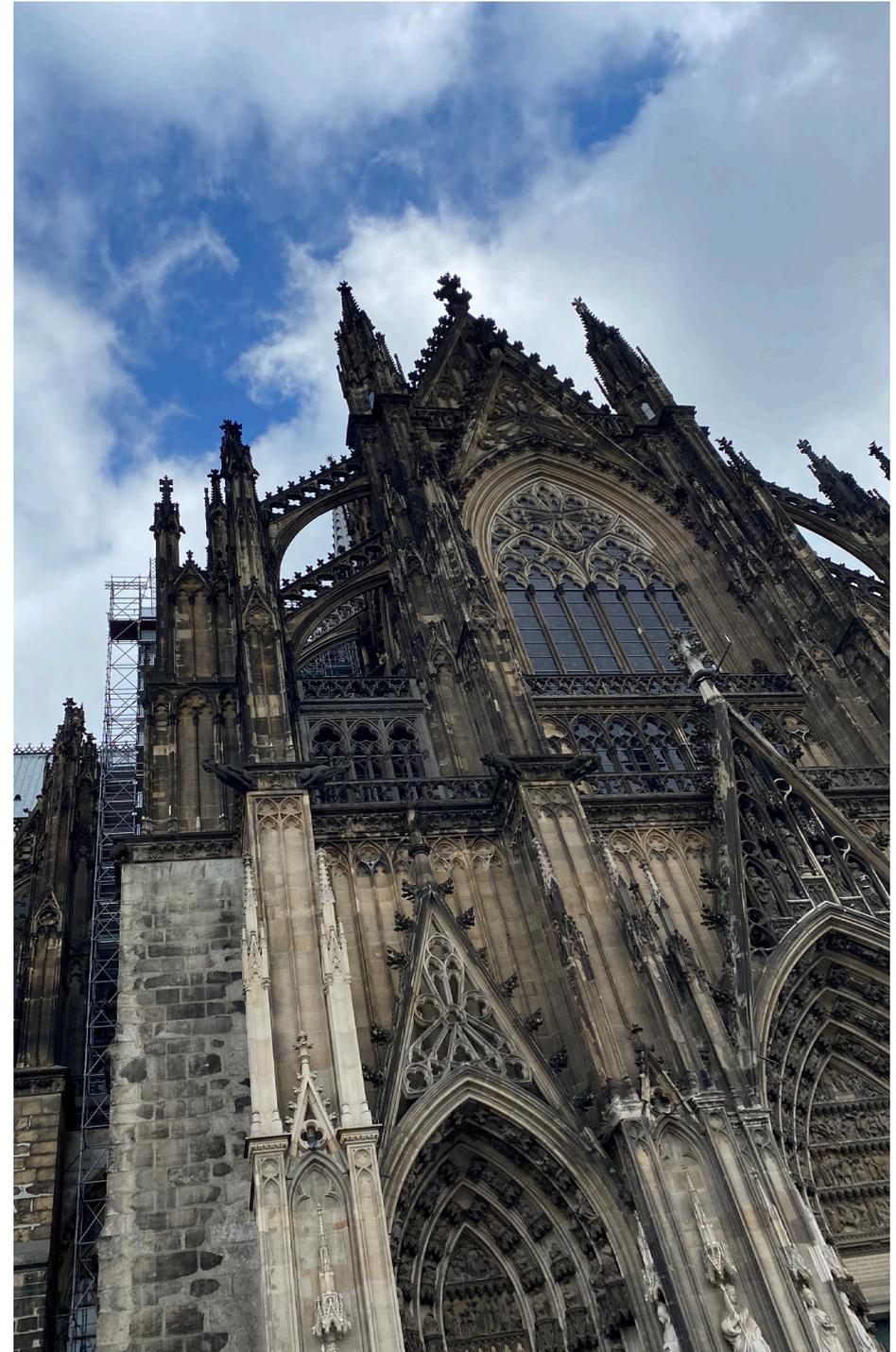
- Soccer (B/G)\*
- Volleyball (B/G)\*
- Fall Baseball (B)
- Cross Country (B/G)\*
- Fall Soccer (Coed)
- Fall Basketball (Coed)
- Ultimate Frisbee (Coed)
- Beach Volleyball (G)\*
- Swimming (Coed)\*
- Basketball (B/G)\*
- Drama (Coed)\*
- Baseball (B)\*
- Tennis (B/G)\*
- Track (B/G)\*



# ROUND SQUARE

Round Square is global network of more than 200 schools in 50 countries that are connected by their like-minded approach to character education. Dunn's whole-student approach and experiential learning falls directly in line with Round Square's IDEALS: Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership, Service.

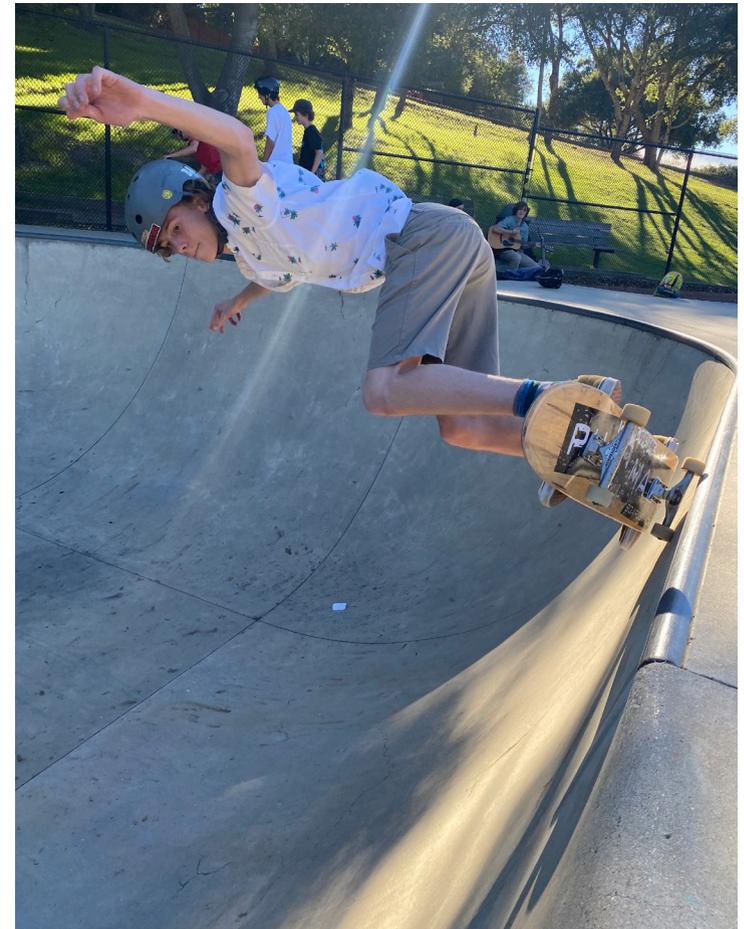
**One of the tangible benefits of belonging to the Round Square network is connecting with schools worldwide for the benefit of student exchange.** As we continue building bonds, opportunities for our students to engage in global citizenship are effectively limitless.



# CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

One of the benefits of attending a small California boarding school is that you will never lack for things to do and ways to get involved. **Student clubs, committees, and activities are based on student interest and are highly encouraged.** Whether you are interested in surfing and skiing, building and competing with robots, planning and hosting student events, or giving back to the community, there's a way to get involved and stay active. And, of course, our students take full advantage of the fact that our location allows us to enjoy being outside year-round! Whether they are hosting a beach cleanup day or an outdoor dance, student events and activities are enjoyed both inside and out throughout the school year!

Independent Offerings. Every season, students are asked to be part of a team or an activity, and if you have a passion for something outside of Dunn's programming, then we have Independent Sport waivers that allow you to follow your dreams, whether they be rodeo, karate, or ballet!



# OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Our Outdoor Education Program provides you with the required knowledge, confidence, and experience to ignite an interest in outdoor recreation on a personal level, develop a sense of stewardship towards the natural world, and build meaningful relationships with classmates, faculty, and staff in challenging, outdoor environments. Past Outdoor Ed offerings have included:

- Canoeing the Colorado River
- Summiting Mt. Whitney
- Backpacking in Yosemite
- Mammoth Lakes Multi-Sport
- Monterey Bay Adventures
- Bouldering & rock climbing in Joshua Tree
- Kayaking trips to the Channel Islands
- Morro Bay Adventures
- Weekend camping in our neighboring Los Padres National Forest (we are on the edge of two million acres of protected land)
- Weekend ski trips to Tahoe and the Sierras







# WINTER TERM

Winter Term is an exploratory three-week period between Thanksgiving and Winter Break that offers all students a chance to choose from numerous intensive and immersive academic and physical experiences. Whether students stay on campus or journey across the globe, the goal is to finish the term with an in-depth understanding of a focused topic. Led by faculty and staff members with occasional outside speakers and presenters, this program gives students an opportunity to connect with something greater than themselves, either on-campus or in the outside community. Winter Term can help students discover interests that they plan to pursue after Dunn.









# LIFE IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Dunn School is located in Santa Barbara County, along California's beautiful Central Coast. Our campus sits in Los Olivos (in the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley), an area surrounded by two million acres of National Forest and dotted with vineyards and California ranches. It is the perfect blend of California sunshine (over 300 days per year!) and year-round access to the outdoors. Not only does our campus give us easy access to both the coast and the mountains, but it also puts us within easy driving distance of some of the best and most beautiful places in the world. Whether you enjoy cities or National Parks (California has nine – more than any other state!), the ocean or the rugged peaks of the Sierras, we know that you'll fall in love with this area. Where else could you surf and ski in the same weekend? Here are just a few of the amazing places that you can visit from Dunn's campus.



**Santa Ynez Valley**  
Our Own Backyard



**The Pacific Coast**  
20 Minutes



**Santa Barbara**  
30 Minutes



**Los Angeles**  
2 Hours



**Joshua Tree NP**  
4 Hours



**San Francisco**  
4 Hours

# BY THE NUMBERS

## 300+ days of sunshine

We enjoy more than 300 days of sunshine per year, giving us the chance to spend our days outside year-round!

---

## 5:1 student-to-faculty ratio

At Dunn, we have a relational approach to education.

---

## 21 nations represented

In our small boarding school community, students from around the country and the world learn and grow together.



## 12 average class size

Smaller classes mean that you'll have the opportunity to get to know your teachers and really stand out in class!



Los Olivos, CA  
[dunnschool.org](http://dunnschool.org)  
805.688.6471

