



College Counseling
School Profile

OUR MISSION

The Post Oak School is a diverse and welcoming Montessori community that honors and guides lifelong learners as they create their own bold pathways in leading purposeful lives.



postoakschool

Founded in 1963, The Post Oak School is an independent, coeducational day school in an urban setting offering comprehensive education from infancy through high school.

MONTESSORI IN HIGH SCHOOL

Students possess a strong ability to self-direct and work independently. Coursework requires significant reading; students should be comfortable using state-of-the-art technology and ready to participate regularly in roundtable seminar discussions.

Students come to Post Oak from many educational backgrounds, and those who succeed have a great capacity to self-manage and work independently.

CURRICULUM

The school offers a challenging curriculum preparing students to earn both the Post Oak and International Baccalaureate (IB) diplomas. The IB curriculum fits well with the student-centered, critical thinking, and developmental approach at The Post Oak School. All students in grades eleven and twelve participate in the IB Diploma Program and all seniors sit for the IB exams in May.



PHILOSOPHY

The Post Oak School focuses on the developmental understanding of growing up and becoming a mature adult. Students at Post Oak are usually very involved in the choices about what happens here through community council and community meetings. Post Oak is a place for students to find a voice and to make a positive difference in the lives of others as they explore personal interests. At Post Oak, students have incredible growth opportunities as they encounter challenges.

MATRICULATION

Ninety-nine percent of Post Oak graduates enroll in a four-year college or university.

RANKINGS

The Post Oak School does not rank students academically. Therefore, we do not have valedictorian or salutatorian distinctions. Instead, the seniors elect a class member each year to give the commencement address. Before casting their votes, students engage in a conversation about the characteristics of a Post Oak graduate, enriched by the valuable input from each senior during the discussion. Students vote based on which class member they feel best exemplifies those qualities.

The High School program aims to enable students to achieve the skills necessary for college and life as independent adults and foster the sense of purpose needed to make a meaningful contribution to a better world. Students must be allowed to test their ability to be independent and have a wide range of experiences to discover their interests and develop their passions into talents. Instruction at Post Oak's High School serves these adolescent needs through key lessons that open doors to new areas of human knowledge, activities that allow for further investigation, discovery, and practice, and diverse opportunities for students to demonstrate learning.

ADMINISTRATION

Head of School

Maura Joyce, maurajoyce@postoakschool.org

College Counselor/Community Life Coordinator

Louis Dorsey, louisdorsey@postoakschool.org

High School Director

James Quillin, PhD, jamesquillin@postoakschool.org

Associate Admission Director

Tiffany Trimble, tiffneytrimble@postoakschool.org

High School Academic Coordinator

Kim Harrison, kimbharrison@postoakschool.org

Registrar

Anette Figueroa, anettefigueroa@postoakschool.org

CEEB Code: 440562

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Lower Level Courses (Grades 9–10)	IB Upper Level Courses (Grades 11–12)	
English Language Arts	Language and Literature SL or HL	
Mandarin Chinese	Chinese ab initio SL	Chinese B SL
Spanish	Spanish SL or HL	
Integrated History and Social Sciences	Economics HL	Global Politics HL
Integrated Natural Sciences	Biology SL or HL Chemistry SL or HL	Computer Science SL Physics SL
Integrated Math	Math Applications SL	Math Analysis SL or HL
Design Tech Music Theater Visual Arts	Film SL or HL Music SL or HL Theater SL or HL Visual Arts SL or HL	

Standard Level (SL), Higher Level (HL)

Core Requirements	Mini-Course Intensives (change yearly)
Theory of Knowledge	Classes have included: 3D Printing, Allocating Capital, Art of Cooking, China Travel, Costa Rica Field School, Falmouth Field School (Jamaica), Historical Game Design, Paleontology Fieldwork, Personal Finance, and Physical Computing
Extended Essay	
Creativity, Activity, Service	
Physical Fitness I/II	

GRADING SCALE

Evaluation	Numeric
Exemplary	4.5–5.0
Advanced	4.0–4.4
Proficient	3.5–3.9

Marks below 3.5 are not passing

Students receive narrative grades in their evaluations. Refer to the chart above for the numeric comparison.

TESTING DATA

The Class of 2023 Standardized Testing Averages:

ACT	33
SAT	1211

POST OAK DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts and Literature	4
Second Language(s)	4
History and Social Sciences	4
Natural Sciences	4
Mathematics	4
Arts	4
Mini-Course Intensives	4
Theory of Knowledge	4
Extended Essay	½
Physical Fitness (9th and 10th grades)	2
Upper Level HL courses	6

FIELDWORK & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Internship

Among Post Oak's teachers are curators and scientists from world-renowned museums; artists from the Glassell School of Art; doctors from the Texas Medical Center; and researchers from the Houston Museum of Natural Science, all of whom work in our partner institutions throughout the Houston Museum District. Students directly connect with experts in the field, shoulder to shoulder. The result is a school that breaks down walls and maximizes opportunities for students to engage.

Many Post Oak's High School students choose to participate in the internship program. As students pursue their interests through internships, they further develop their classwork skills. Some students secure internships in paleontology, entomology, history, and marine biology by working weekly at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. A student with a long-time interest in psychology interned at the Jung Center. A group of students completed an EV car conversion project. You can read about and follow our student interns through their blogs on our website.

Mini-Course Intensives & Travel

Post Oak offers more authentic travel opportunities than other schools. Travel together builds relationships, tests capacity, and accelerates growth through real-world challenges.

At Post Oak, we travel, never just a tourist or sightseeing trip, but in context to the course the student takes. You can read about them in the students' travel blogs. For Post Oak students, a trip is a class, and each activity on the trip has a meaning within that course of study.

The annual fall Odyssey trip, which occurs during the first full week of school, allows students and faculty to get acquainted through travel that engages the group in a deep field-study experience. For example, this year we attended the Gulf Coast Research Lab where students engaged in a rich study of marine biology and ecology that included investigations of beach and barrier islands in the Mississippi Sound, laboratory work, estuary kayaking, shark tagging, and more.

Another travel experience is the two-week J-Term and M-Term courses in January and March. These opportunities offer students the ability to dive deeply into specific areas of interest and develop complex skills through traveling locally or internationally, performing community service, and conducting cultural, scientific, or arts-related studies.

Community Service

Complementing the intensives, students undertake volunteer work in support of local organizations throughout Houston. Additionally, the vast majority of internships are unpaid, benefitting both the student and partner institutions.

ATHLETICS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Post Oak School has many opportunities for participation in individual and team athletics as well as other activities. As a small school, much of what is possible will be determined by student interest from year to year.

Examples include:

- ♦ Cross country
- ♦ Golf
- ♦ Soccer
- ♦ Track
- ♦ Volleyball
- ♦ Yoga
- ♦ American Unity Movement
- ♦ Chess
- ♦ Creative writing
- ♦ Film
- ♦ Photography
- ♦ Poker
- ♦ Woodworking
- ♦ Yearbook

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Students in good standing are eligible to participate on the Community Council. Council members are chosen each fall or spring and serve a term of one year. The fall and spring cycles allow a staggered membership cycle ensuring that students serve for one full year and that the full council doesn't turn over at the same time. The members are selected through a process of candidacy to ensure that the Council is representative of the student body. Council members are then confirmed by the faculty.

The student government represents the student body in creating the formal culture of the school through policies, rituals, and expectations. The members of the Community Council represent student concerns and ideas to the faculty and work to develop new student policy proposals to be submitted to the faculty and administration. They also report on their work to the wider community at regular community meetings. This work supports the entire school community and is a service to the school and students beyond the time that any one student serves in the council. The responsibilities that come with service in the student government are great, as are the rewards felt by formally working to improve the school community.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Faculty & Staff (High School)

13 full-time faculty, 4 part-time faculty, and 5 staff
54% hold a master's or doctoral post-graduate degree

Students

Enrollment: Total school: 480 | High School: 87

9th	24
10th	18
11th	22
12th	23

Ethnicity Data for High School

Race Unsure/Not Reported	19
Asian	6
White	34
Multi Racial	8
Native American	0
Middle Eastern	0
Latino/Hispanic	11
Black/African American	6

FINANCIAL AID

26% of High School students receive financial aid.

GPA

The cumulative GPA is unweighted.

COLLEGE REPORTING POLICY

The Post Oak School does not report disciplinary infractions to colleges. However, we encourage students to be honest and self-report disciplinary actions to colleges and universities.

ACCREDITATIONS

- ♦ Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)
- ♦ International Baccalaureate (IB)

FIVE-YEAR MATRICULATION

Below are the college matriculations for the classes through 2023.

The 21 seniors in the class of 2023 received merit scholarship offers totalling \$4,540,912.

10 or More Students

- ♦ The University of Texas at Austin

5 or More Students

- ♦ Savannah College of Art & Design
- ♦ Texas A&M University—College Station
- ♦ Trinity University

3 or More Students

- ♦ Baylor University
- ♦ Rice University
- ♦ Texas Christian University
- ♦ University of Houston

2 Students

- ♦ Boston University
- ♦ Bucknell University
- ♦ Colorado School of Mines
- ♦ Emerson College
- ♦ Emory University
- ♦ Lewis & Clark College
- ♦ New York University
- ♦ Oberlin College
- ♦ Pitzer College
- ♦ Tulane University
- ♦ University of Denver
- ♦ Wesleyan University

1 Student

- ♦ Austin College
- ♦ Bard College
- ♦ Belmont University
- ♦ Berry College
- ♦ Brown University
- ♦ Bryn Mawr College
- ♦ Case Western Reserve University
- ♦ Colgate University
- ♦ Colorado College
- ♦ Colorado State University
- ♦ Columbia University
- ♦ Cornell College
- ♦ Cornell University
- ♦ Davidson College
- ♦ Drexel University
- ♦ Duke University
- ♦ Fordham University
- ♦ The George Washington University
- ♦ Guilford College
- ♦ Haverford College
- ♦ Hofstra University
- ♦ Ithaca College
- ♦ Kalamazoo College
- ♦ Lake Forest College

- ♦ Lawrence University
- ♦ Loyola Marymount University
- ♦ Missouri University of Science and Technology
- ♦ Montana State University
- ♦ Northeastern University
- ♦ The Ohio State University
- ♦ Pomona College
- ♦ Reed College
- ♦ Ringling College of Art and Design
- ♦ Southwestern University
- ♦ Stephen F Austin State University
- ♦ Texas A&M University-Galveston
- ♦ Texas Tech University
- ♦ University of Arizona
- ♦ University of Colorado Boulder
- ♦ University of Connecticut
- ♦ University of Florida
- ♦ University of Michigan
- ♦ University of Oklahoma
- ♦ University of Pittsburgh
- ♦ University of St. Andrews
- ♦ Wake Forest University
- ♦ Washington University in St Louis

Please visit our website for a complete list of college acceptances as well.

The
POST OAK
SCHOOL



MUSEUM DISTRICT CAMPUS: GRADES 7-12

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www.postoakschool.org