



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

2023-2024 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, 34% Caucasian, 14% Hispanic/Latino, .1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 2% Pacific Islander, 12% 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 1,916.

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 2023-2024

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 28 Honors courses. Note: Japanese 4H was not offered in 2023-24 due to low enrollment

AP Courses

Paly offers 27 AP courses. Paly recommends students take no more than 2 AP courses a year.

Dual Enrollment Courses

Paly offers 5 dual enrollment Foothill Community College courses. Note: Multivariable Calculus and Linear Algebra were not offered during the 2023-2024 school year.

For a list of all Honors, AP and Dual Enrollment courses--as well as a description of special pathway and cohort programs-- please see the course catalog: <https://www.paly.net/learning/course-catalog>

Recognition: Paly's Child Development Pathway received the Santa Clara County Kristi Porter Hoffmann Award for exceptional programming in 2023.

CLASS RANK & GRADE POINT AVERAGE

There are 494 students in the Class of 2024. Individual rank in class is not reported. To assist colleges in evaluating student performance, the following distribution chart represents cumulative GPAs from grades 9-11.

Decile	Weighted GPA	Unweighted GPA
1	4.35 - 4.50*	4.00 - 4.00
2	4.21 - 4.34	3.95 - 3.99
3	4.10 - 4.20	3.89 - 3.94
4	4.02 - 4.09	3.82 - 3.88
5	3.90 - 4.00	3.75 - 3.81
6	3.77 - 3.89	3.64 - 3.74
7	3.60 - 3.76	3.49 - 3.64
8	3.30 - 3.58	3.28 - 3.47
9	2.90 - 3.29	2.91 - 3.27
10	1.68 - 2.89	1.68 - 2.90

*Highest GPA reflects 6 full semesters of participation within PAUSD

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.

GPAs 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; as of summer 2023, those course grades will be issued as Cr/NCr on the Paly transcript.

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)
D = Dual Enrollment Community College Course
SJ = Social Justice Pathway

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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	2021	2022	2023
ACT Scores	31.4	29.2	29.0
Nat'l Scores	20.6	20.6	20.3

SAT (1600 Scale)

Year	2022	2023	Nat'l & Int'l Mean
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	670	675	506
Math	699	709	493

AP Scores (May 2023)

978 students took 2,337 tests
94% scored 3 or higher
53% scored a grade of 5

National Merit Program

Year	2023	2024
Semifinalists	39	23
Commended Students	84	81

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

298 students in the class of 2024 contributed 38,947 hours of service and had an economic impact of \$1,238,533.

Athletics

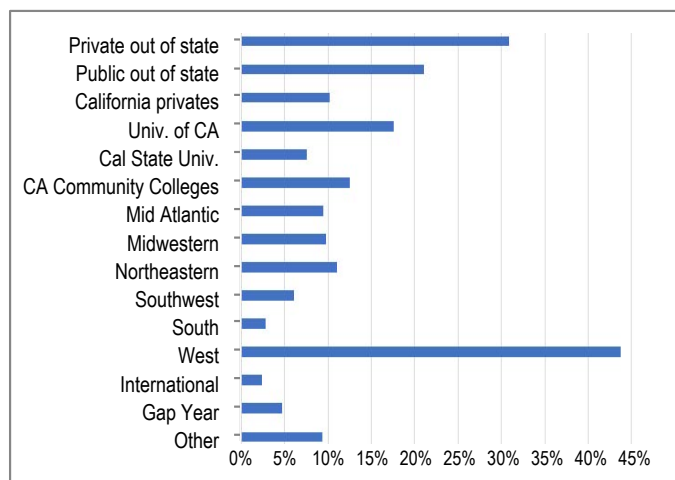
Palo Alto High School is a member of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League in the following sports:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • 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 2023

75.9% directly to 4-year colleges • 10.1% directly to 2-year colleges
4.66 % Gap Year - 9.32 % Other



A college-specific matriculation summary for 2020-2023 is available on paly.net/college

CONTACT INFO

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School Counselors

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Palo Alto Unified School District

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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.

