



2023-24

ADMISSIONS GUIDE



Urban

QUICK FACTS 2023-24

84 Different middle schools represented

14 Average class size

71% of students participate In Urban Athletics



48% Students of color

>100 Faculty and staff

15 Student Affinity and Ally Spaces

1:10 Faculty to student ratio



\$4.93M in financial assistance provided to 29% of students

135 colleges across the U.S. and five additional countries (classes of 2020-2023)

40+ Student-Led Clubs and Leadership Teams



100% of students participate in Service Learning at Urban



420 STUDENTS



166 Courses, 68 of which are honors level



URBAN SCHOOL was founded in 1966 by a group of Bay Area parents seeking an innovative alternative to conventional secondary education. Our founders believed that high school should be a joyful experience – designed around the particular creative, inquisitive and idealistic energy of adolescents. They also felt that a diverse community of teachers and students should work collaboratively in an atmosphere of trust, honesty and mutual respect. These values continue to define our mission today.

Urban has never believed that institutional or individual success should be measured or understood through lofty SAT scores, flashy college acceptances, athletic championships or impressive GPAs; these are mere byproducts of an aspirational education that cultivates more intangible and enduring qualities of mind and character: empathy, optimism, determination, open-mindedness, creativity, analytical acuity and – more urgently than ever – an authentic investment in making our world a better place.

As you dig into this Curriculum Guide and as you begin to explore Urban, note the commitment to sustained dialogue about complex topics; curricular freedom to ignite and honor student interest; myriad arenas for collaboration and innovation; and a commitment to equity and social justice. Most of all, sense if you can, the unique alchemy of the Urban culture – the dynamic, purposefully engaged community of learners proud to be part of a singular institution ever restless to improve.

Urban School is located adjacent to Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. We aspire to make learning exciting and relevant to a young person and to inspire their contributions to the world well beyond high school. Our thriving student body of 420 students come from a wide range of public, independent and parochial schools across the Bay Area and reflects our embrace of diversity across every dimension.

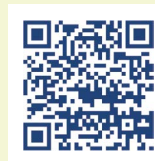
Mission

Urban School of San Francisco seeks to ignite a passion for learning, inspiring its students to become self-motivated, enthusiastic participants in their education — both in high school and beyond.

Belonging at Urban

Students come to Urban from nearly seventy different Bay Area middle schools and bring an extraordinary diversity of identities and life experiences. It is our priority to create a safe, comfortable environment where every one of them can thrive. Our equity and inclusion programming at Urban includes affinity spaces as well as broad community opportunities designed to help students embrace their individual identities, as well as their differences, learn through challenging conversations, and build meaningful relationships with one another. In order to ensure that all students explore aspects of diverse and intersectional identities, Urban is one of the few schools in the US to offer a four-year service learning curriculum with a focus on social justice, as well as personal and communal identity development. Our courses work in tandem with student affinity and ally spaces on campus, and include public forums aimed at helping students develop self-awareness and confidence that also inform their service work in the local community and beyond.

To learn more about Belonging at Urban, please scan this QR code:



To learn more about Service Learning at Urban, please scan this QR code:



Academics

Urban's curriculum is rich and extensive, including core academic classes and an unusually large number of specialized courses, advanced electives and multidisciplinary classes. Our gifted and experienced teachers offer students an education tailored to the unique needs and attributes of young adults. Urban classes are characterized by the deep engagement of both students and teachers in the learning process. The nature and quality of classes result in part from the school's schedule and longer class periods that allow for more focused study. At each stage of their learning, the Urban curriculum anchors students in habits of mind that support successful achievement in high school and creates an affinity for lifelong learning and intellectual enrichment.

Student Life

We believe that high school is an important experience in its own right, not just a stepping stone to college. Urban student life is vibrant with showcase performances, spirit week, dances, and school-wide days and events that foster community, cohesion and excitement in our student body. Urban has more than 40 student-led clubs, and cooperative activities such as student government, Student Admissions Committee, peer health advisors and peer tutoring. The school has an active outdoor and international trips program, as well as a student newspaper and yearbook.



UrbanX Labs is Urban School's integrated and interdisciplinary curricular approach to design, technology and engineering. With offerings like Electronics and Robotics, Materials Science, Advanced Computer Science, Industrial Design, Architectural Design and more, we're teaching students how to develop, design and build their ideas. UrbanX courses teach students the fundamentals of discovery, innovation, creativity and problem-solving, all deeply rooted in Urban's highly academic and supportive teaching environment.



Climate change and environmental sustainability will be among the greatest challenges we face in the coming decades. Urban offers many classes that address different aspects of our relationship with the natural world, while building upon students' prior knowledge from other disciplines. Many of our environmental sustainability classes include field trips as central components. By taking these courses, students expand their knowledge, personal connection and contextualization of key sustainability challenges.





2023-24

URBAN BLUES ATHLETICS

The same kind of initiative and enthusiasm that animates Urban classrooms also energizes the Blues in athletic competition. Urban Athletics provides experiences for competitive athletes and for students trying out a new sport. The interscholastic program promotes respect, discipline, integrity, commitment, physical fitness, sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork.

Students can participate at the varsity, junior varsity or frosh-soph levels. JV and frosh-level teams focus on fundamentals and teamwork, while varsity teams emphasize competition and advanced skills. During 2022-23, 71% of students participated on a team, a testament to the importance of athletics as part of Urban’s overall educational program.

URBAN ATHLETICS THREE-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

2022-23 NCS Champions, CIF State Tournament Qualifiers,
BCL West Tournament Runner-up
2021-22 NCS Champions, BCL West Tournament Runner-up,
CIF State Tournament Qualifiers
2019-20 NCS Semifinalist, BCL West Tournament Runner-up,
CIF State Tournament Qualifiers

GIRLS BASKETBALL

2019-20 BCL West League and Tournament Runner-up,
NCS Qualifiers

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

2021-22 NCS and CIF State Meet Qualifiers

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

2022-23 NCS Meet Qualifiers
2021-22 NCS and CIF State Meet Qualifiers

BOYS LACROSSE

2018-19 BCL West Semifinalist, NCS Tournament Qualifier

GIRLS LACROSSE

2021-22 BCL West Quarterfinalist

BOYS SOCCER

2019-20 BCL West Tournament Champions, NCS Semifinalist

GIRLS SOCCER

2022-23 NCS Semifinalists
2021-22 NCS Qualifiers
2019-20 BCL West League Runner-up, NCS Qualifiers

TRACK AND FIELD

2022-23 NCS Qualifiers, Meet of Champions Qualifiers

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

2022-23 NCS Champions, League Champions, Regional
Championship Qualifiers
2021-22 League Champions (undefeated), NCS Qualifiers

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

2022-23 NCS Champions, CIF State Tournament Qualifiers
2021-22 NCS Semifinalist, CIF State Tournament Qualifiers
2019-20 NCS Semifinalist, CIF State Tournament Qualifiers

GIRLS TENNIS

2019-20 NCS Qualifiers

*** Spring 2020 athletics were canceled due to COVID restrictions.**

*** 2020-2021 athletics abbreviated due to COVID restrictions.**



STUDENT ATHLETES: LEADERS IN THE MAKING

At Urban, our multitalented student athletes have the opportunity to showcase their skills on and off the field. Urban students achieve a high level of success for their respective teams, as well as excelling in other co-curricular activities. Whether in music, theater, student government, or club and activity leadership, Urban athletes are willing to go beyond the field or court and contribute their talents to the broader Urban community.

LEAGUE INFORMATION

Urban School is a member of the Bay Area Conference and the Bay Counties League-West. One of the strongest Division V conferences in the state, member schools have won several sectional and state championships. Other BCL-West schools include Convent of the Sacred Heart/Stuart Hall, Lick-Wilmerding, Marin Academy, San Domenico and University High School.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY REQUIREMENT

In addition to our interscholastic sports teams, Urban also has a physical activity requirement for all students. The program is designed to meet two goals: to instill in students both the lifelong value and the habits of engaging in a physically active lifestyle and to satisfy state requirements for physical education in schools. To honor a diversity of interests and abilities, students can meet requirements by taking Urban classes or through participation in approved activities outside of school. Some of the classes Urban offerings have included:

Yoga	Dance	Urban Hiking
Rock Climbing	Strength and Conditioning	High Intensity Interval Training

SPORTSMANSHIP AT URBAN

Urban School of San Francisco practices the principles of good sportsmanship and honors the values of the CIF and BCL Conference. We stress the values of playing the game fairly, being courteous and cordial to visiting teams and officials, and emphasizing ethical conduct and fair play. We encourage our student body and parents to attend as many athletic contests as possible and to always adhere to our sportsmanlike code of conduct.

 @UrbanAthletics_GoBlues

To learn more about Urban Athletics, scan this QR code:





2023-24

URBAN ARTS

The arts at Urban School are vital to the student educational experience.

Urban arts courses are designed to help students achieve artistic awareness and technical proficiency, and to help them identify their creative instincts and act upon them with intent, joy and perseverance. Urban teachers – professional artists and performers in their own right – mentor students to explore multiple disciplines, to experience the interplay of art forms, and to be open to the incidents and accidents of the creative process.

Like all academic work at Urban, Performing arts students assume group/ensemble responsibilities and/or leadership roles, actively engaging in collaborative work. Visual arts students hone both technical and conceptual skills while working in various mediums. Advanced students map out independent trajectories in creating unique projects or bodies of work. We expect students to graduate with an expanded understanding of themselves as artists and performers, with the ability to rework, present and critique with an awareness of history and eye toward aesthetics.



The School's myriad courses in both visual and performing arts are considered part of students' academic core classes and are required for graduation.

Performing Arts

Essentials of Comedy
Theater 1: Performance Lab
Theater 2: Performance Ensemble
Circus Techniques
One Acts Festival
Peer Education Theater
UAS* Theater Production
UAS* Musical Theater Production
Introduction to Urban Singers
Introduction to Jazz Band
Introduction to Chamber Orchestra
Urban Singers
Lab Jazz Band
Advanced Jazz Band
Chamber Orchestra
Music Theory 1
20th Century American Popular Music
Advanced Musical Ensemble
UAS* Applied Music Theory: Tools
for Performing Musicians
UAS* Music Production and Engineering
UAS* Music Theory 2: Composition

Visual Arts

Architectural Design
Art as a Daily Practice
Drawing/Mixed Media
Graphic Design
Industrial Design
Painting
Photography
Sculpture
Video Production
UAS* Advanced Art Exhibition
UAS* Media Arts
UAS* Printmaking
UAS* Stone Carving

** UAS (Urban Advanced Studies) are developed by the Urban faculty and comprise the school's most rigorous coursework. UAS classes are offered in every subject area and most are recognized by colleges (including the University of California) as honors level courses.*

To learn more about the Arts at Urban, scan this QR code:



APPLYING TO URBAN

1. **Create a Ravenna-Hub account.** The link to Ravenna can be found on our website at urbanschool.org/admissions. Once the prospective student is added to the account, you can explore and apply to Urban School, all in one easy place! Detailed instructions and checklists on Ravenna will help walk you through each step of the process.
2. **Schedule your events on Ravenna.** All Urban admissions events are optional. However, we encourage you to visit our campus and experience the school firsthand to gain a strong understanding of life, culture and academics at Urban. There are multiple ways to engage with Urban, including our Open House, Student Visit, Parent Information Session, Affinity Night and more.
3. **Complete an application.** The entire application is online. All components, as well as recommendations and transcripts, are submitted through Ravenna.
4. **Apply for financial assistance.** Central to the mission of Urban School is a commitment to socio-economic diversity among our students, with a goal to create diverse and inclusive learning environments that foster empathy and belonging in all students. To fulfill this promise, Urban maintains a strong, needs-based financial aid program to ensure an Urban education remains accessible to qualified students regardless of their economic circumstances. To learn more about affording Urban, please visit our website!

To learn more about applying to Urban, scan this QR code:



Urban Admission Events 2023-24

The following optional events are available this year for your family to get to know Urban. Please see the descriptions and dates of all events and register on your Ravenna-Hub account. Reservations are required for all Urban admissions events.

Open House and Athletic Session

Uniquely Urban

Student Campus Visit

Affinity Night

Parent Information Session

Optional Virtual Interview

To learn more about Urban School, please visit our website at urbanschool.org or contact us at admissions@urbanschool.org.



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