



SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

#1

Catholic high school in Orange County
– Niche.com

TOP RANKED

Ranked among the top 40 most influential private high schools in the U.S.
– Academic Influence

18

school, college and wellness counselors

1 OF 4

Catholic, IB World high schools in California

90%

student participation in sports, extra and/or co-curricular activities

15:1

student-teacher ratio; average class size of 23

59

performing and visual arts classes, plus an additional 51 courses within the TAPA Conservatory

61,615

hours of direct service to the vulnerable with an economic impact of over \$1.5 million
*2022-2023 school year

79

CIF team championships and 245 league championships

TEN-TIME RECIPIENT

of the CIF-SS Commissioners Cup

#1

in California high school athletics awarded by MaxPreps and Cal Hi Sports for 2022-2023

2023-2024 SCHOOL PROFILE

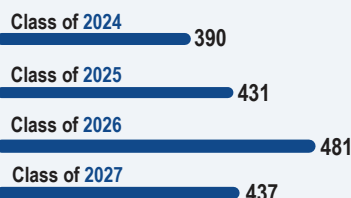
OVERVIEW

Founded in 1987 under the leadership of the Diocese of Orange, Santa Margarita Catholic High School offers a coeducational, college-preparatory education developing students who are people of faith, skilled lifelong learners, healthy individuals and involved citizens of the world. Santa Margarita provides a well-rounded educational experience known for the breadth and quality of its academic programs, innovative technology, student-centered classrooms, emphasis on service and social justice, nationally recognized athletic program, award-winning arts programs and active student body. Centered in the school's charism of Caritas Christi, the love of Christ, students are called to live out the school's core principles of compassion, humility, justice and goodness.

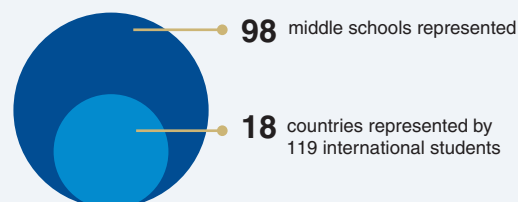
2023-2024 STUDENT BODY

- 53% Caucasian, 16% Asian/Pacific Islander, 10% Multiracial, 9% Hispanic/Latino, 2% Black/African American, 1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 9% Declined to state
- 48% male, 52% female
- 27% of Santa Margarita students receive tuition assistance/scholarships
- 91% U.S. citizen, 9% non-U.S. citizen

ENROLLMENT: 1,739



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



CURRICULUM & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SCHEDULE

- School year includes: Two semesters comprised of approximately 18 weeks
- Modified Block Schedule: 75-minute periods four days a week and one all-periods day per week with 45-minute periods/classes
- All students must take seven courses per semester (9th-12th grade)

ACADEMIC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

*Each semester class is 5 credits

Religion	4 years	40 credits
English	4 years	40 credits
Social Studies	3 years	30 credits
Science	3 years	30 credits
Mathematics	3 years	30 credits
World Languages	2 years	20 credits
Fine Arts	1 year	10 credits
Health	½ year	5 credits
Physical Education	1 year	10 credits
Electives	4 years	45 credits
TOTAL		270 credits

- Minimum GPA to graduate is 2.0
- First Honors: 4.0 and above (weighted)
- Second Honors: 3.5-3.99 (weighted)

GRADING SYSTEM

SMCHS is a non-ranking school

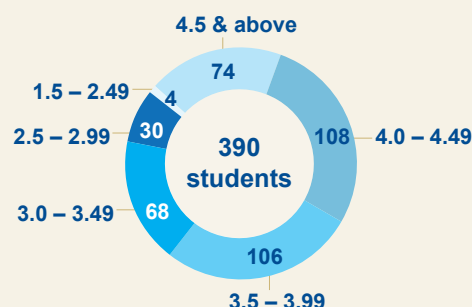
A 90-100 C 70-79 F 59 & below
B 80-89 D 60-69

- Pluses and minuses do not affect GPA
- Honors/AP/IB receive an extra point for Cs and above
- Maximum number of credits for GPA calculation is 280
- All academic courses are counted on the transcripts with no exceptions
- Remediation is recommended for all Ds and required for all Fs
- SMCHS does not offer dual enrollment classes through online schools or community colleges. The transcript only includes courses taken at SMCHS or at other domestic high schools for transfer students.

CUMULATIVE ACADEMIC GPA DISTRIBUTION

Class of 2024 (after three years)

Maximum GPA possible after junior year (six semesters) is a 4.90



TESTING DATA & ADVANCED COURSES

AP TESTING (2023)

- 1,134 total exams were administered
218 exams received a score of 5
347 exams received a score of 4
304 exams received a score of 3
- Total AP Courses Offered - 23 courses
- Total AP Enrollment - 644 students
- 51% of our students 10th-12th took at least one AP class in 2022-23
- 77% of exams taken received a 3 or higher

223 AP Scholars (2023)

Must earn a 3 or higher on at least three exams
(10% nationwide receive)

PASS RATE BY SUBJECT (2023)

SUBJECT	PASS RATE	STUDENTS
Art History	61%	18
Biology	84%	91
Calculus AB	72%	54
Calculus BC	96%	26
Chinese Lang/Culture	90%	31
Computer Science A	81%	16
Drawing	100%	11
English Lang & Comp	88%	149
English Lit & Comp	87%	70
Environmental Science	63%	131
European History	57%	30
French Language	88%	8
Macroeconomics	73%	41
Microeconomics	69%	29
Music Theory	70%	13
Physics 1	60%	48
Physics C	94%	18
Psychology	69%	114
Spanish Language	71%	7
Statistics	87%	15
US Government	44%	41
US History	84%	64
World History	84%	110

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

	2023	2022	2021	2020	TOTAL
w/Distinction	69	63	51	73	256
w/Honors	61	40	47	41	189
Scholars	93	94	71	54	258

NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Finalists	TBD	5	3	4	7
Semifinalists	2	5	3	4	7
Commended	30	26	17	16	22

5
NATIONAL
MERIT
FINALISTS
(CLASS OF 2023)

ADVANCED COURSES

- 117 higher-level courses offered – twice the number of any Catholic school in Orange County
- Enrollment contingent upon department approval, placement exams, grades and teacher recommendations

- All students enrolled must take the AP and IB Exam.
- 9th graders may not take any AP or IB classes
- 10th graders may only take AP World, AP Euro, AP Art History (no IB classes)
- IB courses marked with (*) indicate the students can also sit for the corresponding AP test in addition to the IB exam.
- 11th/12th graders are permitted to take IB and AP classes. The full IB Programme starts junior year.

ENGLISH (11 classes)

English 1 & 2H
AP English Language and Composition
AP Literature and Composition
English IB HL1 & HL2*
Theory of Knowledge
(Two-year class - offered only to Full IB students)
Advanced Debate/Argumentation H
Journalism 1 H
Advanced Journalism H

MATHEMATICS (14 classes)

Algebra 1 & 2 H
Geometry H
Precalculus H
Precalculus H AI IB
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics
AP Computer Science A
Math AI IB HL1 & HL2
Mathematics IB AA SL
Mathematics IB AA HL1* & HL2

SCIENCE (14 classes)

Biology H
Chemistry H
AP Biology
AP Environmental Science
AP Physics 1
AP Physics C
Biology IB SL, HL1* & HL2
Chemistry IB SL
Physics IB HL1* & HL2
Environmental Systems & Societies IB SL*
Design Tech IB SL

SOCIAL STUDIES (20 classes)

Cultural Geography MUN H
World History MUN H
United States History MUN H
United States Government MUN H
Economics MUN H
AP European History
AP World History
AP U.S. History
AP Government/U.S. Politics
**AP Macroeconomics
**AP Microeconomics
History IB HL1* & HL2
Economics IB SL*
Global Political IB SL MUN
(only offered to Full IB seniors)
Business Mgmt IB HL 1 & 2
AP Psychology
AP Art History
Modern & Contemporary Art H
(**Each class is one semester. Students are required to take one AP exam but may choose to take both.)

WORLD LANGUAGES (30 Classes)

Spanish 1, 2, & 3H
AP Spanish Language
Spanish IB SL, HL1 & HL2*
French 1, 2, 3, 4 H
AP French
French IB SL*, HL1* & HL2*
Latin 1, 2, & 3 H
Latin IB SL, HL1 & HL2
Ancient Greek 1, 2, & 3 H
Greek IB SL
Mandarin Chinese 1, 2, & 3 H
Mandarin Chinese IB SL*
AP Chinese

THEOLOGY (2 classes)

Philosophy IB HL1 & HL2

VISUAL ARTS (9 classes)
Broadcast Journalism H
Screenwriting H
Advanced Painting H
Advanced Drawing H
AP Drawing
Film IB HL1 & HL2
Visual Arts IB HL1* & HL2

PERFORMING ARTS (17 classes)

AP Music Theory (8th period class)
Advanced Women's Chorus H
Chamber Singers H
Dance Production H
Advanced Dance H
Dance IB HL1 & HL2
Steel Drum/Percussion Ensemble H
String Orchestra H
Wind Ensemble H
Music Group Performance IB SL
Music IB HL1 & HL2
Advanced Theater H
Theatre Arts IB, SL HL1 & HL2

Due to decreased emphasis on ACT and SAT testing, only 36% of the senior class tested.

ACT scores – 67 students tested

CLASS OF 2023	SMCHS	STATE	NATIONAL	28
COMPOSITE	28	26	19	average SMCHS Class of 2023 ACT score

SAT scores – 94 students tested

CLASS OF 2023	SMCHS	STATE	NATIONAL	1313
TOTAL	1313	1115	1050	average SMCHS Class of 2023 SAT score

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME

SMCHS is one of four Catholic high schools in California to offer the International Baccalaureate Programme. SMCHS students must meet academic prerequisites to enter the full diploma programme or courses.

Full IB diploma candidates, in addition to their coursework, take:

- A Theory of Knowledge seminar course to apply thinking and inquiry across all subject areas
- Research and write an extended essay of over 4,000 words on a student-generated inquiry/research question
- Independently engage in creative projects, physical activity and service (CAS)



UNIQUE IB PROGRAMME FEATURES AT SMCHS INCLUDE:

- IB students are often co-enrolled in AP courses and sit for both the IB and AP exams.
- Historically, SMCHS students earn an average of 31.26 full diploma points, qualifying them for advanced standing at many universities/colleges.
- Philosophy HL 1 & 2 replace the SMCHS requirement for Theology 3 & 4. Since all SMCHS IB full diploma candidates also enroll in English HL, they develop the critical literacy skills necessary for high level contributions to their future university learning.
- Extracurricular CAS activities intentionally leverage technology for global collaboration and virtual participation (Climate Action Project, Smithsonian and Boston Public Library, etc.)
- IB full diploma students take an advanced academic load of **seven classes per semester**, where many IB schools require five to six.

The IB Full Diploma Programme attracts a diverse group of learners committed to challenging themselves with a highly rigorous curriculum that expects in-depth critical thinking that balances perspectives, design thinking, global-mindedness and effective multimodal communication. IB full diploma learners transfer these skills to mutual responsibility for self, others, and the planet growing in compassion, reflection and resilience.

66 Full diploma students (Class of 2023), 16% of the class. 88% successfully earned their diploma, versus the world average of 79.4% and U.S. average of 50.8%

53 Full diploma students (Class of 2024), 13% of the class, 93% of whom earned marks of 4 or higher on a 1-7 scale in the spring 2023 exam session

85% earned marks of 4 or higher with 738 exams taken (Class of 2023 and 2024)

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE



SERVICE LEARNING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GOSPEL

In living out the school's charism of Caritas Christi, the love of Christ, SMCHS Campus Ministry offers its students a robust service learning program throughout all four years. Freshmen and sophomores participate in class service projects, uniquely designed within the theology curriculum to serve an underserved or vulnerable population. Sophomores partner with Second Harvest Food Bank and serve in a variety of capacities to the Orange County community. Juniors and seniors complete their projects by participating in direct service work with a number of approved nonprofits in areas and issues they are interested in. Christian service at Santa Margarita is integral in forming young women and men of Caritas Christi. Completion of grade-level service projects is a graduation requirement.



LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES Over 90% of SMCHS students participate in extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities, giving ample opportunities to develop leadership and management skills. Leadership roles include Peer Ministry, Associated Student Body, Link Crew, Student Ambassadors, Speak UP! peer advisors and team managers.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS Santa Margarita's award-winning MUN program catapults students into the world of diplomacy and international relations with students participating in mock UN meetings worldwide. Student participation is an extracurricular commitment but also integrated into the honors social studies curriculum. Since 2000, the program has won over 10,331 individual awards and 109 delegation awards.



ROBOTICS/ENGINEERING The school's award-winning robotics teams, SMbly Required and SMbled, function like startups with students learning CAD modeling, welding, marketing and project management. Students design, build, program and test competition-ready robots.



ARTS Visual and performing arts classes provide diverse opportunities for students to learn and express their artistic talents. Through regional and national competitions, international performances, and award-winning productions, SMCHS students share their talents with the community. The Talon Academy of Performing Arts offers an after school conservatory program.



ESPORTS The world-champion Eagle esports team plays different games each season and competes in several different arenas. Students learn how to shoutcast while streaming on a production crew, run their own live stream, and train to play like professionals, strengthening communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.



EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY As one of 34 Microsoft Showcase Schools nationwide, SMCHS is a leader in utilizing technology to create collaborative student-centered classrooms and improve learning outcomes.



ATHLETICS Since the school opened over 36 years ago, SMCHS has earned more championships than any other school in Southern California, with 12 state championships, 79 CIF championships, and 245 league championships. SMCHS offers 27 CIF and seven club programs.



AUXILIARY STUDIES PROGRAM The school's ASP program offers a comprehensive support program giving students with diagnosed learning differences the tools to succeed alongside their non-learning disabled peers.



EAGLE ONLINE ACADEMY SMCHS offers a fully asynchronous online school with UC approved courses taught by Santa Margarita faculty. Students have access to SM support services and can participate in all school activities and athletics.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY NHS membership at SMCHS is highly selective. Students must demonstrate how their actions meet the four NHS pillars of scholarship, character, service, and leadership, along with a GPA requirement of 3.5. Only 15% of each class earns this distinction.



MEDIA Students produce a daily news broadcast show (Eagle Television), a news website (SMCHSEagleEye.com), and the award-winning Eagle Eye student newspaper. Using state-of-the-art production equipment, ETV students edit, film, write and produce content.



WELLNESS SMCHS offers a comprehensive student support program comprised of mental health education, training, resources, and referrals to meet the challenges of adolescence. Four wellness counselors offer on-campus resources for the school community.

SUBJECT	STUDENTS	PASS RATE
English A Literature	90	97 %
Classic Greek	2	50 %
French AB SL	1	100 %
French HL	3	100 %
French SL	8	100 %
Latin HL	2	100 %
Latin SL	10	80 %
Spanish AB SL	2	100 %
Spanish HL	3	100 %
Spanish SL	40	100 %
Chinese B HL	1	100 %
Chinese B SL	6	50 %
Business Management HL	60	55 %
Business Management SL	1	55 %
Economics SL	36	44 %
Enviro Sys & Soc	15	87 %
Global Politics SL	16	100 %
Hist of the Americas HL	8	100 %
Philosophy HL	179	75 %
Philosophy SL	5	40 %
Biology HL	26	73 %
Biology SL	14	100 %
Chemistry SL	25	64 %
Design Tech SL	24	38 %
Physics HL	11	82 %
Math AA HL	13	100 %
Math AA SL	22	86 %
Math AI HL	36	67 %
Math AI SL	12	75 %
Dance HL	7	100 %
Film HL	11	79 %
Music SL	9	89 %
Theater HL	4	100 %
Visual Arts HL	11	91 %
Theory of Knowledge	66	100 %
• 783 total exams taken		
• 272 students tested		
• 85 percent earned marks of 4 or higher		

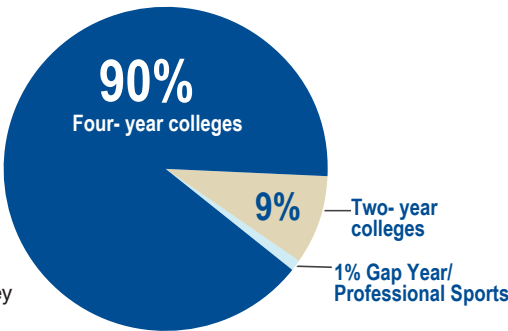
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS & MATRICULATION - CLASS OF 2023

This is the complete matriculation list of 136 schools and an additional 48 schools that admitted students. Please note this is not a complete acceptance list. The Class of 2023 received acceptances to 317 schools but due to space constraints not all are listed. The additional 48 were chosen based on the number of applications submitted by students. The * denotes attendance.

American University	Grand Canyon University*	Salve Regina University	University of Hawaii at Hilo*
Arizona State University*	Grove City College*	San Diego State University*	University of Hawaiiat Manoa*
Auburn University*	Indiana University*	Santa Ana College*	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Baylor University*	Irvine Valley College*	Santa Barbara City College*	University of Iowa
Belmont University*	John Cabot University*	Santa Clara University*	University of Kansas*
Berklee College of Music*	Johns Hopkins University	Savannah College of Art & Design	University of La Verne*
Biola University*	Le Cordon Bleu Paris*	School of the Art Insitute of Chicago*	University of Maryland
Boise State University*	Lehigh University	School of Visual Arts*	University of Massachusetts-Amherst*
Boston College*	Lewis & Clark College	Seattle Pacific University*	University of Miami*
Boston University*	LIM College*	Seattle University	University of Michigan*
Brigham Young University*	Louisiana State University*	Seton Hall University*	University of Minnesota*
Bucknell University*	Loyola Marymount University*	Southern Methodist University*	University of Mississippi*
Butler University	Loyola University Chicago	Southern Utah University*	University of Missouri*
Cal Poly Pomona*	Marist College	St. John's University*	University of Nebraska*
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*	Marquette University*	Stanford University*	University of Nevada-Las Vegas*
California Baptist University*	Marywood University*	Syracuse University*	University of Nevada-Reno*
Carellton College	McLennan Community College*	Tallahassee Community College*	University of Notre Dame*
Carnegie Mellon University	Miami University, Oxford	Texas A & M University-College Station	University of Oklahoma*
Case Western Reserve University*	Michigan State University*	Texas Christian University*	University of Oregon*
Chapman University*	Montana State University*	Texas Tech University	University of Pennsylvania*
Clemson University*	Mount Mercy University*	The George Washington University*	University of Pittsburgh
Colgate University*	New York University*	Tufts University*	University of Portland
College of Charleston*	Northeastern University	UC Berkeley*	University of San Diego*
College of the Holy Cross*	Northern Arizona University*	UC Davis*	University of San Francisco*
Colorado College*	Northwest Nazarene University*	UC Irvine*	University of South Carolina*
Colorado School of Mines	Northwestern University*	UC Los Angeles*	University of Southern California*
Colorado State University-Fort Collins*	Oberlin College*	UC Riverside*	University of Tennessee-Chattanooga*
Columbia University*	Ohio State University*	UC San Diego*	University of Tennessee-Knoxville*
Cornell University*	Oregon State University	UC Santa Barbara*	Univserity of Texas at Austin*
Creighton University	Otis College of Art and Design*	UC Santa Cruz*	University of Utah*
CSU-Bakersfield*	Palomar College*	UNC Chapel Hill	University of Vermont
CSU-Chico*	Pennsylvania State University*	UNC Charlotte*	University of Virginia
CSU-Fullerton*	Pepperdine University*	United States Air Force Academy	University of Washington*
CSU-Long Beach	Point Loma Nazarene University*	United States Military Academy*	University of Wisconsin-Madison*
CSU-Northridge*	Pomona College*	University College Dublin	Utah Valley University*
CSU-San Marcos*	Pratt Institute	University of Alabama*	Vanderbilt University
Dartmouth College*	Purdue University*	University of Arizona*	Vassar College*
DePaul University*	Reed College	University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff*	Villanova University*
Drexel University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*	University of British Colombia*	Virginia Tech
Duke University*	Rhode Island School of Design*	University of Chicago*	Wake Forest University
Elon University	Rice University	University of Colorado Boulder*	Washington State University*
Emory University	Ringling College of Art and Design*	University of Connecticut	Washington University in St Louis*
Fordham University	Rutgers University	University of Denver*	Westmont College*
Georgetown University	Saddleback College*	University of Edinburgh	William & Mary
Georgia Institute of Technology	Saint Louis University	University of Florida*	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Gonzaga University*	Saint Mary's College of California	University of Georgia*	

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT STATISTICS: CLASS OF 2023

- 421 students in the class of 2023
- 136 colleges and universities attended
- 99 percent attend college
- 360 colleges and universities applied to
- 4,144 college applications
- 2,198 college acceptances
- 53 percent total acceptance rate
- 100 percent acceptance rate at 186 schools
- 98 graduates were accepted at every college they applied (23% of class)



COLLEGE GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

39 U.S. states, 4 International countries



PUBLIC vs PRIVATE



CEEB Code 052563 IB Code 000949
22062 Antonio Parkway Rancho Santa Margarita,
CA 92688 (949) 766-6000 • www.smhs.org

J. Andrew Sulick '91 President	Cheri L. Wood Principal
John Hayek Assistant Principal, Academics	Monique Harrison '00 Assistant Principal, Instruction and School Climate

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT: (949) 766-6010

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Each student is assigned a college counselor during December of their junior year to guide and support each student through their college preparatory and application process.

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Mrs. Melissa Fosdick fosdickm@smhs.org

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS

Mrs. Christa Crafts craftsc@smhs.org

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS OF COLLEGE COUNSELING:

Ms. Rachel Kim kimr@smhs.org
Ms. Megan Olivor olivorm@smhs.org
Ms. Eva Hester hestere@smhs.org

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS (Athletics)

Mr. Mike Hiserman hisermanm@smhs.org

REGISTRAR

Ms. Bailey Martin martinb@smhs.org

SCHOOL COUNSELING & WELLNESS:

Seven school counselors advise, support and encourage students academically and personally throughout their four years at SM. The school's four wellness counselors provide additional support upon request as well as offer a robust educational program for families.